

Concept Note

Title	ICT Projects to improve Access in Pacific
Organisation(s):	Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)
Theme:	Theme 1: Affordable Access: Domestic Connectivity in the Pacific
Speaking Duration:	10 Minutes
Background and Justification:	Recognizing the importance of human resource development and establishing ICT infrastructure in rural areas as expressed in the Bangkok Agenda that was adopted in the “APT Ministerial Conference on Broadband and ICT Development” held in Bangkok in July 2004 and the Strategic Plan of the APT 2006-2008 adopted at the 10 th Session of General Assembly held in Islamabad in December 2005, APT implements two important HRD programs, “HRD Programme for Exchange of ICT Researchers/Engineers” and “ICT Development Programme for Supporting ICT Pilot Projects in Rural Areas”. These programmes are funded by the Extra Budgetary Contribution from Japan.
Objectives:	<p><u>“HRD Programme for Exchange of ICT Researchers/Engineers”</u> The objective of the programme is to promote the development of Advanced ICT by the Researchers/Engineers in the Asia-Pacific region by exchange of personnel through international collaborative research projects on advanced ICT.</p> <p><u>“ICT Development Programme for Supporting ICT Pilot Projects in Rural Areas”</u> The objective of this programme is to narrow the digital divide in the Asia-Pacific region, through the promotion of pilot projects to ensure the access to ICT in rural areas of each country, and to promote and develop ICT and Broadband in the region.</p>
Scope:	<p><u>“HRD Programme for Exchange of ICT Researchers/Engineers”</u> Subject field of research for this project include followings.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Technologies for Broadband Deployment and Applications such as e-Government, e-Commerce, e-Learning, e-Health, etc. (2) Technologies for Security; (3) Mobile Communications Technology; (4) New technology for Rural Telecommunications; (5) Language Processing Technology;

	<p>(6) Technologies for Realizing Ubiquitous Network; (7) Telecommunications Policy; (8) Others</p> <p><u>“ICT Development Programme for Supporting ICT Pilot Projects in Rural Areas”</u> Under the pilot projects supported by this programme, demonstration experiments on such topics as those below should be conducted for verification of its effectiveness and validity toward ensuring ICT access in rural areas.</p> <p>(1) Construction of multi-purpose Telecenters in rural areas (2) Introduction of new wireless technologies systems in rural areas (3) Other topics for contributing to ICT development in rural areas employing emerging technologies.</p>
Expected Outcome:	<p><u>“HRD Programme for Exchange of ICT Researchers/Engineers”</u> To promote the development of Advanced ICT by the Researchers/Engineers in the Asia-Pacific region by exchange of personnel.</p> <p><u>“ICT Development Programme for Supporting ICT Pilot Projects in Rural Areas”</u> To narrow the digital divide in the Asia-Pacific region, through the promotion of pilot projects to ensure the access to ICT in rural areas of each country, and to promote and develop ICT and Broadband in the region.</p>
Potential Partners:	<p>These programmes are for APT members.</p>
Project Timescale:	<p>Project duration is about 1 year from notification of APT’s selection.</p>
Budget (optional):	<p><u>“HRD Programme for Exchange of ICT Researchers/Engineers”</u> The appropriate amount of the budget for each project will be determined up to \$60,000, based on careful examination of the proposal prior to project implementation.</p> <p><u>“ICT Development Programme for Supporting ICT Pilot Projects in Rural Areas”</u> The appropriate amount of the budget for each project will be determined up to \$150,000, based on careful examination of the proposal prior to project implementation.</p>