



5 October 2006

Ref: ASP
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All ITU/ESCAP Member Administrations and ITU-D Sector Members, ASP Region
All Diplomatic Missions and International Organizations in Bangkok, Thailand

Subject: **ITU/ESCAP Joint Regional Workshop on Disaster Communications Bangkok, Thailand, 12 – 15 December 2006**

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are pleased to invite you to participate in an **ITU/ESCAP Joint Regional Workshop on Disaster Communications for the Asia and Pacific Region**, which will take place at the UN Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand, from 12 to 15 December 2006. The workshop is jointly hosted by ESCAP and ITU.

In the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami of 26 December 2004, ITU immediately contacted countries affected by the disaster and offered them assistance with satellite terminals and consultancy service for rehabilitation and reconstruction of telecommunication infrastructure. ITU has continued to assist in Emergency Telecommunications, and this workshop, supported by the Australian Government and Rohde & Schwarz GmbH & Co. KG, is part of the ITU efforts to build capacity on preparedness for disaster communications of not only the countries affected by the tsunami, but also those which are prone to natural disasters.

The workshop aims to provide guidance on technical, policy and institutional issues in the development of networks, systems and possible regional cooperation mechanisms for communications supporting disaster management, with emphasis on emergency situations for the countries in Asia and the Pacific, especially the least developed countries, developing countries, as well as small developing islands.

Specific objectives of the workshop are to:

- update on-going activities related to disaster communications in participating countries
- enable potential donors to explain opportunities to potential recipients
- identify suitable technologies, features and technical options for disaster communications
- enhance institutional and human capacity on utilising telecommunications for disaster management using case studies, lessons learned, and experiences from other countries

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- promote the importance of the *Tampere Convention*
- explore possible regional cooperation mechanisms for sharing information and practices, and for international response to major disasters.

A delegate from each country is kindly invited to submit a country paper that provides a background of major natural disaster threats, national disaster management authorities and relevant initiatives towards disaster management supported by communication tools, along with an overview of current regulatory arrangements in place and particular challenges being faced.

The participation of your organization is very important and we count on your presence in the event. We are pleased to inform you that ITU will provide one full fellowship or two partial fellowships to delegates from each of the Least Developed Countries and eligible Developing Countries in Asia and the Pacific, who are duly authorized by ITU Administrations. The number of delegates from a country is not limited. However, the country will bear all costs of additional delegates. Conditions for awarded fellowships can be found in the attached full/partial fellowship forms.

Please complete the attached registration/hotel reservation form, and full/partial fellowship forms as appropriate, and return them as soon as possible, but **no later than 10 November 2006** by E-MAIL or FAX to:

Mr. Wisit Atipayakoon
Fax: +66 2 574 9328
E-mail: wisit.atipayakoon@itu.int

For further details, please see the attached workshop details, registration form, and full/partial fellowship forms or visit ITU website at <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/asp/> or contact the above.

I look forward to your positive response and active participation in this workshop.

Yours faithfully,



Roberto Blois
Deputy Secretary General of ITU



Kim Hak-Su
Under-Secretary-General of the
United Nations and
Executive Secretary of ESCAP

Attachments: - Workshop details
- Registration/hotel form
- Full/Partial fellowship forms