The Secretary General

Connect-ASP_DM13/1010

Geneva, 25 June 2013

TO:
- ITU Member States (ASP Region)
- ITU Sector Members (worldwide)
- Regional and International Organizations including financing and development institutions
- United Nations system

Subject: **Connect Asia-Pacific Summit, Bangkok, Thailand, 18 November 2013**

Sir/Madam,

It is my pleasure to invite you to the Connect Asia-Pacific Summit, which will be hosted by the Royal Thai Government and co-organized with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in close partnership with the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), Asia Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD), World Health Organization (WHO), the UN system and other stakeholders.

The Summit will take place on 18 November at the IMPACT Challenger Hall in Bangkok, Thailand. Its theme is Asia-Pacific: Smartly DIGITAL (Digital Inclusive Green Innovative Transformative Affordable Living).

The Summit will be held back-to-back with ITU TELECOM World 2013 which takes place from 19 to 22 November 2013 at the same venue.

This is the fifth in a series of regional Summits. Four "Connect" Summits have been organized in collaboration with regional and global partners. Each Summit was preceded by an intensive and inclusive preparatory process to take into account the views of all relevant stakeholders. Previous Summits were held for Africa (2007), the CIS (2009), the Arab States (2012) and the Americas (2012) regions.

The Connect Asia-Pacific Summit will bring together the countries of the region represented by Heads of State and/or Government, Ministers, Heads of Regulatory Authorities as well as CEOs and senior representatives and officials from industry, UN and its Agencies, regional and international organizations including financial institutions, leading ICT analysts and investors from around the world.

By bringing together the key global and regional players in the ICT sector, the Connect Asia-Pacific Summit will, among others, seek to provide a platform for mobilizing human, financial and technical resources needed to support sustainable and inclusive ICT growth, which is widely recognized as the key engine and enabler for future economic prosperity and sustainable development. It will in return contribute to achieving the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) and beyond.

The Summit programme will feature a high-level panel discussion among the leaders, a ministerial roundtable and a multi-stakeholders' partnership session where various initiatives, projects, and/or announcements of smart partnerships will be launched or signed. Further details on the event, including practical information, documentation and registration will be provided to you in the near future as well as on the event website Connect Asia Pacific.

Should you require any further information, please contact Ms. Eun-Ju Kim, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (e-mail: ConnectASP@itu.int, phone: +66 2 575 0055).

I am very much looking forward to welcoming you to this unique event.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Dr Hamadoun I. Touré