

Concept Note

ITU -Industry Meeting in Asia and the Pacific (virtual)

27 May 2021
(10:00 – 12:00 Hrs., Bangkok)

1.0 Background

The COVID-19 pandemic accentuated not only the importance of digital connectivity and technology but also the need for partnerships. As part of COVID-19 response and recovery measures, member countries around the region have developed and implemented various digital applications and services on a range of topics, including e-learning, e-business, e-health, and e-agriculture. For these applications to be effective and impactful, digital connectivity needs to be extended more rapidly to the unconnected and under-connected communities, while also being scaled up to deliver digital services in under-connected communities.

Additionally, as digital inclusion has gained momentum, other factors including cybersecurity, online child protection, and e-Waste have attracted attention. In parallel, the region has witnessed a series of natural disasters from cyclones in the Pacific to earthquakes in Pakistan, to tsunami and volcanic eruptions in Indonesia, among other catastrophes. Therefore, emergency telecommunications and resilience are crucial to ensure the continuity of government functions and public services.

In response to the above challenges and in recognition of the urgency, the Secretary-General of the United Nations published the [Roadmap for Digital Cooperation](#) to highlight the importance of digital technology in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in July in 2020. The International Telecommunications Union (ITU), as the specialized UN agency in digital technology with Membership across government entities, industry, international organizations, research institutions and academia, has been supporting the acceleration of the digital journey of its Members through a wide range of initiatives including the implementation of ITU's Buenos Aires Action Plan and the regional initiatives in Asia and the Pacific.

The role of industry is crucial in full realization of digital transformation and sustainably connecting the underserved and unconnected by 2030. Partnerships with the ITU industry members, which have technical, financial, and operational resources, would greatly contribute towards the common goal. In order to facilitate close cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region amongst the ITU industry members and partners, it is proposed to establish an *ITU Industry Informal Working Group for Asia and the Pacific* with the overall objective of producing common public goods for advancement of digital transformation towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to leave no one behind.

2.0 Meeting objectives

This meeting is being organized to update the ITU industry members and partners on upcoming events and activities of the ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in 2021 and explore their interests in collaborating in the implementation of ITU's regional initiatives. The meeting will also discuss the framework of such collaboration in a form of informal working group, among others.

3.0 Draft agenda

10:00 – 10:20	Welcome remarks Atsuko Okuda, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Asia-Pacific Introduction by participants
10:20 – 10:40	Upcoming ITU activities and possible industry engagements
10:45 – 11:45	Overview of Proposed <i>ITU Industry Informal Working Group for Asia and the Pacific</i> Discussions around: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subgroup Topics• Collaboration Activities & Partnerships• Communication Channels
11:45-12:00	Way forward and closing

4.0 Target audience

- ITU Industry Members in the Asia-Pacific region
- ITU Industry Partners in the Asia-Pacific region
- ITU Industry Associate Members in the Asia-Pacific Region

5.0 Registration Connectivity details

The registration for the meeting can be done at

INSERT LINK HERE

Last date of registration: 25 May 2021

The meeting will be held on the Zoom platform. The link will be provided to registered participants.