

Summit

Connect

Connect Asia-Pacific Summit

Asia-Pacific: Smartly DIGITAL

Digital Inclusive Green Innovative Transformative
Affordable Living

Bangkok, Thailand, 18 November 2013

Networking Platform

The Summit will also provide an opportunity for intense networking for all those invited to attend. Specific attention will be given to Bilateral Meetings: e.g. meetings between Heads of States and/or Governments, ITU Elected Officials, and industry leaders.

In the same spirit, an opportunity for other participants to gather and network will be provided. The networking platform will also facilitate access by stakeholders to the media at the Summit.

Format/Schedule

The tentative programme of the Summit is outlined below:

Bangkok Summit Draft Schedule
18 November 2013

09:00-10:00 : Summit Grand Opening

10:30-12:30 : High-level Panel - Asia-Pacific 2020

12:30-14:00 : Lunch

13:30-14:00 : Summit Press Conference

14:00-15:45 : Multi-Stakeholder Meeting and
Partnerships Announcements

16:00-17:30 : Ministerial Roundtable

17:30-18:00 : Closing

18:30-20:00 : Gala Dinner

- Overview -

Recognizing the need for a multi-stakeholder approach to successfully turn commitments into action, the ITU launched the Connect the World initiative in 2005 to help mobilize the financial, human and technical resources needed to implement outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

As part of this effort, ITU has been organizing high-level events known as Connect Summits (www.itu.int/partners) in each region where Members have expressed an interest. These summits have brought together like-minded stakeholders to work together on concrete projects aimed

at improving access to information and communication technology (ICT) networks with the aim of promoting investment, employment and broader social and economic development.

Four Connect summits have been organized to date, 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.



10th Asia-Pacific Summit

Trends in the Asia-Pacific Region

The Asia-Pacific region has witnessed one of the fastest growths in telecommunications/ICTS and particularly mobile telephony, while six out of 25 top performers on ICT Development Index (IDI-2012) are from the Asia-Pacific. Despite this stupendous growth, 77.5% population in the Asia-Pacific does not have access to Internet, while the situation for broadband access is even more challenging – i.e., huge potential of potentials for investments. Considering the role of digitization and broadband in countries' socio-economic developments, countries are gearing towards improved connectivity through deployment of robust infrastructure at access, backbone and international levels, which are posing several challenges such as deployments of 3G and 4G networks, migration from analogues to digital broadcasting, spectrum refarming for IMT Advanced bands/digital dividend, launch of satellite, submarine and terrestrial connectivity for greater bandwidth capacities, emergency and disaster communications, role of social networking giants and requirement of infrastructure, net neutrality, convergence of sectors and institutions, international connectivity and mobile roaming especially in the landlocked and small island developing states, development of local languages and applications in addition to diverse cultures and languages as well as the digital gaps between the haves and have-nots.

- The Summit in Bangkok, Thailand -

Fifth in the series, the Connect Asia-Pacific Summit is being organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and hosted by the Kingdom of Thailand in close partnership with ABU, AIBD, [APT] etc. It will take place on 18th November 2013 at Bangkok, Thailand.

At the same time, telecommunications/ICTs in converged digital era have an enormous impact on virtually all aspects of our lives, while being globally recognized as a critical enabler for creative economy and socio-economic development in all countries with different phases of development. But, many people can't take advantage of this resource because of financial impediment, disabilities, low-literacy, remoteness, cultural and language barriers. Here, the ability of ICTs to reduce many traditional obstacles, especially those of time and distance, makes it possible to use their potential to achieve digital inclusion for all walks of lives in the world including the Asia-Pacific ranging from persons with disabilities, elderly persons, indigenous communities, disadvantaged women, men, youth to many more marginalized and underprivileged groups, while supporting them to enjoy independent life, fully participate in and contribute to society, as well as improve their accessibility and affordability with more opportunities for jobs, health care and education. It is critical to extend the benefits of telecommunications/ICTs to ALL of society, in order to build a truly inclusive and sustainable information and digital society, with special focus on those of underprivileged and/or marginalized.

By bringing together key global and regional players in the sector, the Connect Asia-Pacific Summit will among others seek to provide a platform for mobilizing human, financial and technical resources needed to support ICT growth which is widely recognized as the key engine or enabler for future economic prosperity and sustainable development.

- Preparatory process -

The suggested preparatory of the Summit is the following:

- Kick-off Meeting: 14:00-15:30 pm on 2nd May 2013, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- Preparatory Meeting: back-to-back with other planned regional meeting/forum in September/October 2013.

- Expected Results -

Connect Asia-Pacific Summit will bring multi-stakeholders who will present and discuss ICT projects and announce new partnerships and/or awards forged between partners and ITU. The expected outcome is envisaged to include a shared vision driven by political will, shared commitment, and partnership to connect the Asia-Pacific with quality and speed.

Political Commitment

Political support and will by leaders are critical to ensure a safer, greener, smarter and inclusive digital society for all. ITU Member States in Asia and the Pacific, under the leadership of the Host Country, Thailand, and the support of ITU, will prepare a draft Communique to be endorsed by the Summit. The Communique will reflect the vision and the commitment for ICT development in the Asia-Pacific region.

Press Conference

In view of the magnitude of the event, the Summit will attract members of the press corps, as well as leading ICT analysts and observers in the Asia-Pacific and beyond. A Press Conference will be hosted by the Secretary General of the ITU, the Director of the BDT, and a representative(s) of the Host Country to inform both the national and international press of the purposes of the Summit, its vision, and to highlight the market opportunities in the region, which could lead to a number of public-private-people's partnership (4Ps) announcements and commitments on projects related investment.

High-level Panels: Asia-Pacific 2020

The Summit will bring together Heads of State and/or Government, Ministers, Heads of Regulatory Authority in the Asia-Pacific Region as well as CEOs and senior officials from industry, regional and international organizations including financial institutions. They will use this opportunity to share their views on the digital challenges and opportunities in the region and pave the way forward for investments in telecommunications/ICTs infrastructure, innovative and creative ICT applications/services, job creations and a Smartly Digital Life.

The Summit will feature high-level interactive discussions focused on addressing the challenges faced by developing economies in their efforts to harness the full potential of ICTs. Panellists will exchange visions and ideas on issues at stake, possible outcomes and strategies.

Multi-stakeholder Meeting & Partnership Announcements

A number of projects and/or awards would be prepared for the Summit within the framework of the Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-10). This will be compiled in a publication that will be distributed among the participants for their reference/consultation during and beyond the meeting.

The Multi-stakeholder meeting will bring ICT stakeholders under one roof: i.e., While ITU Member States and other stakeholders will use this opportunity to present their projects and/or awards to the leaders and participants at the Summit, partners can utilize this platform to announce and/or attract investments through various projects.