

# The 2nd Annual Asia-Pacific Spectrum Management Conference

The meeting point for the Asia-Pacific spectrum community!

25 - 26 April 2016 / Bangkok . Thailand

Part of a week-long series of events

Part of the Global Spectrum Series

Organised by



*CENTARA GRAND AT CENTRAL WORLD, BANGKOK, THAILAND*

## PROVISIONAL AGENDA

### DAY 1: MONDAY 25 APRIL 2016

**Opening and Keynote Address by: ITU, NBTC Thailand, APT, and key industry leaders**

#### **Session 2: Post WRC-15: Outcomes and Impact on the Asia-Pacific Region**

This session will look at the key outcomes from WRC-15, and at what the decisions that have been made will mean for spectrum stakeholders in the region. Focus will be given on agenda item 1.1 and the other key aspects for spectrum stakeholders, and also at looking forward to WRC-19 and what the key issues will be there.

#### **Session 3: Releasing the potential of the 700MHz band in Asia**

The majority of countries across Asia Pacific have now committed to following the APT 700MHz band plan, with the general consensus both in the region and in many countries elsewhere that it offers more efficiency and flexibility than alternative plans that have been put forward. There are still different choices that regulators face when implementing the band plan, for example whether to follow the FDD or TDD variation, and also on deciding channel size and the range of blocks of spectrum to be allocated.

This session will look at the current status of allocation across the region, the various approaches that are now in place and those which are being proposed. With the decision taken at WRC-15 to globally harmonize the allocation of 700MHz band for IMT and more and more regions seemingly following the APT plan, it will look at what this means for countries in the region, particularly in areas such as economies of scale and others. As the future shape of the 700MHz band across the region starts to become clearer, look at the best way forward in unlocking the full economic and social benefits of this valuable spectrum.

#### **Session 4: Digital Terrestrial TV Migration – Current Situation and Strategies Ahead**

The digital switchover in the Asia Pacific region is ongoing, with countries at various stages in the switchover process and also facing up to differing challenges depending on factors such as market conditions. For example, where over-the-air television is popular, one challenge is ensuring that digital terrestrial television is affordable; whereas when alternative platforms to digital are popular and penetration of pay-television is strong, it is more important to find an approach that makes digital terrestrial television attractive to viewers.

This session will look at the overall situation across the region, the progress being made, how these challenges are being overcome, and the likelihood of countries hitting the targets that have been set.

**ITU Spectrum Management Workshop I: Principles and NFAT**

## DAY 2: TUESDAY 26 APRIL 2016

### **Session 5: Achieving the Global Vision for 5G – Meeting the Spectrum Requirements**

A major part of the discussions at WRC--15 was to set some of the key topics for discussion for WRC--19, and in particular bands to be considered for 5G technologies. The outcomes have seen a focus on the 'millimeter' bands (above 24 GHz), with 11 bands in that range identified for consideration. This decision, whilst meaning that a more concise and workable list of options is now on the table, excludes many bands that were promoted by mobile equipment manufacturers, as well as delegations from some Asian countries. This session will look at what this means for the future shape of a 5G ecosystem, at the extent to which these millimeter bands can meet the spectrum requirements and where (if anywhere) lower frequency bands may also be necessary. It will also look at what the decisions at WRC--15 mean for the future use of spectrum in the 6GHz – 20GHz range for 5G and for those other bands not identified for consideration. More generally it will focus on the work that now needs to be done prior to WRC--19 to ensure that the correct decisions are made on spectrum assignment for 5G, and to ensure a smooth deployment in 2020.

### **Session 6: Tackling the Short/Medium Term Spectrum Crunch for Mobile**

As already discussed, the reallocation of the 700Mhz band for IMT will go some way to meeting growing consumer demand for mobile broadband in the region and tackle the so-called spectrum crunch. However it can still arguably only be part of the solution. In order to both relieve bottlenecks in urban centres and also ensure the roll-out of broadband in rural areas, there is still a need to also find additional capacity, and this session will examine other proposal and options that are being considered for this. It will look at possibilities to find additional bandwidth in both higher and lower frequency bands, at innovative new approaches that are being seen and at the role that other technologies can play in taking the strain of mobile networks by 'offloading' traffic.

### **Session 7: Spectrum Auctions, Awards and Valuation: Best practice for a Competitive, Sustainable and Innovative Market**

There have been a number of important spectrum awards across the region recently, and many more expected in the near future. With a number of different approaches, valuations and results seen, this session will offer the opportunity to hear from 3 experts on key issues, such as best practice in auction design, valuing and awarding spectrum, and when (if ever) specific licence conditions or constraints should be used in spectrum awards in order either promote competition (e.g. spectrum caps) or to ensure quality of service. Following this, we will hear a response from an industry and regulatory point of view, before a final interactive discussion looking at developing a best practice for a competitive, sustainable and innovative market.

### **Session 8: Connecting the Unconnected – Delivering Concrete Solutions to Tackle the Digital Divide**

Much discussion has taken place in recent years on the need to tackle the digital divide and the best approaches in order to achieve this. Despite this however, the problem of digital inequality still undoubtedly remains an issue both in the Asia-Pacific region and globally, with some even arguing that the gap between the digital haves and digital have-nots is widening. With the UN's recent World Summit on the Information on the Information Society (WSIS+10) identifying the need to bridge the digital divide as critical in order to meet their Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development goals, this session will offer the opportunity to take stock. It will look at how successful current strategies have been in delivering broadband to outlining and unconnected areas, and at which techniques are working and which are not. By focusing on both new and existing technological and regulatory tools and on some of the new innovative approaches that are being considered, it will look at the best way forward and the right technology mix in order to eventually achieve the ultimate goal of universal access.