

ITU Regional Development Forum 2016: ICTs for Smart Sustainable Asia-Pacific

**6-7 June 2016
MANILA, PHILIPPINES**

Annex 1: OUTCOME REPORT

The ITU Regional Development Forum (RDF) for Asia and the Pacific was held successfully on 6-7 June 2016 at Sofitel Philippine Plaza, Manila, Philippines with the theme “ICTs for Smart Sustainable Asia-Pacific”. The Forum was organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), hosted by the Department of Science and Technology – Information and Communications Technology Office, Philippines and supported by the Department of Communications and the Arts, Government of Australia.

Over 130 participants from 30 countries including representatives of ITU Member States, ITU Sector-, Associate- and Academia Members, UN Agencies, Regional and International Organizations, Industry, Academia and other stakeholders participated in the Forum.

Opening Session

Hon. Louis Napoleon C. Casambre, Undersecretary, Department of Science and Technology, Information and Communications Technology Office, Philippines in his welcome remarks, extended his sincerest gratitude to ITU, on behalf of the Department of Science and Technology, and the Information and Communications Technology Office (DOST-ICTO), the Philippines, for the privilege of hosting the ITU Asia-Pacific Regional Development Forum 2016. Mr. Casambre expressed the Philippines’ desire to continue collaboration with ITU and its counterparts from other countries such as on harmonizing Information and Communications Technology (ICT) strategies and on working together towards the progress of ICT development in the region, as the success of one country is the success of the rest of the region.

Mr. Brahim Sanou, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, International Telecommunication Union, during his welcome remarks thanked the Department of Science and Technology – Information and Communications Technology Office, Philippines for hosting RDF 2016 and welcomed all the participants to the RDF. Mr. Sanou mentioned that the Regional Development Forum is a part of BDT efforts to strengthen ITU's regional presence and accountability. He highlighted that RDF provides a platform for dialogue and interaction between ITU-D Members and BDT as well as an opportunity to establish an inclusive dialogue on regional challenges and opportunities in order to move towards attaining sustainable development and a better future for all people in the region. He also pointed out that implementation of the Regional Initiatives is on top of his priorities, adding that “it is through their implementation that we can make a difference at national and regional levels.”

Hon. Mario G. Montejo, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Republic of the Philippines in his Keynote Address mentioned that the Department of Science and Technology, Philippines through the Information and Communications Technology Office, continues to pursue the goals of the ITU, especially for the Asia-Pacific region. DOST-ICTO has introduced several programmes at the national level to respond to the challenges that face the Philippines and the rest of the region, including the improvement of Internet

connectivity especially in rural areas. "We believe in the power of connectivity as a starting point for innovation, and laying down this foundation brings us closer to a more ICT-driven society.

Session 1: WTDC14 Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives: Setting the Regional Context

Chairperson: Hon. Louis Napoleon C. Casambre, Undersecretary, Information and Communications Technology Office, Department of Science and Technology, Republic of the Philippines

Speakers/Panelists: Mr. Ioane Korovuki, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific; Dr. Bohyun Seo, Vice Chair, TDAG; Ms. Natasha Beschorner, The World Bank; Mr. Guillaume Mascot, Head of Government Relations APJ & India, NOKIA; Mr. Masanori Kondo, Deputy Secretary General, APT; Ms. Atsuko Okuda, Chief, ICT and Development Section, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division UNESCAP

Highlights and Outcomes

- The Forum was briefed on the ITU 2020 Vision, the Dubai Action Plan: Objectives and Outputs, the BDT Strategic Planning and Implementation Framework and the status as of June 2016 of the 5 Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives adopted by World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC) 2014.
- There was general recognition that ICT technologies and innovation play very critical roles in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Also, deployment of technologies and related innovation should be supported with enabling policy and regulatory environment.
- The Forum acknowledged the work of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), the World Bank and UNESCAP in implementing initiatives to address the challenges and issues faced by countries in the region that are linked to the ITU Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives. APT, as consolidator of regional voice and position to be taken to international/global arena, has also among others, consistently implemented ICT development-related activities and projects including capacity building for its Members in the region. The World Bank has supported connectivity particularly in the Pacific as well as policy and regulatory initiatives with other development partners and concerned countries in the region. The Forum welcomed UNESCAP's strategic regional initiative on the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway which not only provides critical infrastructure and foundation for communication purposes but also help to launch various socio-economic services and applications to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Targets of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS)
- The Session identified some challenges and issues that have to be addressed in the region as we are in midstream of the BDT Operational Cycle 2015-2018. These include:
 - How to foster collaboration and policy harmonization as different countries are in different levels of development;
 - Need for more spectrum for mobile broadband;
 - Enabling regulations on rights of way, addressing OTT (layering, service differentiation), among others;
 - Need for reliable and predictable network with more capacity, latency and security
- The Forum encouraged ITU and its development partners to strengthen collaboration and move partnerships forward.

Session 2: Innovative Approaches on Partnerships and Resource Mobilization to Meet the Objectives of the Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives

Chairperson: Ms. Aurora A. Rubio, Head, ITU Area Office for South East Asia

Panelists: Mr. Ioane Korovuki, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Masanori Kondo, Deputy Secretary General, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity; Mr. Bart W. Édes, Director, Social Development, Governance, and Gender

Highlights and Outcomes

- While Session 1 introduced the 5 Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives as well as their respective objectives and expected outcomes, Session 2 focused on the overall requirements, including innovative partnerships and resource mobilization to achieve the objectives of said regional initiatives adopted at WTDC 2014.
- There is agreement that ICTs are a key cross-cutting enabler for promoting and achieving each and every SDG and thus they have great potential to accelerate human progress.
- The 2030 Agenda requires ITU to:
 - Support governments, the UN system and sector partnership efforts effectively at the national, regional, and global levels to meet the sustainable development goals.
 - Better inter-sectoral coordination at ITU to strengthen its related work and enhance the important role of ICTs as crosscutting enablers for the SDGs.
 - Ensure coherent support towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda when reviewing ITU strategic and operational plans and implementation and progress reports;
- Relevant ICT indicators and statistics were presented during the Session which highlighted the following:
 - Large worldwide population still with unserved broadband needs with 4 billion people overall from developing countries remaining offline;
 - Affordability is improving significantly;
 - 3G absent in many rural areas;
 - On gender equality, there is a significant divide in ICT access and use between men and women. The gender gap is higher in developing countries and LDCs;
 - More offers, lower prices in Mobile-broadband. While fixed-broadband prices fell throughout the world until 2013, they increased in 2014
- APT shared the concept of "5W1H (what, who, which, where, when, how)" to analyze the objective(s) of the Asia-Pacific Regional Initiative(s) that one would like to achieve as the region is very much diverse and countries has its own policy priorities. At the same time, there are some cross borderer policy issues that require consolidated approaches among concerned parties such as Cybersecurity. Therefore considering innovative approaches on partnerships and resource mobilization for a project is like trying to solve complex simultaneous equations and there is no one common solution.
- ADB highlighted the past and ongoing collaboration with ITU in the areas of policy and regulation, infrastructure and in particular. ADB cited some partnership models such as partnership with (a) other regional/international funding and development organizations, (b) public-private partnership, (c) with civil society, (d) with government and (e) with academia.
- The Philippines shared its ongoing “**Tech**nology for **E**ducation to gain **E**mployment, and to empower **E**ntrepreneurs towards **E**conomic **D**evelopment (**Tech4ED**) Initiative” which aims to harness ICT to empower and transform society. The Session focused on the Initiative’s partnership arrangements for a sustainable Tech4ED. This Initiative received the ITU WSIS 2016 Prize on e-employment.
- The Forum encouraged ITU, its membership and other development partners to continuously promote and strengthen innovative partnerships and resource mobilization to support the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives.

Session 3: ASP RI 1: Special Consideration For LDCs, SIDSs, Including Pacific Island Countries, And Landlocked Developing Countries

Chairperson: Ms. Aurora A. Rubio, Head, ITU Area Office for South East Asia

Panelists: Mr. Ioane Koroivuki, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific; Mr. Sione Veikoso, President of Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA); Mr. Keping Yao, Governance and Public Administration Expert, UNPOG; Mr. Sibesh Bhattacharya, Senior Infrastructure Specialist- ICT, Pacific Department, Asian Development Bank

Highlights and Outcomes:

- ITU updated the Forum on the status of the Pacific Satellite Connectivity Project, a joint project of ITU, ITSO, Inmarsat, KACIFIC and Intelsat involving 11 countries in the Pacific. The project's deliverables include communication services, climate information, early warning and disaster response, health information, education with corresponding capacity building for each area.
- The Session highlighted that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are facing unique challenges and e-government and innovative ICT applications such as open data for DRR, m-health, e-education, and e-participation can support sustainable development in SIDS. The Forum appreciated UNPOG's e-government initiative, to support SIDS including its thematic research on e-government development in SIDS and policy recommendations
- PITA shared some of the key visions in the Pacific Islands to bring about the necessary digital development leap and help overcome the special challenges and limitations faced by Pacific Island Countries which include (a) connectivity, (b) infrastructure and technology, (c) HR and Special Skills, Transport and Accessibility, Terrain and environment and (d) affordability. PITA also shared that as such, a number of plans are being embarked in bringing enabling environments such as ubiquitous communications, digital economy, assured continuity and called on ITU and development agencies/ organizations for collaboration and partnerships on addressing said challenges.
- The Session presented some possible approaches to address the challenges identified with PITA such as:
 - On connectivity: continuing dialogue, submarine cable initiatives and satellite and other wireless options
 - On Accessibility and Affordability: deploying appropriate, cost effective technologies, rural planning inclusion and infrastructure sharing
 - On continuity and eliminating/minimizing disruptions: resilience planning, response and emergency back-up, and 3 Cs: coordination, cooperation and collaboration

Session 4: ASP RI 2: Emergency Telecommunications

Chairperson: Mr. Nicolas D. Ojeda Jr., Assistant Secretary, Information and Communications Technology Office, Department of Science and Technology, Republic of the Philippines

Panelists: Mr. Ioane Koroivuki, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific; Hon. Mr. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Attorney-General & Minister for Communications, Republic of Fiji (video message); Mr. Sione Veikoso, President of Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA); Mr. Kazuhiro WADA, International Cooperation Division, Global ICT Strategy Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications(MIC), Japan

Highlights and Outcomes

- Session 4 reported on the details of the implementation and plans of the Asia-Pacific Regional Initiative on Emergency Telecommunications with focus on the outcomes, challenges and gaps.
- ITU reported on the critical role of ICTs in Disaster Management and Risk Reduction and shared some figures on disaster impacts from 2005 – 2014, i.e estimated total damage of approximately USD 1.4 trillion, people affected of about 1.7 billion and human casualties of approximately 0.7 million.
- The Session highlighted the specific roles of ICTs in emergencies particularly on preparedness, communication and mitigation. The ICT national infrastructure is critical both as a means of communication and as embedded devices in other systems, such as power, water, transport, health care and law enforcement. As such, disaster management planners should give specific consideration to ICT communications as a critical infrastructure and ICT policy and decision makers should take hazard risks and vulnerabilities more systematically and holistically, based on recent incidents and experiences in the region. In order for these technologies to deliver increased

efficiencies and enhanced resilience, it must be planned from the beginning for networks to support disaster resilient applications and systems. Improving network interconnectedness in backbone infrastructure, including such concepts as peering and redundancy through meshed terrestrial networks, will greatly improve the capacities of these assets to provide enhanced disaster management.

- The Session highlighted that Mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction is a critical component in any national disaster management plan. Also, it is important to include disaster preparedness in all development policies and projects.
- The Session reported that the Pacific Island Countries are faced with climate-related threats such as rising sea levels, increasing intensity and frequency of tropical cyclones, tsunamis and flooding. Thus, several players and their specific roles on preparedness, communication and mitigation have been identified and disaster work plan are continuously being put in place.
- Asia Pacific as the epicenter of disasters was highlighted due to the presence of natural hazards, exacerbated by economic growth, rising populations, and burgeoning cities, and is worsened by effects of climate change. The Session agreed that Investing in disaster risk reduction has been proven as effective, but critical areas remain neglected – drought, early warning systems, and information management systems. Regional cooperation is critical to address the growing threat of disasters to promote sustainable development.

Session 5: HARNESSING THE BENEFITS OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Chairperson Mr. Harin S. Grewal, Cluster Director, IDA Singapore

Panelists: Mr. Kiyoung Ko, Executive Vice President, Korea Telecom; Mr. Guillaume Mascot Head of Government Relations APJ and India, Nokia; Mr. Tomas Lamanauskas, Group Director for Public Policy, VimpelCom Netherlands; Mr. Duncan Macintosh, Development Director, APNIC; Mr. Lim Chee Siong, Chief Marketing Officer, South Pacific Region, Huawei

Highlights and Outcome:

- New ICT technologies have great impact on the lives of individuals, industries and society as smart cities and smart nations are on the rise in the Asia-Pacific region. The region's socio-economic and urban growth comes with environmental, social, resources, safety and security pressure and deployment of smart networks provides an important part of the solution. The speakers and participants also recognized the global challenges that we currently face such as urban density, mobility, energy sustainability, ageing population and healthcare where new technologies and innovation have important roles to play.
- Use of telecom/ ICT networks especially the Internet for socio-economic development in various areas including health' education, agriculture etc. are on the rise. Affordability, accessibility, security and relevant local content are important to harness the full benefits.
- The sector is experiencing accelerated increase in growth of data traffic, and shift in revenues and usage from voice to data. Technological solutions such as big data, Internet of Things, LTE, 5G, Small Cells, Millimeter wave among others, are becoming important to manage the surge in usage demand in terms of scale and scope. Scalability of network, lowering the costs per bit, sharing infrastructure, reducing latency, ensure upgradeability and high quality of service are becoming important consideration for growth, sustainability and affordability needs.
- The Forum recognized that while the past has been about connecting people, the future is about connecting things – improving personal life, optimizing business processes and value chains, and entire industry configurations. These come with the need for (a) security and privacy, (b) robust connectivity, latency, availability and coverage, (c) standardization, (d) interoperability and open interfaces and (e) digital literacy.
- IPv4 to IPv6 transition is becoming critical for business continuity of network service providers and the growth of the Internet infrastructure and services, and there is a further need to accelerate deployment of IPv6. The Forum appreciated the capacity building activities and direct country assistances in the area of IPv6 transition provided by APNIC and ITU.
- Harnessing the benefits of new technologies requires action by all stakeholders to create the appropriate enabling environment. Developing a modern regulatory approach is required to embrace smart society including

issues such as spectrum management and harmonization, network sharing; policy and regulatory frameworks including those from other sectors such as city authority, utility, public safety authorities etc.

- The participants discussed the importance to have flexibility and agility in policy and regulatory framework in sustainable society and a more active role of service providers in driving digital society, smart cities etc. There is a need for collaboration of policies across the value chain as well as to hold joint dialogue within the telecom/ICT sector stakeholders and across other sector policy makers and regulators (e.g. health, education, agriculture and financial sectors).
- There is a large investment estimated in the telecom/ ICT networks in the coming years and it is important to be wise and intelligent in targeting these investments.

Session 6: DEVELOPMENT OF BROADBAND ACCESS AND ADOPTION OF BROADBAND

Chairperson: Dr. Syed Ismail Shah, Chairman, Pakistan Telecom Authority

Panelists: Dr. Bohyun Seo, Director of International Cooperation Division, KISDI; Mr. Lim Chee Siong, Chief Marketing Officer, South Pacific Region, Huawei; Dr. Ismail, Deputy Director General for Special Telecommunication and Public Broadcasting, MCIT, Indonesia; Mr. Sudhir Gupta, Secretary TRAI, India; Mr. Rajnesh D. Singh, Regional Director, Asia-Pacific Bureau, Internet Society

Highlights and Outcome

- The Session stressed the need for national leadership and for national broadband policies and enabling environment to promote competition and bring opportunities and empowerment through education and encouraging investment in broadband infrastructure.
- Spectrum is a critical factor for narrowing the digital divide and dynamic spectrum allocation for affordability of broadband. Connecting all the unconnected people and all the “things” require good spectrum policy. When developing spectrum policies, critical issues to be considered include (a) Spectrum bands, Technology Neutrality and block size, (b) long term impact versus upfront money, (c) clear roadmap, Renewal Policies and payment terms, and (d) Other anticompetitive conditions. It further noted other critical factors to be considered for a successful national broadband programme include cost, meeting users' experience expectations, promotion of digital literacy, content and applications development and innovation.
- The Forum noted that the Asia-Pacific region is the most diverse region in terms of ICT development index, reflecting stark differences in levels of economic development. Each individual economy faces different challenges, related to its geography, infrastructure requirements and social and economic structure, and to the financial resources and capabilities available to its people. While issues of national context are crucial to policy development, it is also possible for governments and ICT businesses to draw on the experience of other countries when developing their plans for the deployment and take-up of telecommunications, broadband and Internet. The experience of countries which have achieved higher rates of progress against the IDI is valuable within this context. Assessments illustrate the importance in facilitating access to and use of ICTs, of building strategic approaches to ICT deployment and implementation, integrating the implementation of infrastructure, ensuring that communications devices and services are affordable, and building the skills base that is required to maximize the effective use of ICTs.
- The Forum recognized the need for cross sectoral collaboration in particular education, health, agriculture and financial sectors by using the power of ICT for deployment of cost-effective related services in rural and remote areas, thereby reducing operational and administrative and stressing the need of partnership.
- The Forum appreciated Indonesia for sharing its comprehensive national broadband plan with clear physical targets including pricing, priority sectors and specific users/beneficiaries.

Session 7: POLICY AND REGULATION

Chairperson: Engr. Edgardo Cabarios, Deputy Commissioner, National Telecommunications Commission, Philippines

Panelists: Dr Syed Ismail Shah, Chairman, Pakistan Telecom Authority, Mr. Antonio Brigido Correia, President, Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANC), Timor Leste ; Mr. Xie Yi, Vice President, CAICT China; Mr. T.Naranmandakh Ph.D, General-Secretary, Communications Regulatory Commission of Mongolia

Highlights and Outcome

- Speakers shared and discussed policy and regulatory initiatives undertaken in Pakistan, Timor Leste, PR China and Mongolia linking them to the objectives and outcomes related to the ITU Asia-Pacific Regional Initiative on Policy and Regulation as adopted by WTDC 2014.
- The Session discussed the need for regulators to consider moving towards Regulation 4.0: on collaborative regulation with relevant sectors such as digital financial transactions with financial regulators. The Session requested ITU to continue providing a forum where dialogues with relevant sector regulators may be facilitated.
- The Session recommended that the ITU continue to assist countries in the Region, particularly developing countries to enhance policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks and availability of adequate skills in the areas of policy and regulation. A call was also made to support the improvement of national/sub-regional ICT policy & regulatory framework particularly for SIDS and landlocked developing countries;
- As its contribution to the Asia-Pacific Regional Initiative on Policy and Regulation, CAICT China shared its study on Consumer Protection in The Convergent Era: User Dominant Right is Rising Up that was submitted to the ITU-D Study Group 1 Rapporteur Group Meetings. The Study disclosed the appearance and characteristics of the rise of user dominant right with the progress of communication industry and proposed to enhance the protection of consumer benefits via the way of institution innovation and regulation improvement;
- The Session thanked and urged the ITU to continue providing a platform for policy makers and regulators that fosters dynamic and strategic discussions, sharing of information, real experiences and practices and identify possible solutions and opportunities for potential collaboration to address emerging regulatory issues and challenges;
- The Session recommended the following policy and regulatory focused areas (existing and new):
 - Collaborative regulations
 - Lowering the costs of fixed networks
 - Streamlined spectrum auction and spectrum harmonization
 - Cybersecurity and privacy
 - Policy and Regulatory Toolkits
 - Development of Frameworks for New and Emerging Technologies and on adopting/utilizing new technologies
 - Net neutrality
 - OTT, Cloud computing and IoT
 - Assistance to newly-established and soon-to-be-established regulators, including capacity building

Session 8: Facilitating Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives through research and capacity building

Chairperson: Mr. Ahmad Reza Sharafat, Chairman of ITU-D SG2, Professor and Senior Adviser, Ministry of Communications and IT, I.R. Iran

Panelists: Mr. Yasuhiko Kawasumi, Vice Chairman, ITU-D SG 1; Ms. Aurora A. Rubio, Head, ITU Area Office for South East Asia; Mr. Xie Yi, Vice President, CAICT; Ms. Jonghwi Park, Programme Specialist, ICT in Education, Educational Innovation and Skills Development, UNESCO

Highlights and Outcome

- An Update on 2015 activities of ITU-D Study Group 1 and 2 was presented showing their respective scope of work, the increased participation and contributions received, results achieved, the good progress made on the final deliverables, and associated events held during the SG1/SG2 meetings. More information on the ITU-D

Study Groups can be found at www.itu.int/ITU-D/study-groups/. The Session also presented Questions and Case Studies of interest to ASP regional initiatives.

- The Session provided an overview of the ITU Academy and its role in developing and delivering the strategy for ICT human capacity building which in the Asia-Pacific region has four layers of delivery platforms: global, regional, sub-regional and national. Each of the six Asia-Pacific Centres of Excellence (CoE) has specific focused areas namely: (1) Policy & Regulation & Broadband Access, (2) Policy & Regulation, (3) Cybersecurity, (4) Spectrum Management, (5) Conformance and Interoperability and (6) Broadband Access. Participants in the Forum were invited to take full advantage of the highly specialized CoE courses to meet their capacity building requirements. More information about the ITU academy can be found at <http://academy.itu.int>.
- UNESCAP presented the issues and challenges related to education in the Asia-Pacific region which include among others (1) shortage of teachers, and (2) a huge number of primary school children who are not meeting minimum learning standards. Paragraph 10, Incheon Declaration was highlighted which states that “ICTs must be harnessed to strengthen education systems, knowledge dissemination, information access, quality and effective learning, and more effective service provision.”
- The Session called for partnerships on “ICT-enabled Quality Lifelong Learning for All”, particularly on the following:
 - Evidence-Based Policy Development : Sensible indicators and innovative methodologies to measure impacts of technology in teaching and learning, including in Developing Countries
 - Internet connectivity in schools for teaching and learning purposes as it has been observed that internet connectivity in many schools is not intended for teaching and learning and is instead used primarily for administration
 - Policy Review on Readiness for Fostering Children’s Digital Citizenship
 - Guidelines on Online Protection particularly for children
 - Joint collaboration among international organizations, industry, sectoral ministries and other stakeholders on related events, studies and projects.

Session 9: Presentation of Conclusions and Recommendations

Mr. Ioane Koroivuki, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific recalled the ITU 2020 Vision, the Dubai Action Plan: Objectives and Outputs, the BDT Strategic Planning and Implementation Framework and the status of the 5 Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives adopted by WTDC 2014.

The Forum noted with appreciation the following:

- Significant number of Actions and Projects implemented under the different Dubai Action Plan Objectives and Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives
- High number of countries directly involved and assisted and the partners that generously supported ITU in the implementation of said actions and projects.

RDF 2016's proposals were highlighted on ITU regional activities, actions and projects as follows:



Regional initiative 1
Special consideration for Least developed countries, small island developing States including Pacific island countries, and landlocked developing countries

Pacific Satellite Connectivity Project ongoing
Enhance Policy and Regulatory Frameworks and develop adequate skills to meet priority ICT requirements (Direct country actions ongoing)
Improved Cybersecurity Frameworks (direct country actions ongoing)

- Addressing the challenges and limitations faced by Pacific Island Countries which include (a) connectivity, (b) infrastructure and technology, (c) HCB and Special Skills, Transport and Accessibility, Terrain and environment,(d) connectivity (e) affordability and (f) enabling ICT policies
- ICTs for SDG Framework for LDCs, SIDs including Pacific Island countries and LLDCs
- National/sub-regional ICT policy and regulatory frameworks for LLDCs



Regional initiative 2
Emergency telecommunications

- MRDU Project in the Philippines (fully implemented)
- Development of Satellite Communication capacity and emergency communication solutions for PICs (ongoing)
- Enhance policy, regulatory and preparedness frameworks and develop skills to meet emergency telecommunication requirements (direct country actions ongoing)
- Facilitating Emergency Telecommunication support (direct country actions ongoing)
- ICTs in emergencies Framework particularly on preparedness, communication and mitigation
- DRR & Mitigation
- Cooperation & collaboration
- Developing Emergency Telecommunication Policy



Regional initiative 3
Harnessing the benefits of new technologies

- Development of Frameworks for New and Emerging Technical Issues as well as for adoption and utilizing new technologies (ongoing)
- Service and Applications, e.g. e- and m-applications e.g., commerce, health, agriculture, etc (ongoing in partnership with WHO for e- and m-health and with FAO on e-agriculture)
- Develop adequate skills to meet priority ICT requirements (ongoing)
- Harnessing innovation (Cloud, Big Data, IoT)
- IPV6 Transition and network security
- Smart Cities, Smart Societies
- Green ICTs



- Spectrum Resources
- Bridging the digital divide
- Broadband Infrastructure and development
- Affordable Broadband Access for sustainable development
- Network Infrastructure & Security

- Enhance adaption of ICT applications in countries e.g. e-health, e-agriculture, e-education, e-governance (ongoing)
- Development of National Broadband Policy & Plans (Ongoing, 16 implemented)



- ICTs, Privacy & Cybersecurity
- Recognition that ICT technologies and innovation play very critical roles in SDGs.
- Deployment of technologies and related innovation should be supported with enabling policy and regulatory environment.
- Policy & Regulation on OTT, cost and tariff. C&I
- Adaptation of changing regulatory environment
- Addressing the needs of newly established regulators

- Enhanced awareness, improved reactive and proactive response, capacities of countries against cybercrime (ongoing)
- Enabling environment by providing technical assistance to countries in developing regulatory frameworks covering legislation and regulations (ongoing)

A call was addressed to Members and partners to join/collaborate in the implementation of the above existing and newly-identified focused activities and action under each of the Asia-Pacific regional initiatives.

CLOSING SESSION

The ITU Asia-Pacific Regional Development Forum ended successfully with closing remarks from Mr. Brahma Sanou, ITU BDT Director and Hon. Louis Napoleon C. Casambre, Undersecretary, Department of Science and Technology – Information and Communications Technology Office. The RDF 2016 delegates expressed their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to ITU for organizing the Forum, to the Forum Session Chairs and Speakers for their contribution, to the Department of Communications and the Arts, Government of Australia for their generous support for the RDF 2016 and to the Department of Science and Technology – Information and Communications Technology Office, Government of the Philippines for the very well-known Filipino hospitality and the excellent arrangements provided for the Forum.