



**Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**

Ref.: BDT/RO-ASP/029

Bangkok, 20 March 2017

To:

- Administrations of ITU Member States
- Regulators
- ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia
- Regional organisations in Asia-Pacific
- Industry, private sector, organisations dealing with telecommunications/ICTs

Subject: **3rd Asia-Pacific Digital Societies Policy Forum 2017, 8-9 May 2017, Bangkok, Thailand**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and GSMA are pleased to invite you to participate in the **"3rd Asia-Pacific Digital Societies Policy Forum 2017"**, which will take place on 8-9 May 2017 at Centara Grand at Central World, Bangkok, Thailand.

Jointly organized by ITU and GSMA with support from the Australian Government, Asia Pacific Telecommunity and partners, the Forum is the third in a series of annual ITU-GSMA Digital Societies events for the Asia-Pacific region.

The Forum convenes senior policy makers, regulators, industry and other stakeholders from the ICT sector to deliberate the opportunities and challenges of developing effective digital societies throughout this very diverse region.

The content addresses the current status and lessons learned in national digitization plans, as well as government initiatives to harness digitisation for the benefit of all. This year's focus will be on emerging digital services towards the age of 5G, with national governments and industry jointly looking at the possibilities and potential roadblocks for innovative solutions to solve complex socio-economic questions.

The provisional program and other relevant information including the practical information for participants, registration and fellowship request forms for the event can be accessed at: www.itu.int/go/digital2017.

This event is targeted towards senior officials from government ministries, national regulators, industry, academia and international organizations who are involved in developing and implementing policies and regulations, and other associated ICT development activities in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Please note that the Forum will be for two days on 8-9 May 2017 and followed by GSMA Capacity Building Course on IoT Policy and Regulation on 10 May 2017.

ITU is pleased to provide **one full fellowship** for each eligible country from Asia-Pacific Region, subject to availability of funds, with preference for those eligible applicants who could share and present the national digitization efforts during the Forum. Applicants requesting fellowships are required to submit the Fellowship Request form duly endorsed by their respective administration together with the confirmed online registration, no later than **17 April 2017**.

Mr Wisit Atipayakoon, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, (email: wisit.atipayakoon@itu.int, tel: +662 575 3500, fax: +662 575 3507) is at your full disposal for any further information you may need.

On behalf of the GSMA and the Telecommunication Development Bureau of the ITU, we look forward to welcoming you to Bangkok for the "3rd **Asia-Pacific Digital Societies Policy Forum 2017**".

Yours faithfully,



Ioane Koroivuki
Regional Director
ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific



Alasdair Grant
Head of Asia Pacific
GSMA