



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

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Bangkok, 1 November 2024

**ITU Member States, Sector Members,
Academia, and Related Stakeholders in the
Project Countries**

Subject: Invitation to Southeast Asia AI Project Seminar

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to a two-day Southeast Asia Artificial Intelligence (AI) Project Seminar which will take place in Bangkok, Thailand on **27-28 November 2024**. The first day of the seminar will be a Thailand AI Policy Co-Creation Workshop, which will bring together a range of stakeholders in Thailand to co-create AI policy proposals focusing on gender equality and social inclusion. The workshop is supported by the AI Center at the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand. The second day will be a regional Southeast Asia AI Project Concluding Seminar that presents the project findings, reviews recent AI policy developments and research, and discusses opportunities for collaboration around inclusive AI in Asia-Pacific.

Since 2021, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific is implementing a project called "[Enhancing the Development of Standards and Frameworks for Critical Technologies in Southeast Asia](#)", financed by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The aim of the project is to support the development of AI standards, policies, frameworks, and initiatives that mainstream gender equality and social inclusion in four countries in the region, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and the Philippines, through a multi-stakeholder approach.

Gender equality and social inclusion are particularly important in AI governance as AI systems have the potential to be biased and discriminatory, to reinforce or exacerbate inequalities, and to uphold and reproduce harmful stereotypes. These risks extend in particular to already vulnerable groups in society. Additional efforts are needed to ensure that everyone – regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age, language, national or social origin, disability, place of living, or any other status – has access to and can benefit from advances in AI technology and is not harmed by it.

Day 1 of the seminar – the Thailand AI Policy Co-Creation Workshop – will therefore bring together a range of stakeholders and interested parties in the Thailand to co-create AI policy proposals centered on four themes: 1) AI and gender equality, 2) AI and social inclusion, 3) AI and digital inclusion, and 4) AI and persons with disabilities. It will provide a platform for diverse discussions around AI and its potential societal impacts, and deliberations around the need for inclusive AI policies. The workshop output will be a jointly developed draft text with socially inclusive and gender-sensitive AI policy recommendations for Thailand. Simultaneous interpretation between Thai and English will be offered on this day.

Day 2 of the seminar – the AI Project Concluding Seminar – concludes the Critical Technologies project, which comes to an end at the end of 2024. The seminar will review the progress made in the project countries on gender-sensitive and socially inclusive AI policies, standards, frameworks, and initiatives, and offer an opportunity to review the project findings, reports, and achievements. Additionally, the seminar will highlight recent trends and developments in AI policy and standards in the region, and will provide a platform to discuss future collaboration and networking on AI in the region. This day of the seminar will be carried out in hybrid format, with an option for stakeholders to join the event online.

The event will take place on 27-28 November 2024 from 9.00am to 5.00pm at Novotel Bangkok on Siam Square (392/44 Siam Square Soi 6, Pathum Wan, Bangkok 10330, Thailand, <https://www.novotelbkk.com>).

A number of fellowships are available for participants from project countries outside of Thailand (i.e. Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines) to participate in the event. The fellowships cover both travel costs and a daily substance allowance for hotel- and other related costs.

More information about the seminar, as well as provisional agendas that are regularly updated, can be found on the event website: <http://itu.int/go/1NVO>

Please register for the seminar by **21 November 2024** using this link:
<https://www.itu.int/net4/CRM/xreg/web/registration.aspx?Event=C-00014749>

To register, participants must sign in with their existing ITU User Account or create a new one following [these instructions](#). If any assistance is needed with the registration process, they may contact itu-ro-asiapacific@itu.int and/or servicedesk@itu.int

For additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Alex Högbäck, Project Manager, at alex.hogback@itu.int

We look forward to seeing you in our seminar.

Yours sincerely,



Atsuko Okuda
Regional Director