



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

Ref.: BDT/ROASP/2021-013

Bangkok, 4 February 2021

- Administrations of ITU Member States in Asia and the Pacific
- ITU-D Sector Members
- Academia
- Regional Organizations from Asia and the Pacific
- UN Organizations
- Asia and the Pacific Youth Organizations

**Subject: Generation Connect – Asia and the Pacific Youth Group and ASP RPM-Side Event
9-10 March 2021**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The *Road to Addis* was launched on 9 November 2020, to build momentum towards the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-21). On this occasion, the “Generation Connect (GC)” global initiative (<https://www.itu.int/generationconnect/>) was announced. The aim of GC is to engage youth and encourage their participation as equal partners alongside the leaders of today’s digital change, empowering young people with the skills and opportunities to advance their vision of a connected future. In this context ITU have also called for nominations to join the Generation Connect Visionaries Board (circular [BDT/DNS/DGS/067](#) of 24 November 2020). The goal of the Visionaries Board is to provide strategic guidance to ITU on youth participation and empowerment, amongst other issues.

With the objective of further strengthening the engagement of Youth at the regional level, ITU Regional Office for the Asia and the Pacific is supporting the establishment of the [Generation Connect – Asia and the Pacific Youth Group \(GC-ASP\)](#) through a [Call for Nominations of the Members of GC-ASP](#) and to invite your organization to provide support for this effort. Further information on the [Generation Connect – Asia and the Pacific Youth Group \(GC-ASP\)](#) is provided in **Annexure 1**.

GC-ASP aims at providing a unique participative process for youth to contribute to the work of ITU in Asia and the Pacific (ASP) region. It will offer ASP youth a platform to discuss opportunities and challenges related to digital technologies alongside country and international organization representatives and to explore opportunities to contribute towards the implementation of ITU's Operation Plan and Regional Initiatives/Priorities in the ASP region. Through this platform, youth would be able to share with ITU membership their interests, concerns and perspectives on digital transformation, especially in the context of the [upcoming ITU Asia and the Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting](#) (RPM-ASP) for WTDC-21 to be held virtually from 9 to 10 March 2021.

GC-ASP will represent its youth community to discuss the challenges and opportunities on how youth could better support the achievement of the SDG at the [RPM-ASP Side-Event "Generation Connect Asia and the Pacific: youth empowerment for a digital future"](#). Afterwards, GC-ASP will continue its work, participate in activities in the Asia and the Pacific region, and provide valuable contributions related to the organization of the **WTDC-21 Generation Connect Global Youth Summit** to be held from **6-7 November 2021**, back to back with **WTDC-21, 8-19 November 2021, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**.

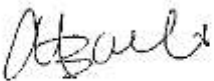
The launching of GC-ASP is in line with the ITU Youth Strategy which aims to improve and have a real impact on the lives of young people around the world, and to ensure meaningful participation of youth in ITU as key stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. GC-ASP will also contribute to the implementation of the ITU Regional Initiative for Asia and the Pacific on Digital Inclusion but also more broad initiatives which support digital transformation.

I invite our Asia and the Pacific Membership to work with us to ensure the success of this initiative. I would highly appreciate if you could activate youth networks in your countries to ensure that all countries are represented in this transformational effort.

Mr. Sean Doral, *Programme Officer for ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific* (Email: sean.doral@itu.int; Phone: +66 80 665 0213), is at your disposal should you require any further information.

I look forward to your support for this important initiative.

Yours faithfully,



Atsuko Okuda
Regional Director



Generation Connect – Asia and the Pacific Youth Group (GC-ASP)

ITU would like to take this opportunity to affirm the importance we attach to the effective implementation of the ITU Youth Strategy, this GC-ASP being an effective action in this regard. The current challenges around the world only confirm the urgent need to enhance the meaningful involvement of youth, not only as participants but also and above all as contributors, partners and actors of change, in digital cooperation processes. Indeed, as “digital natives” young people have valuable knowledge and expertise to share regarding digital technologies and as the future generation of the digital world, they are the future recipients of all policies regarding digital technologies.

1. A [Call for Nominations of the Members of GC-ASP](#) is being launched. This call targets all Asia and the Pacific youth between 18 and 24 who have an interest and/or experience and knowledge in the field of digital technologies and digital transformation.
2. They should possess strong communication, analytical and writing skills, the ability to work remotely in teams, and have an advanced level of English. Asia and the Pacific youth are kindly invited to submit their candidatures through the **online form** by **19 February 2021, 11:59 p.m. BKK**.
3. After an in-depth analysis of all candidatures the composition of the group will be announced by **25 February 2021**.
4. The virtual kick-off meeting and preparatory meeting for [RPM-Side Event "Generation Connect Asia and the Pacific: youth empowerment for a digital future"](#) will take place on **2 March 2021**.
5. All GC-ASP will be invited to participate in the **RPM-ASP Side-Event** on the **9 and 10 March 2021**. More information on GC-ASP is available at [Generation Connect – Asia and the Pacific Youth Group \(GC-ASP\)](#) website.