



BDT MEMBER COMMUNIQUÉ

Thailand hosts third regional preparatory meeting for ITU's World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025

Bangkok, 21 March 2025 – The [Regional Preparatory Meeting](#) (RPM) for Asia and the Pacific was held from 20 to 21 March in Bangkok, Thailand. It was an opportunity for participants to gain insight and detailed reporting on the ongoing implementation of the Kigali Action Plan and propose the next Regional Initiatives in the area of information and communication technology (ICT) development strategies in the Asia and the Pacific region.

The Regional Initiatives will be considered by the next ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25), to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 17 to 28 November 2025.

“The productive discussions at the Regional Preparatory Meeting helped to align our efforts and shape the direction of our region's digital future, ensuring that we are united and prepared for the challenges and opportunities ahead,” said Trairat Viriyasirikul, Deputy Secretary General and Acting Secretary General, Office of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission, Thailand.

The RPM was chaired by Saneh Saiwong, Principal Engineering Expert, Office of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission, Thailand.

“Digital transformation plays a critical role in shaping development in the Asia and the Pacific region, with 96 per cent of the population covered by a 4G network or better and the region's average mobile broadband price is now below the global average, and the new Regional Initiatives to be adopted at WTDC-25 will strengthen this momentum while ensuring that meaningful and safe connectivity reaches even the most remote communities,” said Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director, ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau. “The insights and collaboration shared by our membership in the Asia and the Pacific region will help us to ensure that the outcomes of WTDC-25 will impact people's lives and the planet. I am grateful to the Government of Thailand and the National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission of Thailand for generously hosting this meeting.”

Below are the proposed Regional Initiatives for Asia and the Pacific for 2026-2029.

ASP1: Addressing special needs of Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, including Pacific Island countries, and Landlocked Developing Countries: to provide special assistance to Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including Pacific Island countries, and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) to assist delivering their telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) priorities.

ASP2: Harnessing telecommunications/ICTs to support inclusive and sustainable digital transformation: to assist Member States to use ICTs and emerging technologies for inclusive and sustainable digital transformation by building human and institutional capacity, bridging digital divides, improving and expanding digital skills, reducing the gender gap, and assisting groups who may be in vulnerable situations.

ASP3: Fostering development of infrastructure to enhance digital connectivity and connecting the unconnected: to assist Member States in developing telecommunication/ICT infrastructure to facilitate the provision of affordable and meaningful services and applications and to connect the unconnected.

ASP4: Enabling an innovative and sustainable telecommunication/ICT sector: to assist Member States in developing appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks that foster innovation, investment and sustainability across the telecommunications/ICT sector, by way of enabling ICT-centric innovation and the growth of start-ups and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME), while also addressing the need for sustainability.

ASP5: Supporting a safe, secure, and resilient telecommunication/ICT environment: to assist Member States in developing and maintaining safe, secure, trusted and resilient telecommunication/ICT networks and services, and addressing challenges related to climate change and the management of disasters and emergencies.

The meeting was preceded by a [Regional Development Forum](#), on 19 March.

“The RDF brought together visionary leaders, policymakers, industry experts, and key stakeholders, all united by a shared mission: leveraging Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to accelerate sustainable development,” said Clinical Professor Dr. Sarana Boonbaichaiyapruk, Chairman of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission, Thailand.

Participants at the Regional Development Forum engaged results-oriented debates and impactful Partner2Connect Matchmaking Roundtables. Discussions also explored the state of digital development and the implementation of the current Regional Initiatives.

“The proposed Regional Initiatives identify persistent and emerging challenges and opportunities in accelerating the region’s digital transformation,” said Atsuko Okuda, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. “Our work in fostering and strengthening digital transformation would not be possible without the great commitment, support, and engagement of our partners in the region.”

The “State of digital development and trends in the Asia and the Pacific region” report, launched at the meeting, examines connectivity expansion, innovation, affordability, and digital inclusion, outlining strategies to achieve universal and meaningful connectivity across the diverse region.

During the meeting, several announcements were made, underlining the importance of stakeholders' commitment towards the implementation of the Regional Initiatives. Collaborations were announced with:

- MIC Japan in Artificial Intelligence Technology and Standards Capacity Building in Asia-Pacific, and the third phase of Enhancing Digital Infrastructure and Affordable Access to ICT Services in Asia and the Pacific, which will also support ITU in implementing the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative in the region
- Thailand's Office of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission to jointly organize 'Girls in ICT Day Thailand 2025'
- The Ministry of Science and ICT, Republic of Korea, in three key areas: Establishment of a National Spectrum Management Basic Framework System; Encourage the use of innovative technologies for building a digital society with shared prosperity; 'Cyber for Good'
- China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on capacity building, digital innovation and entrepreneurship.

The Regional Development Forum also featured sessions on the Network of Women in ITU-D, Generation Connect and the Digital Innovation Alliance.

This Regional Preparatory Meeting was the third in a series that are taking place across the world to identify priorities for each region in preparation of WTDC-25. The next Regional Preparatory Meeting will be for the Americas region and will be held in Paraguay from 1 to 2 April 2025. It will be preceded by a Regional Development Forum on 31 March.

WTDC-25 will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 17 to 28 November 2025.

Resources and background information

- ["State of digital development and trends in the Asia and the Pacific region: Challenges and opportunities"](#)
- [Video on the progress on the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan in the Asia and the Pacific region](#)
- [Schedule](#) of RPMs and RDFs
- The [ITU-D Events mobile app](#) allows users to access on their smart-phones and tablets all relevant information and documents related to the Regional Preparatory Meetings of the WTDC-25.

About the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations agency for digital technologies, driving innovation for people and the planet with 194 Member States and a membership of over 1,000 companies, universities, civil society, and international and regional organizations. Established in 1865, ITU coordinates the global use of the radio spectrum and satellite orbits, establishes international technology standards, drives universal connectivity and digital services, and is helping to make sure everyone benefits from sustainable digital transformation, including the most remote communities. From artificial intelligence (AI) to quantum, from satellites and submarine cables to advanced mobile and wireless broadband networks, ITU is committed to connecting the world and beyond. Learn more: www.itu.int.