ITU Regional Development Forum for Asia and the Pacific (RDF-ASP) 2025

Information and Communication Technologies for attaining Sustainable Development Goals

organized by the International Telecommunication Union with the support of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission and cooperation with the Asia Pacific Telecommunity

19 March 2025
Bangkok, Thailand

Public Webcast accessible via the RDF-ASP 2025 website

RDF-ASP 2025 is held back-to-back with the ITU Regional Preparatory Meeting for Asia and the Pacific (20-21 March, 2025)

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 19 March 2025

8:30 – 9:00	Networking Coffee
9:00 – 9:45	**OPENING CEREMONY** - **Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava**, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU - **Mr. David McLachlan-Karr**, Regional Director for Asia-Pacific, UN Development Cooperation Office - **Mr. Masanori Kondo**, Secretary General, Asia Pacific Telecommunity - **Clinical Professor Dr. Sarana Boonbaichaiyapruck,** Chairman of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission of Thailand (NBTC) **Appointment of the Chair of the ITU Regional Development Forum for Asia and the Pacific** - **Clinical Professor Dr. Sarana Boonbaichaiyapruk,** Chairman of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission of Thailand (NBTC)
9:45 – 9:55	Official Photograph
9:55 – 10:45	**ROUNDTABLE ONE: State of Digital Development and Trends - Challenges and opportunities** *This is a high-level roundtable, with the objective to discuss regional and country specific challenges and opportunities arising from digital development and transformation. The focus will be on the Asia and the Pacific and how the region could accelerate the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the Asia and the Pacific through digital.*

Setting the context: Presentation by BDT, ITU

Moderator:
Mr. Edwin Diender, Chief Innovation Officer, Huawei Enterprise Business Group

Speakers:
- **Ms. Yuki Naruse**, Director, Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC), Japan
- **Mr. Kila Gulo Vui**, Chief Executive Officer, National Information & Communications Technology Authority (NICTA), PNG
- **Clinical Professor Dr. Sarana Boonbaichaiyapruck**, Chairman of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission, Thailand
- **Mr. Sione Pulotu 'Akau'ola**, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate, Tonga

10:45 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:15	**ROUNDTABLE TWO: Matchmaking Roundtable on Fostering partnerships on infrastructure development for universal connectivity**

This roundtable will explore strategies to accelerate digital infrastructure development, leveraging the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition (P2C) to advance universal and meaningful connectivity. Speakers will share insights on innovative solutions, financing models, and policy frameworks, highlighting progress on P2C pledges and their role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through inclusive digital transformation.

Setting the context: Presentation by BDT, ITU

Moderator:
Honorable Senator TJ Remengesau, Chairman for the Senate Committee for ICT and Cybersecurity, Palau

Speakers:
- **Mr. Norshahrul Nizam Bin Othman**, Assistant Chief Executive, Data Protection Office and International Group, Authority for Info-communications Technology Industry (AITI), Brunei Darussalam (Remote participation)
- **Dr. Pratompong Srinuan**, Executive Director, Telecommunications Policy and Resources Management Bureau, Office of the NBTC, Thailand
- **Mr. Vincent Choong Mun Kong,** AVP and senior specialist, Axiata
- **Ms. Neeti Biyani**, Senior Advisor, Strategy and Development, APNIC Foundation
- **Ms. Noelle de Guzman**, Senior Director for Regional Affairs, Asia-Pacific, Internet Society
- **Mr. Carlos Riopedre,** COO and Managing Director, Sateliot

	- **Mr. Liu Yijia**, Manager Marketing, ZTE Thailand *Discussions with the floor audience* Announcement of Collaboration with Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC), Japan on AI Capacity Building and Resilient Digital Infrastructure in Asia-Pacific Announcement of Collaboration on Girls in ICT Day Thailand with National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission of Thailand
12:15 – 12:45	**NoW EVENT: Network of Women for Asia and the Pacific: Building connections, empowering futures** *The Network of Women in ITU-D will delve into the profound impact of fostering strong professional networks among women in the telecommunications and information technology sectors. Discussions will focus on strategies to create inclusive environments that support women's growth and leadership, the significance of mentorship and sponsorship in empowering female professionals, and the ways in which collaborative efforts can drive innovation and transform the industry. Attendees will share experiences, best practices, and actionable insights to build connections that not only empower individual careers but also shape a more equitable future for all.* **Opening remarks: Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava**, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU **Moderator:** **Ms. Angela Wibawa**, Director APAC, Government and IGO Engagement, ICANN **Speakers:** - **Ms. Rujira Thammachat**, Executive Director, International Affairs Bureau, Office of the NBTC, Thailand - **Ms. Christine Puro Francis**, Principal International Affairs Officer, National Information & Communications Technology Authority (NICTA), Papua New Guinea - **Ms. Ming Xu**, Director, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), China - **Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam**, CEO / Secretariat Director, Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch break
13:45 – 14:15	**Digital Innovation Alliance: Collaboration Opportunities** *This session highlights collaborative opportunities under the Digital Innovation Alliance, a regional platform for stakeholders to exchange innovative solutions and scale technology-driven initiatives. By leveraging alliances and multi-stakeholder partnerships, the session aims to facilitate knowledge sharing and coordinate efforts to accelerate digital innovation in Asia and the Pacific.* **Setting the Context:** Presentation by BDT, ITU

Moderator:
Prof. Yuosre Badir, *Dean, School of Management, AIT*

Open Discussion: Collaboration Opportunities

- **Mr. Avinash Agarwal**, DDG, International Relations, Department of Telecommunications (DoT), India
- **Ms. Mina Seonmin Jun**, Policy Advisor, Korea Information Society Development Institute, Republic of Korea

14:15 – 15:30	**ROUNDTABLE THREE: P2C Matchmaking Roundtable on fostering partnerships for development**

This roundtable will serve as a dynamic platform to facilitate meaningful collaboration and strategic partnerships aimed at skills development across the Asia and the Pacific region. By aligning resources with real-world needs, the session will highlight innovative approaches to building sustainable, high-value partnerships that unlock transformative opportunities. It will focus on catalysing impactful initiatives to accelerate the region's skills development agenda, driving inclusive and impactful capacity-building efforts to support digital transformation and regional growth.

Moderator: Mr. Pochchhy Khy Director of International Cooperation Department, General Department of Administration, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications of the Kingdom of Cambodia

Speakers:
- **Ms. Tupuo'tuah Baravilala**, Director General of Digital Government Transformation, Cybersecurity, and Communications, Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, and Communications, Fiji
- **Ms. Daloun Intharath**, Deputy Division Director, International Organization Division, Cabinet Office, MTC Lao PDR
- **Ms. Nadia Ghazali**, Director, ASEAN & Bilateral Affairs, Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC), Malaysia
- **Ms. Georgina Garcia**, Finance Director, Autoridade Nacional De Comunicações, Timor-Leste
- **Ms Suthinee Leelahemaratana**, Program Manager, Cisco System, Thailand
- **Mr. Woragarn Likhitdechasakdi**, Chief Technology Officer (CTO), Carrier Network Business Group, Huawei Technologies (Thailand) Co., Ltd
- **Mr. Samir K. Chatterjee**, Managing Director, Rebaca Technologies, US/India

Discussions with the floor audience

Announcement of collaboration with Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), China on capacity building, digital innovation and entrepreneurship.

15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break

15:45 – 17:00	**ROUNDTABLE FOUR: Roundtable on the implementation of the ITU Regional Initiatives for Asia and the Pacific**

In WTDC-22 held in Kigali Rwanda, five regional initiatives were adopted on themes relevant to digital transformation, cybersecurity, infrastructure, innovation and digital regulation. Over the past three years the ITU Asia and the Pacific Regional Office collaborated with a spectrum of stakeholders on projects and activities across the region in implementation of these regional initiatives. This session will shed light on some of the key achievements in implementing these regional initiatives. Moreover, as we prepare for the upcoming WTDC-25 the Asia and the Pacific region has already started shaping the new Asia and the Pacific Regional Initiatives. This session will also discuss regional priorities that could contribute to the new Asia and the Pacific Regional Initiatives.

Setting the context: Dr. Atsuko Okuda, Regional Director for ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Moderator:
Dr. Maria Myutel, Acting Director, International Engagement, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, Australia

Speakers:
- **Mr. Steven Matainaho**, Secretary and CEO to the Department of Information and Communications Technology, Papua New Guinea
- **Mr. Imad Memon**, Member (International Coordination), Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication, Pakistan (Remote participation)
- **Mr. Domingo Kabunare**, Officer in Charge Digital Transformation, Ministry of Information, Communications and Transport, Kiribati (Remote participation)
- **Mr. Suresh Nepal**, Dy. Chief ICT Officer, GovTech Agency, Bhutan

17:00 – 17:30	**Generation Connect Youth Session: Intergenerational dialogue on challenges and opportunities in the field of digital development for the Youth in Asia and the Pacific**

This session provides a platform for youth to share experiences and insights from the recent Global Youth Summit 2025 (GYS-25) held in Varadero, Cuba, from 11 to 13 March 2025 under the theme "Amplifying youth voices in ICT for an inclusive and connected future", highlighting their perspectives on regional digital development priorities. It will foster discussions on opportunities, challenges, and innovative solutions for meaningful youth engagement in ICT policymaking and development initiatives. The dialogue aims to promote collaboration and align youth-driven initiatives with ITU regional priorities, ensuring young leaders' voices help shape the future of digital development in Asia and the Pacific.

Moderator:

Ms. Nicola Bennett, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Speakers:
- **Mr. Yuang Feng** (GC ASP Youth Envoy, China)
- **Mr. Zhuoyong SHI** (GC ASP Youth Envoy, China) (Remote participation)
- **Ms. Yearin Lee** (GC ASP Youth Envoy, Korea) (Remote participation)
- **Ms. Zoe Angeli Go Uy** (GC ASP Youth Envoy, Philippines) (Remote participation)

Closing remarks: Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU

17:30 – 18:00	**Closing Ceremony** - **Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava**, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU - Representative from National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission (NBTC)
	END OF RDF
18:10 – 18:40	**Regional Preparatory Meeting – Informal Heads of Delegation Meeting** (by invitation only)