

# ITU Regional Development Forum for Asia and the Pacific (RDF-ASP) 2026

*Universal, meaningful and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future*

**16-17 July 2026  
Bangkok, Thailand**

Event website: [itu.int/go/RDF-ASP-26](https://itu.int/go/RDF-ASP-26).

RDF-ASP 2026 is organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and co-hosted by the Office of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (Office of the NBTC) of Thailand. The Forum is held back-to-back with the 23rd APT Telecommunication/ICT Development Forum (ADF-23) on 14-15 July 2026.

## DRAFT PROGRAMME

### Thursday, 16 July 2026

<b>08:30 - 09:00</b>	<b>Networking Coffee</b>
<b>09:00 - 10:00</b>	<b>Opening Ceremony</b>
<b>10:00 - 11:00</b>	<p><b>Session 1: State of Digital Development and Trends - Challenges &amp; Opportunities</b></p> <p>This session provides an evidence-based overview of the current state of digital development in Asia and the Pacific. It highlights emerging trends, structural challenges, and strategic opportunities shaping the continent's digital transformation. Building on ITU's data and reports, the session examines progress and remaining gaps across infrastructure and connectivity, policy and regulatory readiness, digital skills, and investment environments.</p>
<b>11:00 - 11:30</b>	Group Photograph and Coffee Break
<b>11:30 - 12:45</b>	<p><b>Session 2: Infrastructure Development for Universal Meaningful Connectivity</b></p> <p>This session is a high-level discussion to explore strategies to accelerate investment and development of digital infrastructure to advance universal and meaningful connectivity in Asia and the Pacific. Speakers will share insights and engage with the audience on innovative solutions, financing models, and policy frameworks, and the role of their respective organisations in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p>



<b>12:45 - 13:00</b>	<b>Special Announcements</b>
<b>13:00 - 14:00</b>	Lunch Break
<b>14:00 - 15:00</b>	<p><b>Session 3: Building upon the outcomes of the WTDC and new resolutions introduced</b></p> <p>Member States at the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25) held in Baku, Azerbaijan, adopted five regional initiatives on Asia and the Pacific. This session will address actions carried out in the region by different stakeholders and how these relate to the outcomes of WTDC-25. It will further dive into new resolutions - WTDC Res. 91 and WTDC Res. 94 and explore future initiatives and ideas from members and partners.</p>
<b>15:00 - 16:00</b>	<p><b>Session 4: Building UN partnerships to achieve WTDC outcomes</b></p> <p>The session will offer an opportunity to discuss ITU's role in the UN system and its contribution at the regional and country levels to foster digital development, focusing on the joint collaboration as a framework for local resource mobilisation to facilitate financing of Regional Initiatives.</p>
<b>16:00 - 16:30</b>	Coffee Break
<b>16:30 - 17:00</b>	<b>Partnership Announcements</b>

## Friday, 17 July 2026

<b>08:30 - 09:00</b>	<b>Networking Coffee</b>
<b>09:00 - 10:30</b>	<p><b>Session 5: ITU Regional Initiatives for Asia and the Pacific: Contributions</b></p> <p>The five regional initiatives for Asia and the Pacific adopted during WTDC-25 focus on themes relevant to addressing special needs of LDC's, SIDS, LLDC's, inclusive and sustainable digital transformation, development of infrastructure, innovative and sustainable ICT sector, cyber security and environment. This session will explore strategies through which these regional initiatives will be jointly implemented, focusing on priorities which shaped these initiatives and contributions from Member States.</p>
<b>10:30 - 10:45</b>	<b>Special Announcements</b>
<b>10:45 - 11:00</b>	Coffee Break
<b>11:00 - 12:00</b>	<p><b>Session 6: ITU Regional Initiatives for Asia and the Pacific: Contributions &amp; Presentation of Contributions to RDF</b></p> <p>This session will explore strategies through which these regional initiatives will be jointly implemented, focusing on priorities which</p>



shaped these initiatives and contributions from Member States. It will further highlight the submissions to RDF.

**12:00 - 14:00** **Extended lunch break**

**14:00 - 14:45** **Session 7: Partner2Connect matchmaking roundtable: Matching the country and regional needs with stakeholders' interests to support digital development across the region**

This session will serve as a matchmaking platform for P2C pledges and RI for the Asia and the Pacific region. 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 digital agenda, driving inclusive and impactful capacity-development efforts to support digital transformation and regional growth.

**14:45 - 15:30** **Session 8: Partner2Connect matchmaking roundtable: Matching the country and regional needs with stakeholders' interests to support digital development across the region (continued)**

**15:30 - 16:00** **Innovation Café**

The session will showcase developments made in the ASP on RI initiatives, such as EW4ALL and other related activities. It will also explore stakeholders' interest in future initiatives and activities.

**16:00 - 16:15** **Presentation of the RDF report by the Chair**

**16:15 - 17:00** **Closing Ceremony**

**End of RDF-ASP 2026**

