

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

Event website: 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

08:30 - 08:45 Networking Coffee

08:45 - 09:30 Opening Ceremony

- Clinical Professor Sarana Boonbaichaiyapruk, Chairman of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) of Thailand
- Dr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General, Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT)
- Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU

Appointment of the Chair of the ITU Regional Development Forum for Asia and the Pacific

- Clinical Professor Sarana Boonbaichaiyapruk, Chairman of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) of Thailand

Photo Session

09:30 - 10:30 Session 1: State of Digital Development and Trends - Challenges & Opportunities

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.

Moderator

- Mr. Toni Eid, Founder, Telecom Review

State of digital development and trends: Challenges and Opportunities

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

Speakers

- Mr. Syed Mohammad Shaharyar Jawaid, Senior ICT Specialist, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
- Dr. Muhammad Amir Malik, Member (International Coordination), Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication (MoITT), Pakistan
- Mr. Adam Coin, Counsellor (Economic), Australian Embassy in Thailand
- Mr. Atul Sinha, Director General, National Communications Academy Technology (NCA-T), India (virtual)

10:30 - 11:00

Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:15

Session 2: Infrastructure Development for Universal Meaningful Connectivity

This session will examine strategies to accelerate investment and the development of resilient, inclusive, and sustainable digital infrastructure to advance universal and meaningful connectivity across Asia and the Pacific. In line with ASP Regional Initiative 3 (ASP3): Fostering Development of Infrastructure to Enhance Digital Connectivity and Connecting the Unconnected, the discussions will explore innovative connectivity solutions, financing mechanisms and multi-stakeholder partnerships required to expand broadband access, particularly in underserved and hard-to-reach communities. Speakers will share experiences and perspectives on how governments, industry, development partners, and financial institutions can collaborate to bridge connectivity gaps and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the implementation of the WTDC-25 Baku Action Plan.

Moderator

- Mr. Damdin-Od Dulguun, Executive Director, International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (ITLLDC)

Speakers

- Ms. Georgina Garcia, Board Member and Finance Director, National Communication Authority, Timor-Leste
- Mr. Mahesh Uttamchandani, Regional Practice Director for Digital & AI East Asia & Pacific and South Asia Regions, World Bank
- Mr. Haipeng Zhai, Vice President of Optical Business Product Line, Huawei



- Mr. Syed Mohammad Shaharyar Jawaid, Senior ICT Specialist, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

Contributions

- AI-Grade Connectivity as a Foundation for National Development: Lessons from BIRD Initiative **submitted by** Global Plan Inc (virtual)
- Democratizing Technology: Using Open Standards and Open Source (in line with the WTDC-25 resolution 15, Applied Research and Transfer of Technology) **submitted by** Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, India (IISc); Indian Institute of Information Technology, Bengaluru, India (IIITB), Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, India (IITD), Center for Development of Advanced Computing, India (CDAC), Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA)
- Regional Cooperation on AI-ready, IPv6-native and Resilient Digital Infrastructure for Universal and Meaningful Connectivity **submitted by** Socialist Republic of Viet Nam **to be introduced by moderator on behalf of** Mr. Nguyen Quy Quyen

12:15 - 13:00

Partnership Announcements

- Project with Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts of Australia (DITRDCA) on "Creating a Circular Economy for Electronics in the Pacific" (Mr. Adam Coin, Counsellor (Economic), Australian Embassy in Thailand)
- Project with Huawei on "Accelerating Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Asia-Pacific to Achieve the SDGs" (Mr. Denny Deng, Senior Vice President, APAC, Carrier Network Business, Huawei)
- Project with Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) Japan on "Harnessing AI and enhancing access to digital services for inclusive and resilient societies" (Mr. Ryo Horikawa, Director, Global Strategy Bureau, MIC Japan)
- Project with Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) on "Scaling Up of Smart Villages in Pakistan" (Mr. Syed Mohammad Shaharyar Jawaid, Senior ICT Specialist, IsDB)

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch Break

14:00 - 15:00

Session 3: Building upon the outcomes of the WTDC and new resolutions introduced

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. There are 67 resolutions in total, but the session will further dive into new resolutions and explore future initiatives and ideas from members and partners.



Setting the scene: Outcomes of RI's, Study Groups, and linkage with the new resolutions

- Mr. Kishore Babu G.S.C. Yerraballa, Area Representative, Southeast Asia & other Member States in Asia and the Pacific, ITU

Moderator

- Mr. Teuku Nasrullah, ICT Manager, The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), Indonesia

Speakers

- Mr. Yoshiaki Nagaya, Director, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan (virtual)
- Mr. Ugyen Dorji, ICT Officer, Emerging Technology Division, Government Technology (GovTech) Agency of Bhutan
- Mr. Fini Luni, Acting Director of the Department of Information, Communication, and Technology, Tuvalu (virtual)
- Prof. Siddharth Jabade, Vice President for Administration & Development, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand

Contributions

- AI-Powered Communication Infrastructure for Inclusive Digital Transformation submitted by Eocean Private Limited (Pakistan) to be introduced by Ms. Fatima Alvi (virtual)
- Advancing Meaningful Connectivity Through Smartphone Affordability and AI-Enabled Financial Inclusion submitted by Kistpay Private Limited (Pakistan) to be introduced by Ms. Fatima Alvi (virtual)

15:00 - 16:00

Session 4: Building UN partnerships to achieve WTDC outcomes

The session will offer an opportunity to discuss ITU's role within the UN system and its contribution at the regional and country levels to fostering digital development, with a focus on collaboration as a framework for local resource mobilization to support the financing of Regional Initiatives. It will also examine the relationship between ITU and other UN agencies in implementing WTDC outcomes, highlighting opportunities for coordinated action and partnerships to maximize development impact.

Moderator

- Mr. K K Yoganaadan, Director, Science, Technology, Innovation, HRD and Health, Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

Speakers

- Mr. Yongqing Chen, Technical Coordinator (Infrastructure), Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- Dr Rabi Rasaily, Acting Programme Coordinator, EU-STREIT joint programme, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (virtual)



- Mr. Ken Chamuva Shawa, Head of the Regional Economic and Social Analysis Unit (RESA), Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Ms. Ellenor Grace Francisco, Senior Regional Coordination Officer, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Development Coordination Office (UNDCO)
- Ms. Diana Patricia Mosquera Calle, Deputy Chief, Regional Office for Asia Pacific, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

16:00 - 16:30**Partnership Announcements**

- Joint Declaration with Telecommunications Technology Association (TTA), Republic of Korea on "*ICT Standardization and Capacity Building for Asia-Pacific*" (Mr. Seung Hyun Son, President, TTA, Republic of Korea)
- Collaboration with Amazon Web Services (AWS) on "*AI, Cloud, Innovation Cafes, and Women's Digital Entrepreneurship*" (Ms. Monique Viengkhou, Strategy and Policy Head, Public Policy, APJ, AWS)
- Joint Publication on "*From Telecentres, Community Networks To Sustainable Smart Villages and Smart Islands: Case Studies*" (Mr. Adrian Wan, Director, Policy and Advocacy, Internet Society)

16:30-17:00**Coffee Break****Friday, 17 July 2026****08:30 - 09:00****Networking Coffee****09:00 - 10:00****Session 5: ITU Regional Initiatives for Asia and the Pacific: Contributions**

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 and cyber security. Based on the resources and expertise available within the region, this session will explore strategies through which these regional initiatives will be jointly implemented, focusing on priorities which shape these initiatives and contributions from Member States. It will also highlight the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation as a platform for sharing knowledge, expertise, and good practices among countries facing similar development challenges.

Moderator:

- Mr. Setthanon Viengvilay, Deputy Director General, Lao Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, Lao PDR



- Ms. Mina Seonmin Jun, Chair of the Advisory Board of the Network of Women (NoW) in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D)
- Mr. Ashish Narayan, Programme Coordinator, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
- Mr. Ilyas Ahmed, Chief Executive, Communications Authority of Maldives (CAM)
- Ms. Gabrielle Iglesias, Policy Adviser, APNIC Foundation
- Mr. Jason Le Yu, External Liaison Supervisor, International Cooperation Department, BRICS Institute of Future Networks (BIFNC)

Contributions

- **Announcement of the contribution** by 5Rights Foundation, United Kingdom / Asia-Pacific regional (based in Thailand).
- **Announcement of the contribution** by the World Wide Fund for Nature

12:00 - 13:45

Extended lunch break

13:45 - 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 platform for sharing P2C pledges and RI that are either already implemented or being implemented in 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.

Moderator

- Mr. Gomer Padong, LocNet Policy and Regulations Coordinator for Asia, Association for Progressive Communications (APC)

Invited by Moderator: Mr. Paul Kasera Demba, Special Projects Lead, Telecommunications Development Sector, ITU (Virtual)

Speakers

- Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam, CEO & Secretary-General, Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development
- H.E. Sok Puthyuth, Secretary of State, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Cambodia (virtual)
- Mr. Derek John Fernandez, Commission Member of MCMC Malaysia
- Mr. Cécil Ameil, Director, Regulatory Affairs, SES (virtual)
- Mr. Jian Wang, Deputy Director, International Cooperation Department, China Academy of Information and Communications Technology (CAICT) (virtual)
- Mr. Adrian Wan, Director, Policy and Advocacy, Internet Society



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 (Announcement of New Pledges)

Moderator

- Ms. Monique Viengkhou, Head of Strategy, Operations, and Enablement, Amazon Web Services

Speakers

- Ms. Airisha Strasser, Multilateral Engagement, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts, Australia (virtual)
- Mr. Vicent Choong Mun Kong, AVP and Senior Specialist, Axiata Group Berhad
- Ms. Angela Wibawa, Director, APAC, Government and IGO Engagement, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) (virtual)
- Dr. Zhicheng Qu, Chief Standardization Director for ITU Affairs, ZTE Corporation (virtual)
- Mr. Brian V. Gonzales, Head, Protection of Endangered Species, World Wide Fund for Nature
- Ms. Pamela Kumar, Director-General, IOS-MCN, Indian Institute of Science
- Mr. Vineet Kumar, Founder and Global President, CyberPeace Foundation

15:30 - 16:00**Coffee Break & Mentimeter****16:00 - 16:15****Presentation of the RDF report by the Chair****16:15 - 17:00****Closing Ceremony**

- Mr. Saneh Saiwong, Principal Engineering Expert, Office of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission
- Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU

End of RDF-ASP 2026

