

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

17 July 2026 15:00 – 15:25 (Bangkok Time/GMT+7)



Ms. Monique Viengkhou

Strategy and Policy
Head, Public Policy,
APJ, Amazon Web
Services
(Moderator)



Ms. Airisha Strasser

Multilateral
Engagement,
Department of
Infrastructure,
Transport,
Regional Development,
Communications, Sport
and the Arts, Australia



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
(Virtual)



Mr. Zhicheng QU

Chief
Standardization
Director
for ITU
Affairs, ZTE
Corporation



Mr. Brian V. Gonzales
Head, Protection of
Endangered
Species, World Wildlife
Fund for Nature,
Hong Kong
(Invited by
Moderator)



Ms. Pamela Kumar

Director-
General, IOS-
MCN, Indian
Institute of
Science



Mr. Vineet Kumar

Founder and
Global
President, CyberPeace
Foundation



Axiata operates at scale across Asia-Pacific, serving as a core enabler of regional connectivity

FY2025 Results

REVENUE	▶▶	MYR 11.8 B
EBITDA	▶▶	MYR 5.5 B
PATAMI	▶▶	MYR 0.4 B
CUSTOMERS	▶▶	Over 190M
EMPLOYEES	▶▶	~15,300
COUNTRIES	▶▶	7+



Digital Telcos



Digital Businesses



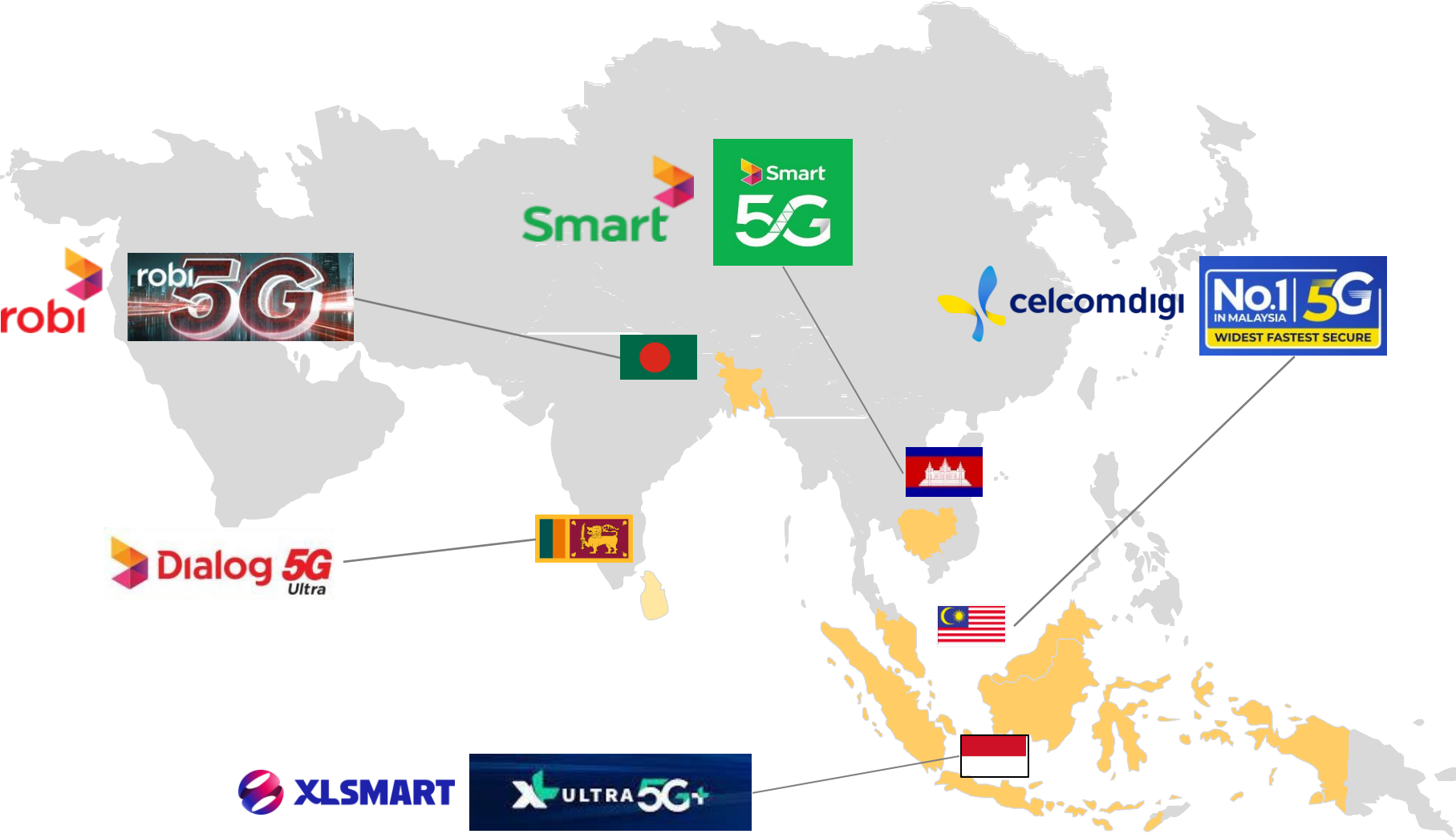
Infrastructure



Partners



Advancing Asia – driving advanced connectivity across Axiata's footprint markets



MY (CelcomDigi): Average monthly data usage per user has increased to over 40GB, reflecting the high demand for 5G-capable connectivity (45GB/month in Q4 - 37% increase vs 2024).

ID (XLSmart): Ookla "Fastest 5G Network in Indonesia" for the second half of 2025. As of early 2026, the network had been deployed in 24 of 33 planned 5G cities across major regions including Surabaya, Medan, and Makassar.

KH (Smart): Continue leading site rollout (900+), > 18% traffic shift to 5G. High 5G device penetration will encourage further adoptions. Target to achieve pop. coverage (40%, 64%, 85% by 2028).

BD (Robi): Bangladesh's 1st commercial 5G network launched in Sept 2025.

SL (Dialog): Sri Lanka's largest and most advanced 5G network, launched in December 2025. Connected over 1.5 million subscribers at launch.



Progress Update: Partner2Connect

Overview of the Progress

SmartAxiata has fulfilled **159.6M** of financial commitment (estimated) made in the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition

Pledges received



10

Estimated value (USD)



96.58M



In 2024, Smart Axiata has made 10 ambitious pledge in the 3 focus areas of the 'Partner2Connect Digital Coalition'.

These commitments are in line to enhance connectivity for over **2M people** and directly engage with over **8.7 M beneficiaries**, for over period of **4 years**.

Up to June 2026, Smart Axiata have fulfilled **8/10 Pledges**, made in 2024.

Through network enhancement and various initiatives, Smart Axiata has improved the lives of **approximately 8 million users** throughout Cambodia.

Smart Axiata understand that meaningful connectivity cannot be achieved without active support from our various partners



...and we continue to welcome local and international partners to collaborate with us on this mission.

Initiative Highlights



Area 1: Connecting People & Providing Them with Affordable Access



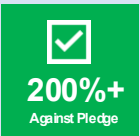
950+

4G Sites (2024-2025)



350+

Solar-Supported Sites (2024-2025)



Beyond the pledge



3GB

Complimentary Daily Data for people affected by the border conflict in 2025



5G 920+

5G Sites (2026)



1GB

Complimentary Daily Data for all Smart Laor! users to access learning platform



1,000+

Outstanding Students Received 12-months of complimentary data

Area 2: Empowering Community To Safely Utilize the Online Space



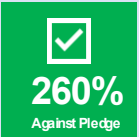
58,200+

Trained on Digital Literacy



17,400+

Received exposure to Child Online Protection educational material and workshops



Beyond the pledge



Introduced Secure Browsing Feature For Smart users on 5G Network



5G @Home

Area 3: Supporting Digital Entrepreneurship

Launched Smart Startup Space
Cambodia's first non-profit corporate hub for startup incubation



Our Incubation Center is a Dedicated Space to Help Entrepreneurs Grow and Innovate

1. Focus.

Co-Working Space

2. Connect.

Events/Networking

3. Grow.

Capacity-Building/
Mentoring

4. Empower.

Digital Empowerment

5. Expand.

Flagship Program(s)

Smart Startup Space is Smart Axiata's initiative to propel the entrepreneurial landscape of Cambodia. It's a dynamic, purpose-driven space designed to nurture the next generation of digital innovators in Cambodia.

Operation Hour:

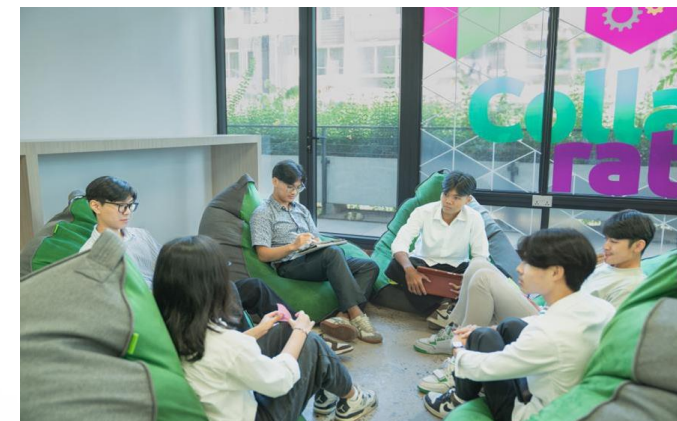
Monday – Friday from 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM (Co-working space)

5:00 PM – 8:00 PM (Event space as the priority)

Location: Floor 1, Connexion Building

We are open to collaboration with partners in all sectors.





Thank You

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16–17 July
Bangkok, Thailand



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Innovation Café

17 July 2026 15:25 – 16:00 (Bangkok Time/GMT+7)

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Presentation of the RDF report by the Chair

17 July 2026 16:00 – 16:15 (Bangkok Time/GMT+7)



Mr. Saneh Saiwong

Principal Engineering Expert,
Office of the NBTC, Thailand

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Key Takeaways



RDF-ASP 2026 Overview

Theme

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



- 160+ participants representing 24 Member States, Sector Members, Associate and Academia Members, Regional organizations, United Nations agencies, and other stakeholders
- Opening session
 - Clinical Professor Sarana Boonbaichaiyapruk, Chairman, NBTC
 - Dr Masanori Kondo, Secretary General, APT
 - Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director, BDT, ITU
- Discussed implementation of the World Telecommunication Development Conference-25 (WTDC-25) outcomes, and in particular Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives.
- Served as a platform to match country and regional needs with potential partners through the Partner2Connect (P2C) Digital Coalition.

Session 1
State of Digital Development and
Trends - Challenges & Opportunities

Key Takeaways

- **Universal meaningful connectivity remains the region's top priority**
- **While connectivity has expanded rapidly across the region, infrastructure alone is not sufficient. Investments must be complemented by affordable access, digital skills, trusted digital services and inclusive policies to ensure that digital transformation delivers meaningful socio-economic benefits for all**
- **Asia-Pacific region provides several good examples and experiences to learn and share on connecting the unconnected meaningfully.**
- **Regional partnerships are essential to accelerate inclusive digital transformation**
- **Affordable connectivity, data infrastructure, governance, and human capacity remain prerequisites for successful AI adoption**

Session 2
Infrastructure Development for
Universal Meaningful Connectivity

- Universal meaningful connectivity requires more than coverage, encompassing affordability, digital skills, digital public infrastructure, cybersecurity, and relevant digital services.
- Enabling policies, regulatory reforms, and infrastructure sharing are critical to attract investment and expand broadband deployment.
- Stronger public-private-development partnerships and blended financing models are needed to connect underserved and commercially unviable areas.
- Countries should leverage a mix of technologies including fibre, submarine cables, satellite systems, and innovative low-cost solutions to overcome geographic barriers and close connectivity gaps.
- AI is reshaping infrastructure needs, requiring investment in high-capacity networks, data centres, compute resources, and trusted digital ecosystems.
- Regional cooperation and inclusive, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches are essential to ensure that digital infrastructure delivers sustainable and equitable development outcomes for all communities.

Key Takeaways

Session 3

Building upon the outcomes of the WTDC-25 and new resolutions introduced

- **Deliberated on Res. 91** - Artificial intelligence technologies in telecommunication development **and Res. 94** (Supporting digital transformation in Pacific island countries pursuant to the Lagatoi Declaration)
- **AI and DPI capacity-building should focus on implementation**, equipping governments with the skills. Institutional capacity to be built to apply AI responsibly in public services and priority sectors
- **Knowledge-sharing, standards and regional cooperation** remain essential to strengthening AI readiness and exchanging implementation experiences.
- **Pacific Island countries require sustained technical assistance, financing and partnerships** to implement the Lagatoi Declaration and advance resilient digital transformation.
- **Stronger collaboration among governments, academia, industry, development partners and the private sector** will be essential to mobilize expertise, foster innovation and implement the Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives.
- **AI-enabled connectivity and affordable digital access** can help expand meaningful connectivity and financial inclusion, particularly for underserved communities.

Session 4

Building UN partnerships to achieve WTDC outcomes

- Country-led implementation, tailored approaches, and strong partnerships amongst UN agencies is strengthening the implementation of WTDC outcomes
- Urgent need to strengthen multi-hazard early warning systems through enhanced cooperation, sustainable financing, digital technologies and effective warning dissemination mechanisms, while noting progress under the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative.
- National ownership, enabling policies, institutional capacity, good governance, and resource mobilization in key achieving sustainable and inclusive digital transformation.
- Digital agriculture solutions have great potential in improving productivity across value chains.
- Artificial intelligence is transforming labour markets and work processes, underscoring the need for investments in digital skills, lifelong learning, responsible AI governance and social protection measures.
- Strengthening disaster risk knowledge, data governance, interoperability and the use of emerging technologies is important to support risk-informed decision-making and disaster resilience.

Key Takeaways

Session 5: ITU Regional Initiatives for Asia and the Pacific

- Smart Villages and Smart Islands accelerates inclusive development by addressing socio-economic challenges in rural and remote communities as demonstrated by Pakistan's Smart Villages initiative and called upon the need for national leadership, governance and policy frameworks .
- Bridging the standardization gap is critical to accelerate innovation, technology adoption and market deployment, requiring strengthened capacity building, research and development, and enhanced international collaboration.
- Emerging digital health technologies are transforming healthcare access and has great potential to enhance access to healthcare in rural and remote areas.
- Community-based connectivity solutions are indispensable for universal and meaningful connectivity, particularly in underserved areas where commercial models alone are insufficient;
- Countries should endeavour to integrate community networks into national policies and regulatory frameworks while promoting digital inclusion and local economic development.
- Strengthening disaster resilience requires interoperable early warning systems and standards-based approaches, as demonstrated by Indonesia.

Session 6: ITU Regional Initiatives for Asia and the Pacific

- Regional Innovation Alliance (RIA) framework provides a practical, mechanism to accelerate implementation of the ASP RI through co-design, innovation and multi-stakeholder collaboration.
- Digital transformation requires an ecosystem approach, bringing together stakeholders to develop scalable and sustainable digital solutions that creates impact at community, national and regional level.
- Inclusive digital transformation should prioritize gender equality, mentoring, leadership development, accessibility and greater participation of women and youth in digital initiatives and online protection.
- Capacity building, knowledge exchange and evidence-based policymaking remain essential to helping Members implement interoperable digital government services and strengthen institutional capabilities.
- Resilient and inclusive digital infrastructure, supported by relevant applications, and strengthening emergency telecommunications and early warning systems. The session highlighted use of emerging technology in protecting wildlife.
- Partnerships across regional and international organizations will be essential to mobilize expertise, share innovation, and translate the Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives into measurable national and regional impact.

Partnerships and announcements

Name of entity	Title of announcement
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts (DITRDCSA) - ITU	Project on Creating a Circular Economy for Electronics in the Pacific
Huawei - ITU	Intention to proceed with new Project on “Accelerating Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Asia-Pacific to Achieve the SDGs (ADIE-AP-SDGs)”
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) Japan - ITU	Intention to proceed with new Project on “Harnessing artificial intelligence and enhancing access to digital services for inclusive and resilient societies”
Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) - ITU	Intention to proceed with new Project on “Scaling Up of Smart Villages Pakistan”
Telecommunications Technology Association (TTA), Republic of Korea – ITU	Joint Declaration on ICT Standardization and Capacity Building for Asia-Pacific
Amazon Web Services (AWS) - ITU	Collaboration between ITU and AWS (Innovation cafes, knowledge sharing, research)
Internet Society (ISOC) - ITU	Joint publication on “From Telecentres, Community Networks To Sustainable Smart Villages and Smart Islands - Case Studies”
ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA) Center - ITU	Cooperation and collaboration in Emergency Telecommunications
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) – ITU	Intention to proceed with new Project on “Global Electronics Management Programme”
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – ITU	Intention to proceed with new Project on “Advancing Early Warnings for All”

Partner2Connect Matchmaking Roundtable

Session 7 and Session 8: Partner2Connect Matchmaking Roundtable

P2C pledge maker	Areas of partnership pledged	Implementation of pledges	Entity where the pledge has been implemented
Malaysia MCMC		Scholarships for Palestinians under the MCMC Academy and Malaysia Multimedia University programme to support the ITU Council Resolution	Palestine
AXIATA	Digital Access, Protecting networks		Cambodia
SES	Connecting schools	Timor Leste	

Partner2Connect Matchmaking Roundtable

P2C pledge maker	Areas of partnership pledged	Entity expressed interest in the pledge during RDF-ASP 2026
Australia	Accelerating Digital Transformation in Asia-Pacific - Phase II	[Lao PDR] [Maldives]
Australia	Creating Circular Economy for Electronics in Pacific Island Countries	[Fiji, Nauru, Papua New Guinea]
Australia	Enhancing the sustainability of Smart Villages and Smart Islands in the Asia-Pacific	[Timor Leste] [Papua New Guinea]
AXIATA	Enhance regulatory and policy capacities in select countries in South Asia through capacity building trainings and workshops	[Bangladesh]
CyberPeace Foundation	Building a Global Network of Cyber First Responders for Inclusive, Safe and Resilient Digital Communities	
WWF-HK	AI and Nature (need more detailed pledge titles)	
Indian Institute of Science		[Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand]
ICANN	Universal Acceptance	[Pakistan]
Malaysia MCMC	Scholarships for Palestinians under the MCMC Academy and Malaysia Multimedia University programme to support the ITU Council Resolution	[Palestine]
Malaysia MCMC	MCMC NEXUS Knowledge Sharing and Tools Development Support for LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS	[Maldives]

Partner2Connect Matchmaking Roundtable

New pledges and expression of interest

P2C pledge maker	Areas of partnership pledged	Entity expressed interest in the pledge during RDF-ASP 2026
SES		[Nepal]
World Wide Fund for Nature	AI-Powered Identification of Illegal Wildlife Products with Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) Systems	
World Wide Fund for Nature	WWF-Singapore Cyber Spotter Programme Illegal Wildlife Trade Machine Learning System	
World Wide Fund for Nature	Zoonotic Risk Predictor Machine Learning System in Mekong region	[APIBD]
World Wide Fund for Nature	Innovative Technology Solution for Detecting Undeclared and Misdeclared Wildlife Products in Cargo Bookings	[APIBD]
ZTE Corporation	The ZTE AI Ecosystem Partnership Pledge: Over Three Years to Build an Open, Collaborative, and Inclusive AI Value Community	

RDF-ASP 2026 Report

Draft report will be available on the RDF-ASP 2026 website by **22 July 2026**.

Participants were invited to share any comments on the draft report with the ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific at ITU-RO-AsiaPacific@itu.int by **31 July 2026**.



Closing Ceremony

17 July 2026 16:15 – 17:00 (Bangkok Time/GMT+7)



Mr. Saneh Saiwong
Principal Engineering Expert,
Office of the NBTC, Thailand



Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava
Director, Telecommunication
Development Bureau, ITU

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