



Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)

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Geneva, 16 March 2016

To:

- Administrations of ITU Member States
- Regulators
- ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia
- Regional organisations in Asia-Pacific
- Industry, private sector, organisations dealing with telecommunications/ICTs

Subject: **Asia-Pacific Digital Societies Policy Forum 2016, 27-28 April 2016, Bangkok, Thailand**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and GSM Association (GSMA) are pleased to invite you to participate in the ***“Asia-Pacific Digital Societies Policy Forum 2016”***, which will take place on 27-28 April 2016 at Centara Grand at Central World, Bangkok, Thailand.

The Forum is being jointly organized by ITU and GSMA and hosted by the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology of Thailand (MICT) with support from the Australian Government and partners.

We are seeking to convene policy makers, regulators, industry and other stakeholders from the ICT sector to deliberate challenges and potential opportunities through cross sectoral collaboration offered by digital societies in countries from the Asia-Pacific Region.

The content will focus on digital economy and society policies, cybersecurity, digital financial services, technology trends, innovations and tech-startups, among other emerging issues. The provisional program and other relevant information including the practical information for participants, registration and fellowship request forms for the event can be accessed at: www.itu.int/go/digital2016

This event is targeted towards senior officials from government ministries, national regulators, industry, academia and international organizations who are involved in developing and implementing policies and regulations, and other associated ICT development activities in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Please note that the Forum will be preceded by the ***“Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Spectrum Management”*** which will be organised by ITU in collaboration with Forum Global and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) on 25-26 April 2016 at the same venue.

ITU is pleased to provide **one full fellowship** for each eligible country from Asia-Pacific Region, subject to availability of funds, with preference for those eligible applicants who could share and present the national spectrum management practices during the Forum. Applicants requesting fellowships are required to submit the Fellowship Request form duly endorsed by their respective administration together with the Registration Form, no later than **11th April 2016**.

The GSMA will also be offering short introductory regulatory training sessions as part of its global capacity building programme. Spots in these sessions will be limited, and offered on a first-come-first-served basis.

Mr Sameer Sharma, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, (email: sameer.sharma@itu.int , tel: +662 575 0055, fax: +662 575 3507) is at your full disposal for any further information you may need.

On behalf of the GSMA and the Telecommunication Development Bureau of the ITU, we look forward to welcoming you to Bangkok for the "**Asia-Pacific Digital Societies Policy Forum 2016**".

Yours faithfully,



Brahima Sanou
Director
ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau



Mats Granryd
Director General
GSMA