



ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY
12/49 Soi 5, Chaeng Watthana Road, Bangkok 10210, Thailand

Ref: APT/2021/ADF-18/INV-01

14 June 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Subject: The 18th APT Telecommunication/ICT Development Forum
24 - 26 August 2021, Virtual/Online Meeting**

Please refer to the 44th Session of the Management Committee of the APT (MC-44), which was held virtually from 7 to 10 December 2020. MC-44 approved the APT Telecommunication/ICT Forum (ADF) as one of the Work Programmes for 2021.

I would like to inform you that APT Secretariat had consulted with the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of ADF and it was decided that APT would organize the 18th APT Telecommunication/ICT Forum (ADF-18) from 24 to 26 August 2021 as a virtual/online meeting.

As the global pandemic situation caused by COVID-19 is accelerating digital transformation, access to digital infrastructure is becoming more important. This ADF-18 will look at policies and efforts to reduce the digital divide in the aspects of affordability and reliability. It will also introduce the current status of the Low Earth Orbit satellite communication industry, which is attracting attention as one of the possible ways to reduce the digital gap as technology advances, and we discuss its impact in the Asia-Pacific region. In addition, the forum will consist of sessions to introduce technologies and methods for constructing cost-effective networks, while looking at new technologies of IoT that are continuously evolving in combination with related technologies such as AI, 5G, Bigdata, and sharing successful applications of IoT. The forum will also be a platform to share the outcomes and achievements of the ICT Pilot Projects in rural areas and other ICT projects funded by the Extra-Budgetary Contributions (EBCs). ADF-18 will share the current status and achievements of the projects funded by EBCs from Japan, Republic of Korea and China.

In this regard, I would like to invite representatives from your administration/organization who are involved in telecommunication and ICT development to participate in the ADF-18, which will be organized by Zoom meeting platform. The Concept Note, Provisional Agenda and Tentative Programme are attached herewith for your information.

Registration can be done online at <https://www.apr.int/content/online-registration>, preferably by **6 August 2021** for making necessary arrangements. Once registration is accepted, APT Secretariat will inform Zoom meeting link, password and other relevant information directly to the registered participant prior to the forum. **Only the registered participants are entitled to join the forum.** Should any further information or assistance is required, please contact APT Secretariat by email (aprtict@apr.int). APT Secretariat will do the best to provide the necessary environment for the remote participation.

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Members, Associate Members, Affiliate Members and International/Regional Organizations who wish to submit contribution on the agenda items, should prepare the contribution(s) in Microsoft Word and/or PowerPoint. The contribution should be sent to aptict@apt.int by using proper template, which will be posted on APT website. **The deadline for submission of contribution is 12 August 2021.**

I would appreciate your support and cooperation in ensuring a successful event.

Yours sincerely,

(Original signed)

Masanori Kondo
Secretary General

Encls: 1) Concept Note
2) Provisional Agenda
3) Tentative Programme

To: APT Members, Associate Members, Affiliate Members and International/Regional Organizations