ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY

Press Release

Asia Pacific Ministers Adopt Brunei Darussalam Statement on "Building Smart Digital Economy through ICT"

At the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting on "Building Smart Digital Economy through ICT" held from 10 to 11 September 2014 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, Asia Pacific ICT Ministers adopted the Brunei Darussalam Statement of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministers on "Building Smart Digital Economy through ICT" which will be used as the guidelines for development of the broadband and ICT infrastructures and services in Asia Pacific towards the smart digital economy with APT playing a key role in facilitating regional cooperation and collaboration.

This Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting was organized to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of the APT, a milestone event in its services to the Region on broadband and ICT Development. The event was hosted by the Government of Brunei Darussalam. Over 200 delegates attended the Meeting including 21 Ministers, 4 Vice Ministers, 2 Deputy Ministers, 2 Permanent Secretaries and high-level representatives of APT Members, Associate Members, Affiliate Members and international organizations. The inaugural address was given by Honourable Pehin Dato Abdullah Bakar, Minister of Communications, Brunei Darussalam. Mr. Houlin Zhao, Deputy Secretary General of ITU also gave address at the opening ceremony.

The prestigious event commenced with the report on the achievements of Bali Plan of Action which was adopted at the last Ministerial Meeting held in Bali, Indonesia in 2009. Over the past five years, the APT Members have shown an impressive progress in their telecom and ICT in accordance the five key objectives of the Bali Plan of Action. The APT has played a key role in fostering regional cooperation and arranging projects, forums and training courses to support APT members' achievement. Key presentations of the most successful ICT projects implemented under APT's ICT Development Programme were given to represent such achievement.

The Ministers delivered statements on issues that require high-level commitment for ICT development and working towards a sustainable smart digital economy and adopted the Brunei Darussalam Statement which draws key priority areas that are crucial for a smart digital economy in the region, i.e.:

A. Conducive Policies for Sustainable Growth of ICT and Smart Digital Economy

B. Safe and Secure Society through ICT

C. Trust and Confidence in ICT

D. Sustainable ICT Ecosystem for Innovation

E. Capacity Building and Institutional Development

F. Fostering Regional Cooperation for ICT Development

APT Members are encouraged to implement initiatives in the above key priority areas and collectively work towards building a smart digital economy through ICT to achieve sustainable development of the Asia-Pacific region and further improve the quality of life of the people.

As a prelude to the Ministerial Meeting, the 11th Asia-Pacific Telecommunication and ICT Development Forum (ADF-11) was held from 8 to 9 September 2014 to consider the outcome of the Correspondence Group for preparation of the Ministerial Meeting and prepare the draft Joint Ministerial Statements for submission to the Ministerial Meeting for consideration and adoption. The ADF-11 also contributed a session to report on the ICT Development Programme for Supporting ICT Pilot Projects in Rural Areas and selected projects to be presented to the Ministerial Meeting.

For more details about the Asia Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting, please log on to http://www.apt.int/2014-ICTMM.

About Us

The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) is the leading intergovernmental organization for the development of telecommunications and ICT in the Asia-Pacific region. The APT was established by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in July 1979 with the objective to promote the development of telecommunications and ICT services in the Asia-Pacific region, with particular emphasis on the developing countries. Currently, the APT has a strength of 38 Full Members, 4 Associate Members and 132 Affiliate Members.

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