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|  | ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY**The 18th Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators’ Council** 19 – 21 December 2017, Kathmandu, Nepal  |  |

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**Background/Context**

The South Asian Telecommunication Regulator’s Council (SATRC) functions under the umbrella of the APT as one of the sub-regional activities and in-line with the *Brunei Darussalam Statement of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministers on Building Smart Digital Economy through ICT*. At present nine South Asian countries are involved in SATRC activities. The SATRC meetings are a held annually and attended by the head of telecommunication regulatory authorities in the South Asia region, senior officials of the Ministries and Departments, as well as senior officials /representatives of the industry. The SATRC meets annually to discuss the key policy and regulatory issues of concern to the SATRC members. In addition, it also finalizes Action Plans required to achieve the goals of SATRC. SATRC Action Plan Phase VI which was adopted in SATRC-16 in Dhaka will be completed by 2018.

The 18th Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators’ Council (SATRC-18) will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal hosted by Nepal Telecommunication Authority (NTA). The SATRC-18 will include Regulator’s Roundtable, Industry-Regulator dialogue and Industry Session. At the Regulators’ Roundtable, the heads of the regulators will exchange opinion and share experiences on regulatory challenges and discuss the possible way forward. Regulators will also identify the possible areas of cooperation in South Asia through SATRC. The Industry-Regulator Dialog will facilitate the exchange of opinions among Industry and Regulators on the challenging issues of regulations and ways to overcome the challenges collectively and facilitate the business environment. The Industry Session will give opportunity for the industry to raise their views and concerns on the current and future regulatory trends and their expectations from the regulators.

The discussions at SATRC-18 will address the following issues, such as:

* the SDG 2030 and the role of telecom regulators/policy makers to achieve the SDG 2030 using ICT as a key tool;
* ensuring the last mile access for providing affordable broadband services for all;
* regulatory measures to enhance broadband experiences;
* enhanced consumer protection in digital economy;
* consideration of the regulatory framework for IoT including spectrum management for the development of IoT;
* spectrum roadmap for future mobile broadband; and
* proliferation of the Wi-Fi networks.

SATRC-18 will also discuss the implementation status of the SATRC Action Plan Phase VI.

**Objectives**

Based on the background and context above, the key objectives of the SATRC-18 will be to discuss key policy and regulatory issues as mentioned above and discuss how to address those issues and way forward for the regulators through the implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase VI.

In general, the goals for the discussion topics would be as follow:

* to identify respective roles for regulators/policy makers in achieving SDG 2030 and take appropriate measures in fulfilling their roles;
* to share experiences and best practices to provide affordable broadband services in the remote and rural areas;
* to discuss the initiatives that need to be taken collectively to ensure the quality and speed on broadband services including investment in network development;
* to address the enhanced collective measures that need to be taken to ensure consumer protection;
* to discuss the way to address the challenges of IoT and develop a regulatory framework for IoT;
* to discuss the issues on consideration of the spectrum allocation for the deployment of IoT;
* to consider the examples and best practices to develop spectrum roadmap for mobile broadband; and
* to investigate the further development of the Wi-Fi networks as a promising mean to provide access to unconnected.

The meeting will also bring the focus of top policy makers, regulators and industry representatives of ICT sector in the region towards the new Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020 which will be approved by the 14th Session of the General Assembly of the APT.

**Expected outcomes**

* Through the discussion of the above mentioned key areas, regulators/policy makers will be able to
* exchange their views and experiences**;**
* identify the challenges;
* take practical decision; and
* find the areas of mutual cooperation.
* Industry will be able to raise their views on those issues and interact with regulators/policy makers to address the possible way forward through collaborative approaches.
* Discussion will provide guideline to SATRC Working Groups to develop tangible outcomes through the implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase VI.
* High-level views pertinent to the new Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020.

**Arrangement/Activity (if necessary)**

Following activities will be conducted at the SATRC-18:

* Regulators’ Roundtable
* Industry-Regulator Dialogue
* Industry session
* Sharing of Experiences by SATRC Members

**Host, timing and location**

SATRC-18 will be held in cooperation with the Nepal Telecommunication Authority (NTA), from 19 to 21 December 2017, in Kathmandu, Nepal. Details are provided in Information for Participants.

**Contact person**

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**Provisional Agenda and Tentative Programme**

The provisional agenda and Tentative Programme are enclosed in Annex A, and Annex B respectively.

**Annex A**

**Provisional Agenda**

1. Opening
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Election of the Chairman of SATRC
4. Election of the Vice-Chairman of SATRC
5. Outcomes of the 14th Session of the General Assembly and 41st Session of APT Management Committee relevant to SATRC
6. The Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018 – 2020
7. General Statements from the Heads of Regulators on sub-regional cooperation through SATRC
8. Regulators’ Roundtable
9. Industry-Regulator Dialogue
10. Industry Session
11. Sharing Best Practices and Experience by SATRC Members
12. Report of the Status of Implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase VI
13. Way Forward
14. Date and venue of SATRC-19
15. Closing

**Annex B**

 **TENTATIVE PROGRAMME**

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| **Time** | **Day 1: 19 December 2017** |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | **Opening** * Welcome Address by Chairman, NTA
* Welcome Address by Asia-Pacific Telecommunity
* Address by Chairman of SATRC
* Inaugural Address by Dignitary
* Presentation of the token of appreciation to dignitary

(Group Photograph) |
| 11:00 - 11:30  | **Coffee/Tea Break** |
| 11:30 – 12:30 | Session 1 – ***Plenary**** Adoption of Agenda
* Election of the Chairman of SATRC
* Election of the Vice-Chairman of SATRC
* Outcomes of the 14th Session of the General Assembly and 41st Session of the Management Committee relevant to SATRC
* The Strategic Plan of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity for 2018-2020
* General Statements from the Heads of Regulators on sub-regional cooperation through SATRC (not longer than 3min each)
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| 12:30 – 14:00 | **Lunch Break** |
| 14:00 - 15:30 | Session 2 – ***Regulators’ Roundtable: SDG2030 and Developing Digital Infrastructure***In this session the regulators will exchange their views and share experience on the role of telecom regulators to achieve SDG2030 as well as the critical issues related to developing digital infrastructure including last mile access for providing affordable broadband services for all.   |
| 15:30 – 15:45 | **Coffee/Tea Break** |
| 15:45 – 17:15  | Session 3 – ***Regulators’ Roundtable (Continue): Promote Conducive Environment for Innovation and Value Creation in ICTs***In this session the regulators will continue in exchanging views and sharing experiences to develop policy and regulatory environments that enable them to effectively harness the benefits of telecommunication/ICT innovation.  |
| **Time** | **Day 2: 20 December 2017** |
| 9:30 - 11:00 | Session 4 – ***Industry – Regulator Dialogue***In this session the regulators and industry leader will engage in dialogue to identify the current challenging issues and how to enhance cooperation between regulator and industry to address the current challenges. Among the issues:* the initiatives that need to be taken collectively to ensure to quality and speed on broadband services including investment in network development;
* the enhanced collective measures that need to be taken to ensure consumer protection;
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| 11:00 – 11:15 | **Coffee/Tea Break** |
| 11:15 - 12:45 | Session 5 – ***Industry Session***This session will give an opportunity to telecom/ICT industry in SATRC to raise the critical issues regarding regulatory environment and perspective of the industry on those issues.  |
| 12:45 – 14:00 | **Lunch Break** |
| 14:00 – 15:30 | Session 6 – ***Sharing Best Practices and Regulatory Experiences***This session will discuss and share policy and regulatory best practices and experiences on aspects new and emerging technologies to support the growth of the digital economy. |
| 15:30 – 15:45 | **Coffee/Tea Break** |
| 15:45 – 17:15 | Session 7 – ***Sharing Best Practices and Regulatory Experiences***This session will discuss and share policy and regulatory best practices and experiences on aspects new and emerging technologies to support the growth of the digital economy. |
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| **Time** | **Day 3: 21 December 2017** |
| 10:00 - 11:30 | Session 8 – ***Reporting the Activities of the Implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase VI*** The implementation status of the SATRC Action Plan Phase VI will be reported in this session. SATRC Members will discuss the mechanism and ways to enhance the implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase VI. |
| 11:30 – 11:45 | **Coffee/Tea Break** |
| 10:45 - 12:15 | Session 9 – ***Plenary and Closing**** Discussion on way forward on further cooperation in SATRC
* Adoption of the SATRC activities in 2018
* Date and Venue of SATRC-19
* Closing

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| 12:15 – 14:00 | **Lunch Break** |