# APT – Harmonizing the Community in Asia-Pacific for Building Smart Digital Economy

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Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)

# The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)

- An Inter-Governmental organization established by UNESCAP and ITU in 1979
- With memberships of 38 Administrations, 4 Associate Territories and 133 Affiliated industry bodies APT has become the most important regional organization for the ICT/Telecommunication sectors
- 3 key values of APT:
  - Strong involvement and commitment from the Governments
  - Prominent and only one inter-governmental organization in the ICT/Telecommunication area in Asia-Pacific which was established by a treaty
  - Only organization in Asia-Pacific to develop Asia-Pacific regional proposals to ITU Conferences such as WRCs

# The Brunei Darussalam Statement

- APT organized APT Ministerial Meeting on Building Smart Digital Economy through ICT which took place from 11 to 12 September 2014 in Brunei Darussalam
- 21 Ministers, 4 Vice-Ministers, 2 Deputy Ministers and 2 Permanent Secretaries and high level officials representing 26 Members and 3 Associate Members
- The Meeting adopted the "Brunei Darussalam Statement of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministers on Building Smart Digital Economy through ICT".

# The Brunei Darussalam Statement…

- The Brunei Darussalam Statement provides a high-level policy guidelines for the region for next five years on development of ICT/Telecommunication
- In the Statement Ministers emphasized to work collectively with all stakeholders within the ICT sector including cross-sector engagement, to implement the six key priority areas in order to build a smart digital economy in the Asia–Pacific region:
  - Conducive Policies for Sustainable Growth of ICT and Smart Digital Economy
  - Safe and Secure Society through ICT
  - Trust and Confidence in ICT
  - Sustainable ICT Ecosystem for Innovation
  - Capacity Building and Institutional Development
  - Fostering Regional Cooperation for ICT Development

# The Brunei Darussalam Statement - Key Policies in the Area of Radio Spectrum

- Key policies in the area of radio spectrum that are identified by the Ministers in order to stimulate innovation and creativity with appropriate level of regulatory mechanisms:
  - Promote affordable broadband access
  - Promote the harmonization of spectrum across the Asia-Pacific region including new frequency spectrum such as the 700MHz band to provide affordable broadband services
  - Promote the deployment of wireless broadband in low frequency bands currently allotted to 2G mobile system in a harmonized manner
  - Improve spectrum efficiency by use of shared spectrum access including dynamic spectrum access, for further regional and international harmonization in order to support flexibility for expansion of broadband services in Asia-Pacific
  - As the only inter-governmental telecommunication organization, APT needs to take leading role in promoting various development agenda including regional frequency spectrum coordination

# The Strategic Plan of APT for 2015 - 2017: Strategic Actions in Radiocommunications

- The Strategic Plan of APT for 2015 - 2017 was adopted by the 13th General Assembly of APT held November 2014 in Yangon, Myanmar
- Strategic Actions that had been identified in the Strategic Plan 2015 – 2017 are as follows:
  - Promote harmonization of spectrum across Asia-Pacific region including new frequency spectrum such as 700MHz band to provide affordable broadband services
  - Promote the deployment of wireless broadband in lower frequency bands
  - Support Members to improve spectrum efficiency by use of shared spectrum access including dynamic spectrum access
  - Enhance closer cooperation in the region to consolidate regional views at ITU Conferences

# APT's Effort in the Area of Spectrum Harmonization

- Radiocommunication is one of the key work areas in APT activities for quite a long time
- Two major work programs looking at the issues of Radiocommunication particularly in the area of spectrum allocation and spectrum harmonization:
  - The APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRCs (APG)
  - The APT Wireless Group (AWG)

# APT's Effort in the Area of Spectrum Harmonization…

- APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRCs (APG):
  - Developing APT Common Proposals for World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) and Radiocommunication Assembly (RA)
  - Assisting APT Members, particularly, developing countries, in their preparations for WRC, RA and CPM
  - The APG process has met exemplary success in presenting the views of the region at WRCs, RAs and CPMs
  - Because of the high value, APG meetings are attended by a large number of delegates from APT Members, industries, international organizations and other regional organization
  - Currently, APG at final preparation stage for WRC-15 which will be held in November this year
  - A large number of preliminary APT Common Proposals are expected to be developed at the final APG meetings in July this year

# APT's Effort in the Area of Spectrum Harmonization…

- APT Wireless Group (AWG):
  - Covering various aspects of emerging wireless technologies including IMT/IMT-Advanced
  - Providing regular channels to discuss and study regional spectrum harmonization and spectrum sharing methodologies
  - Providing advices that countries' can use in spectrum planning
  - Developing technical and radio regulatory solutions based on emerging and conventional wireless technologies
  - AWG has provided a very good platform for governments, regulators and industry for discussing the issue of spectrum harmonization
  - Industry has been showing a good interest and confidence towards the activities of AWG

# Success of APT's Effort in the Area of Spectrum Harmonization

- There have been many success and outcomes as result of APT's effort in the are of spectrum harmonization
- One such example of the harmonization of the use of 700 MHz band for mobile broadband
- Widely known as APT700 Plan which was developed by the AWG
- APT700 Plan was developed in 2.5 years as joint efforts of the APT Member Administrations and affiliated members from industry
- There were 8 candidate band plans on table and due to the joint effort and elaborative cooperation it was successful to develop APT700 Plan
- High degree of cooperation among industry stakeholders (governments, vendors, operator's association) was key to achieve the success

# Success of APT's Effort in the Area of Spectrum Harmonization …

- APT700 Plan has now been adopted for more 25 countries in Asia-Pacific
- Not only in Asia-Pacific, more than 10 countries in South America has adopted APT700 Plan. Continental Africa and Europe are also aligning themselves to APT700 Plan
- This worldwide harmonization approach using APT700 Plan has created a lot of interest and opportunities in the economic front in Asia-Pacific
- It will indeed impact positively to the overall socio-economic development in the region

# Success of APT's Effort in the Area of Spectrum Harmonization …

- In addition to APT700 Plan, APT has been very much successful in harmonizing views of Asia-Pacific region on the Agenda Items of WRCs and uphold the interest of the region
- It is indeed a success of APT to include 7 Agenda Items of WRC-15 which were proposed (at WRC-12) for inclusion as Agenda Items for the interest of Asia-Pacific region

# Efforts Continue: APT Frequency Information System (AFIS) – A Tool to Achieve Regional Harmonization

- The development of APT Frequency Information System (AFIS) was initiated by AWG
- The AFIS is a comprehensive web-based tool to share the information related to the use of radio spectrum
- One objective of AFIS is to share the information of spectrum usage by APT Administrations in order to achieve harmonization of the usage of spectrum
- Officially the AFIS web-based tool will be made available by APT in short time

# Efforts Continue:

- There are high level guidance and commitments in Brunei Darussalam Statement and identified strategic actions in the Strategic Plan of APT to continue work in order to achieve harmonization of spectrum for the maximum benefit of the region
- APT is committed to work collectively with all stakeholders within ICT sector on key priority areas to build a smart digital economy in the Asia-Pacific
- APT will strengthen the cooperation and collaboration to realize a policy and regulatory environment that will be the basis of a creative and innovative smart economy




If you have any query please email us at aptmail@apt.int

# THANK YOU!