GSMA Thrive

GSMA Thrive Asia Pacific
Mobile for Development

3 - 5 November 2020

Welcome to the Thrive Asia Pacific (APAC) summary, which will highlight the key insights together with the respective links to replay the event's sessions. The content will be available on the virtual platform for three months, however, please note you will need to be registered on Thrive to be granted access, if not already. Please follow the **link** to sign in or sign up. If you registered for Thrive Africa, the password will be the same.

Great content from our six programmatic sessions, that ran across Tuesday, 3 to Thursday, 5 November:

Digitising Rural Asia: Transforming Agriculture with AgriTech

This session explored the opportunity to digitise the agricultural last mile in APAC, bringing together regional practitioners and experts to discuss digital agriculture projects that bring efficiencies to farmers and agribusiness in the agricultural last mile and enable financial inclusion of smallholder farmers.

Mobile Money Asia Pacific Forum: Emerging Trends in Asia Pacific's Mobile Money Landscape

The Mobile Money Asia Pacific Forum 2020 was attended by 18 C-level stakeholders representing operations from more than 11 countries in the Asia Pacific region. The discussion had speakers from Mynt Philippines, Paytm India and Axiata Boost Malaysia presenting their platform strategy and associated lessons.

The participants discussed common challenges and opportunities that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought forth. The Forum allowed the GSMA to understand provider priorities and accordingly tailor the support we provide to our members.

Opening the Doors to Digital Innovation and Inclusion for People with Disabilities

The current COVID-19 pandemic response has disrupted and changed the ways in which societies operate. Yet people with disabilities, who may be particularly vulnerable in such disruptive times, are likely to be further isolated due to the inaccessibility of mobile devices and services in emerging markets.

The GSMA Assistive Tech team presented recent evidence on the current landscape for access and usage of mobile by people with disabilities in the Asian region, outlining the existing inequalities, especially how disabled women are affected.

We also heard from mobile operators and innovators on the opportunities and challenges faced from working on disability inclusion and accessibility.

The Value of Open APIs to Grow the Mobile Money Ecosystem

Ecosystem development remains a top priority for mobile money providers in the region. By providing easily accessible APIs, providers can enable seamless integration with third-party service providers, create almost endless opportunities to build additional services on top of mobile money, and generate opportunities to monetise those services, increasing financial inclusion across the region.

This session presented the state of the API industry in the Asia Pacific region and evaluated the value of open APIs to build the ecosystem. Thank you to Kari Jacobsen, **Norad** for joining this session.

Building Inclusive and Sustainable Cities Through Digital Solutions

This session discussed the opportunities and barriers for implementing digital solutions at scale, highlighting examples of how digital solutions are seeking to make energy, water, waste management, sanitation and mobility services more inclusive and sustainable, and thereby improving resilience of these urban centres.

Based on what has and hasn't worked, a hard-hitting debate followed to attempt to make a road map for building the right ingredients to foster the multi-stakeholder collaboration needed across policy, investment, and innovation.

QR Code Merchant Payments: A Growth Opportunity for Mobile Money Providers

The session was attended by decision makers from key MNOs that are leading QR code-enabled merchant payments in emerging markets across Africa and Asia – Vodafone, MTN, Telenor, Orange and Airtel were briefed prior to the session but were unable to join on the day.

The attendees discussed ways for the industry to adopt a harmonised approach on merchant payments, both physical and online. As next steps, the operators agreed to stay in close contact and keep each other informed as they devise their merchant payment strategies.

Max Cuvellier, Head of Mobile for Development discussed digital growth at the

Accelerating Digital Pakistan Roundtable

During the three day event, the Mobile for Development team released 13 videos:

- Driving Affordable Smart Farming Through Partnerships
- Digital Opportunities for MNOs: A Discussion with Jazz Pakistan
- How Does Mobile Empower Me? Sumona's Story
- Digital Dividends in Natural Resource Management – Connected Mangroves
- Empowering Women Through Mobile - Story from India
- Vodafone Sakhi - Voices of Impact from India
- Driving Digital Financial Inclusion Through Female Agents
- Initiatives Taken by JazzCash to Reach Out to Females
- The GSMA Mobile Money API
- What the Inclusive Tech Lab Is and How to Collaborate
- Exploring the Mobile Money Regulatory Index
- Reaching the Last Mile Digitally During a Crisis
- The State of Mobile Money in Asia

So what's next?

Would you like to know what the GSMA and Mobile for Development are doing in Latin America? We are pleased to announce that **Thrive Latin America** from 1 to 3 December will be the final of our Thrive Series for 2020. We will share the full agenda of activities in the coming weeks.

We hope you found the above useful and we look forward to welcoming you at Thrive Latin America.

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