ITU ASIA-PACIFIC CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

FINAL REPORT
OF THE
4TH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

12-13 DECEMBER 2017

BANGKOK, THAILAND

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND OPENING

The 4th ITU Asia Pacific Centres of Excellence (ASP CoE) Steering Committee Meeting was held in Grand Centre Point Ploenchit, Bangkok, Thailand, on 12-13 December 2017. The Meeting was organized by the ITU and hosted by the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand. It was attended by 31 delegates including ITU ASP COE Steering Committee Members, Centres, Partners, ITU Members, ITU Secretariat and other agencies. The list of participants is attached to this report (Annex 1).

Mr. Ioane KOROIVUKI, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific delivered the welcome remarks. On behalf of ITU, Mr. Koroivuki thanked the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand for hosting the Meeting, and the CoEs, partners and participants for joining the meeting. He briefed the participants on the ITU Academy initiative, the ITU Asia-Pacific CoE network and the framework. Mr. Koroivuki highlighted the WTDC-17 outcomes including the ITU Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives and called upon CoEs to take this into account while planning their courses. He also mentioned the need for the CoEs to provide inputs to the review of the CoE strategy and operations, in preparation of the new cycle that will start in 2019.

Ms. Ajarin PATTANAPANCHAI, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand welcomed all the participants to the 4th ITU ASP CoE Steering Committee. She commended the ITU ASP CoE network for its growth and expressed Thailand's keen supporter to this initiative as it aligns with Thailand's digital economy plan and brings high quality and cutting edge learning in the most cost effective manner to the countries in the Asia-Pacific region. She also thanked ITU, and partners including Office of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (Thailand), APNIC, PITA, Department of Communications and the Arts (Australia) and IEEE for their valuable cooperation extended.

The meeting approved the Agenda.

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE ITU ASP COE STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

Mr. Ioane KOROIVUKI invited the meeting for the confirmation of CoE Chairman. The meeting confirmed the chairmanship of Thailand. Ms. Ajarin PATTANAPANCHAI, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society (MDES) accepted the chairmanship of Thailand. Ms. Kalaya CHINATIWORN, Director – International

Organisation Division, MDES, Thailand chaired the 4th ITU ASP CoE Steering Committee Meeting.

Mr. Jia HUANG, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (China) delivered the thanking speech on behalf of Ms. ZHAO Yonghong, Chairman of the ITU Asia-Pacific CoE Steering Committee. In his statement, he thanked the steering committee and CoEs for all the support. Mr. Huang highlighted the key achievements of the ITU ASP CoE during the period under China's chairmanship and expressed hope that the program will be scaled up further as the need was much larger. He thanked the ITU ASP CoE stakeholders for their support. He recalled the outcomes of WTDC-17 and Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and expressed hope to take forward the CoE initiative further.

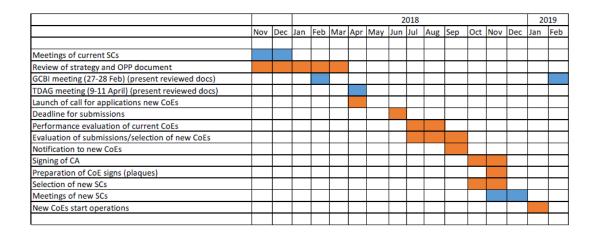### 3.0 ITU HCB GLOBAL PRESENTATION

Dr. Susan TELTSCHER, ITU, presented recent ITU capacity building activities, including progress made by the CoEs from a global perspective. She highlighted the performance of the CoEs in the region and the progress made over the years. She also informed the meeting on the status of standardized training materials in priority areas (Table 1), new partnerships being developed as well as developments on strengthening engagement academic institutions. In particular, the ITU-Academia Partnership Meeting held in Budapest in September 2017 was mentioned, which provided an excellent opportunity for CoEs to meet with academic institutions from all over world and discuss possible future collaboration.

Table 1: List of courses developed / being developed by ITU Academy

ITU TRAINING COURSE MATERIAL	Status
Spectrum Management Training Programme (SMTP)	Complete and available
Quality of Service Training Programme (QoSTP)	Complete and available
ICT & Climate Change Training Programme (ICT&CCTP)	Complete and available soon (under editing)
Internet of Things (IoT)	In progress
Internet Governance	In progress

Dr. Teltscher also informed the meeting about the process of reviewing the current CoE Cycle (2015-2018) and detailed the timeline for 2018-2021. As part of the preparatory process, the CoE Strategy and Operational Processes and Procedures documents will be reviewed by ITU. CoEs and SC members were invited to contribute to the review. To this end, a feedback form/questionnaire will be sent to CoEs by the end of 2017. Comments and suggestions will be taken into consideration when refining the documents for the

next cycle. A timeline for the review and selection process of the next CoEs was presented. The review will also take into account the outcomes of WTDC-17, in particular the ITU-D contribution of the ITU Strategic Plan and the ITU-D Action Plan, as well as the agreed upon Regional Initiatives.

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
															2019	
Meetings of current SCs	■	■														
Review of strategy and OPP document	■	■	■	■	■											
GCBI meeting (27-28 Feb) (present reviewed docs)				■												■
TDAG meeting (9-11 April) (present reviewed docs)						■										
Launch of call for applications new CoEs						■										
Deadline for submissions								■								
Performance evaluation of current CoEs									■	■	■					
Evaluation of submissions/selection of new CoEs									■	■	■					
Notification to new CoEs											■					
Signing of CA												■	■			
Preparation of CoE signs (plaques)												■	■			
Selection of new SCs												■	■			
Meetings of new SCs													■	■		
New CoEs start operations															■	

Finally, Dr. Teltscher informed participants of the 2018 Capacity Building Symposium, which will take place in July 2018 in the Dominican Republic, and invited everyone to participate in the event.

4.0 PERFORMANCE OF ITU ASP COE 2017

Mr. Ashish NARAYAN, ITU, presented the performance of the ASP CoE Network for 2017 (Annex 2). The ITU ASP CoE Coordinator, in addition to the performance report, also shared the strategic areas of long term focus such as the SDGs, WTDC-17 ITU-D Objectives and Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives, which the CoEs should keep in mind. The performance report was accepted by the Steering Committee.

5.0 PRESENTATIONS BY CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

The Chairman invited the ITU ASP Centres of Excellence for their presentation. The following presentations were made:

• **Advanced Level Telecom Training Centre (ALTTC), India:** Mr. Sidh KUMAR, DGM introduced the ALTTC structure, history, functions, equipment, partnership and core area of training including Broadband Technology, Information Technology, Mobile Systems, Transmission Technology and Next Generation Network. Mr. Kumar introduced the various workshops and trainings being conducted by ALTTC for national and international organisations, briefed on the training programmes conducted in 2015, 2016 and 2017 proposed the following face-to-face trainings for 2018:

- Mobile Broadband QoS (23-27 April 2018)
- IoT Technologies and Applications for Smart Cities, (6-10 August 2018)
-

And online training on
- 5G Technologies (7 May -1 June, 2018)
- Digital payment technologies and systems (2-27 July, 2018)

- **China Academy for Information and Communication Technology (CAICT), China:** Ms. WANG Ying, CAICT made the presentation on behalf of the CAICT. The presentation introduced the organization, the structure, functions and competencies. It highlighted CAICT's work experiences including CTTL, Policy and Economics Research, Technology and Standards Research, Industrialization and IT Application, Security Research amongst others. Ms. Ying informed the meeting about the courses conducted in 2017 and highlighted that these courses attracted the interests from international participants, industry and local government.

CAICT proposed the following trainings for 2018
- Internet of Things, online training (23 April - 18 May, 2018)
- Conformity & Interoperability and 5G Planning, (September 2018)

- **State Radio Monitoring Centre (SRMC), China**: Ms. LI Bingqi, SRMC, introduced the China radio regulatory framework, organization structure, functions as well as laboratory capacities of SRMC. Some of the areas from work experience of SRMC includes Radio Monitoring, Radio Data Management, Standard Developing, Spectrum Management, Radio Equipment Accreditation and Policy Support. Ms Li informed the participants about the experience with training on spectrum management and spectrum monitoring held in 2017 and introduced the training plan of SRMC in 2018.
    - Spectrum Monitoring, face to face, (mid April 2018)

- **Ministry of Digital Economy and Society (MDES) - TOT Academy (Thailand):** Dr. Tharinee LIMPIBUNTERNG introduced the CoE cooperation framework in Thailand including MDES and TOT Academy as well as partnerships with NBTC, APNIC, Department of Communications & Arts (Australia), PITA and IEEE. Dr. Limpibunterng briefed the participants on the experiences of ITU ASP CoE for 2017 and made the following suggestions for 2018:
    - Internet and IPv6 Infrastructure Security (14-18 May 2018)
    - OTT market analysis and competition regulation (23-26 July 2018)
    - Blockchain ecosystem and decentralization (20-23 August 2018)

- Big Data Analytic and Data Visualization in Digital Age (17-20 September 2018)

5.0 PRESENTATIONS BY PARTNERS AND POTENTIAL PARTNERS

The following partners made the presentations
- **APNIC**: Mr. Klee AIKEN, External Relations Manager, APNIC introduced the role of APNIC, areas of focus of APNIC and the capacity building programmes (e.g. IPv6, Network Security). He also detailed the cooperation between ITU, APNIC under the CoE framework in cooperation with MDES (Thailand) and in other activities (e.g. direct country assistance and Pacnog).
- **NBTC:** Ms. Benjawan ANUNTASILPA, Director, NBTC thanked the CoE network and expressed NBTC's continued support to organize trainings in 2018 on Digital payment & Block chain, as well as OTT market analysis and competition regulation. She also suggested to work towards increasing the number of international participants and expressed that the courses be designed lasting not more than 4 days.
- **PITA:** Mr. Fred CHRISTOPHER, Manager, PITA expressed his warm greetings from Pacific. He introduced PITA and its Members and thanked the CoE for the continued support. He briefed the meeting on the outcomes of the CoE trainings in 2015 and 2017, highlighting the events linked with the development of the telecom strategy for the Pacific and called for its continued support towards its implementation. Mr. Christopher proposed to host a training with PITA on Interconnectivity planning and traffic optimization in 2018 under the CoE framework and offered the opportunity to other ITU ASP CoEs for capacity building in the Pacific.

- **Faculty of ICT (Ministry of ICT, I.R. Iran):** Mr. Hassan PASHAZAEID, Director of Research and Information Technology, Faculty of ICT, Iran, detailed the cooperation with ITU as a previous CoE and a partner in the current CoE. He proposed some topics for courses that could be delivered in partnership with CoEs:
  - Mobile Broadband QoS
  - IoT Technologies and Applications for Smart Cities
  - Cybersecurity (March 2018)
  - Future trends and issues of spectrum(IOT/5G) host by Iran (Oct-Nov)

The meeting discussed a number of issues and provided suggestions.

a) *Attractiveness of online and blended (hybrid) courses*: There was also significant interest in starting blended (mix of online and face-to-face courses). The ITU Secretariat shared experiences of blended courses with participants.

b) It should be considered to facilitate sponsors and partners to be involved in the trainings.

c) **CoE – Next Cycle**

The issue of CoE operational processes and procedures was discussed.

The participants including representatives of Members, Centres and Partners held active deliberation on the key issues concerning the next CoE Cycle. After discussion, the suggestions of the Steering Committee on these issues were as follows:

Issues for consideration	Discussions and suggestions
Application and selection process	One of the option is to have flexibility to replace the CoEs in case of non-performance or inactivity (e.g. have waitlist) during the cycle. There was a request to get information on the priority areas where applications are being made during the application process. On selection criteria (2.2), it is important to clarify the following: - Relevance of ability to deliver and develop online course; - Ability to collect fees;
Operations of the CoEs (PARTNERSHIP PROCESS, FEES AND FUNDING, AWARDING OF CERTIFICATES)	Number of priority areas - It is important to consider that technology is changing very fast; - It is also important that it should be based on expertise of the organization applying for CoE; - Existing CoEs should have the flexibility to add on new topics. However, it is important to clarify the process of how the new topic would be added on. Steering Committee can play a role there; - All main areas mentioned in BaAP declaration should be covered as part of CoE selection

	process; Assessment criteria for non-performance needs to be clearly specified. The ITU ASP CoE network to consider recognizing outstanding performers and sharing their experiences with other COEs and partners in steering committee meeting. It would also be useful to share challenges that participants experience those who could not perform well.
Monitoring and evaluation of performance	An important aspect of the training is to do an analysis of impact of the training: - Include relevance of the training in evaluation; - Check feedback from participants at a later stage (e.g. after 6-9 months); - Also to consider the results of the evaluation forms that are carried out after training; Requests to reconsider - Composition of the participants (for example CEOs, HR, graduates, etc.); - Number of experts involved in the delivery of training with 5 or more years of experience - Frequency of the training material to be delivered; - Percentage of the budget spent during the year on development of the new training materials and improvement of the existing ones. (Focus should be on the content rather than budget)
Governance (Steering Committees)	The committee could include representation from Member Administration, CoEs, International Organizations, Partners etc.; Hosting of Steering Committee meetings on rotational basis should be reconsidered as the number of Members are more than the number of meetings per cycle. The hosting could be expanded to include the CoEs. However, this is also to be linked with the composition of the CoEs.

	The participants can send their comments to Dr. Susan Teltscher (Hcbmail@itu.int).		

7.0 ITU ASIA-PACIFIC CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAMS PROPOSED FOR 2018

	Training topics	CoE	Dates	Venue	Partners
1	Mobile Broadband QoS	ALTTC	23-27 April	Ghaziabad	TRAI, Faculty of ICT
2	Internet and IPv6 Infrastructure Security	MDES	14-18 May	Bangkok	APNIC
3	Spectrum Monitoring	SRMC	mid April	China	
4	IoT Technologies and Applications for Smart Cities	ALTTC	6-10 August	Ghaziabad	Faculty of ICT
5	Conformity & Interoperability and 5G Planning	CAICT	September	China	
6	OTT market analysis and competition regulation	MDES	23-26 July	Bangkok	NBTC
7	Blockchain Ecosystem and Decentralization	MDES	20-23 August	Bangkok	NBTC
8	Big Data Analytic and Data Visualization in Digital Age	MDES	17-20 Sep	Bangkok	
9	Interconnectivity Planning and Traffic Optimization	MDES	[March]	Pacific (country tbc)	PITA
10	Cybersecurity	ALTTC	[March]	Iran	Faculty of ICT, Iran
	Online Trainings	CoE	Dates	Partners	
1	5G Technologies	ALTTC	7 May -1 June	Faculty of ICT, Iran (tbc)	
2	Internet of Things	CAICT	23 April - 18 May		
3	Digital payment technologies and systems	ALTTC	2-27 July		
4	Spectrum estimation for IMT 2020 (tbc)	SRMC	Q3	Faculty of ICT, Iran	

8.0 CLOSING SESSION

The meeting ended with closing remarks from Dr. Susan TELTSCHER, Head, Human Capacity Building, BDT, ITU and Ms. Kalaya CHINATIWORN, Director, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society (Thailand).

ANNEX 1: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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