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| **World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-14)** **Dubai, 30 March – 10 April 2014** | |  |
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|  | | **Addendum 10 to**  **Document** **WTDC14/****37-E** |
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| TITLE: | Issues Related to Programs | |

# 1 Introduction

Universal access and services has been researched by ITU-D as well as the building and circulation of relevant toolkits. On this basis, many developing countries have implemented universal Internet access through the development of public and community Internet access points (e.g. Telecentres). However, many of these Telecentres have been facing challenges and difficulties in maintaining these telecentres sustainably and effectively.

APT Members suggest assisting and supporting developing countries to research and assess difficulties and challenges in the operation and maintenance of multipurpose community telecentres in rural and remote areas with a view to advise developing countries on models of multipurpose community telecentre, including digital inclusion, in rural and remote areas in accordance with local circumstances.

The ITU Regional Preparatory Meeting for Asia and the Pacific (RPM-ASP) for WTDC-14 was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in May 2013.

APT Members propose the issues relating to regional cooperation to promote cloud computing in the region and issues relating to regional cooperation in leveraging benefits of telecom/ICT in other sectors such as m-banking, m-education, m-health etc. as different programmes.

Cloud computing offers several benefits for businesses and consumers. It is widely agreed to be the key to future of IT. The key barriers to the faster development are sovereignty issues, security and protection of data, privacy, interoperability, Quality of service and the associated legal and regulatory issues. Many of these cannot be addressed in isolation by an individual country. Promotion of regional cooperation in development of cloud based services may help in accelerating the evolution of best practice~~s~~ to facilitate growth and make benefits of cloud computing accessible to a wider audience.

# 2 Proposal

APT Members propose to make the following modifications to Programme 1 and 2 as provided in Annex.

**Programme 1**

**Programme on information and communication infrastructure**

**and technology development**

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| **ACP/37/11** | Objective(s): 2 |

**MOD**

**3.6 Rural communications**

Rural areas of countries continue to be sparsely covered and are not considered as a viable business case by telecommunication operators. Recent growth of teledensity in urban areas, fuelled by mobile technology, has meant that the digital gap between rural and urban areas has widened.

Rural populations will need to be provided with mobile telephony and wireless broadband access, by connecting remote areas to the broadband core networks. Choosing efficient, cost-effective and fast-deployment technologies and telecentre model - whether wired or wireless networks - will improve accessibility.

The key challenges for the provision of telecommunication services in unserved and underserved areas are driven by both technological and economic considerations. Setting up backhaul connectivity remains a high-cost exercise. Erratic power supply or complete lack of energy sources is a major barrier, and photovoltaic power supply is increasingly becoming a viable alternative. The requirement to maintain sufficient backup systems raises operational costs substantially.

This programme will contribute to the goal of digital inclusion, by providing assistance for the development of connectivity in unserved and underserved areas using suitable technologies and model of public/community broadband access points for access, backhaul and sources of power supply.

The focus in this area can be summarized as follows:

3.6.1 providing assistance in the selection of suitable technologies and doing site survey on the suitable telecentre models, including the design, planning, operation and maintenance applicable for unserved and underserved areas of developing countries;

3.6.2 collaborating with local experts to implement projects that promote the provision of Telecommunication/ICT services and applications through suitable technologies and business models which achieve financial and operational sustainability in the unserved and underserved areas of developing countries;

3.6.3 providing capacity building for local experts and collaborating with local experts as well to identify, plan, implement and operate networks and facilities;

3.6.4 providing assistance in the implementation of projects for terrestrial and satellite backhaul solutions;

3.6.5 providing assistance in the use of alternative power supply solutions;

3.6.6 dissemination of information and analyses of different countries' experiences with the use of different technologies and business models for providing universal telecommunication/ICT services for unserved and underserved areas in developing countries, through methods such as publications, symposia, seminars and workshops, taking into account the outputs of related ITU-D study group activities.

**ACP/37/12** Objective(s): 4

**ADD**

**3.8 Cloud Computing**

In recent years, cloud computing has enhanced performance in organizations in terms of boost in the speed and efficiency, and flexibility of access to broadband services in many countries. However, it also has a number of additional benefits for developing countries, where access issues such as reliable power sources can be, to some extent, circumvented by using cheap, battery-powered smartphones and inexpensive cloud computing servers based in other countries.

Some of the barriers to the faster adoption and development in cloud computing services include issues of sovereignty, security and protection of data, privacy, interoperability, Quality of Service and the associated legal and regulatory issues. Many of these issues cannot be addressed in isolation by individual nations. Promotion of regional cooperation in development of cloud based services may help in accelerating the evolution of best practice~~s~~ to facilitate growth and make benefits of cloud computing accessible to a wider audience.

The programme will seek to build capacity of developing countries to take advantage of the benefits of cloud computing, and address the issues currently hampering the adoption of cloud computing services in the developing world.

Towards this, the following activities would be taken up:

* Provide guidelines to consumers that will reduce the concerns in areas viz. data privacy, security etc., related to cloud adoption on regional and global basis.
* Encourage growth of broadband as broadband connectivity with adequate bandwidth is the backbone of cloud computing.
* Share information and guidelines on security, interoperability and Quality of Service to be fulfilled by Cloud Service Providers.
* Promote Research and Development (R&D) in the field of cloud computing, through close cooperation with international bodies, academia and relevant organizations.

**Programme 2  
Programme on cybersecurity, ICT applications and IP-based network-related  
issues**

**ACP/37/13** Objective(s): 3

**MOD**

**3 Priority areas**

**3.1 ICT applications and services**

Developing telecommunication infrastructures to support ICT applications as well as person-to­person voice communications is a key challenge for the ITU membership, particularly in developing countries.

With the number of mobile subscribers expected to surpass the 5 billion mark in 2010, most of them in developing countries, the untapped potential for mobile ICT applications to support socio-economic development is enormous.

In the area of ICT applications, Programme 2 will focus on the following priority areas:

3.1.1 Elaboration of national strategic planning frameworks and associated toolkits for selected ICT applications and services in close collaboration with related UN specialized agencies and programmes, the private sector and other international organizations (e.g. World Bank, OECD) with expertise in these domains, including undertaking a study to assess ways and means for implementations at a regional level. These frameworks and toolkits facilitate the elaboration of cross-sector national e-strategies and build capacity among the ITU membership to articulate national visions, objectives, strategies, action plans and performance indicators to support the implementation of large-scale ICT applications and services that leverage existing infrastructure more effectively. This will result in effective harnessing of ICTs to better serve socio-economic development by leveraging and extending the benefits of the fast growth of ICTs to encompass crucial service sectors like banking, education, public health and medical services etc.

3.1.2 Development of a cross-domain mobile application framework to improve the delivery of value-added services using mobile communications. This could start with high-potential services like mobile health and mobile banking applications, but subsequently extended to the development of other kinds of applications. Programme 2 will act as a catalyst, by launching appropriate partnership platforms – involving public and private partners – in order to foster the development of mobile-based ICT applications.

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