



March highlights

Monthly News Summary

Dear Respected Member,

ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) is delighted to share its previous month's activities with you:

- IAFI welcome dinner for Mr. Seizo Onoe, Director (TSB), ITU
- IAFI meets with the new Chairman Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)
- IAFI, Khalifa University, and TIU Abu Dhabi - a collaboration for 6G Technology
- DoTMHA holds a one-day workshop on BB-PPDR at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
- Webinar organized by the FG-CD of ITU on 13-03-2024 on Open RAN
- IAFI establishes a new Task Force on 6G technology
- IAFI attended APTIAWG-32 meeting at Pattaya, Bangkok
- IAFI Proposal for a 6G Workshop in AWG approved



Detailed news items for March 2024

IAFI welcome dinner for Mr. Seizo Onoe, Director (TSB), ITU: The ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) hosted an interactive session and dinner on March 19, 2024, at CSOI, KG Marg, New Delhi in honour of Mr. Seizo Onoe, Director of International Telecommunication Union (ITU)'s Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) who was visiting India for a TSB meeting. Senior officers from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), including Member (Technology), Member (services), DCC and senior officers from WPC, BSNL, and TEC, along with industry experts, participated in the event.

ITU, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations arranged a workshop on "Cultivating tomorrow: Advancing digital agriculture through IoT and AI", on March 18, 2024. Workshop was co-hosted by the TEC (DoT) and ICAR at the National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC), ICAR, New Delhi. Mr. Seizo Onoe, Dir. (TSB), ITU, Shri A.K. Sahu, Member (Services), DoT, MS Tigris, Saxena and Sr. DPG and Head TEC emphasized the potential of technologies like IoT and AI to revolutionize agriculture. Mr. Seizo Onoe also visited C-DoT campus, New Delhi, to exchange insights on telecom standardization and emerging technology development. Mr. Seizo also visited C-DoT state-of-the-art labs, where India's home-grown solutions like SAMAD, Post Quantum Cryptography (PQC), advance optical systems, ITU-CAP based early warning alert system, Quantum Key Distribution (QKD), BHARAT 4G / 5G with 5G demo, and many more were demonstrated.

IAFI meets with the new Chairman Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Shri Bharat Bhatia, President IAFI, called on Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, newly appointed Chairman of TRAI and extended a warm welcome. He also invited chairman TRAI to a formal interactive dinner scheduled for April 4th, 2024, at CSOI in New Delhi. Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Railway Board, Ministry of Railways, joined as Chairman, TRAI on 31-01-2024 for a period of three years. Shri Lahoti is an officer of 1984 batch of the Indian Railway Service of Engineers and superannuated as Chairman and CEO Railway Board on August 31, 2023. He is a graduate in Civil Engineering from Madhav Institute of Institute of Technology and Science, Gwalior and Master of Engineering (Structures) from the University of Roorkee (IIT, Roorkee). He ensured the quality of services, curb call drops and provide a level playing field to facilitate the telecom sector's overall growth.

IAFI, Khalifa University, and TIU Abu Dhabi - a collaboration for 6G Technology: A virtual meeting was held between IAFI, The Technology Innovation Institute (TIU) in Abu Dhabi, and representatives from the UAE Government to discuss the advancement of 6G technologies. Notably, the Technology Innovation Institute (TIU) stands as a pioneering research institution in the United Arab Emirates, dedicated to pioneering advancements in technology. Key figures such as Shri Bharat Bhatia, President of IAFI; Prof. Merouane Debbah, Director of the 6G RC Computer Communication Engineering; Dr. Lina Bariah, Professor at Khalifa University of Science and Technology, Abu Dhabi; and Ms. Nouf Alhameli, Administrator at the Abu Dhabi Government Executive Office, were among the participants, pooling their expertise to develop a comprehensive team for 6G development. This collaborative approach promises significant progress in 6G technology, positioning the UAE at the forefront of this transformative domain.

DoTMHA holds a one-day workshop on BB-PPDR at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi: The Directorate of Coordination Police Wireless (DCPW), MHA and DoT collaborated to jointly organize a One Day Conference on Broadband Public Protection and Disaster Relief (BB-PPDR) on 13-03-2024 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI was invited as a guest speaker and delivered his presentation on "International Standards on Public Safety Network". During the conference, detailed deliberations on pan-India implementation of Cellular Mobile BB-PPDR Network covering main aspects viz Global Scenario in Public Safety Network, Technology Environment & Present Network and Implementation Methodology for BB-PPDR in India were discussed in detail. The event was followed by a closed-door meeting organized by the DoT with key experts including IAFI to deliberate on implementation of a pilot PPDR project. More Information: PPDR

Webinar organized by the FG-CD of ITU on 13-03-2024 on Open RAN: The Focus Group on Costing Models for Affordable Data Services (FG-CD) working under ITU-T's Study Group-3 (SG-3) hosted the third episode of its webinar series on Open RAN best practices for affordable data services on March 13, 2024. This on-going series explores ways to optimize network costs, enabling more affordable services; improved environmental sustainability, and reduced visual pollution in cities. In addition to the webinar, the FG-CD also held a series of discussions and proposals during SG-3 meeting of ITU-T, FG-CD was established and its first meeting was held from 05th to 06th Oct, 2023 in Delhi and 2nd meeting is going to be held at Lilongwe, Malawi from 08th to 10th April, 2024.



IAFI established Task Force on 6G technology: IAFI established a new Task Force dedicated to address the challenges and opportunities in the development and standardization of 6G technology as per the ITU IMT-2030 framework. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President IAFI announced the formation of the Task Force, as an initiative to foster collaboration between industry, academia, research institutions, and standards development organizations on ubiquitous and affordable connectivity, support development of telecom and semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem, thus taking the lead in 6G Technology ecosystem and services. The task force will convene regularly via meetings, workshops, and collaborative sessions to facilitate knowledge sharing and collective action.

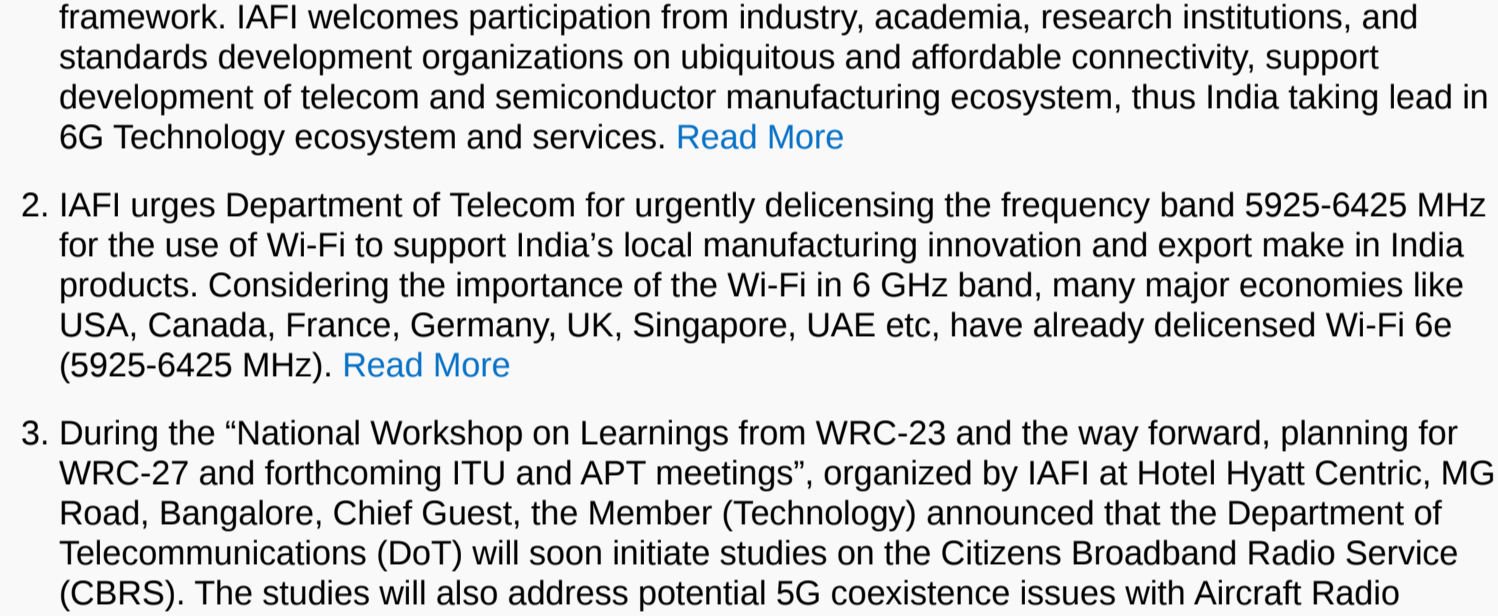
APTAWG-32 meeting held at Pattaya, Bangkok: The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) held its 32nd meeting of the Wireless Group (AWG-32) from March 4th to 8th, 2024, in Pattaya, Thailand. This marked the first AWG meeting following the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23) which recently took place in Dubai from November to December 2023. Over 100 technical contributions were presented and discussed during AWG-32. IAFI, in collaboration with its industry partners, actively participated by submitting seven contributions. IAFI President, Shri Bharat Bhatia, along with several other members, attended the meeting. IAFI had submitted 7 input contributions to this meeting. These include:

| Document No. | Description |
|---------------|---|
| AWG32/INP-87 | Updates to working document towards new APT Report on PMSE frequency usage in the 470-806 MHz band in Asia |
| AWG32/INP-88 | For hosting a 6G Workshop |
| AWG32/INP-89 | Proposed updates to working document AWG-31/TMP-67 towards a draft new APT Report on technology and regulatory developments for the delivery of 5G/IMT-2020 applications in the Mobile Satellite Service |
| AWG32/INP-90 | Revision to working document towards a preliminary draft revision of APT Report on point-to-point radio communication systems operating in the frequency range of 252-296 GHz |
| AWG32/INP-91 | Updates to working document towards a draft new APT Report on deployment approaches and solutions for IMT-2020/5G use case |
| AWG32/INP-92 | Further updates to the proposed working document towards a draft new APT Report on WAS in Asia Pacific region |
| AWG32/INP-101 | Finalization of working document towards a draft new APT Report on operational characteristics of a Non-GSO FSS earth station terminal on vessels and aircraft nominally operated under FSS operating in the frequency bands 10.7-12.75 GHz (space-to-earth) and 14-14.5 GHz (earth-to-space) |

All IAFI contributions were well received and necessary updates were made to the relevant documents. Overall, the AWG-32 meeting ended with a good success in developing 53 Temp documents and 18 Out documents. Next APTAWG-33 meeting will be held in Sept, 2024 in Bangkok.

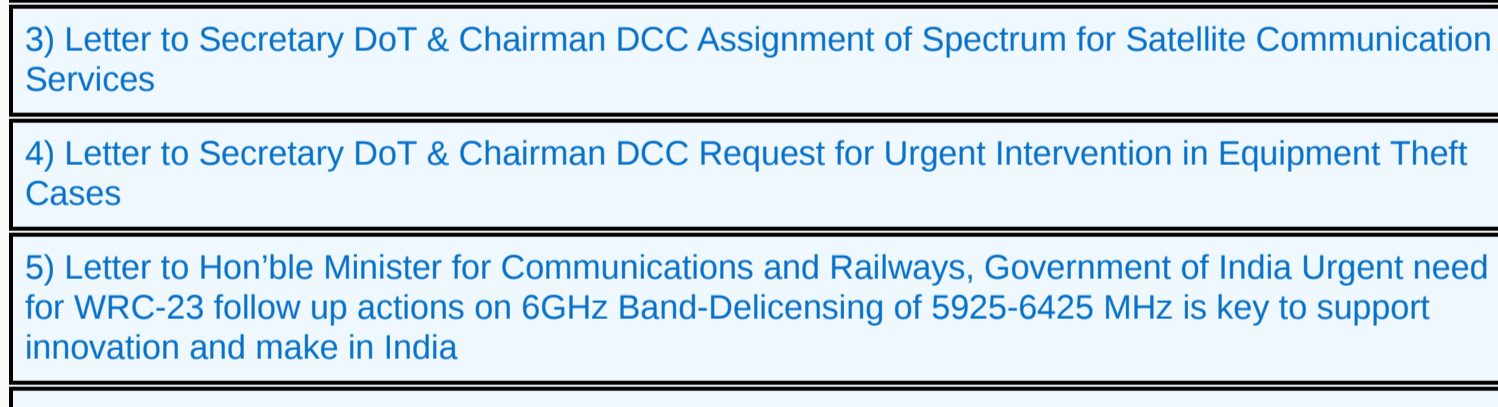
Proposed 6G Workshop in AWG: IAFI's proposal for a workshop on 6G/IMT-2030 was met with enthusiasm during discussions. All participants agreed to schedule the workshop for the upcoming AWG-33 meeting. A detailed work plan outlining the workshop agenda and logistics has been finalized and documented as AWG32/Out-08. Mr. Sendil Kumar from IAFI will co-convene the workshop alongside a representative from China.

Media Showcase: Following Items relating to IAFI were covered in the media

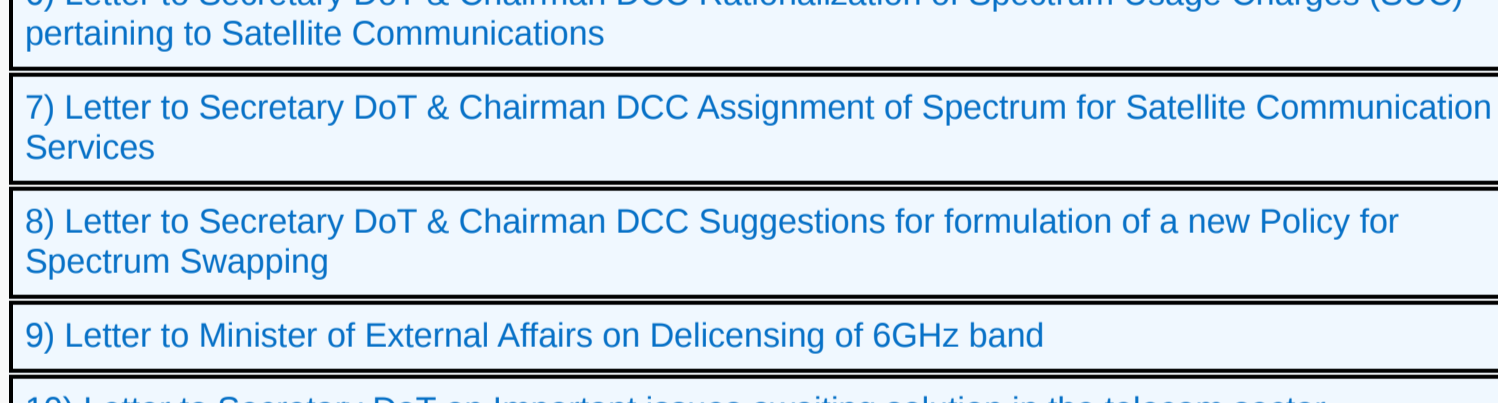


- A new Task Force dedicated to address the challenges and opportunities in developing and standardizing 6G technology, to focus on enhancing India's participation in the ITU IMT-2030 framework. IAFI welcomes participation from industry, academia, research institutions, and standards development organizations on ubiquitous and affordable connectivity, support development of telecom and semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem, thus India taking lead in 6G Technology ecosystem and services. [Read More](#)
- IAFI urges Department of Telecom for urgently delicensing the frequency band 5925-6425 MHz for the use of Wi-Fi to support India's local manufacturing innovation and export make in India products. Considering the importance of the Wi-Fi in 6 GHz band, many major economies like USA, Canada, France, Germany, UK, Singapore, UAE etc, have already delicensed Wi-Fi 6e (5925-6425 MHz). [Read More](#)
- During the "National Workshop on Learnings from WRC-23 and the way forward, planning for WRC-27 and forthcoming ITU and APT meetings", organized by IAFI at Hotel Hyatt Centric, MG Road, Bangalore, Chief Guest, the Member (Technology) announced that the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) will soon initiate studies on the Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS). The studies will also address potential 5G coexistence issues with Aircraft Radio Altimeters. [Read More](#)
- DoT to resolve 5G coexistence with radio altimeters, start studies on CBRS: Official [Read More](#)
- IAFI has urged the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to expedite the assignment of satellite spectrum without any further delay. This is to prevent potential service launch delays for VSAT and other satellite operators operating under a unified license. IAFI emphasizes that such assignments should be processed promptly under existing guidelines, without waiting for the issuance of rules under the telecom act. [Read More](#)
- In the 45th meeting of WPSD of the ITU-R in Geneva (January 31 to February 7, 2024), a proposal by IAFI was approved to create a global report on mobile technologies for financial inclusion. The report will include insights from India's experience with UPI payments. IAFI emphasized UPI's robust security, reliability, and speed, underscoring its crucial role in promoting financial inclusion and driving economic growth. [Read More](#)
- IAFI has urged the Department of Telecommunications to promptly process applications for the assignment of satellite spectrum, specifically for VSAT and similar services authorized under unified licenses. The request aims to prevent any delays in the launch of services by VSAT and other satellite operators, emphasizing the importance of adherence to existing guidelines. [Read More](#)
- The first national preparatory workshop for the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTS-24) was organized by the Telecom Engineering Centre of the Department of Telecom and IAFI. The workshop focused on key topics such as the structure and organization of WTS-24, reviews of the resolutions, and proposals for new resolutions in the field of telecommunication standardization. [Read More](#)
- The World Radio communication Conference (WRC) has globally allocated 100 MHz spectrum in the 6 GHz band for mobility services, and the upper 6 GHz band has been designated for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. In India, telecom operators are advocating for the 6 GHz band to be reserved entirely for IMT, asserting its significance in achieving national connectivity goals and fulfilling future spectrum requirements for 5G and 6G technologies. [Read More](#)
- WRC-23 commenced on November 20 in Dubai, with major technical work divided into three committees (A, B, and C) by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Bharat Bhatia, the President of IAFI, was appointed as the Vice Chairperson for Committee-4, which focuses on examining the frequency band 4,800-4,990 MHz and safeguarding stations of aeronautical and maritime mobile services. India also supported a new agenda item for studies to support communications on the moon and moon missions [Read More](#)

UPCOMING EVENT



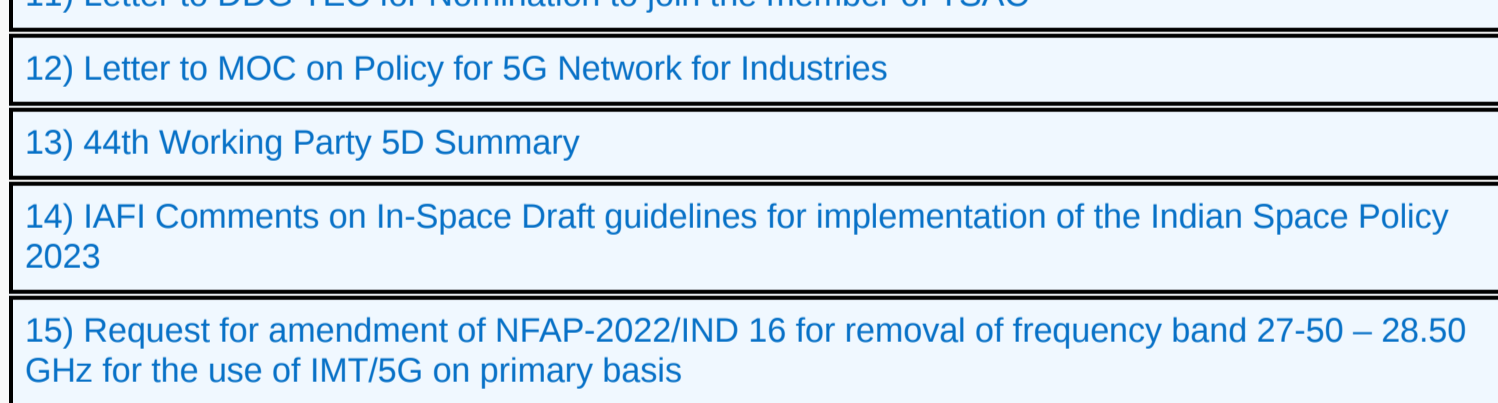
27th-28th May, 2024, New Delhi, India



5th-6th November 2024

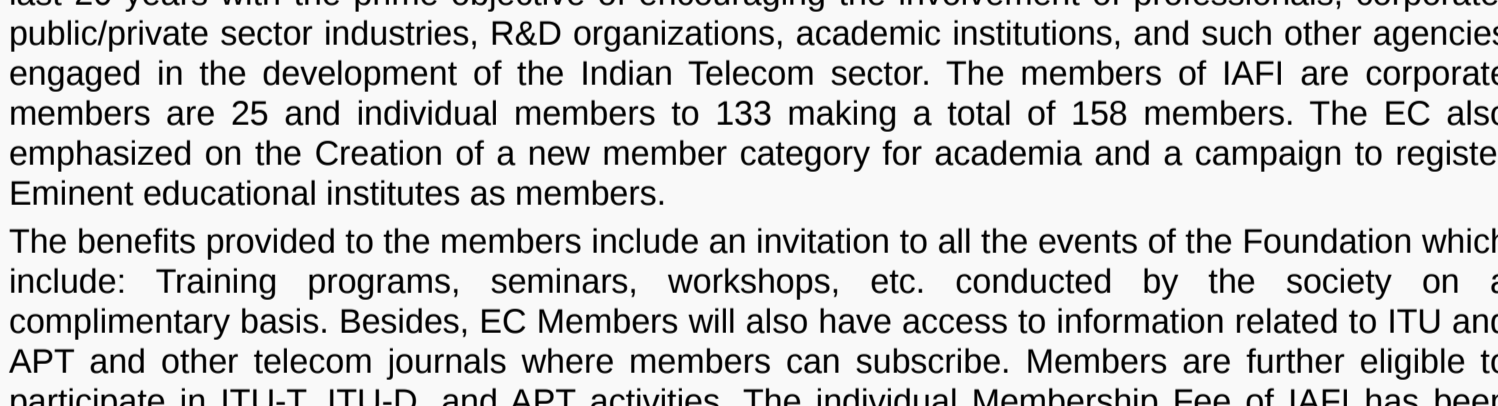
New Delhi, India

PAST IAFI EVENT



22nd February 2024

Hotel Hyatt Centric, MG Road Bangalore, India



23rd January 2024

Hyatt Regency, MG Road Bangalore, India

Links to our Activities & Programmes

- Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Request for further extension of implementation of MTCTE
- Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Clarification for import of NGSO Satellite Devices under MTCTE
- Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Assignment of Spectrum for Satellite Communication Services
- Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Request for Urgent Intervention in Equipment Theft Cases
- Letter to Hon'ble Minister for Communications and Railways, Government of India Urgent need for WRC-23 follow up actions on 6GHz Band-Delicensing of 5925-6425 MHz is key to support innovation and make in India
- Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Rationalization of Spectrum Usage Charges (SUC) pertaining to Satellite Communications
- Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Assignment of Spectrum for Satellite Communication Services
- Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Suggestions for formulation of a new Policy for Spectrum Swapping
- Letter to Minister of External Affairs on Delicensing of 6GHz band
- Letter to Secretary DoT on Important issues awaiting solution in the telecom sector
- Letter to DDG TEC for Nomination to join the member of TSAC
- Letter to MOC on Policy for 5G Network for industries
- 44th Working Party 5D Summary
- IAFI Comments on In-Space Draft guidelines for implementation of the Indian Space Policy 2023
- Request for amendment of NFAP-2022/IND 16 for removal of frequency band 27-50 - 28.50 GHz for the use of IMT/5G on primary basis

IAFI MEMBERSHIP

ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) is a non-profit, non-political, non-partisan industry foundation registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1960. IAFI has been working for the last 20 years with the prime objective of encouraging the involvement of professionals, corporate, public-private sector industries, R&D organizations, academic institutions, and such other agencies engaged in the development of the Indian Telecom sector. The members of IAFI are corporate members are 25 and individual members to 133 making a total of 158 members. The EC also emphasizes on the Creation of a new member category for academia and a campaign to register eminent educational institutes as members.

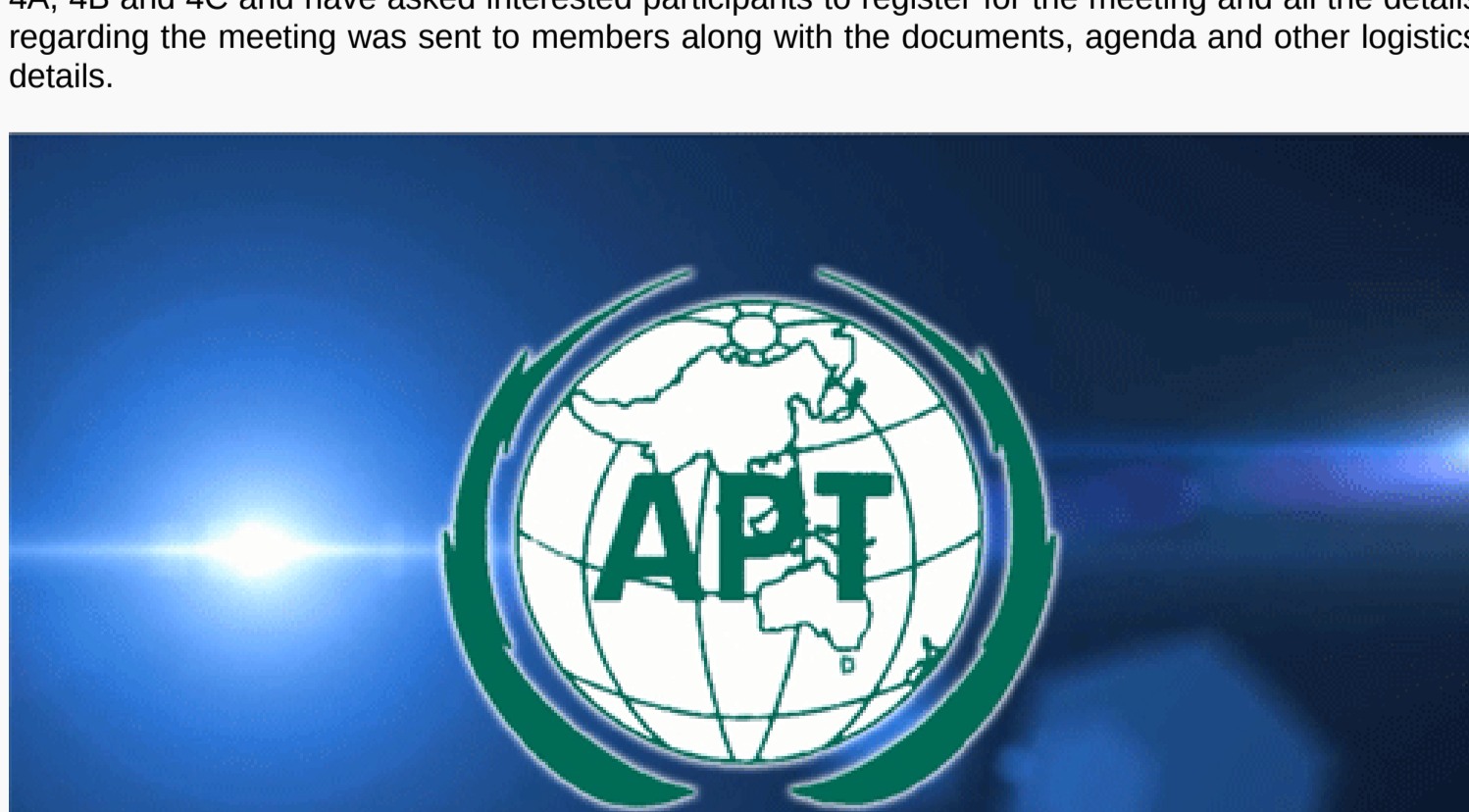
The benefits provided to the members include an invitation to all the events of the foundation which include: Training programs, seminars, workshops, etc. conducted by the Society on a complimentary basis. Besides, EC Members will also have access to information related to ITU and APT and other telecom journals where members can subscribe. Members are further eligible to participate in ITU-T, ITU-D, and APT activities. The individual Membership Fee of IAFI has been reversed to the previous fee that was applicable since the beginning. Please see [Membership details](#)



Partners Association



Activities in our focus areas during November 2023



IAFI circulated the meeting invitation to members for ITU-R Study Group 4 will take place in Geneva on 23 April 2024 and 10 May 2024, prior to and following the meetings of Working Parties 4A, 4B and 4C and have asked interested participants to register for the meeting and all the details regarding the meeting was sent to members along with the documents, agenda and other logistics details.



IAFI circulated meeting invitation to members for Advancements to attend the 3rd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTS-24 (Preparatory Group for WTS-24) on 23-24 May 2024 at the Hyatt Regency, MG Road, Cambodia with physical attendance as well as virtual/online participation through Zoom meeting (i.e. hybrid meeting). The meeting will be hosted by the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications of Cambodia (MPTC).



Dr Neeraj Mittal has unanimously been elected as co-chair of the Digital Innovation Board of ITU formed under the aegis of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development. The Digital Innovation Board comprises of Ministers and Vice Ministers of Telecom/ICT of 23 Member Countries of ITU spanning Asia, Europe, Africa, North and South America. International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has started Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development to respond to significant unmet needs of ITU Membership in the area of innovation, as articulated in the Digital Action Plan approved at the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2022 (WTDC-22) and the Outcomes of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022 (PP-22). The Alliance has three main vehicles



TRAI has released the Yearly Performance Indicators Telecom Sector for the financial year 2022-23. This Report provides a broad perspective of the Telecom Services in India and presents the key parameters and growth trends of the Telecom Services as well as Cable TV, DTH & Radio Broadcasting Services in India for the period covering 1st April, 2022 to 31st March, 2023. This report is compiled mainly on the basis of the information furnished by the Service Providers.

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