



A4AI-MYANMAR UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND WORKSHOP AND COALITION MEETING

27-28 July 2015, 8:30-16:00
Conference Hall, MICT Park
Yangon, Myanmar

About A4AI

The Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) brings together prominent players from the private sector, public sector, and civil society to provide a unified voice and coordinated focus in addressing the shared goal of open, affordable access to the Internet in the developing world. The Alliance aims to increase the affordability of both mobile and fixed-line Internet access dramatically, with a focus on achieving the UN Broadband Commission Broadband Target of entry-level broadband services priced at less than 5% of average monthly income.

Since the start of its work in Myanmar, A4AI has held a successful 1st A4AI-Myanmar Multi-stakeholder Forum on the 26th March 2015 in which a number of priority issues were identified. These priority issues are towards supporting Myanmar's to increase access and affordability to broadband to all of its citizens. Since the 1st A4AI-Myanmar Forum, Myanmar stakeholders have formed the [A4AI-Myanmar Coalition](#) and chosen working groups that will work on each of the issues identified. The priority issues identified at the first coalition meeting are:

- Universal Service Fund: its establishment and management
- Data collection, research and analysis
- Infrastructure deployment and sharing
- Taxation and tariffs

Objectives and Outline of the USF Workshop and Coalition Meeting

Scheduled for the 27th of July 2015 in Yangon, the A4AI-Myanmar USF expert workshop will complement and enhance the work of the coalition as a whole, but the work of its USF working group in particular. The workshop will to give participants a foundational understanding of USF design and implementation, and an overview of best practices and lessons learned from other USFs in Asia and beyond. Participants will also have the opportunity to share their opinions during an interactive session.

On 28th of July 2015, the A4AI-Myanmar Coalition Meeting will allow members of the four working groups to develop work plans that will guide their work on their respective priority issue. Participants at the meeting will gain further insights into the priority issues and how each of the four issues that they identified in the first coalition meeting will help to increase broadband access and affordability in Myanmar.

The following presents the agenda for the A4AI-Myanmar USF Workshop and Coalition Meeting.



A4AI-MYANMAR UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND WORKSHOP

Conference Hall, MICT Park, 8:30-15:30, 27th July 2015

AGENDA

08:30 Breakfast and Registration

09:00 – 09:15 Introduction of the agenda and plan for the day

- Ms. Sonia Jorge, Executive Director, Alliance for Affordable Internet

Key objectives of the workshop

- How do we design universal access policies, regulations and incentives?
- How do we transform the universal service obligation into an opportunity?
- What is the rural market efficiency gap in Myanmar and how do we address it?
- How does one involve multi-sectoral stakeholders in the design and implementation of the USF?
- How do we establish a fair and transparent USF management framework
 - Underlying framework
 - Fund structure and its operation
 - Governance
 - Contribution
 - Services that could be included in the Fund
 - Allocation and industry participation
 - Measuring impact

09:15 – 09:30 Opening Remarks

09:30 – 09:45 Introduction to the topic – Universal Service and Access Funds

- A brief presentation by A4AI

09:45 – 10:30 Experiences and lessons from the region

- Pakistan – Mr. Parvez Ifthikar, Former CEO, Pakistan's Universal Service Fund
- Sri Lanka and rest of Asia – Dr. Rohan Samarajiva, Founding Chair, LIRNEAsia
- Question and Answer session

10:30 – 10:45 Networking Tea

10:45 – 12:30 Universal Access and Service Funds: Good and bad practices around the world

- Mr. Parvez Ifthikar, Former CEO, Pakistan's Universal Service Fund

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 14:15 Group Work: What do stakeholders in Myanmar want in their USAF?

- Participants select key items
- Organized by themes



14:15 – 15:15 Designing a demand-driven Universal Service and Access Fund in Myanmar – Panel discussion

Discussants:

- Ms. Seint Seint Aye, Post and Telecommunications Department, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
- Ms. Vicky Bowman, Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business
- Mr. Daniel Susnjar, Telenor Myanmar
- Ms. Pushpa Nair, Ooredoo Myanmar
- Dr. Thant Thaw Kaung, Myanmar Book Aid and Preservation Foundation
- Ms. Htaike Htaike Aung, Myanmar ICT for Development Organisation

- Ms. Sonia Jorge, Executive Director, A4AI (moderator)

15:15 – 15:30 Next steps and planning

15:30 Close