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 COALITION MEETING
Conference Hall, MICT Park, 8:30-16:00, 28th July 2015

AGENDA

08:00 – 09:00 **Media Briefing Session on A4AI**

08:30 – 09:00 **Networking 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

09:15 – 11:00 **Panel on Priority Issues: Understanding the windows of opportunity**
Participants will examine those priority issues the coalition is addressing, namely, (a) Universal Service Fund: its establishment and management; b) Data collection, research and analysis; (c) Infrastructure deployment and sharing; and (d) Taxation and tariffs.

A mix of local and international stakeholders will examine each Priority Issue in respect of:
- **The Issue:** Why it is an issue/challenge in Myanmar? (I.e., in what way is it undermining or delaying greater Internet and Broadband affordability and usage?)
- **The goals:** What objectives and goals should be achieved if we are to resolve the issue? What is the ideal outcome taking into account the Myanmar context?
- **Possible options:** How might the issues be resolved or mitigated? Examination of best practices used elsewhere; what stakeholders are most important**.**

Expert Discussants for Universal Service and Access Fund
  ➤ Mr. Parvez Ifthikar, Former CEO of Pakistan's Universal Service Fund
  ➤ Mr. Nyantha Maw Lin, Vriens & Partners, Myanmar

Expert Discussants for Data Collection and Research
  ➤ Ms. Radhika Wijesekera from LirneAsia
  ➤ Ms. Phyu Phyu Thi, Myanmar ICT for Development Organization
  ➤ Mr. Ed Ratcliffe, Vriens & Partners

Expert Discussant for Infrastructure Deployment and Sharing
  ➤ Mr. Bill Garrison, Consultant, Myanmar Ministry of ICT
  ➤ Mr. Zaw Min Oo, Secretary General, Myanmar Computer Federation

Expert Discussant for Taxation and Tariff
  ➤ Ms. Cindy Khin Khin, Myanmar Computer Federation
  ➤ Mr. Tun Than, Internal Revenue, Ministry of Finance

11:00 – 11:15   **Working Refreshment Break**

11:15 – 12:30   **Working Group Sessions**
This session will provide an opportunity for participants to begin developing the work plans for each working group. The A4AI team will explain the structure of work plans, how they should be developed and how they will be used. The working groups for each priority issue will then work together to begin drafting their own work plans, which will detail objectives, outputs, activities, a timeline for completing the activities, partners and responsibilities, and potential risks and challenges.

12:30 – 13:30   **Working Lunch**
Participants will use the working lunch to continue developing their works plans.

13:30 – 14:30   **Reporting**
The rapporteur for each working group will present their draft work plan to all participants. This is designed to be an interactive discussion between coalition members and should result in stronger work plans for each working group.

14:30   **Coalition Schedule of Activities and Conclusion**
The A4AI team will draw the meeting to a conclusion, outlining some of the key findings from the day and actions for the future, including the short term activities in each work plan, coalition wide seminars/webinars and the next coalition meeting in Q3 of 2015.

15:30   **Closing Remarks**