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Ref:

To: Administrations of ITU Member States,
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Subject: "Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Mainstreaming ICT Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities", 25-27 August 2009, Bangkok, Thailand

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the upcoming "**Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Mainstreaming ICT Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities**" to be held from 25-27 August 2009 at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand. The Forum is jointly organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Region (UNESCAP) and hosted by the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT), Government of Kingdom of Thailand. It is also supported by the Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs (G3ict), National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) of Thailand, Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (DBCDE) of Australia, and the National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (NECTEC) of Thailand.

This activity will be held within the framework of the ITU's Doha Action Plan on Special Initiatives, which deal with the use and application of information and communication technologies for, among others, persons with disabilities.

Following the joint ITU/G3ict global forum on 21 April 2007 on Digital Accessibility Standards in relation to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), ITU and G3ict have developed a "Toolkit for Policy Makers", an online tool designed to provide practical references and case studies to support implementation of the digital accessibility agenda of the CRPD at country level.

In this regard, the Forum aims to:

- Bring together policy makers, regulators, operators, industry, NGOs and international organizations involved with persons with disabilities, as well as experts and ICT professionals including disabled persons from across the region and beyond;
- Discuss the global online "Toolkit for Policy Makers" that will support stakeholders in developing policies and strategies to address ICT accessibility and service needs from persons with disabilities to meet the dispositions of the CRPD;

