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**Minutes of AFACT Monthly Conference Call 2018-01-30, 13.30 BST/07.30 UTC**

**Revised**

**Participants:**

Bangladesh: Mr. Ali Ashfak (attended from Singapore), Mr. Pabitra Mistry

Japan: Mr. Kanenori Kedoin

Chinese Taipei: Dr. Eva Yi-Yuan Yueh, Ms. Annik Chun-Yu Kang

Iran: Ms. Azadeh Bagheri

India: Mr. Raj Kumar Arora

**Agendas:**

1. Approval of minutes of meeting held on 14 Dec 2017
2. 2018 AFACT mid-term program organization in Bangladesh: Discussion on Time and Program Schedule
3. AFACT Host Country selection for 2019 & finalization of 2018 StC Members
4. Miscellaneous

**Agenda wise discussion & decision:**

**Agenda-1: Approval of minutes of meeting held on 14 Dec. 2017**

**Decision:**

-After the necessary amendment made to the presented minutes of meeting, all participants approved the minutes of meeting (held on Dec 14, 2017) which was sent to all by the 2018 AFACT Secretariat.

**Agenda-2: 2018 AFACT mid-term program organization in Bangladesh: Discussion on Time and Program Schedule**

**Discussion:**

-Mr. Ali Ashfak, Chairperson of AFACT joined the meeting from Singapore. He informed all that, due to involvement of Bangladesh government to the upcoming international program of AFACT we need to reschedule the program date which was set before to organize on March 28-30. He also informed that, meetings are going on with Posts and Telecommunications Division of ICT Ministry and Ministry of Commerce which are two vital government body for AFACT's next program and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Bangladesh Parjatan (Tourism) Corporation are deeply involved with this ongoing discussions between Bangladesh government and AFACT's Bangladesh Secretariat. He asked all to comment about the next possible program date.

-Mr. Arora and Mr. Kedoin questioned about the necessity of changing of date.

## Asia Pacific Council for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

### 2018 AFACT Secretariat, Bangladesh

Office Address: Bangladesh Computer Samity (BCS)

House-33/B, Road-4, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205, Tel: 0088-02-9671342, 9671350

Fax: 0088-02-9671350, Ext-108, H/P: +8801715864322, E-mail: infotopabitra@gmail.com



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-Mr. Ali answered that due to involvement of Bangladesh government and thereby requirement of more time for organizing of the upcoming big event with a remarkable international exposure, date need to be changed. But we shall discuss that in the concall meeting and take concern of all.

-Dr. Eva requested Mr. Kedoin to set the next date considering UN/CEFACT's Geneva and USA program. She also recommended the next date as 18 to 20 April after UN/CEFACT's program on 17-19 April.

-Mr. Kedoin recommended the next date should be 21 to 23 April.

-Mr. Ali informed that Bangladesh Secretariat will take responsibility of booking domestic flights from Dhaka to Cox's Bazar to Dhaka for all participants with government sponsorship with on-arrival visa arrangement for all.

#### **Decision:**

-Tentative date for next program is 17-19 April, 2018. Final date will be set after final negotiation with Bangladesh government and discussion in the concall meeting.

-Bangladesh Secretariat will take all responsibility for domestic flights for all participants with government sponsorship if it is held in outside Dhaka with on-arrival visa arrangement for all.

Dr. Eva also strongly reminded that an invitation letter should be issued so that all possible AFACT experts could start going through their internal approval process in time. In addition, although 2018 AFACT Secretariat takes responsibility for booking local flights and the on-arrival visa, the estimated amount of local hotel, flight ticket fare should be informed as early as possible so that experts from each AFACT member country are able to apply for overseas trip permission internally.

#### **Agenda-3: AFACT Host Country selection for 2019 & finalization of 2018 StC Members**

#### **Discussion:**

-Mr. Pabitra informed all that the Bangladesh Secretariat yet could not make progress for selecting any country to be host for 2019, but still continuing communication with possible host. He also urged to all that, in this issue, Bangladesh Secretariat require best cooperation from all.

- Dr. Eva suggested that, as India cannot be the host for 2019 and if also Thailand cannot become host country for the term, we forward that to Iran as permanent Secretariat country to become the host.

-Mr. Ali told that, if in case, we can't confirm any country to be the host for the term 2019, Bangladesh Secretariat will extend its best efforts to run the Secretariat with support of Iran, as permanent Secretariat.

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**Decision:**

- Until we find any country to be the host for 2019, Bangladesh Secretariat will extend its best efforts to run the Secretariat with support of Iran, as permanent Secretariat.

-Until we cannot select the next host country, we can't finalize the StC member list

**Agenda-4: Miscellaneous**

**Discussion:**

- Regarding AFACT yearbook publication, Mr. Ali asked all to inform about how yearbook is published.

-Mr. Arora and Mr. Kedoin clarified that, AFACT yearbook is totally online based, not a physical documents.

-Mr. Ali suggested that, this year we can make it printed if financial support is available and it would add good impetus of our annual works documentation record as well as publishing it online.

-Mr. Ali asked all about fixation of next date of concall meeting and it was set that next concall meeting will be held on 27 February, 2018 at 1330 Bangladesh Standard Time(0730 UTC Time)

**Decision:**

-This year AFACT yearbook will be published with print format as well as online version.

-Next concall meeting will be held on 27 February, 2018 at the same time schedule.

Mr. Pabitra Mistry, Secretary, 2018 AFACT Secretariat, Bangladesh  
House 33/B, Road 4, Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1205, Bangladesh.

**Join WhatsApp Group: "2018 AFACT Secretariat BD"**

**Next ConCall Meeting Date: 27 February, 2018 Tuesday at 1330 Bangladesh Standard Time (0730 UTC Time)**

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