IGF 2016 Workshop Report Template

Session Title	**WS No. 29 "Bridging Digital Divide For The Blind Through Technology"**
Date	09 December,2016
Time	10.45-11.45 am
Session Organizer	The Electronic Transaction Development Agency (ETDA)
Chair/Moderator	Hataichanok Tontrakulsuk, Manager of International Affairs (ETDA)
Rapporteur/Notetaker	Hataichanok Tontrakulsuk, Manager of International Affairs (ETDA)
List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations	1. Natawut Amornvivat - CEO , Focal Intelligence Co., Ltd. The Mobile App Development Company -The Founder of "Read for the Blind" and "Help Us Read" 2. Cholatip Yimyong -Head Administrator – Electronic Content Services, National Library for the Blind and Print-disabled -Co-founder of "Read for the Blind" and Help Us Read"
Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):	• Bridging Digital Divide ; Connecting innovation, volunteers and disabled Community through an initiative mobile application called "Read for the Blind and "Help us Read" ,instant social media for the blinds. • A Challenge to raise Multi-stakeholder Synergy ; This IGF BPF Session would be one of the big challenge to examine how can achieve the inclusive multi-stakeholders' model initiative benefits to the community of blinds/disabled ,which need a concrete support and framework from various stakeholders both government, public and private sectors in terms of across borders collaboration. • Lesson Learned is all about using digital tool for everyone driving benefits to community ,which is not only bridge the gap between digital fasting convergence and the community of disabled, but also volunteers .
If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each Presentation	- An Initiate two pilots' system enabling the blinds to access the communication and information through the practical function to help them to see the world ; the first is"Read for the Blind" Mobile App ,Cloud-based Audiobook Creation for the Blinds and the second is "Help Us Read" Facebook Group ,an instant social supporting for the blinds to see. - This initiative innovation has been cooperated as a successful multi-stakeholders model in cooperation with private sectors and public sector (Thailand Association for the Blinds) and launching in Thailand community for 4 years engaged more than 120,000 voice's volunteers ,while aiming to expand more engagement and expanding Read for the Blind across borders. - Reducing achieve Workload at the Blind Library through the digital convergence and its eco system , bridging volunteers , Cloud Servers and the RFB App. which is significant hybrid system connecting with the people and community where need helps.

Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session: (3 paragraphs)	- It was addressed that the App. And its eco system are very interesting to be expanded to other countries where is lack of innovative tools supporting the blind people getting accessibility. Participants from Bhutan, Myanmar and Jordan have paid high attention to bring this best practice digital App. For their community impact and this should be engaged with public and private sector support. - Many discussion was raised whether this functional App. can be widely used outside Thailand and this was clarified that it basically applied world-wide ,but it need to modify them for each destination with its specific whole eco system. If any countries would like to bring this App. to be applied into your eco environment, it's great chance to collaborate closely for further development in the long run. - Be My Eyes , a digital innovation in American was also raised as one of good case study which should be learnt & shared for establish future standard App. And quality control achieve benefits to others across border. - Even it launched successfully in Thai version ,the participants raised that it should extend more inclusive languages in order to expanding Read for the Blind in different countries. - Dare to see how Thai government Agency like ETDA will be able to drive digital tools and to support this volunteers project creating the equal accessibility for the disabled in the long-term, which is an issue challenging the regional collaboration via various multi-stakeholders and sustainable efforts.
Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways: (3 paragraphs)	Bhutan and Myanmar are as pilot country to implement Read for the Blind Project for their communities through the official collaboration of government side and with the synergy of private and public sectors of both partnership countries. The key framework is to study its eco system and its infrastructure with the timeline of extended RFR across Thailand. Moreover, the budget and financial concerns will be supported from government sector and the private sector . RFR Team of Thailand shall work as a Key Consulting to draw the suitable eco system for the partnership countries, while the host-country can synergy its stakeholders to be engaged and make the project happen with concrete framework and possible agenda.