

ASIA PACIFIC CARRIERS' COALITION
(Incorporated in the Republic of Singapore)

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**APCC Announces Release of its
3rd APAC Access Price Benchmarking Study**

Singapore, 14. June 2010 – APCC has released its third report on Benchmarking of Local Loop Circuits (LLC) Access Pricing for the Asia Pacific region. This report, carried out by independent consultants, provides significant market information about the trends in local access pricing in 14 Asia-Pacific economies and is an update from the APCC's 2006 Report.

This 2009 report covers Ethernet access and DSL pricing comparisons, as well as that for leased lines. Leased lines remain the most widely used leased circuits across Asia-Pacific, although the demand for Ethernet services and for higher bitrates continues to increase.

With five notable exceptions (India, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan and Thailand) prices *in real terms* have fallen since 2006.

In relation to Ethernet services, Malaysia stands out as being consistently charging the highest or second highest prices for Ethernet access. Thailand has overall the second highest prices. Unlike 2006, Singapore is no longer the most expensive but is consistently more expensive than Hong Kong, the lowest priced, by a factor of at least two or three.

Simon Smith, President of APCC, commented "APCC welcomes all reductions in local access prices. Our members continue to experience challenges in obtaining competitive local access prices charges, which are often disproportionate to a charges for an end-to-end international service. Fair local access charges are a critical requirement for the creation of a truly competitive communications environment. We are disappointed to note that local access charges have risen since 2006, in real terms, in 5 countries. We particularly encourage regulators in these markets to review the details of this Report and take the necessary and appropriate regulatory action."

The detailed report is available on APCC's website.

<http://www.asiapacificcarriers.org/index.php?pageID=8>

The APCC is an industry association of global and regional telecommunications carriers operating in Asia Pacific, formed to work with governments, National Regulatory Authorities (NRA's) and consumers in promoting open market policies and best practice regulatory frameworks throughout the region that will support competition and encourage new and efficient investment in telecommunications markets.

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