ASIA-PACIFIC INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY

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The Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway is a member-driven initiative of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to improve regional broadband connectivity through a dense web of open access cross-border infrastructure.

Millions of people in Asia and the Pacific are shut out from transformative digital opportunities due to a lack of broadband connectivity. Intent on bridging these gaps, the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) promotes non-discriminatory access to ICT infrastructure for the ultimate purpose of increasing coverage, availability, reliability and affordability.

At its core is the creation of a seamless regional network of fibre optic cables to provide both intra-regional and intercontinental connectivity. This enhanced regional fibre network would:

- Drive international bandwidth prices down and improve affordability;
- Increase resilience by offering redundancy;
- Decrease latency across the region;
- Enhance the digital inclusion.

Dialogue among regional countries is already creating a conducive environment to identify missing cross-border connectivity and to understand enabling and prohibitive factors affecting the access.

The four pillars of AP-IS:

1) **Connectivity**: nurture effective physical network design, development, and management across the region through inter-governmental negotiation and by improving regulations based on open access.

2) **Traffic & Network Management**: nurture improvement of Internet traffic and network management at regional, sub-regional and national levels.

3) **E-resilience**: promote resilient ICT networks to support disaster management systems and ensure last mile disaster communication.

4) **Broadband for all**: bridge the digital divides by promoting affordable access to underserved areas and providing policy and technical support to governments.

Asia and the Pacific is the most digitally divided region in the world, with less than 8% of the population having affordable and reliable high-speed connection to the Internet