

First Session of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Steering Committee, 1-2 November 2017, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

DRAFT SUBMISSION OF REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
Broadband Priorities for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Master Plan
23-10-2017

Objective: This form is sent to the representative of each country in order to prioritise activities and better align broadband connectivity gaps with solutions. All country submissions will be consolidated as per AP-IS Pillar and subregion to develop an implementation plan for 2018 and will be presented by the Secretariat during the First Session of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) Steering Committee, 1-2 November 2017, Dhaka, Bangladesh. A similar template is sent to partners to identify their planned activities.

Please complete this form and submit to ESCAP (escap-ids@un.org) by **no later than 25 October 2017**.

(a). Background Information

(i). Government Ministry/Organization in charge of ICT connectivity: Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technologies of RA

(ii). National Broadband Policy: Digital Armenia

(iii). Completed/Current/planned fibre-optic broadband project:

Completed/Current: FTTH for capitol, medium size and small cities of RA – private investment, covering 79% of urban population.

Planned (regional) : FTTB/Ethernet for rural areas of RA – PPP (Armenian Operators and International Donor Financing), 10 regions of RA

Planned (subregional): Data Center Project - PPP

(b). Challenges and Opportunities on promoting broadband connectivity:

Within the scope of the AP-IS four pillars

- (1). Connectivity;
- (2). Internet Traffic & Network Management;
- (3). E-resilience; and
- (4). Broadband for all,

ESCAP member countries and partners outlined seven strategic initiatives in the AP-IS Master Plan (http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/pre-ods/CICTSTI1_2E_rev1.pdf) to be implemented between 2016-2018 (please refer to attached chart of AP-IS 4 Pillars and AP-IS Strategic Initiatives).

The AP-IS seven strategic initiatives are as follows:

1. Identification, coordination, deployment, expansion and integration of the regional backbone networks at the cross-border intra- and interregional levels, in collaboration with member countries and subregional organizations;
2. Establish a sufficient number of Internet exchange points at the national and subregional levels and set out common principles on Internet traffic exchange to prevent Internet traffic tromboning, decrease transit costs and improve service quality
3. Regional social and economic studies;
4. Enhancing ICT infrastructure resilience in the Asia-Pacific region;
5. Policy and regulations for leveraging existing infrastructure, technology and inclusive broadband initiatives;
6. Capacity-building; and
7. Asia-Pacific information superhighway project funding mechanism based on public-private partnerships

(c). AP-IS 7 Strategic Initiatives Implementation Plan 2016-2018: priority challenges and proposed activities

In order to match country's sub-region's and region's priorities within the scope of the AP-IS seven strategic initiatives, please complete the matrix below accordingly. Please add a row as deemed necessary.

Priority Challenges	Focus Area	AP-IS Strategic Initiatives (1-7)	AP-IS Pillars (1-4)	Remarks
Priority Challenges:	(i) National and subnational content development. (ii) Traffic Exchange and content management infrastructure. (iii) Transnational regulation, applicable on subnational level (iv) PPP model for financing of AP-IS	(i) National and subnational content development is categorised under Strategic Initiative 2. (ii) Traffic Exchange and content management infrastructure is categorised under Strategic Initiative 2. (iii) Transnational regulation, applicable of subnational level is	(i) National and subnational content development can be categorised as an issue under Pillar 2: Internet Traffic & Network. (ii) Traffic Exchange and content management infrastructure can be categorised as an issue under Pillar 2: Internet Traffic & Network Management.	(i) Depending on region national or regional content may close more than 60% of whole capacity needs. (ii) High efficiency and deep localisation of infrastructure. (iii) Common rules for national administrations while consolidating capacities under the

		<p>categorised under the Strategic Initiative 5.</p> <p>(iv) PPP model for financing of AP-IS is categorised under the Strategic Initiative 7.</p>	<p>(iii) Transnational regulation, applicable of subnational level can be categorised as an issue under Pillar 1: Connectivity.</p> <p>(iv) PPP model for financing of AP-IS can be categorised as an issue under Pillar 4: Broadband for All.</p>	<p>AP-IS project.</p> <p>(iv) Private sector is ready to co-finance initiatives in case of their corporate requirements for IRR/EBITDA/FCF will not be affected while executing long term projects.</p>
Opportunities	<p>(i) Digital transformation authorities to support creation of national and subnational content to be stored on national or subnational Data Center (DC) facilities. Create group of DC through the AP-IS/International Donor Institutions.</p> <p>(ii) Traffic Exchange and content management infrastructure (linked with (i)) [Smart and selective traffic management and content distribution network]</p> <p>(iii) Transnational regulation, applicable on subnational and subregional levels. National telecommunication administrations and other regulatory bodies.</p> <p>(iv) PPP model for financing AP-IS – consider mechanisms of facilitation of private investment on national and subregional level.</p>			
Proposed solutions/actions	<p>(i) Establish group of DC over the AP-IS and IXP in Armenia for enabling shortest route to EU through Iran-Armenia-Georgia-Sofia;</p> <p>(ii) Discover and approve mechanisms for preferential access to the existing terrestrial cable infrastructures in “intermediate” countries on behalf of AP-IS project implementation;</p> <p>(iii) Discover and introduce financing mechanisms for regional and national carriers if considering capacity upgrade on behalf of AP-IS.</p>			
<p>(d). Update to terrestrial/submarine fibre-optic cable projects: Based on the ESCAP/ITU interactive transmission map (access via link: http://www.unescap.org/our-work/ict-disaster-risk-reduction/asia-pacific-information-superhighway/asia-pacific-information-superhighway-maps), please check and list down if there is any recent fibre-optic cable project completed/planned for your country, which is not reflected in the interactive map. The input provided below will be used to update the interactive map accordingly.</p>				

(i) Not available for Armenia.

(e). Any other suggestions/issues:

(i) No other issues.