

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

**DRAFT SUBMISSION OF [ICIMOD]
PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES/STUDIES
[Sep 2017]**

Objective: This form is sent to the representative of each organization in order to prioritise activities and better align broadband connectivity gaps with solutions. All organization 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 ESCAP member countries 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). Organization: [International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Sushil Pandey]

(ii). Organization's Focus: [ICIMOD is a regional knowledge development and learning centre serving the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan – based in Kathmandu, Nepal. Globalization and climate change, including disasters, have an increasing influence on the stability of fragile mountain ecosystems and the livelihoods of mountain people. ICIMOD aims to assist mountain people to understand these changes, adapt to them, and make the most of new opportunities, while addressing upstream and downstream issues. ICIMOD supports regional transboundary programmes through partnerships with regional partner institutions, facilitates the exchange of experiences, and serves as a regional knowledge hub, including using modern information and communication technologies, remote sensing and geo-spatial solutions.]

(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 your organization’s current and planned activities with country’s/sub-region’s/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.

Activity/Project/Study	Description
Description of the Activity/Project/Study (existing or planned)	(i) [Regional flood information for informed decision making] – existing (ii) [Establishing community based flood early warning system (CBFEWS) - existing] (iii) [Forest fire detection and monitoring] – existing (iv) Building Socioeconomic and Ecological Resilience – planned
Link of the activity/project/study to the AP-IS Strategic Initiatives (1-7)	(i) [4] (ii) [4],[6] (iii) [4] (iv) [4]
Link of the activity/project/study to the AP-IS Pillars (1-4)	(i) [P4:E-reilience] (ii) [P4:E-reilience] (iii) [P4:E-reilience]

	(iv) [P4:E-reilience]/P3:[Broadband for all]
Beneficiary Organizations/Countries of the Activity/Project/Study	(i) [Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Bhutan – Government Line agencies viz., Hydrology/Meteorology departments] (ii) [Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal] Baghlan and Badagshan Jiadhal; Indus river basin; Jiadhal and Singora rivers, Assam; Ratu khola (iii) [Nepal and Bhutan in collaboration with Department of Forest] (iv) [regional 8 countries]
Outcome of the Activity/Project/Study for Beneficiaries	(i) [Setting up monitoring stations and establishment of regional real-time flood information systems] (ii) [Community resilience against floods through establishing ICT based early warning system] (iii) [Forest fire detection and monitoring using space technology and alerting through mobile] (iv) Enhanced resilience of women and men of the countries to socioeconomic and environmental changes, including climate change.
Timeframe of the activity/project/study	(i) [Till 2018] (ii) [Till 2018] (iii) [Till 2020] (iv) [Planned 2018-22]
(iv). Any other suggestions/issues:	
(i) [Linking content and common issues like climate change adaptation, building community e-resilience, disaster risk reduction would also aid support/justify/fund/establish broadband infrastructure in rural areas and beyond]	