



**Working Group on the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway
Second meeting**

Guangzhou, People's Republic of China

29-30 August 2016

REPORT

16 September 2016

Item 1: Opening of the Second Session of the Working Group of the Asia-Pacific information superhighway (AP-IS)

1. The representative of ESCAP welcomed the participants to the Second Working Group meeting of the AP-IS with the objective to collectively discuss how to promote inclusive and resilient broadband connectivity in Asia and the Pacific. Ms. Atsuko Okuda, Chief of Information and Communications Technology and Development Section of the Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction (IDD) of ESCAP thanked the co-host of the meeting, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China, for the generous support and warm hospitality received during the preparation for the meeting. In addition, she acknowledged the continued support from the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning of the Republic of Korea.
2. In delivering the welcoming remarks, Ms. Yonghong Zhao, Deputy Director General, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China welcomed the participants to the city of Guangzhou. She underlined the critical role of information and communications technology in socio-economic development of the region and the ministry's continued and expanded support towards AP-IS and wished participants fruitful deliberation.
3. Representing the government of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Sang-yirl Nam of the Korean Information Society Development Institute (KISDI), reiterated its long standing support to AP-IS since its inception and through the hosting of the first working group meeting in September 2015 in Incheon. The Republic of Korea continued to recognize AP-IS as one of the most important regional initiatives which would shape the future of the region. He further noted that the UN and the global community have set the Sustainable Development Goals and are currently seeking diverse methods to reach them. ICT has gained special attention as effective means of implementation, and ICT infrastructure is emerging as a crucial factor for achieving the SDGs. He believed that the AP-IS initiative was a very timely topic in this context. Despite achieving remarkable economic growth and social development, the Asia-Pacific region remained to have a significant digital divide. He further stated that it was hard to achieve continuous development in a knowledge and information-based society without access to information.
4. On behalf of the Chair of the First Meeting of the AP-IS, Mr. Zaad Raman Asif, Director in the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications in Pakistan delivered the report of the Chair and expressed appreciation to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China and the ESCAP secretariat for organizing the meeting with generous support.

5. The representative of Pakistan stated that the first meeting of the AP-IS Working Group meeting in September 2015 agreed to develop the AP-IS Master Plan and Regional Cooperation Framework which consist of the long-term vision, targeted goals, specific activities and milestones with regard to the four pillars: Strengthening regional broadband terrestrial back-bone network; establishing sufficient Internet Exchange Points (IXPs), harmonizing Internet traffic management systems and policies; enhancing transmission infrastructure resilience; and providing inclusive access to broadband internet for all. The first working group members also decided to establish a Steering Group to draft and review the Master Plan and regional cooperation framework for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway.
6. He added that according to the decision at the first working group meeting, the Steering Group drafted Master Plan and Regional Cooperation Framework, and subsequently tabled them in the current meeting. In addition, he noted that the first Working Group specifically decide to propose amendments to the “Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network” and the “Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network” to leverage existing regional connectivity opportunities and to achieve rapid, cost-effective deployment of terrestrial backbone network.
7. The representative of Pakistan invited the delegate of Bangladesh to share the progress in requesting for amendments to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network and Trans-Asian Railway Network. In response, the representative of Bangladesh thanked the Chair and expressed the support of his Government to the AP-IS initiative and the efforts made in submitting the above mentioned requests.

Item 2: Election of Bureau for the Working Group

8. The below Bureau composition was agreed upon by the participants. The representative of Viet Nam proposed Bangladesh for the Chair. The representative of Kyrgyzstan proposed the People’s Republic of China and the Philippines to be the Vice-Chairs respectively. The representative of Palau proposed Tonga to be the Rapporteur. The nomination for the new Bureau was adopted by the meeting.
9. The meeting was attended by ESCAP Working Group members, Steering Group members, ESCAP’s international and regional partners, private sectors and other institutions (refer to Annex 1 for Participant’s list).

Item 3: Organization of work and adoption of the agenda

10. The Chair opened the session by outlining the objective of the meeting which was to review and finalize the draft AP-IS Master Plan and Regional Cooperation Framework documents.

11. The Agenda (Annex 2) for the Meeting was adopted.

Item 4: State of ICT in Asia and the Pacific

12. The representative of ESCAP presented relevant findings from their recently released report titled “State of ICT in Asia and the Pacific 2016”, noting that the digital divide in Asia and the Pacific is indeed widening over time. She noted that the perceptions on the quality of regulations is strongly linked to broadband access and suggested that quality regulations imposed policy certainty for private investment in the ICT sector.

13. A representative of ESCAP, Mr. Siope Vakataki ‘Ofa, presented on ESCAP’s online platform titled “ICT and DRR Gateway”, which would benefit member countries through encouraging information sharing and news. Following the presentation, the representative of Tonga asked how could member countries sign up to this DRR online platform. In response, the representative of ESCAP replied that flyers have been distributed as printed hardcopies to each participant for ease of reference.

14. The representative from LIRNEasia emphasized the importance of wired infrastructure over wireless for long-term and more reliable connectivity, while reiterating the technology neutral nature of the AP-IS Master Plan.

15. As to the Internet traffic, the APNIC representative highlighted three factors which would affect the implementation of AP-IS, namely the future Internet traffic, IPv6 readiness of the region and cyber security.

16. The delegation of Pakistan expressed the need to consider wireless technology such as satellite communications, as well as wired technologies be included in the plan, as the terrain and circumstances should determine appropriate technology.

17. Several participants expressed interests in China's policies which were presented by Mr. Hui Chen of China Academy on Information and Communication Technology and were proven effective in expanding broadband connectivity in China. ESCAP was requested to compile the policies in collaboration with partners such as the World Bank. In response to the question on China's practice in peering and transit arrangement, Mr. Chen responded by saying that it is being studied at the moment.

18. Regarding the question on the Universal Service Obligations (USO) from the delegate of Cambodia, Mr. Chen informed the meeting participants that it was considered as operators responsibilities but now some funds are allocated for rural connectivity in the form of auction. The delegate of Nepal also asked about re- purposing USO for broadband and fiber rollout.
19. A number of questions were asked about UNESCOs initiative to connect schools, made by Ms. Jonghwi Park, Programme Specialist and Head of ICT in Education at UNESCO Bangkok as well as about the initiatives of the World Bank presented by Ms. Natasha Beschorner, Senior ICT Policy Specialist of the World Bank. One suggestion which came out of the discussion was if school connectivity can be monitored by ESCAP and UNESCO within the frame work of AP-IS. The delegate of Pakistan asked if corporate sponsored initiatives in education might be sustainable or not, which could be discussed in a larger context.
20. The LIRNEasia representative underlined the importance of co-deploying fiber optic cables along the power lines, while emphasizing the open access principle.

Item 5: The Work of the Steering Group

21. The work of the Steering Group was presented by Mr. Yeong Ro Lee of the National Information Society Agency (NIA) of the Republic of Korea.
22. The representative from the World Bank inquired about what has been done in promoting open access and regulatory reforms among the ESCAP member countries, given the importance of the topic. The secretariat clarified that the meeting aimed to confirm open access to be the critical principle in promoting regional broadband connectivity at the strategic level and if confirmed, concrete activities will be planned.
23. The delegate from Pakistan asked if aerial broadband should also be included in addition to the terrestrial cables, given some terrains and geographical predicaments. The Chair responded that the Master Plan does not determine technology to be used.
24. The delegate from Nepal, while confirming the importance of open access principle also echoed that the infrastructural synergies, such as co- deployment with power lines, should be taken into account.
25. The delegate from the Philippines underscored the importance of e- resilience and requested more attention to be paid in the selection of the strategic initiatives of AP-IS.

Item 6: Group Discussions

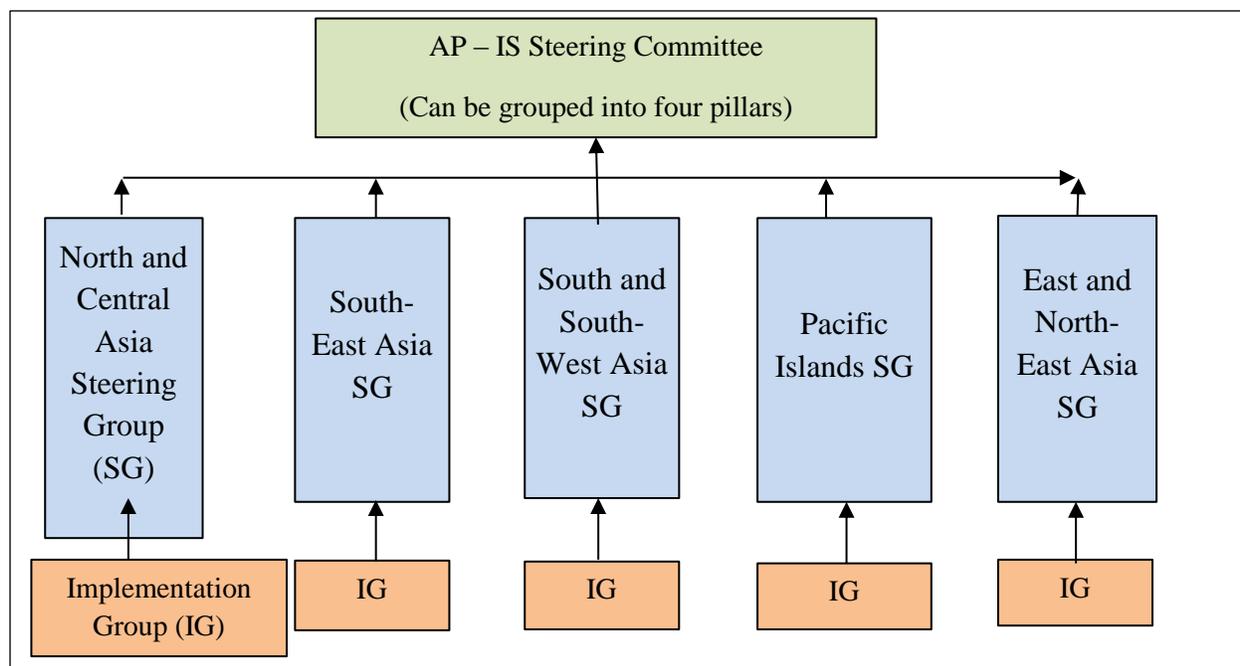
26. The Chair of the Working Group explained that Working Group will be divided into two parallel group discussions. One group would focus discussion on the ‘Governance structure’ of the AP-IS Master Plan, while the second group would focus on the ‘Strategic Initiatives and partnership/funding mechanisms’ of the AP-IS Master Plan.

Governance structure

27. The Working Group members agreed to set up an Asia Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) Steering Committee with the membership open to all ESCAP member countries and relevant partner institutions. This was proposed instead of the Advisory Board originally reflected in the draft Master Plan. It is also recognized that Steering Committee can be grouped along the four pillars of AP-IS, namely, Connectivity, Traffic Management, E-Resilience and Digital Divide.

28. The Working Group members discussed and agreed to set up Sub-regional Steering Groups according to the five ESCAP geographical sub-regions (North and Central-Asia, South-East Asia, South and South-East Asia, Pacific Islands, and East and North-East Asia), instead of specific organizations reflected in the draft Master Plan, to accommodate all member countries and organizations who have interests in certain sub-regions.

29. The Working Group members discussed and agreed to establish an Implementation Group under each Sub-regional Steering Group to carry out actual project implementation. The Working Group members agreed and proposed the following Governance structure:



30. The Working Group members also agreed that the ESCAP secretariat shall incorporate the explanatory paragraph of the Governance Structure and related paragraphs based on the above discussions.
31. The Working Group members agreed that the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the AP-IS Steering Committee should be similar to the current AP-IS Working Group with the member countries and partner institutions.
32. The Working Group members further agreed that the AP-IS Steering Committee meeting will be held once a year and a Bureau will be elected by the ESCAP member countries.
33. They agreed that the AP-IS Steering Committee's main role will be to monitor and review the implementation of the AP-IS Master Plan and Regional Cooperation Framework; and coordinate the sub-regional Steering Group and related issues. In addition, the members agreed that the Steering Committee could set up an Advisory Board if needed as a technical advisory body.
34. The Working Group members agreed that any ESCAP member countries who are interested in any sub-region could join that sub-regional Steering Group regardless of their geographical sub-regional affiliation. The focus and therefore agenda of such sub-region must however be confined to the interest of that particular sub-region.
35. The Working Group members agreed that the sub-regional Steering Groups set up Implementation Groups to carry out specific projects. The role and responsibility of the Sub-

regional Steering Group will focus on the coordination of the implementation of sub-regional projects and interests.

36. The Working Group members agreed that ESCAP secretariat shall draft the Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee and Sub-regional Steering Group based on the above comments and reflect them in the draft Master Plan and Regional Cooperation Framework Document.

Strategic Initiatives and funding mechanisms

37. The Vice-Chair (Philippines) welcomed participants and explained that the draft AP-IS Master Plan has seven proposed initiatives for the Working Group members to consider.
38. With regard to Initiative 1: “Identification, coordination, deployment, expansion and integration of the regional backbone networks at cross-border, intra- and inter-regional levels in collaboration with member countries and sub-regional organizations”, the representative of LIRNEasia stated that it could contribute to this Initiative.
39. The representative of Tonga stated that there was a need to note the economics of funding for infrastructure ICT needs from a Pacific perspective. The Secretariat clarified that there is an initiative on funding.
40. The representative of the World Bank reminded the meeting that ‘developing and plan for data centers’ may not be economically feasible in certain countries as some countries were adopting newer technologies including ‘cloud information sharing and other cheaper alternatives’.
41. With regards to Initiative 2 “Establishing a sufficient number of Internet exchange points at national and sub-regional levels and setting common principles on Internet traffic exchange to prevent Internet traffic tromboning to decrease the transit cost and improve service quality”, the representative of APNIC stated that his organization has an interest and APNIC would be contributing in this area to the AP-IS Master Plan initiative.
42. The representative of UNESCO stated that under Initiative 3 “Regional social and economic studies”, her organization could contribute to this area but noted that studies proposed under this context was too broad and is in need of further break-down to sub-sectors such as education. In response, the representative of ESCAP noted that ESCAP, ITU, and UNESCO could collaborate in this area of ICT connectivity for education.
43. The representative of Tonga proposed that there was a need to conduct need assessments of ICT development in ESCAP members, taking into account other relevant and affordable technological alternatives such as the ‘Pacific broadband satellite’ initiative for the Pacific islands.

44. The representative of Palau proposed the need to conduct capacity building on making productive use of broadband connectivity. In response, the representative of Bangladesh shared the experience of his country on the use of social media (Facebook) by Government ministries in customer service feedback.
45. With respect to Initiative 4 “Enhancing ICT infrastructure resilience in the Asia Pacific region”, the representative of LIRNEasia queried on the reason behind the specific focus on Central Asia with regards to ‘additional bandwidth’. The representative of ESCAP clarified that this proposal was based on a technical study conducted by ESCAP highlighting the need for these countries to enhance redundancy at times of disasters. It was agreed to rephrase the text as ‘Exploring to provide enhanced redundancy for landlocked Central Asian countries’. In addition, a new text highlighting the need to ‘...provide additional bandwidth in the times of disasters’ was agreed upon. The representatives of Nepal and NIA expressed general support to this proposal.
46. The representative of Palau proposed a new text (4.4) ‘Review critical infrastructure in the Pacific islands’ with a feasibility study on critical infrastructure in the Pacific islands in times of disasters with a specific focus on emergency satellite communications.
47. With regards to Initiative 5: “Policy and regulations for leveraging existing infrastructure, technology and inclusive broadband initiatives”, the representative of Tonga proposed a new text (5.4) ‘Cyber Security Preparedness’, in order to ‘support and review national ICT preparedness towards cyber security’. The representative of the World Bank stated that her organization is working closely with some ESCAP members in this area and therefore the World Bank and other international organizations could contribute to this AP-IS initiative. The Vice-Chair noted this statement and urged the World Bank representative to review the other initiatives of the AP-IS and suggest areas of which the World Bank could contribute to the AP-IS Master Plan.
48. The representative of APNIC proposed a new text (5.5) ‘IPV6 preparedness’ and stated that his organization is already working with several ESCAP member countries in this area and it will continue to do so under this specific initiative of the AP-IS.
49. With respect to Initiative 6 ‘Capacity Building’, the representative of UNESCO recalled the best-practices shared in the earlier session by the representative of the People’s Republic of China and suggested that the sharing of good practices and lessons learned needs to be developed and published as country case studies which could benefit other ESCAP member countries.
50. The representative of APNIC proposed a new text (6.2), ‘Technical training’ with the focus on conducting technical training in the establishment of ISP & cyber-security. He further noted that APNIC could contribute to the AP-IS Master Plan initiatives in this area.

51. The representative of the Philippines stated that the ‘capacity building’ referred to in this initiative is cross-cutting in nature on the AP-IS four pillars and Master Plan.
52. With respect to Initiative 7 ‘Asia-Pacific information superhighway Project funding mechanism based on Public Private Partnership (PPP)’, the representative of LIRNEasia highlighted the need for ESCAP members to recognize the common interests of all countries in funding for the AP-IS initiatives, which is fibre-optic connectivity. In light of this, he proposed to delete the text ‘Explore respective government funding options on exchange point construction and operations’, which some countries may prioritize, but not the whole ESCAP membership. He added that this measure could potentially weaken the case of all ESCAP members for funding under the AP-IS initiatives. The representative of Nepal supported this text proposal. The representative of Pakistan stated the need to consider ‘other technologies including satellite infrastructure’ in certain circumstances of which fibre-optic broadband connectivity may not be economically or physically feasible.
53. The representative of Iran emphasized the need for information sharing of current and new ICT projects funding and proposed new text “Information collection on existing ICT project funding mechanisms in Asia-Pacific”.
54. The representative of Nepal suggested that there could be an “AP-IS Consortium” which could look into these issues of funding mechanisms if ESCAP members are interested.
55. The Working Group members agreed that ESCAP secretariat shall incorporate into the draft AP-IS Master Plan Strategic Initiatives the above comments. The proposed new texts are reflected in the table below (red font – proposed texts):

Initiative 1: Identification, coordination, deployment, expansion and integration of the regional backbone networks at cross-border, intra- and inter-regional levels in collaboration with member countries and sub-regional organizations		
Areas of focus	Description	Responsible
Integrated regional backbone & interconnectivity <input type="checkbox"/> Terrestrial fibre network <input type="checkbox"/> Coherent mesh network	<input type="checkbox"/> Identify missing links <input type="checkbox"/> Design hybrid mesh and ring structure of resilient regional terrestrial backbone network <input type="checkbox"/> Plan center node establishment for low cost and reliable delivery of traffic	LIRNEasia
Operation models of trans-border terrestrial cables	<input type="checkbox"/> Study operating models and standards, and quality standards, etc. of trans-border terrestrial cable networks	

Domestic broadband infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> Examine domestic backbone network routes in less developed countries <input type="checkbox"/> Help develop broadband network development strategies in least developed countries <input type="checkbox"/> Develop and plan data centers, cloud information sharing and other affordable alternatives.	
-----------------------------------	---	--

Supporting-activities	Description	Responsible
1. Conduct detailed feasibility studies in some corridors, taking into account the special needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing states	<input type="checkbox"/> To determine traffic, revenue, and preliminary costs and affordability <input type="checkbox"/> To determine special needs and challenges for landlocked developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing states <input type="checkbox"/> To coordinate the infrastructure development planning with the member countries and private sectors among small island states	ESCAP, members countries, research institutes, think tanks, sub-regional organizations and financial institutions
2. Update Asia-Pacific information superhighway transmission maps	<input type="checkbox"/> Maximize cross-sectoral synergy or utilize existing roads and rail road infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/> Update the Asia-Pacific information superhighway transmission map	ESCAP, ITU and member countries
3. Rough order of magnitude	<input type="checkbox"/> Explore cost estimation in collaboration with suppliers where applicable.	ESCAP, private sector

Initiative 2: Establishing a sufficient number of Internet exchange points at national and sub-regional levels and setting common principles on Internet traffic exchange to prevent Internet traffic tromboning, to decrease the transit cost and improve service quality

Areas of Focus	Description	Responsible
Harmonized Internet traffic exchange & management <input type="checkbox"/> Enhance regional, sub-regional and national Internet exchange points <input type="checkbox"/> Remove entry barriers to the new ISPs and promote fair market competition	<input type="checkbox"/> Promote non-discriminatory direct bilateral peering/transit between neighbouring states' ISPs <input type="checkbox"/> Establish Intra/Inter-regional, neutral Internet exchange points <input type="checkbox"/> Establish national Internet exchange points for the domestic traffic to be exchanged inside the state	
Supporting Activities	Description	Responsible

1. Regional diagnostic study	<input type="checkbox"/> Conduct diagnostic study, analyze best-practices in Internet traffic exchange/management in the region	ESCAP, ITU, APT, member countries and private sectors, APNIC
2.2 In-depth study on traffic production volume	<input type="checkbox"/> Carry out studies on traffic volume, destination and distribution, routing and distance including overall Internet service quality both national and regional levels	ESCAP in consultation with private sector and member countries, APNIC
2.3 Internet exchange point system & operation model	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommend set up of Internet exchange points, including operating principle and governance model	ESCAP, research institutes and private sector, APNIC
4. Rough order of magnitude	<input type="checkbox"/> Estimating cost in collaboration with device vendors or partner entities	ESCAP in consultations with the private sector.

Initiative 3: Regional social and economic studies

Areas of Focus	Description	Responsible
1. Analysis of the economic and social impacts of future and near-future ICT trends	<input type="checkbox"/> Review technological advancements and discern their impacts on economy and society for the inclusive development of ICT that allows policymakers to make informed decisions <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct needs assessment of ICT development in ESCAP countries , taking into account the special needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing states. <input type="checkbox"/> To conduct capacity building on making productive use of broadband connectivity.	ESCAP, private sector, other UN agencies and financial institutions, UNESCO

Initiative 4: Enhancing ICT infrastructure resilience in the Asia - Pacific region

Areas of Focus	Description	Responsible
1. Terrestrial fibre links to international connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/> Explore ways to strengthen e-resilience in fibre link to Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Explore ways for enhanced redundancy in Landlocked Central Asian countries <input type="checkbox"/> Exploring to provide additional bandwidth in the times of disasters	ESCAP, member countries, private sector and financial institutions

2. Diversified routes including co-deployment of fibre optic cables embedded on the Asian Highway and the Trans-Asian Railway	<input type="checkbox"/> Explore fibre optic route diversification capitalizing on the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian railway infrastructure	ESCAP and member countries
3. Protecting critical infrastructure with disaster risk reduction	<input type="checkbox"/> Integrate approach to plan infrastructure development, including infrastructure landing station in incorporating disaster management from design stage	ESCAP, research institutes, UN agencies and private sectors
4. Review critical infrastructure in the Pacific islands	<input type="checkbox"/> Review Pacific islands critical infrastructure with regards to emergency communications and satellite communications in times of disasters.	

Initiative 5: Policy and regulations for leveraging existing infrastructure, technology and inclusive broadband initiatives

Areas of Focus	Description	Responsible
1. Submarine cable backhaul & cross-border affordability and infrastructure sharing	<input type="checkbox"/> Develop cross-border infrastructure sharing policy based on the above studies, consultations and partnerships	Member countries and sub-regional organizations
2. Local/National government networks accessibility to Internet exchange point and peering/transit at Internet exchange point	<input type="checkbox"/> Develop policy on infrastructure sharing, accessibility to Internet exchange point	Member countries and sub-regional organizations
3. National ICT policy and regulatory frameworks	<input type="checkbox"/> Update national policies and regulations to enable the infrastructure development and inclusive broadband <input type="checkbox"/> Enable policies that lead to open access, non-discriminatory pricings, competition and innovations. <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory reforms pertaining to telecom, taxes & customs duties	ESCAP, other UN agencies, sub-regional organizations and member countries
4. Cyber Security Preparedness	<input type="checkbox"/> Support and review national ICT preparedness towards cyber security	APNIC, WB and other international organizations
5. Introduction of IPV6	<input type="checkbox"/> Support IPV6 preparedness	APNIC

Initiative 6: Capacity Building

Areas of Focus	Description	Responsible
----------------	-------------	-------------

6.1 Institutional and individual capacity building	<input type="checkbox"/> Capacity building, sharing of good practices and lessons learned in regional level pertaining to network traffic management and monitoring, deploying of fibre terrestrial/submarine.	ESCAP, all member countries, research institutes, private sector, UNESCO and other UN agencies.
6.2 Technical training	<input type="checkbox"/> Conduct technical training on establishment of ISP & security training	APNIC
Initiative 7: Asia-Pacific information superhighway Project funding mechanism based on Public Private Partnership (PPP)		
Areas of Focus	Description	Responsible
7.1 Formulation of Asia-Pacific information superhighway funding platform	<input type="checkbox"/> Explore and formulate mechanism to fund Asia-Pacific information superhighway project in partnership with WB, ADB, AIIB and other financial institutions <input type="checkbox"/> Explore public funding arrangements and public-private partnerships (PPP), special purpose vehicle (SPV) for the promotion of infrastructure development. <input type="checkbox"/> Information collection information on ICT project funding mechanisms in Asia-Pacific.	ESCAP, UN agencies, sub-regional organizations, private sectors, financial institutions and member countries
Note: ADB: Asian Development Bank, AIIB: Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, AP-IS: Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway, ESCAP: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, IXP: Internet Exchange Point, WB: World Bank		

Item 7: Outcome and way forward for the AP-IS Master Plan

56. The representative of ESCAP explained the next key step after the Working Group meeting with regards to the draft AP-IS draft Master Plan and Regional Cooperation Framework Document. She explained that the ESCAP secretariat will incorporate all the comments into the two respective drafts following the meeting. A report will be circulated reflecting the changes to be made. The ESCAP secretariat will revise the two draft documents in light of the suggestions and submit to the first meeting of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovations 5-7 October 2016.
57. The representative of ESCAP moved on to explain that if the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovations endorses the AP-IS Master Plan and Regional Cooperation Framework Document, the two documents will be the basis of an AP-IS resolution at the ESCAP Commission in 2017.

Item 8: Recommendations to the first meeting of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation

58. The Chair of the Working Group opened the session by thanking all the members of the Working Group and other partners for the constructive suggestions towards the two documents. The Chair further noted the Working Group's collective appreciation and support towards the draft AP-IS Master Plan and Regional Cooperation Framework Document.
59. The ESCAP secretariat also updated the meeting participants on the scope and structure of the upcoming CICTSTI meeting in October and how these two documents will be presented as well as expected outcome of the meeting.

Item 9: Closing

60. The representative of ESCAP thanked the members of the Working Group and partners for the fruitful discussion, inputs and support towards the draft AP-IS Master Plan and Regional Cooperation Framework Document. She assured Working Groups members that ESCAP will continue to engage members for their inputs and views towards promoting regional broadband connectivity through the AP-IS. She extended sincere thanks to the host, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China, for the effective facilitation and smooth preparation for arranging the meeting. Further, she also thanked the Republic of Korea for the continued support towards ESCAP's work on AP-IS.
61. The representative of the People's Republic of China began by thanking all participants for their contribution and making the meeting a success. He stated that he was pleased on the outcome of the meeting and that he looked forward to the next step of making the AP-IS a reality.
62. The Chair of the Working Group expressed sincere thanks to the members of the Working Group and other partners for the constructive suggestions towards the two documents and declared the meeting closed.



**Working Group on the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway
Second meeting
Guangzhou, People Republic of China
29-30 August 2016**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBER STATES

BANGLADESH

Mr. Banamali Bhowmick, Director General, Department of ICT, ICT Division, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications & Information Technology

Mr. Kabir Ahamed, Economic Counsellor, Bangladesh Embassy, Bangkok, Thailand

CAMBODIA

H.E. Mr. Meas Po, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications

Mr. Tol Gnak, Director General, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications

CHINA

Ms. Yonghong Zhao, Deputy Director-General of Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT)

Mr. Guolei Cai, Deputy Director of Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology

Mr. Hua Tu, Deputy Director of Bureau of ICT Administration, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology

Mr. Hui Chen, Deputy Director of Planning and Designing Research Institute, China Academy of Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Rongze Ding, Senior Engineer, China Academy of Information and Communications Technology

Ms. Jingli Wang, Senior Engineer, China Academy of Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Yuntao Wang, Engineer, China Academy of Information and Communications Technology

Ms. Jing Chu, Engineer, China Academy of Information and Communications Technology

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

Ms. Khadijeh Abdipour, Head of Studying & Research Department, The Ministry of ICT, Telecommunication Infrastructure Company (TIC)

JAPAN

Mr. Makoto Fujiwara, Deputy Director, International Cooperation Division, Global ICT Strategy Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Mr. Yuichiro Miyake, Official, International Cooperation Division, Global ICT Strategy Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

KYRGYZSTAN

Mr. Almaz Bakenov, Director, National Information Technology Center

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Mr. Souliya Sengdalavong, Deputy Director General, Information Technology Department, Ministry of Science and Technology

MONGOLIA

Mr. Odkhuu Tsolmondelger, Officer of Communications and Postal Development,
Communications and Information Technology Authority

NEPAL

Mr. Manohar K. Bhattarai, Senior Advisor, Computer Association of Nepal

PAKISTAN

Mr. Saad Zaman Asif, Director (Telecom – Wireless), Ministry of Information Technology &
Telecommunication

PALAU

Ms. Johvanna Bertha Yaoch, Board Member, Belau Submarine Cable Corporation

PHILIPPINES

Mr. George Tardio, Chief, National ICT Planning Division, Department of Information and
Communications Technology

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Mr. Sang-yirl Nam, Research fellow, Korea Information Society Development Institute (KISDI)

TONGA

Mr. Anitelu Toimoana, Director of Information, Ministry of Information & Communications

THAILAND

Mr. Chalernpol Charnsripinyo, Senior Specialist, Digital Economy Preparatory Commission
Secretariat, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology

VIET NAM

Mr. Le Thai Hong, Principal Official, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Information and Communication

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

The World Bank

Ms. Natasha Beschorner
Senior Information & Communication
Technologies Policy Specialist
Singapore

UNESCO

Ms. Jonghwi Park
Programme Specialist, Head of ICT in
Education
Bangkok, Thailand

OTHER ENTITIES

University of the South Pacific

Mr. Kisione Finau,
Director
Information and Technology Division
Suva, Fiji

Asia Pacific Network Information
Centre (APNIC)

Mr. Duncan Macintosh
Development Director
Brisbane, Australia

Japan Telecommunication Engineering
and Consulting Service (JTEC)

Mr. Fuse Makoto
Senior Consultant
Tokyo, Japan

LIRNEasia

Mr. Abu Saeed Khan
Senior Policy Fellow
Dhaka, Bangladesh

National Information Society Agency
(NIA)

Mr. Yeong Ro Lee
Research Fellow/Special Advisor, Multilateral
Cooperation Division
Seoul, Republic of Korea

CHINESE OTHER ENTITIES

China Telecom Global

Mr. Ziyu Dong
Vice President

Mr. Xinyu Liu
Strategic Program Manager

Mr. Chi Zhang
Vice President

China Mobile International Limited
(CMI)

Ms. Jian Gu
CTO

Mr. Xuan Chen
Network Planning Manager

China Unicom Global

Mr. Chen Zhao
Senior Manager

Wuhan FiberHome International
Technologies Co., Ltd

Mr. Yang Huazhuan
Business Development Manager

Mr. Xinxiang Zhang
Financing Manager

Datang Telecom International

Mr. Guohong Zhao
Deputy General Manager

China Potevio

Mr. Wenyu Su
General Manager of International Business

Beijing Yudong Technology

Mr. Minggang Zhao
Product Manager

China Communication Service Co., Ltd

Mr. Linghua Kong
Director of Asia-Pacific Market

China Comservice International

Mr. Zhenghao Dong
Technical Expert

Mr. Yong Zhang
Technical Expert

SECRETARIAT

United Nations Economic and Social
Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Ms. Atsuko Okuda
Chief
ICT and Development Section
ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division

Mr. Dongjung Lee
Expert on ICT
ICT and Development Section
ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division

Mr. Siope Vakataki 'Ofa
Economic Affairs Officer
ICT and Development Section
ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division

Annex 2

The Second Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) Working Group

AGENDA

29 August 2016

8.30 – 9.00	Registration
9.00-9.45	<p>Item 1: Opening of the Second Session of the Working Group on the Asia-Pacific information superhighway</p> <p>Introductory remarks by Ms. Atsuko Okuda, Chief, ICT and Development Section, Information, Communications and Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Welcome remarks by Ms. Yonghong Zhao, Deputy Director-General, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (People’s Republic of China)- Congratulatory remarks by Mr. Sukjoon Son, Director, Internet Convergence Policy Bureau, Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning (Republic of Korea)- Remarks of the Chair of the first meeting of the Working Group on Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway, Mr. Saad Zaman Asif, Director, Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication (Pakistan)
09.45 -10.00	<p>Item 2: Election of Bureau for the Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Introductory remarks by ESCAP secretariat- Election of the Working Group Chair, Vice-Chair and Rapporteur- Introduction by the elected Chairperson

10.00-10.15	<p>Item 3: Organization of work and adoption of the agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of the agenda items - Any other agenda - Adoption of the agenda
10.15 – 10.30	Coffee break and photo session
10.30 – 12.00	<p>Item 4: State of ICT in Asia and the Pacific</p> <p>Moderator : Chairperson of Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation by Ms. Atsuko Okuda and Mr. Siope Vakataki Ofa, ICT and Development Section, Information, Communications and Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP (15 mn) - Presentation on China’s broadband development by Mr. Hui Chen, Deputy Director, China Academy of ICT (15 mn) - Remarks on ICT connectivity and applications by Ms. Natasha Beschorner, Senior ICT Policy Specialist, World Bank, and Ms. Jonghwi Park, Programme Specialist, Head of ICT in Education, UNESCO (20 mn) - Q&A
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch
13.00 – 15.00	<p>Item 5: The Work of the Steering Group</p> <p>Moderator : Chairperson of Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation on the Steering Group Overview by the Steering Group leader, Mr. Yeong Ro Lee (15 mn) - Presentation on the Master Plan (30 mn) - Presentation on the Regional Cooperation Framework Document (15 mn) <p>Open discussions (60 mn)</p>
15.00 – 15.15	Coffee break
15.15 - 16.00	Item 5 (Continued): The Work of Steering Group
18:00-20:00	Welcome Dinner hosted by MIIT

30 August 2016

09:00 – 10.45	<p>Item 6: Group Discussions</p> <p>Moderator : Vice Chairperson of the Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Group 1) will discuss the governance structure and advisory board, moderated by Vice Chair- Group 2) will discuss the strategic initiatives and financing and partnerships, moderated by Vice Chair
10.45 – 11.00	<p>Coffee break</p>
11.00 – 12.30	<p>Item 6 (Continued) – Group Discussions</p> <p>Moderator: Chairperson of the Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Plenary session- Open discussion on salient points and consistency of the Master Plan
12.30 – 13.30	<p>Lunch break</p>
13.30 - 15.00	<p>Item 7: Outcome and way forward for the AP-IS masterplan</p> <p>Moderator: Chairperson of the Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Summary of the discussion and recommendations by Rapporteur (20 mn)- Organization of the third session of the Working Group (Advisory Board)
15.00 – 15.15	<p>Coffee break</p>

15.15 – 16.30	<p>Item 8: Recommendations for ICT and STI Committee meeting</p> <p>Moderator : Chairperson of the Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Introduction by ESCAP (10 mn)- Open discussion (15 mn)
16.30 - 17.00	<p>Item 9: Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Chairperson of the Working Group- ESCAP