APCICT
Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development
ESCAP

Digital Transformation Framework & Initiatives in APAC Region

Tanatat Puttasuwan, Ph.D.
Digital Development & Transformation, APCICT

17 July, 2025
Bangkok, Thailand

The Context







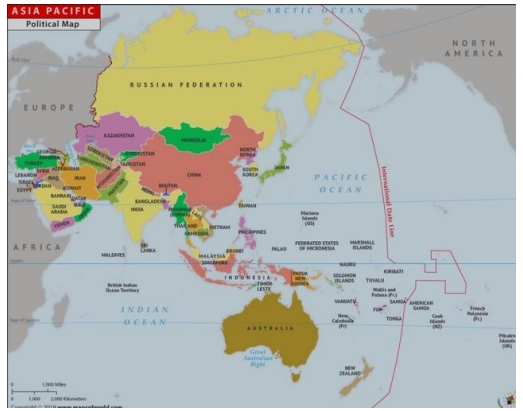
- **Digital Economy Development & Transformation:**

  "no longer an option, it is an imperative, a game changer"

- **Digital Transformation Framework & Priorities**
- **Strategies, Opportunities & Challenges**
- **Initiatives & Innovations**
- **APCICT**

The Significance





- APAC: Digital Economy is growing 6% per year, US$ 6 trill by 2030
- ASEAN: expects to reach US$ 2 trill in 2030
- “Digital Economy and Transformation Vision” to achieve sustainable economic and social growth, to be driven by technologies and innovations
- Development & transformation at different pace - comparative advantage, enabling environment, transformation strategies, and digital readiness
- Increasing regional & sub-regional cooperations

Global/Regions	2019	2021	2023	2027*
Global	9.0%	15.5%	20.0%	**>25.0%**
APAC	1.4%	2.1%	5.0%	**>9.9%**
ASEAN	5.4%	10.3%	44.0%	**>57.0%**
Indonesia	7.0%	10.0%	12.0%	>16.0%
Singapore	13.0%	17.0%	18.5%	>25.0%
Thailand	9.0%	11.0%	13.0%	>20.0%
Viet Nam	10.0%	12.5%	14.0%	>20.0%
China	36.0%	39.0%	44.0%	>55.0%
South Asia	3.0%	9.0%	13.0%	**>18.0%**
Bangladesh	1.0%	1.5%	2.0%	>5.0%
Bhutan	2.0%	2.0%	5.0%	>7.0%
India	4.0%	7.0%	10.0%	>19.0%
Central Asia	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kazakhstan	2.3%	3.4%	5.9%	>9.0%
Uzbekistan	1.7%	2.0%	3.9%	>8.0%
Pacific Islands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Solomon Islands	1%	1.8%	2.9%	3.5%

How to achieve these targets?

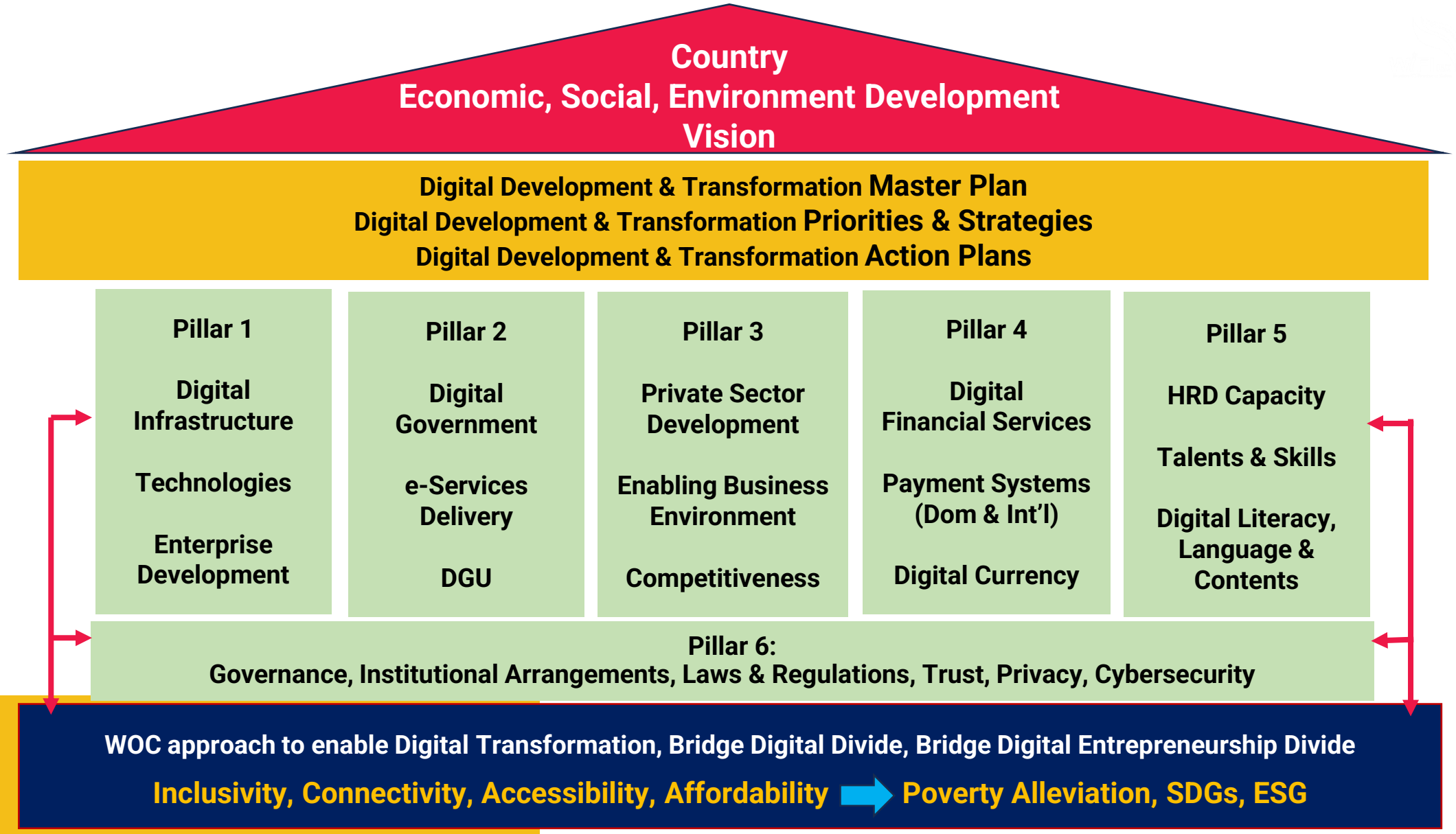
- **Digital Economy in APAC is among the fastest growing in the world.**
- **ASEAN rapid increase in contribution of Digital Economy to GDP ⬆**

2023-2024
Estonia (18%), Lithuania (12.4%), Russia (3.9%), UK (12%), U.S. (11%), S. Korea (10%)

APAC:
Avg 1% increase in digital economy activities = 1.18% increase GDP

Sources: Statista (2024), ITU (2024), World Bank Digital Progress and Trend Report (2024), Google, Temasek, Bain & Co. (2023), Asian Development Bank (2023), Puttasuwan (2024)

Development Framework: Digital Economy Transformation



Source: Puttasuwan (2023)

- High performance digital infrastructure (accessibility, affordability, inclusivity)
- Digital financial services & payments
- Digital Government "enables & support" digital transformation (NDI)
- Digital "literacy, skills & competency" for different stakeholders
- Private sector-led, build the "SheConomy"
- Digital "development funds" support innovations, start-ups, skills
- Build knowledge-driven society & partnerships, trust privacy, security



The Strategy

Opportunities & Challenges

APAC: multi-sectoral initiatives

- **Trade Facilitation, Cross-border Trade** (Trade Single Window System)
- **Poverty Alleviation** (e.g. AI database - target marginalized groups)
- **e-Agriculture** (iFarming, Smart Farmers, Drones – increase productivity, lower cost)
- **e-Transport & Energy** (Toll Roads, Smart Cities/Community, EV, alternative energy)
- **e-Health** (COVID-19, Vaccination, Telemedicine, iHealth, e-Diagnostics)
- **e-Education** (e-Learning Classroom, Teachers Training)
- **Climate Resiliency** (GHG, water supplies management, blue and green issues)
- **ASEAN & BIMSTEC Initiatives International Payment System**

Initiatives

Agriculture







Transport



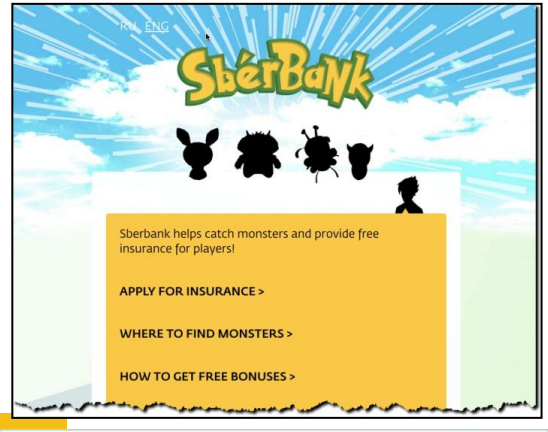




Education

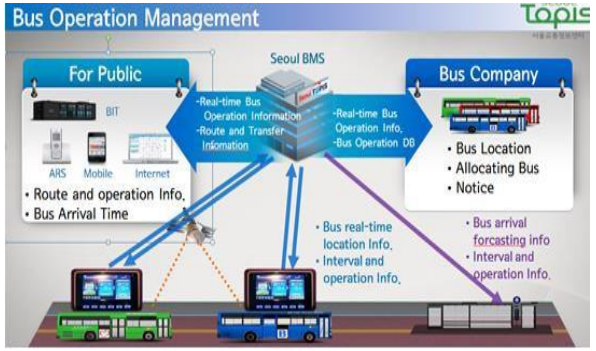


DFS & FinTech





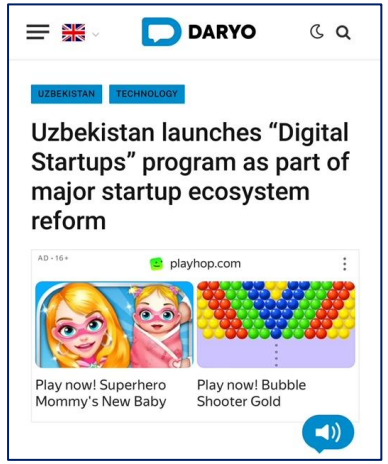
Public Service



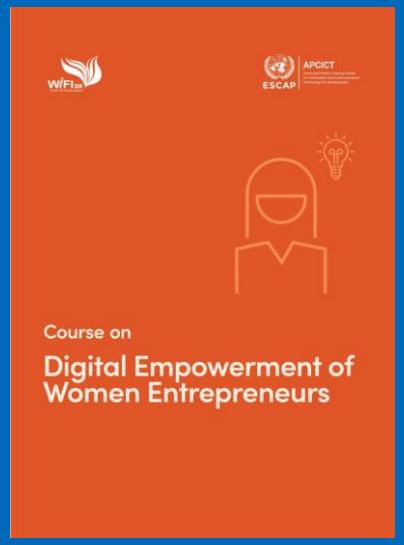


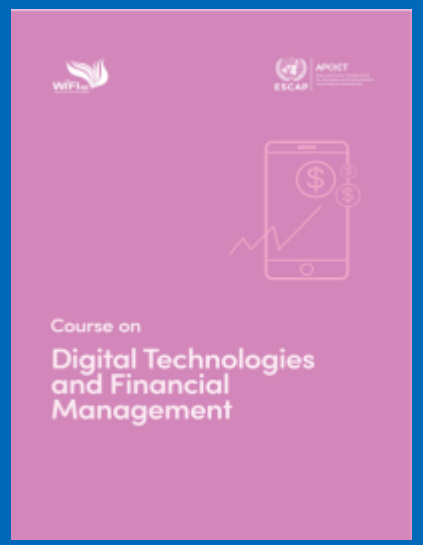




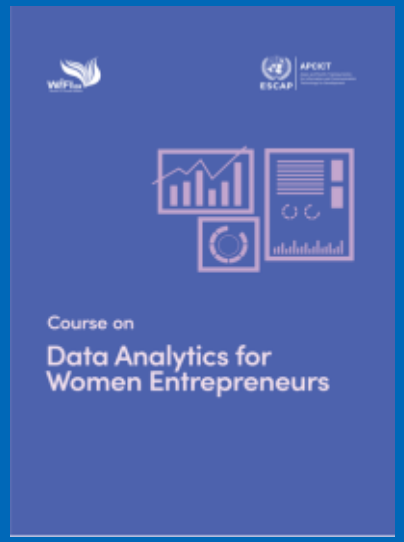








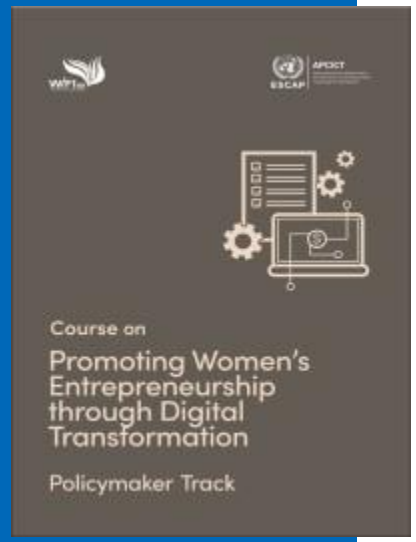






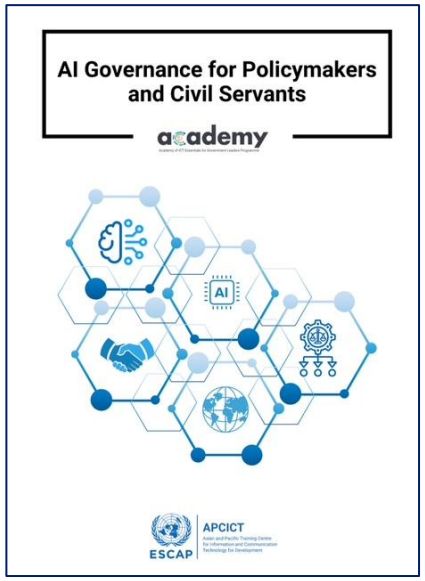


Women Entrepreneurs Track



Policymakers Track





APCICT Website
www.unapcict.org

Thank you

Follow us:

apcict

unapcict.org

Tanatat Puttasuwan
Tanatat1@gmail.com
+66-62-293-9826

APCICT
Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development
ESCAP