Embassy of the Republic of Korea

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

Forum on Advancing Digital Transformation through Public Sector Innovation in the South-East Asia Region

17 July 2025 (Bangkok, Thailand)

There is an increasing demand for the digitalization of public administration, driven by rapid advancements in technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), big data, and cloud technologies. Digital government is recognized as a key enabler of administrative efficiency and enhanced public service delivery, underscoring the need for continuous innovation in the public sector. Despite this momentum, significant disparities remain in the development of digital governments across ASEAN countries. Fragmented administrative systems and limited cross-border integration continue to hinder regional cooperation. These challenges highlight the urgent need to strengthen connectivity through interoperable digital government systems, effective data sharing, and deeper institutional collaboration.

In this context, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea to Thailand and the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for ICT for Development (APCICT/ESCAP) are co-organizing a forum on the theme: "Advancing Digital Transformation through Public Sector Innovation" to be held on 17 July 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand.

This forum seeks to leverage Korea's experience in digital governance and promote partnerships that support ASEAN's digital transformation journey. Through the collaboration with APCICT/ESCAP, the forum will examine the current landscape and future direction of digital transformation in the Republic of Korea and member states in the South-East Asia region. It will bring together policymakers, experts, and practitioners for knowledge sharing, discussions, and presentations focusing especially on the role of public sector innovation and the transformative potential of AI in public service delivery.

OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen collaboration between the Republic of Korea and ASEAN countries in building more inclusive, efficient, and interoperable digital government systems.
- Promote knowledge sharing and regional collaboration on digital government innovations among member states in the South-East Asia region.
- Explore the role of emerging technologies such as AI in enhancing public sector efficiency and service delivery.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Enhanced mutual understanding of digital government strategies, innovations, and best practices across the Republic of Korea and ASEAN countries in Asia and the Pacific region.
- Identified opportunities for collaboration on interoperable digital government systems, data sharing, and the responsible use of emerging technologies such as AI.
- Strengthened partnership and policy insights to support future joint initiatives aimed at accelerating inclusive digital transformation in the region.

TARGET PARTICIPANTS

Representatives from ESCAP member States, International Organizations, Universities, Research Institutes, Digital Innovation Agencies, and relevant interested parties.

VENUE

The event will be held at the Carlton Hotel Bangkok Sukhumvit, Thailand.

Draft PROGRAMME

17 July 2025
Carlton Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

Time (Bangkok time)	Description
09:00 – 09:30	**Registration**
09:30 – 09:45	**Opening Ceremony** • **H.E. Park Yongmin,** Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Korea to Thailand • **Ms. Lin Yang**, Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme, ESCAP • **Mr. Danucha Pichayanan,** Secretary-General, NESDC, Thailand **Group photo**
09:45 – 10:45	**Session 1: Country presentations on Digital Government Transformation in Asia and the Pacific region** (Moderator: **Mr. Kiyoung Ko**, Director, APCICT/ESCAP) • Brunei – **Mr. Nizam Othman**, Assistant Chief Executive, Data Protection Office and International, Authority of Info-communications and Industry of Brunei Darussalam • Indonesia – **Mr. Yudho Giri Sucahyo,** Professor of Computer Science, Universitas Indonesia • Lao PDR – **Ms. Vannapha Phommathansy,** Deputy Director General, Digital Government Center • Republic of Korea – **Mr. Yoon-seok Ko**, Vice President, National Information Society Agency • Thailand - **Mr. Jakkanit Kannanurak**, Vice President, Digital Manpower, Development and Promotion Department Each country will give about 10-minute presentation on digital innovation in the public sector, with a brief Q&A session following each presentation.
10:45 – 11:00	**Coffee break**

11:00 – 12:00	**Session 2: The Way Forward with AI in Public Innovation** (Moderator**: Mr. Timothy Tay Huey En** (resource person, APCICT/ESCAP)) **Presentation on AI in public innovation** by Mr. Timothy Tay Huey En **Panelists:** • ASEAN Secretariat – **Mr. Alvin Ernesto Lusikooy**, Officer, External Economic Relations Division • Indonesia – **Mr. Yudho Giri Sucahyo,** Professor of Computer Science, Universitas Indonesia • Lao PDR – **Ms. Vannapha Phommathansy,** Deputy Director General, Digital Government Center • Republic of Korea – **Mr. Yoon-seok Ko**, Vice President, National Information Society Agency • Thailand - **Mr. Jakkanit Kannanurak**, Vice President, Digital Manpower, Development and Promotion Department The panel explores how AI can be effectively utilized to enhance public service delivery, strengthen governance, and support data-driven decision-making processes. Panel discussion may include topics such as - Strategic Role of AI in Public Sector Transformation - Data Governance and Infrastructure for AI - Capacity Building and Human-Centered AI - Role of public-private partnerships in accelerating adoption and scaling AI solutions - Regional Cooperation and so on
12:00 - 13:30	**Lunch**