Concept Note (Draft)

Bangladesh
The 2nd National Workshop on
Digital and Transport Connectivity for the Socioeconomic Resilience of Rural Communities

15-16 January 2025, Dhaka, Bangladesh

1. Background:

With the objective to improve rural digital and transport connectivity for socio-economic resilience, ESCAP launched the "Digital and transport connectivity for the socioeconomic resilience of rural communities during the post-COVID-19 period in Asia-Pacific countries" project in 2022. The project aims to enhance the capacity of government officials in Bangladesh, Lao PDR, and Samoa to develop innovative strategies in response. As part of the project, a 2-day national workshop was held in 2023. The workshop featured presentations by national consultants and experts from the ICT and transport sectors to outline the current connectivity status. It also included a roundtable discussion to discuss potential actionable strategies to improve digital and transport connectivity in Bangladesh.

In 2025, a follow-up 2-day national workshop will be organized, bringing together relevant stakeholders to review the proposed actionable strategies prepared by national consultants, share good local and regional practices, as well as identify and prioritize possible actionable strategies for implementation.

2. Objectives:

- To share findings of national research and draft actionable strategies report on promoting digital and transport connectivity.
- To promote good practices on improving rural digital and transport connectivity among relevant stakeholders in Bangladesh and the Asia-Pacific region.
- To discuss how to implement innovative actionable strategies aimed at improving rural digital and transport connectivity for socio-economic resilience.

3. **Organizers**
   - The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
   - The Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology
   - The Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives (LGRDC) and the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED)

4. **Participants:**
   - Representatives of the Government of Bangladesh
   - Relevant experts and stakeholders from Bangladesh

5. **Date and venue:**
   - Date and time: 15-16 January 2025 (UTC +6 Dhaka Time)
   - In person event
   - Venue: Amari hotel

Tentative Programme

Bangladesh
The 2nd National Workshop on
Digital and Transport Connectivity for the Socioeconomic Resilience of Rural Communities
Dhaka, Bangladesh

15 January 2025, 9:30 am-4:15 pm (UTC +6 Dhaka Time)
16 January 2025, 9:30 am-12:00 pm (UTC +6 Dhaka Time)

Day 1, 15 January 2025

Time	Sessions
09:00 - 09:30	Registration
09:30 - 09:35	Morning Devotion
09:35 - 10:10	**Session 1: Opening Remarks** • Bangladesh UNRC representative (7 mins) • Representative from ICT division (7 mins) • Representative from LGRDC (7 mins) • Participants self-introduction
10:10 - 10:30	Photo Session and Coffee Break
10:30 - 12:00	**Session 2: Presentation of Draft Strategies** • IDD officer briefing (15 mins) ✓ **Ms. Chaoyi Hu**, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, IDD, ESCAP • TD officer briefing (15 mins) ✓ **Mr. Ishtiaque Ahmed**, PhD, Economic Affairs Officer, TD, ESCAP • Presentation 1: Actionable Strategies Report on promoting ICT connectivity (20 mins) ✓ **Dr. Sakib Bin Amin** • Presentation 2: Actionable Strategies Report on promoting transport connectivity (20 mins) ✓ **Mr. P. K. Choudhury** • Q&A

	• Discussions
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 14:40	**Session 3: Good Practices to Promote Rural ICT and Transport Connectivity in Bangladesh** Invited officers/stakeholders to share presentations. • Speaker 1 from ICT sector (15 mins) • Speaker 2 from ICT sector (15 mins) • Speaker 3 from ICT sector (15 mins) • Q&A
14:40 - 15:00	Coffee Break
15:00 - 16:10	**Session 4: Good Practices to promote Rural ICT and Transport Connectivity in Bangladesh** Invited officers/stakeholders to share presentations. • Speaker 1 from transport sector (15 mins) • Speaker 2 from transport sector (15 mins) • Speaker 3 from transport sector (15 mins) • Q&A
16:10 - 16:15	**Session 5: Wrap-up of the 1st day meeting**

Day 2, 16 January 2025

Time	Sessions
09:30 - 09:40	**Session 6: Day 1 Summary** IDD officer and/or TD officer provide a summary of Day 1.
09:40 - 10:30	**Session 7: Discussion on Actionable Strategies** Representatives from the key Ministries will be invited to facilitate the session. Participants will be divided into two groups by sector (ICT and Transport) to review the actionable strategies presented on Day 1. Each group will discuss, identify, and prioritize possible actionable strategies for implementation. Participants will also consider the good practices presented in previous sessions to develop a realistic plan and explore potential collaboration across sectors. A rapporteur from each group will be invited to provide a brief presentation on the outcomes of the discussions. • Introduction (10 mins) • Group exercise (45 mins)
10:30 - 10:50	Coffee Break
10:50 - 11:50	**Session 8: Way forward** Representatives from the key Ministries will continue to facilitate the session. After the presentation of the discussion outcomes by the rapporteurs from both groups, participants will be engaged in a discussion regarding the next steps, potential cross-sectoral collaboration, and actionable strategies for implementation. • Presentations by rapporteurs (15 mins) • Roundtable discussion (45 mins)
11:50 - 12:00	**Session 9: Closing Session**
12:00 - 14:00	Lunch

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