Virtual Workshop on “Facilitating policymakers’ access to data for evidence-based policy”

APIS Working Group 2 “Digital Technology and Applications of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway”

8 July 2024, 15.30-16.45 ICT/Bangkok time

Concept Note

Background

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, countries in the Asia-Pacific region have been on a path to becoming increasingly digital societies, leveraging digital technologies to drive economic growth, improve service delivery, and enhance e-government services. The expansion of Internet connectivity has significantly contributed to this digital transformation and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Nevertheless, digital divides and inequalities persist, including disparities in access, literacy, usage, capacity, participation, and outcomes. While advanced countries in the region are effectively utilizing modern connectivity networks, such as 5G, in driving growth, a large portion of the population still falls behind in adopting digital solutions, even in the areas with Internet access.

In order to bridge existing gaps, effective and comprehensive policy interventions are needed, which can only be designed by policymakers if they have access to timely and relevant socio-economic information and evidence. This information includes statistics on trends, report analyses, and geospatial images, among others. Efforts have been made at both national and international levels to collect and share evidence in this regard. Examples include Kazakhstan’s Smart Data Ukimet, India's PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan for Multi-Modal Connectivity, the ITU DataHub, and ESCAP’s SDG Gateway.

This virtual workshop aims to illustrate how policymakers can use various online digital platforms as critical data and information sources for deliberate policy making.

Objectives

- To understand how online digital platforms can facilitate access to data for policy makers, learning from concrete examples;
- To discuss how online digital platform initiatives can better engage Asia-Pacific stakeholders and improve relevant data sharing and access for policy makers.

Format of the meeting

Experts and practitioners in the field of digital technologies, including online platforms, will deliver presentations on innovative Digital Platform solutions/projects, with moderated discussions between participants afterwards.
Participants (By Invitation Only)

Invited participants will include representatives from:

- APIS Steering Committee members, including the bureau members of Working Groups 1, 2 & 3.
- Experts on digital technology and applications.
- Other relevant stakeholders

Organizers

The virtual workshop will be co-organized by the Bureau members of APIS Working Group 2 (Armenia, India, Azerbaijan, China, and the Russian Federation) and the ESCAP secretariat.