

Second Session of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) Steering Committee and WSIS regional review

27-28 August 2018

CONCEPT NOTE

Background:

The 73rd session of the ESCAP Commission in May 2017 adopted resolution 73/6 on the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) through regional cooperation. The resolution invited members and associate members to cooperate in the implementation of the Master Plan for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway¹ and the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Regional Cooperation Framework Document² as endorsed by the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation at its first session³. It also invited members and associate members to promote broad-based partnerships, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation and highlighted the importance of such partnerships, for the implementation of the Master Plan and the Regional Cooperation Framework Document.

Following the adoption of resolution 73/6, the first session of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Steering Committee was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 1-2 November 2017. The meeting established the modality of monitoring, coordination and advisory functions of the Steering Committee. The participants also identified challenges and opportunities for promoting national and cross-border broadband connectivity in line with the AP-IS strategic initiatives and discussed the elements of subregional implementation plans. The Steering Committee also agreed to review the status of AP-IS implementation at the end of the current implementation year (2018), and discuss updates to the Master Plan and Regional Cooperation Framework Document, which will cover the next 4 years.

Objectives:

Against this background, the objectives of the second Steering Committee meeting are:

- a) To discuss and finalize updates to the AP-IS Master Plan and Regional Framework Document, as agreed upon at the first AP-IS Steering Committee meeting in Dhaka, in November 2017;
- b) For ESCAP and partners (ITU, APT, World Bank, IFC, ADB, Internet Society among others) to present analytical work in support of regional policy dialogue and AP-IS implementation;
- c) To review subregional initiatives, activities along the 7 strategic initiatives of the Master Plan and discuss any issues identified in the implementation process.

¹ <http://www.unescap.org/resources/asia-pacific-information-superhighway-ap-master-plan>

² <http://www.unescap.org/our-work/ict-disaster-risk-reduction/asia-pacific-information-superhighway/master-plan-for-the-ap-is-and-ap-is-regional-cooperation-framework-document>

³ <http://www.unescap.org/events/committee-information-and-communications-technology-science-technology-and-innovation-first>

Expected outcomes:

The progress made in AP-IS implementation and the updates to the AP-IS Master Plan and Regional Cooperation Framework Document will be reported to the 2nd Session of the ESCAP Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science and Innovation (CICTSTI) on 29-31 August 2018 and will subsequently be presented to the Commission at its seventy-fifth session.

The outcomes of this meeting will be reported as an activity to implement ESCAP resolution 73/6⁴ on the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative, as well as other UN resolutions and mandates⁵.

Participants:

Senior government officials nominated from ESCAP member countries and other various stakeholders, including UN agencies, subregional organizations, international financial institutions, and ICT policy think-tanks, CSOs and academia, will be invited to the meeting. Representatives from private sector will also be invited to participate as subregional implementation group members.

Venue:

United Nation’s Conference Center, Bangkok, Thailand, 27-28 August 2018.

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⁴ http://www.unescap.org/commission/73/document/E73_RES6E.pdf

⁵ They include follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) action line implementation; support to the development of universal access to the Internet by 2020 under the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020; support to the development of ICT sector under the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024; enhanced connectivity for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), under the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway; the achievement of the 2030 Agenda (in particular SDG 9 and 17) on establishing resilient infrastructure and inclusive access.

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AGENDA

Venue: United Nation's Conference Center, Bangkok, Thailand

Day 1: Monday 27 August 2018	
Conference Room 2, Level 2, UNCC	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:20	Session 1: Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks by ESCAP • Welcome remarks by Chair of the First Session • Introduction of participants
09:20 – 09:35	Session 2: Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory remarks by ESCAP • Election of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Rapporteur • Adoption of the agenda
09:35 – 10:00	Session 3: Report on AP-IS implementation Moderator: Chairperson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary on the overall implementation by ESCAP • Q&A
10:00 – 10:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
10:15 – 12:00	Session 4: Emerging trends and opportunities for AP-IS Master Plan 2019-2022 Moderator: Chairperson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Broadband connectivity in Asia and the Pacific’ by ESCAP • ‘Transmission map’ by Mr. Sameer Sharma, ITU • Mr. Yongwang Liu, CAICT • ‘Strengthened connectivity through implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative in East and Northeast Asia’, Professor Viktor Fersht, Inter-University Center of the Training and Research Programs of World Trade Organization • ‘A study on AP-IS in CLMV countries’, Mr. Yeong Ro Lee, NIA • Q&A
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch Break (sponsored lunch)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation from: • Mr. Hosang Yoo, Innonet • Mr. Jongnyeon Kim, ‘TV Whitespace application,’ Korea Radio Promotion Association

13:00 – 15:15	<p>Session 5: AP-IS and WSIS regional review Moderator: Mr. Sameer Sharma, ITU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of WSIS action line implementation and global review process by ITU • ‘ICT capacity building for AP-IS’, Mr. Kiyoung Ko, APCICT • ‘Skills Development in a Digital Age’, Mr. Emmanuel A. San Andres, APEC Policy Support Unit • ‘WSIS action lines C1, C7 & C11’, Mr. Wai Min Kwok, UNDESA • ‘Research Agenda through an Academia Network for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative’, Professor Baharul Islam, Indian Institute of Advanced Studies • Professor Viktor Fersht, Russian Academy of Sciences <p>Q&A</p>
15:15 – 15:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
15:30 – 16:30	<p>Session 6: AP-IS Master Plan 2019-2022 Moderator: Chairperson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the updated AP-IS Master Plan 2019-2022 by ESCAP • Q&A

<p>Day 2 Tuesday 28 August 2018 Conference Room 2, Level 2, UNCC</p>	
09:00 – 10:45	<p>Session 7: Discussion on AP-IS Master Plan and Regional Cooperation Framework Document 2019-2022 Moderator: Vice-Chairperson - Thailand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Shamika Sirimanne, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD • ‘Broadband connectivity for quality learning’, Mr. Jian Xi Teng, UNESCO • ‘Children in a digital world’, Mr. Dejan Jakovljevic, UNICEF • ‘UNODC tackling cybercrime in support of a safe and secure AP-IS’ by Mr. Alexandru Caciuloiu, UNODC • ‘The Internet is for everyone’, Mr. Rajnesh Singh, Internet Society • Ms. Lorraine Porciuncula, OECD <p>Q&A</p>
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:00 – 13:00	<p>Session 8: Discussion on AP-IS Subregional Implementation Plans 2019-2022</p>

	<p>Moderator: Vice-Chairperson – Azerbaijan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory remarks by ESCAP • ‘APNIC Foundation’s activities, Mr. Duncan Macintosh, APNIC • ‘E-resilience’, Mr. Jeffry Llanto, CVISNET Foundation • ‘e-Resilience in support of Emergency Communication: lessons learned on the need for contingencies’, Mr. Nuwan Waidyanatha, LIRNEasia <p>Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Satellite communications in Pacific island countries’, Mr. Kisione Finau, USP • ‘Affordable and reliable broadband optical cable backhaul solution,’ Dr. Haruo Okamura, ITU-T & Global Plan • ‘Network based intelligent SOC activation strategy’, Mr. Changhee Yun, NIA <p>Q&A</p>
13:00 – 14:00	<p><i>Lunch Break (sponsored lunch)</i></p> <p>Presentation from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Louis Tang, Huawei
14:00 – 16:00	<p>Session 9: Insights and experiences from the Private Sectors</p> <p>Moderator: Rajnesh Singh, ISOC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Generate growth in Asia Pacific with Intelligent Connectivity,’ Mr. Edward Zhou, Huawei Technologies • ‘Expanding Internet access: insights from Google’, Mr. Mahesh Bhalerao, Google • ‘The potential of Blockchain & Artificial Intelligence for sustainable development’, Mr. Ryotaro Sekine, IBM <p>Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Monenco Solutions on Realization of Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway’, Mr. Vahid Veysi Sabegh, Monenco Iran Consulting Engineers • ‘The Opportunities and challenges of Blockchain for SDGs in Asia’, Mr. Josh Choi, Delta & Deiro • ‘Using artificial intelligence to optimize a supply chain,’ Mr. Jake Dancyger, Element AI <p>Q&A</p>
16:00 - 16:15	<p><i>Coffee Break</i></p>
16:15 – 16:30	<p>Session 10: Way forward</p> <p>Moderator: Chairperson</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair’s summary and recommendations to be presented to the second session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation (CICTSTI) by Chair • Q&A
16:30 - 16:45	<p>Session 11: Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESCAP • Chairperson