1. COVID-19 and Digital Big Bang

1. In the drive to combat COVID-19, many governments, businesses and people began to rapidly adopt digital technologies, becoming “digital by default”, thereby detonating a “digital big bang”.

2. ESCAP prepared the Asia-Pacific Digital Transformation Report 2022, the first edition of a biennial flagship publication series of ESCAP.

- **Deepen our understanding** of the rapid and complex digital transformation process resulting from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Draw insights for policy development** by identifying and sharing good practices on digital transformation
- **Highlight regional cooperative actions** to advance digital transformation
Asia-Pacific Digital Transformation Report 2022

United Nations ESCAP Flagship Report

First Regional Analytical Report

Launched on 30 August 2022

2. Findings

1. A dynamic digital transformation process is underway

2. The region has some of the most digitally advanced countries. Middle income countries show dynamic processes of both digital innovation as well as adaptation and adoption. However, most low-income countries lag behind.

3. With digital by default, Asia-Pacific region is now the most digitally divided region of the world
2. Findings

1. Age, gender, education, disability and geography the key driving characteristics of the digital divide.

2. A vicious cycle of economic inequalities within & across countries.

Source: Produced by ESCAP based on data from various sources from UN agencies and global/regional organizations sources.
4. Findings

Framework of Digital Transformation and its Index 1.0

5 Actors
3 Development Stages
- Foundation
- Adoption
- Acceleration
2. Findings
5. Findings

Investment and coverage in mobile Internet in Asia and the Pacific

Total investments by the mobile industry in Asia and the Pacific (capex, in billion USD)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Investment (billion USD)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$71.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$78.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$86.8</td>
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<td>2015</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>$90.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$107.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mobile Broadband Coverage in Asia and the Pacific (coverage in % of population, by network generation)

- 3G: 94%
- 4G: 18%
- 5G: Circling

3. Findings

Fixed broadband speed gaps in Asia and the Pacific based on real-time aggregated Internet usage
3. Findings

Pacific island developing states are among the most dis-connected countries
3. Findings

- ASEAN subregion has widest digital divide

- Fewer IXPs and traffic between CLV and neighbouring countries routed through distant exchange points,
  - high transit costs and latency
  - affordability and quality loss for end users affected.
Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative

- Three pillars and 25 actions:
5. Shaping Our Common Future (1)

1. The challenge now is to shape our digital future with **new development paradigms**.

2. Policy and regulatory frameworks that
   a. strengthen **national competitiveness**, 
   b. boost **productivity of business and manufacturing**, and 
   c. provide **people with new value and services**, while opening up opportunities that change values and mindsets.

3. Flexible, adaptive, corroborative policies and regulations with new methods of consultations and partnerships
3. Suggests **three pathways**, aligned with the AP-IS Action Plan 2022-2026,

   a. **Supply:** providing relevant policy practices for the development of cost-effective network infrastructure;

   b. **Demand:** strengthening capacity-building programmes and policies to promote digital demands and digital literacy;

   c. **System-wide:** enhancing the use and management of digital data as an essential component of digital economy and society.

4. Highlight the importance of **high-level leadership, vision and decision-making**.
Thank you

Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific