Asia-Pacific Digital Ministerial Conference 2022 and Asia-Pacific Digital Transformation Forum
9-10 November 2022 (UTC+9)
Seoul, Republic of Korea

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the strong interlinkages between digitalization and development. The pandemic catalysed the deployment of innovative digital solutions and encouraged digital cooperation between countries in the Asia-Pacific region, to cope with everyday activities and avail new socioeconomic development opportunities. At the same time, the pandemic exacerbated the pre-existing digital divides, further widening development inequalities across countries.

To address the digital divide, members, and associate members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), through resolution 78/1, committed to strengthening digital cooperation at all levels, including at the ministerial level, closing the digital divide, ensuring digital skills training, boosting digital connectivity, addressing digital trust and security and promoting an inclusive digital economy and society (see ESCAP/RES/78/1). ESCAP members and associate members also recognized that the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway is a useful regional platform that can further promote digital cooperation.

As a first step toward bridging the digital divide and advancing digital transformation, the Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT) of the Republic of Korea is organizing the “First Asia-Pacific Digital Ministerial Conference 2022: Shaping Our Common Future” in Seoul, Republic of Korea on 10 November 2022, in cooperation with the ESCAP secretariat. The Ministerial Conference, being attended by ICT and Digital Ministers from the Asia-Pacific region, will serve as a prime opportunity to discuss the status, challenges, and pathways to advance digital transformation and strengthen regional digital cooperation with the aim of building an inclusive digital society and economy.

The Ministerial Conference will also consider the adoption of the Seoul Declaration (tentative title) and the support to the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information
Superhighway Action Plan 2022-2026, as part of the pathways to advance digital transformation in the region.

To enrich the discussions and deliberations of the Ministerial Conference, the ESCAP secretariat in cooperation with MSIT and partner organizations is also organizing the “Asia-Pacific Digital Transformation Forum”, which will include a few side events on 9 November 2022, at the same venue. Among the side events, the “high-level policy dialogue on digital transformation”, which is scheduled for the afternoon of 9 November 2022, will provide a good opportunity for high-level senior officials from member States, United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations, the civil society with ICT/Digital agendas, as well as donor agencies, to discuss and consider new digital business opportunities and cooperative actions that will encourage building an inclusive digital society and economy.

Objectives

1. To discuss key agendas, challenges, frameworks and required actions for promoting an inclusive digital economy and society in the Asia-Pacific region.
2. To identify and commit to consolidated actions to build an inclusive digital economy and society through regional cooperative mechanisms, such as the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS).
3. To enhance partnerships between United Nations agencies, governments, the ICT business sector, global/regional organizations, civil society, and donor agencies.

Date and Venue

2. Asia-Pacific Digital Transformation Forum (APDTF) 2022: 9 November 2022
   - Venue: InterContinental Seoul COEX Hotel, Seoul, Republic of Korea
Organizers, Partners, and Invitees

1. Asia Pacific Digital Ministerial Conference 2022 on 10 Nov
   a. Organizers: MSIT in cooperation with ESCAP
   b. Main Invitees and speakers: Delegations of Digital and ICT Ministers of ESCAP member States in the Asia-Pacific region
   c. Observers: Representatives of international organizations, IT business enterprises, international NGOs, research Institutes and donor agencies.

2. Asia Pacific Digital Transformation Forum on 9 Nov.
   a. Organizers: ESCAP in cooperation with MSIT
   b. Main Invitees and speakers:
      • Delegations of Digital and ICT Ministers of ESCAP member States in the Asia-Pacific region
      • Representatives of international organizations,
      • IT business enterprises, international NGOs, research Institutes
      • Donor agencies.

Interpretation
• English and Korean languages service only

Event Page
• Please click [here](https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/asia-pacific-digital-ministerial-conference-2022-shaping-our-common-future) or scan the QR code below to visit the event page
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