Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its eleventh session

Summary

The Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT) held its eleventh session on 5 and 6 October 2016 in Bangkok. The session was held in conjunction with the first session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation from 5 to 7 October 2016.

The Council reviewed the work undertaken by APCICT since its tenth session and expressed its appreciation to the Centre for its continued efforts on strengthening human capacity development in information and communications technology (ICT) in the region. The Council also reviewed the Centre’s financial status, management and administration.

The Council endorsed the Centre’s workplan for 2017, which has three flagship programmes: the Women ICT Frontier Initiative, the Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders and the Primer Series on ICT for Development for Youth. The programmes and activities aim to develop the capacities of member States to leverage ICT in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Council welcomed the Centre’s new flagship programme, the Women ICT Frontier Initiative, and called for its implementation in the region, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders. It supported the Centre’s plan to continue the enhancement of the Academy and the Primer Series, and their institutionalization in civil service human resource development frameworks and university curricula. The Council expressed support for the Centre’s efforts to strengthen partnership with subregional and national organizations and foster South-South cooperation through exchange of experiences and lessons learned.

The Council welcomed the Centre’s efforts to promote the use of ICT for inclusive education and assist member States on leveraging ICT tools and technologies in the delivery of human resource development programmes. It also called for the strengthening of delivery channels for the Centre’s programmes through distance-learning technologies and mobile learning applications.

The Council called on member States to provide voluntary financial contributions to the Centre.
I. Recommendations

1. The Governing Council welcomes the programmes and activities of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT), which will support member States in their efforts to leverage information and communications technology (ICT) in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These programmes will strengthen the capacities of government leaders, civil servants, women entrepreneurs, students and youth to utilize ICT to achieve inclusive and sustainable development.

2. The Council supports the Centre’s efforts to implement the Women ICT Frontier Initiative throughout the region in order to contribute to building the ICT capacities of women entrepreneurs as well as of policymakers in
providing an enabling environment for ICT-empowered women entrepreneurship. The Council recommends identifying and cooperating with key partners to ensure the successful implementation of the Initiative at the subregional and national levels.

3. The Council welcomes the Centre’s plan to further enhance the Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders and the Primer Series on ICT for Development for Youth to reflect the changing ICT landscape and align them with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It calls on the Centre to continue with its participatory approach to programme development and to consult with its network of partners on knowledge resources to be developed in the future.

4. The Council supports the Centre’s work to continue strengthening the institutionalization of the Academy and the Primer Series in civil service human resource development frameworks and university curricula.

5. The Council welcomes the Centre’s knowledge-sharing and partnership-building activities. The Centre will strengthen partnerships with regional and subregional organizations as well as foster South-South cooperation through exchange of expertise, practices and lessons learned among stakeholders and programme partners.

6. The Council welcomes the Centre’s efforts to promote the use of ICT for inclusive education and to assist member States on using ICT tools and technologies in the delivery of human resource development programmes. It also notes the Centre’s ongoing efforts to diversify the delivery channels for its training activities, particularly through the APCICT Virtual Academy, and calls on the Centre to explore other available online delivery channels.

7. The Council expresses its appreciation to the host country, the Republic of Korea, for its continued funding support to the Centre, as well as to other member States for their voluntary and in-kind contributions. The Council calls on all member States to support and contribute to ICT human capacity development in the region.

8. The Council endorses the Centre’s workplan for 2017.

II. Summary of deliberations

9. The Governing Council had before it the following documents:

   (a) Administrative and financial status of APCICT (E/ESCAP/APCICT/GC(11)/2);

   (b) Work programme and project activities of APCICT since the tenth session of the Governing Council (E/ESCAP/APCICT/GC(11)/3);

   (c) Report of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its activities during the period 2014-2016 (E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/6);

   (d) APCICT workplan for 2017;

   (e) Brief on the APCICT “Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders” programme;

   (f) Brief on the APCICT “Turning Today’s Youth into Tomorrow’s Leaders” programme;

   (g) Brief on the Women ICT Frontier Initiative;
Brief on the APCICT Virtual Academy;
Brief on APCICT online platforms: facilitating learning and knowledge-sharing;
Brief on APCICT research and knowledge-sharing;
Brief on APCICT media outreach.

10. Presentations were made by the Director of the Centre.

A. Report on the administrative and financial status of the Centre

11. The Governing Council was apprised of the Centre’s current financial status, management and administration, including staffing capacity. A summary of institutional and funding support provided to the Centre was presented to the Council.

12. The Government of the Republic of Korea, through the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning and Incheon Metropolitan City, provided annual contribution to support the institutional and operational cost of the Centre. Additional funding was also provided by the Government through the cooperation fund between the Republic of Korea and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). In-kind contributions had also been provided by the Government for the organization of the Centre’s Regional Forum on ICT Human Capacity Development in June 2016.

13. The Council was briefed that in 2016, pledges and voluntary contributions to the Centre had been provided by: Bangladesh; Cambodia; India; Macao, China; and Sri Lanka. The Council was informed that the Centre’s national partners continued to provide in-kind contributions to support the delivery and implementation of the Centre’s programmes in their respective countries. Those contributions covered various types of support, such as: provision of materials, logistical and human resources for training or workshops related to the Centre’s programmes; support for localization or translation of the Centre’s publications, knowledge products, leaflets and brochures; and technical support for localization of APCICT Virtual Academy content.

B. Presentation of the work undertaken by the Centre since the tenth session of the Governing Council

14. The work undertaken by the Centre since the tenth session of the Council was presented. The work consisted of programmes and activities that responded to the recommendations made by the Council at its tenth session. It also incorporated feedback from needs assessments, partner surveys, dialogues and consultations at partners meetings and regional forums.

15. The implemented activities had been undertaken in the Centre’s pillars of work, such as training, research and knowledge-sharing, regional platform for dialogue and cooperation, e-learning and online platforms, advocacy and outreach, and advisory services.

16. Since the tenth session of the Council, the Centre had continued to promote and institutionalize its two flagship programmes – the “Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders” and “Turning Today’s Youth into Tomorrow’s Leaders” – in Asia and the Pacific. Those programmes had seen wide uptake and utilization in the region and beyond. The Centre had also launched its third flagship programme, called the “Women ICT Frontier
Initiative”, which further expanded the Centre’s ICT capacity development work with women entrepreneurs in Asia and the Pacific.

17. With regard to the first of the Centre’s flagship programmes, the Council was informed that the Academy was now being utilized in 35 countries, in partnership with subregional and national partners from ICT ministries, civil service organizations, civil society, academia and other international organizations. A total of 38 new Academy-related activities had been organized by the Centre and its partners since the last Council session. Together with course enrolments in the APCICT Virtual Academy, more than 31,000 participants from 152 countries had benefited from the Academy since its launch in 2008.

18. The Council was apprised of the Centre’s ongoing efforts to develop the Smart Government initiative under the Academy programme. Endorsed by the Council at its tenth session, the initiative aimed to develop in-depth e-government modules. In line with that effort, the Centre had conducted a global survey on e-government training needs, which had revealed a strong demand for training content on open government data. Subsequently, the Centre had performed a mapping of existing initiatives on open government data, followed by a needs-assessment survey on data for smart government involving 31 countries.

19. The Council was also informed of enhancements to the Academy curriculum in order to reflect new ICT trends, particularly social media. Academy module 9, on ICT for disaster risk management, had been revised to introduce the applications of social media in various phases of disaster risk management. A Guidebook on Social Media and Disaster Risk Management had also been produced by the Centre as practical reference material for civil servants and practitioners in the area. These two resources continued to be promoted for use by Academy partners.\(^1\)

20. To align the Academy with the Sustainable Development Goals, Academy module 1 on the linkage between ICT applications and meaningful development was being updated to introduce to government leaders and civil servants the Goals, provide an overview of the intersections between ICT and the Goals, and draw attention to the dimensions and sectors in which ICT could provide support for national Governments’ development plans and programmes.

21. The Council was informed of the continued institutionalization of the Academy in the Asia-Pacific region. The Academy had been integrated into the civil service human resource development frameworks of member States. The Centre further supported those institutionalization efforts through content localization as well as by expanding the pool of national resource persons through the training of trainers and workshops at the national and regional levels.

22. The Academy was currently utilized in 35 countries in the region. Since the tenth session of the Council, civil service training organizations in a number of countries had intensified their efforts to further institutionalize the Academy in their programmes. Those countries included Armenia, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.\(^2\)

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2. Results of a survey of ICT capacity development activities in August 2016.
23. The Council was informed that in Central Asia, the Centre had conducted an Academy round-table discussion during the Global Conference on a professional civil service for the successful implementation of institutional reforms in cooperation with the Regional Hub of Civil Service in Astana, on 25 May 2016. National partners from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and Tajikistan had shared information on their ICT capacity development programmes for civil servants and their utilization of the Academy programme.

24. The Council was briefed on the utilization of the Academy programme in other regions, particularly in Africa, Western Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, in cooperation with the regional commissions and regional development banks. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia had been utilizing the Academy in its capacity development work and had trained more than 1,500 government officials from nine countries in the region. Various Academy modules localized into Arabic were being incorporated within the curricula of government officials’ national schools of public administration.

25. In Central America, the Centre for Advanced Studies in Broadband for Development (established in 2014 in Nicaragua by the Inter-American Development Bank and the Government of Nicaragua with support from the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning of the Republic of Korea) used the Academy in training courses for government officials and private-sector companies.

26. The Council was updated on the status of the Centre’s second flagship programme, “Turning Today’s Youth into Tomorrow’s Leaders”. The youth programme aimed to create future leaders with a sound understanding of the enabling role of ICT in sustainable development. It imparted key knowledge of ICT for development to students and youth through the Primer Series on ICT for Development for Youth, consisting of learning resources for institutions of higher learning in Asia and the Pacific.3

27. The Primer Series was being utilized by more than 150 universities in 14 countries in the region. Since the tenth session of the Council, the Centre and its partners had organized 22 workshops related to the Primer Series. Since the launch of the Primer programme in 2012, over 30,000 students and teachers had been reached, including those through the APCICT Virtual Academy.

28. The Council was informed of the release of the latest Primer issue, on exploring social media’s role in development.4 The new issue aimed to help students gain an understanding of social media and how it was used for social development, economic growth, political participation and sustainable development. It examined the potential drawbacks in using social media and promoted its safe and productive use.

29. There had been broad adoption in Asia and the Pacific of the Primer programme, as demonstrated by its utilization in over 150 universities in the region. Since the tenth session of the Council, universities from several countries had also increased their utilization of the Primer Series, including Azerbaijan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Tajikistan and

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3 www.unapcict.org/pr.
Uzbekistan. In addition, universities had demonstrated strong utilization of the Primers on ICT for project management and social media for development.

30. To facilitate greater adoption of the Primer Series, the Centre continued to support its partners in localization and customization, national training of trainers and Primer briefings for advocacy by and support from key stakeholders. In Sri Lanka, the Centre had conducted a high-level briefing on 29 September 2016 for representatives of the country’s University Grants Commission and public and private universities.

31. The Council was informed about the Centre’s initiative on engaged learning in ICT for development education, which aimed to strengthen students’ learning on ICT for development and to provide them with opportunities to link their classroom learning to community development.

32. In promoting the engaged learning approach in the region, the Centre had produced an Engaged Learning Toolkit for Faculty and an Engaged Learning Guidebook for Students. Those resources provided practical guidance for faculty members, students, community partners and other stakeholders on how to plan, implement and evaluate engaged learning activities. Three student-led projects were also showcased to Council members: an online database of a local museum to promote sustainable tourism (Mahasarakham University, Thailand); an educational broadcasting programme for rural vegetable farmers (University of the Philippines Los Baños); and a mobile-based information system for rural migrant workers (Kathmandu University).

33. The Council was updated on the internship opportunities that the Centre provided to students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programmes. The Centre partnered with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) University Network and Daejeon University to host students from ASEAN countries for a two-month internship. It also offered an intensive two-month iSEED internship programme, wherein students learned about the Sustainable Development Goals, the use of ICT in achieving the Goals and the Centre’s work. The Centre also participated in the official United Nations internship programme.

34. The Council was briefed on the status of the Centre’s third flagship programme, the Women ICT Frontier Initiative. The Centre had embarked on the Initiative in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which called for inclusiveness and to leave no one behind. A core imperative of the 2030 Agenda was the global commitment to promote gender equality and empowerment of women. It also called for enhancement of the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women (Sustainable Development Goal means of implementation 5.b).

35. The Women ICT Frontier Initiative aimed to strengthen the capacity of current and potential women entrepreneurs in the Asia-Pacific region to utilize ICT in support of their businesses. It would also build the capacity of

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5 www.unapcict.org/pr.
6 www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWuev8S5Dss&feature=youtu.be.
7 www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9NCMME0uew&feature=youtu.be.
8 www.youtube.com/watch?v=qP_peBrM30A.
9 ICT Support and Engagement as an Engine for Development (iSEED) internship programme.
government leaders and policymakers to create an enabling environment for ICT-empowered women entrepreneurs.

36. The Council was informed of the rigorous and participatory process to develop the Women ICT Frontier Initiative programme, which included: situation analyses such as global stocktaking of ICT capacity development programmes for women and stocktaking research on inclusive finance; series of expert meetings (May 2015 and February and April 2016); multiple rounds of review of the Initiative’s training modules by experts and practitioners in the field of gender, ICT and women entrepreneurship; and field-testing in two countries, namely Pakistan in December 2015 and the Philippines in May 2016.

37. The situation analyses had helped to identify gaps in existing programmes for women entrepreneurs, and contributed to the design of the Initiative’s training curriculum. Proposed modules had been developed and reviewed by experts in several rounds of offline and online reviews. Field-testing in Pakistan and the Philippines with both women entrepreneurs and policymakers had helped to refine the implementation strategy of the Initiative, as well as the content and methods of the Initiative’s training programme.

38. The Council was provided with the overall framework of the Initiative’s training programme, which consisted of core content modules applicable to both women entrepreneurs and policymakers and specialized modules for each group. Five modules had been published, namely: (a) core module 1 on women’s empowerment, the Sustainable Development Goals and ICT; (b) core module 2 on the enabling role of ICT for women entrepreneurs; (c) women entrepreneurs’ module 1 on planning a business using ICT; (d) women entrepreneurs’ module 2 on managing a business using ICT; and (e) a policymakers’ module on an enabling environment for women entrepreneurs.¹⁰

39. The Council was briefed on the various tools and resources being developed by the Centre to support trainers and learners under the Initiative. A digital competency assessment tool was being developed to help women entrepreneurs assess their current digital competency and identify specific ICT skills to be more competitive in business. An online knowledge-sharing platform called the WIFI InfoBank was being developed to enable users to access online training resources designed to enhance their knowledge and skills on entrepreneurship and ICT. A mobile learning platform was being developed to provide users with access to the Initiative’s training modules and its associated educational activities through mobile devices.

40. The Initiative had been officially launched on 9 June 2016 during the Regional Forum on ICT Human Capacity Development in Incheon, Republic of Korea. The launch event had helped to introduce the Initiative to the Centre’s network of partners as well as multi-stakeholders from over 50 countries representing Governments, the private sector, civil society, academia, women’s associations and other organizations.

41. The Council was informed of the strong support expressed by member States to adopt and implement the Initiative at the national level. In particular, three countries – Sri Lanka, Cambodia and the Philippines – had presented their concrete implementation plans at the regional launch.

¹⁰ www.unapcict.org/wifi.
42. The Council was briefed on the first national launch of the Initiative, held in Colombo on 26 September 2016, in partnership with the Information and Communication Technology Agency and the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs. Known as WIFI Suhuruliya (Smart Women), the Initiative would initially be targeted to female household heads in Sri Lanka to assist in post-conflict economic recovery. The national launch had been followed by training of trainers on two tracks (one for women entrepreneurs and one for policymakers) on 27 and 28 September 2016 and a community workshop on 1 October 2016 in Jaffna district, a province that had been severely affected by the country’s civil war.

43. The Council was informed of the Centre’s efforts in providing a platform for dialogue and cooperation through regional conferences and meetings. The Centre had organized the Regional Forum on ICT Human Capacity Development in Incheon, Republic of Korea, on 9 and 10 June 2016, on the occasion of the Centre’s tenth anniversary, with more than 200 participants from over 50 countries.

44. During the Regional Forum, the Centre’s network of partners as well as relevant stakeholders had reflected on their collective achievement in human capacity-building in ICT for development in the last decade. They had engaged in dialogues on strengthening ICT capacity development in the region, aligned with the 2030 Agenda. Participants had discussed areas such as effective strategies for ICT capacity development, harnessing data for smart government, ICT-enabled women’s entrepreneurship, and digital competencies for civil servants and youth.

45. The Centre’s research and knowledge products were presented to the Council. New knowledge products included a briefing on ICT competency standards,\textsuperscript{11} and a case study series showcasing ICT competency standard practices in five countries, namely Indonesia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand.\textsuperscript{12}

46. In the area of e-learning and online platforms, the Council was informed of the continued increase in enrolments in the APCICT Virtual Academy. Since its launch in 2009, the APCICT Virtual Academy had received more than 11,000 enrolments. New courses had also been introduced, including a course on social media for disaster risk management, an Indonesian language version of module 10 (ICT, Climate Change and Green Growth), and Vietnamese language versions of modules 9 (ICT for Disaster Risk Management), 10 and 11 (Social Media for Development).\textsuperscript{13}

47. The Council was also informed about continued enhancements to the APCICT Virtual Academy user experience, in response to the Council’s recommendation, at its tenth session, to provide users with a more interactive and engaging learning environment. Those enhancements had been tested in the course on social media for development (module 11) and had been shown to increase the average test scores of learners.

48. The Council was updated on the Centre’s eCollaborative Hub, a repository of knowledge resources. There were now 1,189 resources available

\textsuperscript{11} www.unapcict.org/ecohub/briefing-on-ict-competency-standards.
\textsuperscript{12} www.unapcict.org/ecohub/case-study-series-4-ict-competency-standards.
\textsuperscript{13} www.unapcict.org/e-learning.
on the platform, which had received over 360,000 page views since it had been made available.\textsuperscript{14}

49. The Centre’s advocacy and outreach activities were also highlighted to Council members. The activities contributed to raising awareness and securing buy-in from relevant stakeholders on the importance of ICT human capacity development. The Centre had participated in various regional summits and conferences, intensified awareness-raising activities for students in the host country (the Republic of Korea), and cooperated with the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development to engage media professionals to write articles and opinion pieces on the Sustainable Development Goals and ICT for development in print and online.

50. The Council was informed that the Centre continued to receive requests for technical assistance and advisory services from member States on developing and implementing ICT capacity development programmes.

C. Discussions during the first session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation on the theme of regional capacity-building on information and communications technology for development

51. The Council had participated in the discussions on regional capacity-building on ICT for development during the first session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation (item 2 (d) of the agenda of that Committee at its first session and item 6 of the agenda of the Council at its current session). The discussions had included a presentation to the Committee on the Centre’s work in the area of ICT human capacity development and a panel discussion on the theme.

52. Moderated by the Director of the Centre, the panel consisted of: Ms. Gati Gayatri, Director, Research and Development Centre for Literacy and Profession, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Indonesia; Ms. Chitranganie Mubarak, Chairperson, Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka; Ms. Luzviminda A. Villanueva, Project Manager, Supporting Women’s Economic Empowerment in the Philippines (GREAT Women Project), Philippine Commission on Women; and Mr. Asomudin Atoev, Project Coordinator, SecDev Foundation in Central Asia, Tajikistan.

53. The panellists had shared their countries’ new and emerging ICT capacity development needs and challenges in light of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Each panellist had described their national capacity-building strategies and programmes and how they were evolving in response to changes in the ICT landscape and sustainable development priorities. The panellists also informed the Committee about their utilization of the Centre’s programmes.

54. The panellists also discussed the challenges of gender equality and the socioeconomic empowerment of women in their countries and how those challenges could be addressed through ICT. The panellists from Sri Lanka and the Philippines, in particular, had shared with the Committee how the Women ICT Frontier Initiative was being implemented in their countries and the expected impact of the programme.

\textsuperscript{14} www.unapcict.org/ecohub.
55. The Committee had recognized the enabling role of ICT in achieving goals of the 2030 Agenda and underscored the importance of ICT human capacity development. It noted that the Academy and the Primer Series were valuable resources that were increasingly being integrated in civil service training frameworks and university education. It had also welcomed the launch of the Women ICT Frontier Initiative and called for its implementation in the Asia-Pacific region.

56. Delegates from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan had shared with the Committee their ICT capacity development work and utilization of the Centre’s programmes. The Committee had expressed appreciation to the Centre for its continued efforts to strengthen capacities in ICT for development in the Asia-Pacific region.

D. Presentation of the Centre’s workplan for 2017

57. The Centre’s workplan for 2017 was presented to the Council. The workplan’s development had been guided by lessons learned from the Centre’s 10 years of operation and adhered to the following underlying principles: (a) alignment with the 2030 Agenda and the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, as discussed during the third session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development; (b) strengthening of linkages with the ESCAP mandate, core activities and targeted outputs; (c) flagship programme approach to ICT human capacity development; (d) fostering of flagship synergies; and (e) integration of the Centre’s pillars of work.

58. Programmes and activities related to the Centre’s three flagship programmes – the Women ICT Frontier Initiative, the Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders, and the Primer Series on ICT for Development for Youth – were presented to the Council.

59. The Centre will strengthen the implementation of its flagship programmes in the region. The training content of the Academy and the Primer Series will be enhanced to reflect the changing ICT landscape and to align them with the Sustainable Development Goals. The Centre will continue to assist partners in institutionalizing the flagship programmes in human resource development frameworks by developing the pool of resource persons through training of trainers, supporting them in customization and localization to suit national contexts, and the provision of advisory services. For the Primer Series, the engaged learning approach will be further disseminated to universities in the region. Monitoring and evaluation and the certification schemes for the flagship programmes will be enhanced.

60. In order to address the strong demand in the region for the Women ICT Frontier Initiative, the Centre will support member States in developing implementation strategies, building a pool of resource persons through regional, subregional and national training of trainers, and supporting localization and customization of training content to fit national contexts. Complementary knowledge tools and resources will be provided to trainers and learners under the Initiative. To ascertain the success of the programme

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15 National partners from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines and Tajikistan have indicated their plans to adopt and introduce the Women ICT Frontier Initiative in their countries.
and to continuously improve the Initiative, a monitoring and evaluation framework will be developed in 2017.

61. The Centre will conduct awareness-raising activities to obtain buy-in from key stakeholders. Implementation at the subregional and national levels will be augmented through the establishment of the Initiative supporters’ group, in which partners from the private sector, academia, telecentres, civil society and other relevant stakeholders will be engaged for implementation and delivery of the Initiative. The Centre will expand the Initiative’s scope to address inclusive finance and engage financial institutions.

62. As a regional hub on ICT capacity development, the Centre will facilitate dialogue and networking by holding regional and subregional forums and annual partners’ meetings. It will strengthen its knowledge-sharing activities and forge partnerships in support of its ICT human capacity development work. It will foster South-South cooperation through exchange of expertise, practices and lessons learned among stakeholders and programme partners. The Centre will also strengthen partnerships with regional and subregional organizations to amplify the delivery and impact of its programmes.

63. The Centre will promote the use of ICT for inclusive education. It will assist member States on leveraging ICT tools and technologies in their delivery of human resource development programmes. To further diversify delivery channels for the Centre’s flagship programmes, the APCICT Virtual Academy and eCollaborative Hub will be enhanced with new learning tools and platforms.

64. The representative of Bangladesh noted the Centre’s ongoing efforts in the area of data for smart government. He highlighted the need to pay attention to the issues of information privacy and security. The representative of India recommended that the issue of data quality should also be addressed.

65. The representatives of Indonesia expressed appreciation to the Centre for its flagship programmes and knowledge resources, suggested that data for smart government could be a topic for the Centre’s knowledge products and recommended that Academy modules should be enhanced vis-à-vis established ICT competency standards.

66. The representative of Sri Lanka noted the Centre’s participatory and inclusive approach to content development, and recommended that the Centre should continue its practice of consulting national partners in identifying topics for Academy modules and knowledge resources.

67. The representative of Cambodia noted the need for appropriate national partners with well-defined roles to ensure successful implementation of the Women ICT Frontier Initiative, and said that the programme should foster synergies with existing initiatives for women entrepreneurship. The representative of Bangladesh emphasized the importance of obtaining high-level policy support to ensure adoption of the Initiative at the national level.

68. The representatives of Cambodia and the Republic of Korea noted the importance of strengthening the certification scheme for the Centre’s training programmes. It was agreed that the Centre would review its certification scheme and strengthen the test bank for assessing the learning of training participants.
69. The representative of the Republic of Korea recommended that the Centre should consider the use of massive open online courses as a training delivery channel for its flagship programmes.

70. The representative of Pakistan expressed appreciation to the Centre for its efforts to align its work programme with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

71. The Council commended and expressed appreciation to the Centre for its continued efforts to strengthen the capacities of member States in leveraging ICT for inclusive and sustainable development.

E. Date and venue of the twelfth session of the Governing Council

72. The Council agreed to organize its twelfth session in conjunction with the Annual Partners Meeting to be held in Manila from 5 to 7 December 2017.

F. Other matters

73. No other matters were discussed by the Council.

G. Adoption of the report

74. The Governing Council adopted the present report on 3 November 2016.

III. Organizational matters

A. Opening of the session

75. The eleventh session of the Governing Council of APCICT was held in Bangkok on 5 and 6 October 2016, in conjunction with the first session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation from 5 to 7 October 2016.

76. The Executive Secretary delivered the opening statement and expressed appreciation to the Council for its continued guidance and support to the work of the Centre.

B. Attendance

77. The session was attended by representatives of the nine members of the Governing Council: Bangladesh; Cambodia; India; Indonesia; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Sri Lanka; and Thailand.

C. Election of officers

78. The Governing Council elected Mr. Rodolfo Salalima (Philippines) as Chair and Ms. Chitrangani Mubarak (Sri Lanka) as Vice-Chair.

D. Adoption of the agenda

79. The Governing Council adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Report on the administrative and financial status of APCICT.

5. Presentation of work undertaken by APCICT since the tenth session of the Governing Council.

6. Regional capacity-building on information and communications technology for development (item 2 (d) of the agenda of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation at its first session).


8. Confirmation of the date and venue of the twelfth session of the Governing Council.

9. Other matters.

10. Adoption of the report.
Annex I

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<td>Brief on the APCICT Virtual Academy</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brief on APCICT online platforms: facilitating learning and knowledge-sharing</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brief on APCICT research and knowledge-sharing</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brief on APCICT media outreach</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annex II

Financial statement of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development for the year ended 31 December 2016
(United States dollars)

**Income**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>1,573,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>36,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain on exchange</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,609,383</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Less: Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2,087,046)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net income over expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>(477,663)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fund balance as at 1 January 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3,605,676</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Refund to donors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fund balance as at 31 December 2016**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>3,128,013</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annex III

Financial statement of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development for the year ended 31 December 2016, by project component
(United States dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning and Incheon Metropolitan City</th>
<th>Joint contributions and other projects</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>1 472 157</td>
<td>101 100</td>
<td>1 573 257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>32 236</td>
<td>3 797</td>
<td>36 033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain on exchange</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td>1 504 393</td>
<td>104 990</td>
<td>1 609 383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Less: Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>(1 827 885)</td>
<td>(259 161)</td>
<td>(2 087 046)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net income over expenditure</strong></td>
<td>(323 492)</td>
<td>(154 172)</td>
<td>(477 663)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund balance as at 1 January 2016</td>
<td>3 095 45</td>
<td>510 219</td>
<td>3 605 676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refunds to donors</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fund balance as at 31 December 2016</strong></td>
<td>2 771 965</td>
<td>356 047</td>
<td>3 128 013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annex IV

Contributions to the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development for the year ended 31 December 2016
(United States dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country/Area</th>
<th>Year ended 31 December 2016</th>
<th>Year ended 31 December 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Incheon Metropolitan City, Korea Communications Commission and Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning Project</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea (Incheon Metropolitan City)</td>
<td>800 000</td>
<td>1 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea (Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning)</td>
<td>672 157</td>
<td>720 945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td>1 472 157</td>
<td>1 720 945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Korea International Cooperation Agency Project</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea (Korea International Cooperation Agency)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Other technical cooperation projects</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>12 000</td>
<td>2 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>2 000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>40 000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macao, China</td>
<td>5 000</td>
<td>5 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>27 309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea Internet and Security Agency</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>69 384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea Telecom Economics and Management Research Institute</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8 673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea (Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning)</td>
<td>42 100</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td>101 100</td>
<td>122 366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1 573 257</td>
<td>1 843 312</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>