KOICA-ESCAP Joint Capacity Building Training Programme on Digital Technologies for Addressing Climate Change Impact in the Pacific

20-30 August 2025,
Brisbane, Australia

By invitation only

Background

Pacific Island Countries contribute minimally to climate change yet face severe impacts and vulnerable to rising sea levels, salinization, and intensified tropical storms. Recognizing the urgent need for innovative adaptation strategies, a project funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) aims to enhance the capacity of Pacific Island Countries by developing digital governance frameworks that leverage digital technologies and data, aligned with the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (APIS) platform. Implemented in partnership with Jeju National University and supported by the APNIC Foundation, the project delivers a capacity-building workshop designed to equip government officials with the necessary skills and knowledge to design and implement policies for climate change adaptation.

This project responds to the Astana Ministerial Declaration on Digital Inclusion and Transformation in September 2024, which requested ESCAP to provide technical assistance, policy analysis, and capacity development to promote digital innovation for sustainable development. It also aims to foster knowledge-sharing among members, particularly least developed, landlocked, and small island developing states. In addition, the project responds to the APIS Steering Committee requests for continued ESCAP support for countries in special situations (LLDCs, LDCs, and SIDS) per ESCAP resolution 79/10, the Astana Declaration, and the APIS Action Plan 2022-2026. The project also aligns with the 'Technology and Connectivity' theme of the 2050 Blue Pacific Continent Strategy—prioritizing digital capacity building in Pacific Island Countries—and supports the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS by enhancing vulnerable populations' access to emerging technological innovations.

Organisers

- The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

- with the support from Jeju National University in Korea and the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre Foundation in Australia

Date, venue, & meeting mode

- Date: 20 August 2025 – 30 August 2025 (excluding travel days)
- Venue: Pullman King George Square, Brisbane, Australia
- Meeting mode: In-person

Sponsorship

The organizers will sponsor up to three nominated government officials from each of Fiji, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, and Tonga, and selected experts.

Language

The capacity building training workshop will be conducted in English.

Programme

Date/Time	Sessions
19 August	Arrival of participants in Brisbane, Australia - Preparation meeting for the programme by organizers (ESCAP and Jeju National University of Korea)
Day 1 (20 Aug 2025) – Orientation and country reports	
09:00 - 09:20	Opening and welcome speeches - Ms. Joo Yeon Kim, Department of Capacity Enhancement Program, KOICA - Mr. Tae Hyung KIM, Chief, ICT and Development Section, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, United Nations ESCAP - Ms. Ann Kerrison-Liu, Head of Finance, APNIC Foundation
09:20 - 12:00	Orientation: reviewing progress since the last training - Prof. Byung Gul LEE, Jeju National University of Korea on behalf of KOICA - Mr. Tae Hyung KIM, Chief, ICT and Development Section, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, United Nations ESCAP
12:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 17:00	Presentation on challenges and plan from PICs & knowledge sharing - Country presentations by each participating country (Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga)
18:00 – 20:00	Welcome dinner *Leading moderator: Byung Gul Lee and Tae Hyung Kim*
Day 2 (21 Aug 2025) – Artificial intelligence (AI) and climate adaptation	
09:00 - 12:00	Lecture 1: Climate Change Impacts on Built Environments: Adaptation Strategies for Coastal Areas of Islands (Prof. Na, Won Bae, Pukyung National University)
14:00 - 17:00	Lecture 2: Sustainable Built Environments Responding to Climate Change Risks: Digitally Based Illustrations (Prof. Lee, Incheol, Pukyung National University)

	Leading moderator: Byung Gul Lee
Day 3 (22 Aug 2025) – Digital connectivity, ocean tech & sustainable resource management	
09:00 – 12:00 14:00 - 17:00	Lecture 1: Analysis of Marine Environment and Fish Catch using Marine Monitoring Data (Prof. Kim, Pukyung National University) Lecture 2: Utilization of Coastal Sediment Microbial Fuel Cells for Climate Change Adaptation (Prof. Kim, Pukyung National University) *Leading moderator: Byung Gul Lee and Tae Hyung Kim*
Day 4 (23 Aug 2025) – Study tour @Brisbane City Council	
09:00- 16:00	*Leading moderator: Byung Gul Lee & other experts*
(24 Aug 2025) – Free time / Sunday	
	Free time
Day 5 (25 Aug 2025) – APNIC Foundation	
09:00 - 12:00 14:00 - 17:00	Lecture 1: APNIC Foundation - Digital connectivity in Pacific islands – key issues for policy makers Lecture 1: Group discussion – national action plans *Leading moderator: Omar Ansari, Ellisha Heppner and Byung Gul Lee*
Day 6 (26 Aug 2025) – Digital technologies for climate action - opportunities and challenges for Pacific Island countries	
09:00 - 12:00	● "Technologies for disaster risk reduction – ESCAP Risk and Resilience Portal", Mr Daisuke Maruichi, Economic Affairs Officer, Disaster Reduction Section, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, United Nations ESCAP) ● "Leveraging Large Language Models for Geospatial Decision Support: The Case of SatGPT" (Ms. Sheryl Rose Reyes, Remote Sensing Expert, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, United Nations ESCAP) ● "Disaster resilience technologies" (Mr. Amin Shamseddini, Programme Management Officer, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction – Pacific Subregional Office

	● "GeoAI for an equitable future. Updates on localizing foundational models, agentic tools, and the imperative for openness", (Mr. Hamid Mehmood, Scientific Affairs Officer, OOSA) Questions and Answer Session
14:00 - 17:00	● "Digital connectivity in Pacific Island countries – are we connected?" (Dr. Amanda H.A. Watson, Australian National University) ● "Challenges and opportunities of broadband infrastructure deployment in Pacific Island countries", (Mr Omar Ansari, APNIC Foundation) ● "Strengthening efficient internet traffic management for climate action" Mr Siope Vakataki Ofa, Economic Affairs Officer, ICT and Development Section, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, United Nations ESCAP) Questions and Answer Session *Leading moderator: Siope Vakataki 'Ofa and Byung Gul Lee*
Day 7 (27 Aug 2025) –Field visit – APNIC Foundation (Gather @9:30AM for TAXIs)	
10:00 – 16:00	*Leading moderator: Ellisha Heppner and Byung Gul Lee, Siope Vakataki 'Ofa*
Day 8 (28 Aug 2025) – National action plan on digital for climate action	
09:00 - 12:00 14:00 - 17:00	Outline for a national action plan and group discussion - Group discussions and drafting of national action plan by participants Outline for a national action plan and group discussion (continued) - Group discussions and drafting of national action plan by participants *Leading moderator: Siope Vakataki 'Ofa and Byung Gul Lee*
Day 9 (29 Aug 2025) – Pacific strategic discussion on national action plans on digital technologies for climate adaptation	
09:00 - 12:00	Country discussions for drafting national action plans on digital technologies for climate adaptation

14:00 - 17:00	- All participants from the Pacific Island countries Country presentations of draft national action plans on digital technologies for climate adaptation by each Pacific Island country *Leading moderator: Siope Vakataki Ofa and Byung Gul Lee*
Day 10 (30 Aug 2025) – Field trip#3 and closing ceremony	
09:00 - 12:00 14:00 - 17:00	Lecture 1: Group tour in city Lecture 2: Closing ceremony *Leading moderator: Byung Gul Lee and Siope Vakataki 'Ofa*
31 Aug 2025	*Depart Brisbane, Australia*

Contact information:

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