2022 SPECA Economic Forum,
Session 5: Digital Transformation – Leveraging digital opportunities

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Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division
1. COVID-19 and Digital Big Bang

1. During COVID-19 world became “digital by default” 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.
2. Findings

Framework of Digital Transformation and its Index 1.0

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

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<tr>
<td>USD</td>
<td>$71.1</td>
<td>$78.8</td>
<td>$86.8</td>
<td>$90.4</td>
<td>$84.7</td>
<td>$80.2</td>
<td>$80.3</td>
<td>$90.6</td>
<td>$107.1</td>
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Mobile Broadband Coverage in Asia and the Pacific (coverage in % of population, by network generation)

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<td>3G</td>
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2. Findings

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

### E-Resilience Monitoring Dashboard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pillar</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Kazakhstan</th>
<th>Kyrgyzstaa</th>
<th>Mongolia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICT infrastructure as a physical foundation</td>
<td>4G mobile network coverage (0-100 % max)</td>
<td>76.30</td>
<td>70.00</td>
<td>45.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Active mobile-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants (0-100 % max)</td>
<td>77.57</td>
<td>94.03</td>
<td>83.72</td>
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<td>Computer software spending (0-100 % max)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
<td>0.008</td>
<td>0.113</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fixed (wired) broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants</td>
<td>13.44</td>
<td>5.64</td>
<td>9.66</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fixed-broadband subscriptions, &gt;10 Mbit/s, % of total fixed-broadband subscriptions, (0-100 % max)</td>
<td>51.83</td>
<td>64.27</td>
<td>0.58</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Handset prices (%monthly GDP per capita) (0-100 max)</td>
<td>55.61</td>
<td>66.35</td>
<td>35.46</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>International Internet bandwidth per Internet user (Kbit/s)</td>
<td>55,067.84</td>
<td>47,863.64</td>
<td>22,399.44</td>
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<td>Internet access in schools (0-100 % max)</td>
<td>120.00</td>
<td>120.00</td>
<td>120.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mobile cellular subscriptions per 100 inhabitants (0-100 max)</td>
<td>93.53</td>
<td>33.43</td>
<td>48.92</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Mobile tariffs (%monthly GDP per capita) (0-100 % max)</td>
<td>80.53</td>
<td>113.57</td>
<td>113.48</td>
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<td>Percentage of Households with a computer (0-100 % max)</td>
<td>87.59</td>
<td>21.11</td>
<td>22.90</td>
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<td>Percentage of households with Internet access at home (0-100 % max)</td>
<td>78.90</td>
<td>38.00</td>
<td>47.16</td>
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<td>Percentage of individuals using the internet (0-100 % max)</td>
<td>96.40</td>
<td>99.59</td>
<td>98.42</td>
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<td>Adult Literacy (0-100% max)</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.47</td>
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<td>Cybersecurity (0-1max)</td>
<td>3.80</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td>5.10</td>
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<td>DRR Implementation 0 - 10 (max, the worst)</td>
<td>70.56</td>
<td>67.82</td>
<td>67.77</td>
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<td>Ease of doing business (0-100 max)</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>3.00</td>
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<td>E-commerce legislation (0-4 max)</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>0.19</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Government Effectiveness -2.5. -2.5(max)</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>74.50</td>
<td>60.57</td>
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### ICT policy in different sectors

#### Hazard & Exposure

[Map of the world showing regions and countries]
3. ESCAP responses
A. AP-IS Action Plan 2022-2026

Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative

- Three pillars and 25 actions:
3. ESCAP responses:
B. Regional Support for DSCSD

1. Tashkent Statement of the 16th SPECA GC
   - Took note of the offer of Kazakhstan to create a SPECA Digital Solutions Centre for Sustainable Development (DSC SD) .... And Kazakhstan would present the proposal at the Digital Almaty Forum in February 2022.
   - Digital Almaty Forum 2022 cancelled and Kazakhstan presented at the SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development (20 July)
3. ESCAP responses:

B. Regional Support for Digital Solutions Center

1. Third Session of the SPECA Working Group on ITSD (20 July 2022)
   - Supported the initiative of the Government of Kazakhstan in setting up the Digital Solutions Centre for Sustainable Development (DSC SD) for SPECA members States and Mongolia to promote digital integration in the subregion.

2. Fourth Session of the Committee on ICT and STI (1 September 2022)
   - Noted with appreciation the initiative of the Government of Kazakhstan establishing the Digital Solutions Centre for Sustainable Development to provide practical digital solutions in Central Asia and beyond,
   - Invited all to collaborate in the digital transformation process, including under the framework of the AP-IS Action Plan 2022–2026.
3. ESCAP responses

B. Working paper: three modalities for operationalizing DSC

1. Option 1: function as a regional institution of UN ESCAP hosted in Kazakhstan
   a. Need Commission Resolution
   b. Estimated operational cost at least 1.5 million USD per year

2. Option 2: function as a legally independent sub-regional entity prioritizing landlocked Central Asian countries and Mongolia and cooperate with ESCAP and other interested UN entities through bilateral Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) between the Center and the respective UN entities.

3. Option 3: function as a sub-regional ESCAP/ECE entity under the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (UN SPECA).
3. ESCAP responses

C. Tools to address connectivity for all:

- E-resilience Monitoring Dashboard
- Smart corridor Simulator
- Infrastructure Co-deployment Portal

Five Pillars of e-resilience:

- Policies
- Infrastructure
- New Systems and Apps
- Hazard & Exposure
- Digital Data
3. ESCAP responses
D. Ministerial commitment
D. Ministerial Commitment

- 17 Ministerial level representation
- International organization: APT, ADB, GSMA, eWorldwide Group, ITTLLDC, IOM, UNFPA, UNITAR, UN-Women
- Executive officers of the business sector: Amazon, Samsung, Coupang, Naver/Line, KT, Sergek Group, Tsarka, Uzinfocom, Vesticom,
D. Ministerial Commitment: bilateral with VM of Kazakhstan
3. ESCAP responses
D. Chair Summary

- **Affirmed** the United Nation’s values of sustainable and inclusive development
- **Recognized** the critical role of digital technology and digital connectivity
- **Welcomed** ESCAP resolution 78/1 (27 May 2022) that expresses, inter alia, member States’ commitment to improve digital cooperation at all levels, including Ministerial
- **Affirmed** that the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative could be one of the useful regional platforms for the promotion of digital cooperation
- **Expressed** appreciation to the Executive Secretary and the Secretariat of UN ESCAP for rendering support for the First Asia Pacific Digital Ministerial Conference.
- **The Republic of Korea confirmed** its continued support for APCICT and ESCAP in developing and operating capacity-building programmes in areas of digital agendas
3. ESCAP response
D. Follow-up

- Republic of Korea and Kazakhstan expressed intention to submit a resolution to the Commission in 2023 on digital cooperation in which we expect the Commission to agree on organizing Asia-Pacific Ministerial level meetings on a regular basis.

- Look forward to support of all SPECA members as well as other members and associate members of Commission for this resolution.
Thank you

Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific