Offering Accessible Conferences and Meetings at the UN Conference Centre, Bangkok
Provision of Accessibility & Disability-inclusive services at UNCC

- Accessible Meetings
- Accessible Environment
- Accessibility Centre
International Sign Language Interpretations are provided for conferences and meetings held at the UNCC in all meeting modalities, on a cost-recovery basis. Professional camera has been set up to capture on-site sign language interpreter separately.

ESCAP piloted artificial intelligence (AI)-based Captioning services by utilizing the Microsoft Azure Speech Service, with comparable accuracy rates of over 95% and cost effective compared to human-based captioning services.
AI Captioning in ESCAP

- AI powered real-time captioning services at UNCC Events for meeting participants with hearing challenges.

  - Cost: $19/hour
  - Accuracy: > 95%
  - Languages Supported: All UN official languages.
  - Captioning Display: via large screen displays, mobiles, tablets etc.

75 Events
350 hours
$100,000+ cost savings.

- This innovation has the potential to be replicated across other UN entities in their SG's Disability Inclusion Strategy implementations.
AI Captioning @ESCAP
How AI Captioning works?

Pre-training AI to improve accuracy

AI Cloud Service

UN Events

Speech Recognition?

https://caption.unescap.org

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But we all know that even before the pandemic, persons with disabilities face barriers to full, effective participation in society. The COVID-19 Pandemic has simply magnified existing poverty, magnified existing inequality and vulnerabilities.

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Accessible Environment

Motorized Doors

Ramp Access

Accessible Bathroom

Building designs and structures such as the ramp access and flat walkway provide barrier-free access for all conference and meeting participants travelling throughout the UNCC premises, reflecting the concept of inclusivity.
Accessible Environment (cont’d)

Accessible Doors
New Accessibility Centre opened in May 2022, with more focus on awareness raising and information sharing on accessibility, universal design, various initiatives by UN and ESCAP as well as by member states in the Asia-Pacific region. It was designed with close consultation with social development division and disability experts.
Accessibility Centre (cont’d)

Source: Accessibility for the Disabled - A Design Manual for a Barrier Free Environment
Accessibility Centre (cont’d)

In enhancing accessibility, several *Visual, Physical* and *Hearing assistive equipment* are available for rental for meeting participants.

Useful information & References:

**Guideline on Accessible Conferences and Meetings**

https://www.unescap.org/uncc/accessibility-centre