

Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation

2nd Session, 29 – 31 August 2018

**Mainstreaming inclusive technology
and innovation policy approaches
to leave no one behind**

Agenda item 4a)

ESCAP/CICTSTI/2018/6



Inclusive technology & innovation



- Technology and innovation are a driving force behind economic growth. They also provide immense opportunities for society and the environment.
- Not everyone has benefited from these opportunities.
- Inclusive technology and innovation serve the welfare of lower-income/ excluded groups
 - ‘Innovations *for* the poor’ and ‘Innovations *by* the poor’

Technology & innovation policies that leave no one behind

Most innovations are developed by firms, entrepreneurs, grassroots innovators, development organisations ...

...but public policies are still required to enable inclusive innovations to flourish, reach scale, or diffuse.

Technologies present many opportunities for economic growth,

...but public policies are still required to ensure everyone can benefit from such opportunities.





Asia – Pacific hosts some of the more transformative efforts to use technology and innovation for inclusive development





Strategy

- Crafting STI policies x inclusive outcomes
- Mission-oriented policies directly addressing inclusivity challenges
- Technology appraisals from an inclusivity lens
- Public research programs on enhancing inclusivity
- Development, diffusion of 'appropriate' techn.
- Supporting grassroots innovations
- Facilitating international technology transfer
- Promoting inclusive businesses
- Empowering SMEs to innovate
- Enabling SMEs to participate in the digital economy
- Supporting STEM careers & education for women
- Promoting assistive tech. for persons with disability

Strategic approaches

Promoting inclusive technology & innovation

Promoting inclusive growth

Removing barriers to technology

Country example



5th Science and Technology Basic Plan



Aadhar' digital ID for financial inclusion



5th Science and Technology Basic Plan



Research on social problems



Empowering rural communities



Honeybee network, GAIN and NIF



Small-scale hydropower



Sagip Saka' Bill (2017); 'Go Local!'



SPRING; Collaborative Industry Project



Rumah Kreative Bumh



Malaysia Education Blueprint (2013-25)



Research on assistive technologies for people with disabilities



ESCAP's new programme on **Inclusive** Technology & Innovation Policies

Advise Governments on technology and innovation policies that leave no one behind.

- 1. Regional consultation:** Identify priority policy issues & how ESCAP can support
- 2. Committee ICT STI:** Share outcome of consultation, provide further directions
- 3. Next:**
 - **ESCAP** further explore priority policy issues; support governments
 - **Expert meetings on disability-inclusive tech.**, with the Inter-Islamic Network on Information Tech. (**INIT**)
 - **Research** : the Asia-Pacific Research & Training Network on STI Policy (**ARTNETonSTI Policy**)
 - **Governments:** may approach ESCAP for partnerships & support

Issues for the Committee to address



- What policies are being developed at the national level to promote technology and innovation that leave no one behind?
What are good practices and lessons learnt in this area?
- Which are policy priorities and critical areas for cooperation to ensure that technology and innovation contribute to realizing inclusive societies and markets?
- What support may be required from the ESCAP secretariat to promote inclusive technology and innovation?

Thank you.

For more information, please see:

- <https://www.unescap.org/our-work/trade-investment-innovation>
- <https://artnet.unescap.org/sti>

