

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

Item 4a. Mainstreaming inclusive technology and innovation policy approaches  
to leave no one behind

## Outcomes of the Regional Consultation on Inclusive Technology and Innovation Policies

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# Regional Consultation on **Inclusive** Technology and Innovation Policies

Tuesday 28 and morning Wednesday 29 August

## *Objectives:*

- **share experiences** and lessons learnt regarding inclusive innovation policy
- explore **emerging challenges and opportunities** to encourage, enable and emulate more inclusive innovation; and
- identify **priority policy issues**

## *Participation:*

42 participants, including government officials of 18 member States, academics, the regional civil society organisation engagement mechanism and practitioners from international organisations



# The story so far

- Several policies/programmes in place
  - Funding R&D for social outcomes in The Philippines
  - Human centred super smart society, Society 5.0, of STI policy in Japan
- We are building on the existing inclusive innovation approaches here in the region
- *“Inclusion: a right, not an afterthought”*



# Setting the context: leaving no one behind

## Leaving no one behind

- Reducing inequalities between groups and between individuals
- Prioritizing those furthest behind
- Proactive policies are required

## Leaving no one behind in Technology & Innovation Policy

- 3As: Accessibility, Appropriateness, Affordability
- Inclusion prior to, during implementation, and after roll out
- Engage everyone, target particularly disadvantaged/underrepresented groups



# Challenges for inclusive innovation in Asia-Pacific



## Leadership

- Ensuring high-level support for inclusive technology and innovation policies
- Working in short-term political cycles
- Economic growth dominates the agenda over inclusion

## Understanding inclusive innovation

- Lack of common definition of inclusive innovation
- No one-size fits all
- Different perspectives (e.g. bottom-up vs top-down; researcher vs. farmer)

# Challenges for inclusive innovation in Asia-Pacific



## Coordinating efforts

- Implementing whole of government approaches
- Multi-stakeholder buy-in (limited incentives for businesses to develop inclusive tech. and innovation)

## Capacities and capabilities

- Financial resources to implement policies
- Skills (e.g. product development, market)
- Data (e.g. lack of relevant / disaggregated data to inform inclusive tech. & innovation policies)
- Assessments (effective consultations, pre and post impact assessments)

# The way forward for inclusive innovation in Asia-Pacific



## Leadership

- Generate alliances that support long-term inclusive innovation policies
- Make the business case for inclusive tech. & innovation

## Understanding inclusive innovation

- Further analyse and share the variety of Asia Pacific experiences in promoting inclusive technologies & innovation (in different local contexts, with different groups)
- Assess socio-economic impact of technologies in different groups (including indirect/ unintended impacts)

# The way forward for inclusive innovation in Asia-Pacific



## Coordinating efforts

- Explore different approaches to align action : Co-designing, co-creation, co-implementation
- Create structures & incentives that facilitate whole-of-government, multi-stakeholder approaches

## Capacities and capabilities

- Build technological understanding among non-tech policy makers
- Build understanding on systemic and inclusive STI approaches among STI policy makers
- Build inclusive STI data collection and analysis capacities
- Build capacities to assess impact of STI policies



# Recommendations to ESCAP for support to Member States

- Provide policy advice on inclusive technology and innovation policies to achieve the SDGs and leave no one behind
- Provide training on technological dimensions for non-tech policy makers
- Provide training on systemic and inclusive STI approaches for policy makers
- Develop / make available tool kits for promoting / assessing inclusive technology and innovation policies
- Analyze the inclusive dimension of national STI policies / strategies, including best practices, approaches and lessons learnt
- Facilitate the exchange of experiences and regional collaboration regarding inclusive innovation policies

Thank you

