Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) aim to improve the safety, accessibility, connectivity and convenience of transport while reducing its adverse environmental impact. National priorities for ITS development and operation addressing the core areas of safety, mobility, congestion and environment range from reduced mishaps, improved connectivity, convenience and emission reductions, in countries that are in the early phases of ITS deployment, to long-term reduction of safety risks and promoting seamless, zero-congestion transport powered by clean energy, in countries with advanced ITS operations.
Given that (a) countries in the Asia-Pacific region have differing sustainable transport priorities and are at varying stages of ITS deployment, (b) regulatory frameworks play an important supportive role in efficient ITS development and operation, including integration of current and emerging technologies, and (c) the need for the region to aim for seamless ITS services across borders, this study proposes the following policy recommendations for developing ITS regulatory frameworks in Asia and the Pacific at national, subregional and regional levels:

1. Identify the current status of ITS development and operation at the national level;
2. Establish a comprehensive checklist of current national regulations relevant to ITS;
3. Identify short- and long-term national priorities of ITS development;
4. Promote cooperation and collaboration on ITS deployment at the subregional level;
5. Develop harmonized approaches to ITS development and operation across Asia and the Pacific.

5.1 Preparing national-level regulatory frameworks

Identification of current status
The academic and public sectors should lead the identification of a country’s level of ITS development and operation that should guide the formulation of the future directions and strategy for ITS development and operation, and the required regulatory frameworks at the national level. The regulatory frameworks will depend on the stage of ITS development and operation in the country; for example, this should include the outline of an ITS master plan in a country that is in the initiation stage of ITS development and operation.

Establishment of a checklist
An examination by the academic and public sectors of existing regulations related to transport, ICT, industry and internal administration should be the basis of amending and modifying these to regulate ITS development and operation. These can eventually be developed into comprehensive and inclusive ITS regulatory frameworks.

Identification of national ITS priorities and applications
Consultation with the academic, public and private sectors in each country should lead to the identification of short- and long-term objectives of ITS development and specific applications in the four major areas of safety, mobility, congestion and environment as suggested in chapter 4. This should be the basis for the development of the national ITS regulatory framework.

5.2 Subregional cooperation and collaboration
Given that many ITS applications, including emerging technologies are in operation in the Asia-Pacific region, there is a need for greater cooperation and collaboration among neighbouring countries to bridge gaps in ITS development and operation within subregions. Such cooperation and collaboration should involve the academic, public and private sectors.

5.3 Regional strategies and policy plans
Given that ITS development and operation in Asia and the Pacific has been fragmented, mono-modal and geographically limited, with no overarching strategies and policy plans for developing region-wide and interconnected services, there is a need for a well-coordinated regional approach to ensure: (a) balanced ITS deployment consistent with economics of scale and levels of ITS development and operation (as identified in chapter 4); (b) the provision of effective guidance to the academic, private and public sectors for the future direction of ITS development and operation; and (c) effective preparation for the broader ITS technology, i.e., smart transport technology, options in the Asia-Pacific region.