

## Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Steering Committee and WSIS Regional Review, Third Session

26 – 29 August 2019, UNCC Bangkok

### Concept Note (Draft)

#### 1. Overview

An ESCAP study highlighted that 18 ESCAP member States had less than 2 per cent of their populations with fixed-broadband subscriptions in 2016.<sup>1</sup> Recent ITU data for 2017 shows no improvement for these countries.<sup>2</sup> In the case of mobile-broadband subscription, 16 ESCAP member States have 1/3 or less of their respective populations with access to mobile-broadband subscriptions in 2017.<sup>3</sup>

The root causes of the region's digital divide are multi-dimensional. ESCAP studies have found various constraining factors, including a limited regulatory and policy environment, lack of institutional and individual capacity, digital literacy, inefficient Internet and network management; limited affordability of broadband services; and investment in natural-disaster resilient ICT infrastructure. As society and economy increasingly depend on reliable, affordable and resilient broadband infrastructure to deliver information and services, the lack of broadband access is expected to constrain the member countries' socioeconomic development and efforts towards the achievement of SDGs.

In response, ESCAP member States launched the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) initiative to enhance the availability, affordability and resilience of regional broadband infrastructure as a foundation to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>4</sup>. Since its official launching in 2017, wide ranging research and analyses, regional policy dialogues and capacity development were undertaken, which led to the ongoing development and implementation of subregional implementation plans of AP-IS. In this context, ESCAP member countries have decided to endorse the updated AP-IS Master Plan and Regional Cooperation Framework Document for 2019-2022<sup>5</sup> and continue the implementation of the initiative<sup>6</sup> through the development and implementation of the subregional implementation plans, as mandated in ESCAP resolution 75/7. The focus areas of the subregional implementation plans are closely aligned with the 7 strategic initiatives of the Master Plan 2019-2022, such as cross-border connectivity in Central Asia (strategic initiative 1), Internet traffic management in Southeast Asia (strategic initiative 2), resilient infrastructure in the Pacific (strategic initiative 4) and policy update in Northeast and South

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<sup>1</sup> ESCAP, 'Artificial intelligence and broadband divide: state of ICT connectivity in Asia and the Pacific 2017'. Available from: <http://www.unescap.org/resources/artificial-intelligence-and-broadband-divide-state-ict-connectivity-asia-and-pacific-2017>

<sup>2</sup> International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators database 2018 (December Edition 2018). Available from:

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/publications/wtid.aspx>

(accessed 29 January 2019).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.unescap.org/our-work/ict-disaster-risk-reduction/asia-pacific-information-superhighway>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-information-and-communications-technology-science-technology-and-innovation-second>

<sup>6</sup> For details on key issues identified by ESCAP member States, refer to the AP-IS updated Master Plan 2019-2022 and Regional Cooperation Framework Document 2019-2022.

Asia (strategic initiative 5).

In this context, the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the AP-IS Steering Committee is planned to review the latest research findings, current implementation of the Master Plan 2019-2022 by member countries, ESCAP and partner organizations and discuss emerging trends and technologies which affect the implementation and agree on follow-up actions.

### **Objectives**

The third session of the AP-IS Steering Committee meeting aims to achieve the below objectives

- a) Enhance awareness and knowledge of government officials and partners on latest research, emerging trends and technologies, including on Internet traffic management and transport and energy-co-deployment, for evidence-based policy-making at national, subregional and regional levels,
- b) Review and discuss the AP-IS business plan which aims to guide the implementation of the AP-IS Master Plan 2019-2022 and Regional Cooperation Framework Document 2019-2022
- c) Deepen regional cooperation and policy dialogue in the development and implementation of the AP-IS subregional implementation plans and ongoing project activities,
- d) Facilitate information sharing and networking among government officials, academia, private sector and other stakeholders, including through the AP-IS Transmission Map,
- e) Expand partnerships among government, academia, private sector and civil society organizations for the development of joint initiatives for AP-IS implementation.

### **2. Implementing and Collaborating Entities**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the AP-IS Steering Committee will be held in conjunction with four key side-events, to be led by ESCAP's Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, in collaboration with ITU and the Internet Society, as detailed below.

- a) AP-IS Steering Committee, Third Session (26-27 August 2019): Government officials from Ministry of Communications as well as other relevant stakeholders will be invited to attend;
- b) Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Committee, Sixth Session (28 August 2019): Participants are invited to attend the opening session of the Committee;
- c) Expert Group Meeting on Internet Traffic Management among the CLMV countries (28 June 2019); a half-day session for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam;
- d) WSIS Regional Review (28 August 2019): Participants to attend a half-day session on WSIS regional review, led by ITU;
- e) Asia-Pacific Regional Community Networks Summit (29 August 2019): Participants to attend full-day event, led by the Internet Society; and
- f) AP-IS Exhibition on ICT for Sustainable Development throughout the week.

### **3. Venue and Date**

- a) Conference Room 3, UNCC, Bangkok

b) 26-29 August 2019

#### 4. Agenda (Draft)

Time	Monday 26 Aug 2019
08:30-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:30	<p><b>Opening Session of Disaster Resilience Week</b></p> <p>Venue: UNCC, Conference Room 2 (CR2), 2<sup>nd</sup> floor</p> <p>Opening Remarks, Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive-Secretary, ESCAP</p>
09:30-09:45	<i>Coffee/Tea Break (Venue: Outside Conference Room 3, 1<sup>st</sup> floor)</i>
09:45-10:30	<p><b>Session 1: Opening of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Steering Committee and WSIS Regional Review, Third Session</b></p> <p>Venue: UNCC, Conference Room 3 (CR3), 1<sup>st</sup> floor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening Remarks, Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive-Secretary, ESCAP</li> <li>• Statement, Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary-General, ITU</li> <li>• Statement, Mr. Mohamed Shareef, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communication, Science and Technology, Maldives</li> <li>• Statement, Prof. Rohan Samarajiva, Chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, AP-IS Steering Committee &amp; Chair, ICT Agency of Sri Lanka.</li> <li>• Election of Bureau and Adoption of Agenda</li> </ul>
10:30-12:00	<p><b>Session 2: Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update to the AP-IS Master Plan 2019-2022, Ms. Atsuko Okuda, ESCAP</li> <li>• Broadband connectivity trends: Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Siope Vakataki Ofa, ESCAP</li> <li>• Digital Development in East Asia &amp; Pacific World Bank Engagement, Ms. Natasha Beschorner, World Bank</li> <li>• Investing in digital infrastructure and digitalization of infrastructure, Mr. Paul Lam, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank</li> <li>• Country updates and discussion</li> </ul>
12:00-13:00	<i>Luncheon sponsored by NTT-AT</i>
13:00-14:30	<p><b>Session 3: Infrastructure Connectivity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience of co-deployment in India, Mr. Suresh Kumar, RailTel India</li> <li>• 5G+ Strategy in the Republic of Korea, Mr Chung Won Lee, MIST, RoK</li> <li>• Community Networks, Mr. Rajnesh Singh, Internet Society</li> <li>• ITU-Standardized Affordable Optical-Cable Rural Connectivity, Dr. Haruo Okamura, Global Plan Inc.</li> <li>• Country updates and discussion</li> </ul>
14:30-14:45	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>
14:45-16:30	<p><b>Session 3: Continued</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital inclusion initiatives in Asia, Ms. Manisha Dogra, Telenor</li> <li>• Redefining Inclusion, Mr. Michael McDonald, Huawei Southeast Asia</li> <li>• Powering Internet infrastructure, Mr. Duncan Macintosh, APNIC Foundation</li> <li>• Investing in connectivity solutions, Mr. John Garrity, Connectivity Capital.</li> <li>• Country updates and discussion</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary of the day</li> </ul>
<b>Time</b>	<b>Tuesday 27 Aug 2019</b>
<b>08:30-09:30</b>	<b>Session 4: Internet Traffic &amp; Network Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operation model for cross-border broadband initiative, Mr. Hui Chen, China Academy of Information and Communication Technology, China</li> <li>• Internet traffic management for CLMV countries, Mr. Yeong Roo Lee, National Information Society Agency, Republic of Korea</li> <li>• Country updates &amp; discussion</li> </ul>
<b>09:30-09:45</b>	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>
<b>09:45-12:00</b>	<b>Session 5: E-resilience</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AI-enabled emergency communication, Mr. Abdo Shabah, Humanitas</li> <li>• APT's activities towards e-resilience, Mr. Masanori Kondo, APT</li> <li>• Connecting the unconnected for resilience, Mr. Hung Tran, SES Networks</li> <li>• Digital Forensics and Cryptocurrencies, Himel Ojha, UNODC</li> <li>• E-resilience best practices, Nuwan Waidyanatha, LIRNEasia</li> <li>• Connectivity &amp; Disaster Resilience, Ms. Davina Egbuna, Airbus</li> <li>• 3D Digital Map, Mr. Hideo Imanaka, NTT AT</li> <li>• ESCAP-ITU Transmission Map, Mr. Sameer Sharma, ITU</li> <li>• Findings of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2019, Mr. Sanjay Srivastava, DRS, ESCAP</li> <li>• Country updates and discussion</li> </ul>
<b>12:00-13:00</b>	<i>Luncheon sponsored by NIA</i>
<b>13:00-14:45</b>	<b>Session 6: Broadband for inclusive development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to apply blockchain on top of the AP-IS initiative to achieve SDGs, Mr. Ryotaro Sekine, IBM Japan</li> <li>• Gender and ICT, Ms. Cai Cai, ESCAP</li> <li>• Integrated Rural Development through Agriculture Transformation, Dr. Salma Abbasi, Saleem Akhtar Memorial Foundation</li> <li>• Internet Assessment Framework - Internet Universality Indicators, Ms. Misako Ito, UNESCO</li> <li>• Country updates and discussion</li> </ul>
<b>14:45-15:00</b>	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>
<b>15:00-16:15</b>	<b>Session 7: AP-IS Academia Network</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview and proposal, Mr. Baharul Islam, Indian Institute of Advanced Studies</li> <li>• UNU's research initiative, Dr. Mamello Thinyane, UNU-Macao</li> <li>• Research in support of AP-IS in Thailand, Mr. Daniel McFarlane, Thammasat University</li> <li>• Digital divide: A case of South Korean older adults, Ms. Hyunsun (Catherine) Yoon, University of Greenwich</li> <li>• Connecting underserved communities, Professor Christopher Yoo, University of Pennsylvania</li> <li>• Professor Viktor Fersht, Russian Academy of Sciences</li> <li>• Measuring the digital divide for the AP-IS initiative, London School of Economics</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul>
<b>16:15-16:30</b>	<b>Session 8: Conclusion</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The way forward</li> <li>• Concluding remarks</li> </ul>
<b>Time</b>	<b>Wednesday 28 Aug 2019</b>
<b>Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (Opening Session)</b>	
<b>09:00-10:00</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants to attend the opening session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction, Sixth Session.</li> </ul>
<b>10:00-12:00</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants to tour AP-IS Exhibition for Sustainable Development</li> <li>• Networking</li> <li>• Informal interactive sessions by private sector organizations</li> </ul>
<b>12:00-13:00</b>	<i>Luncheon sponsored by KaiOS</i>
<b>WSIS Regional Review (ITU)</b>	
<b>13:00-14:30</b>	<p><b>Session 1:</b></p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Gitanjali Sah, Strategy and Policy Coordinator, ITU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Opening Remarks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary-General, ITU</li> <li>○ Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Thailand:</b> Ms. Ajarin Pattanapanchai, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society – WSIS Prizes Winner</li> <li>• <b>India:</b> Ms Roshni Sen, Principle Secretary, Department of Technical Education, Training and Skill Development, West Bengal, India – WSIS Prizes Winner</li> <li>• <b>Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT):</b> Mr. Masanori Kondo, Deputy Secretary-General</li> <li>• <b>UN Major Group for Children &amp; Youth:</b> Mr. Ted Chen, Focal Point for Technology and Science; Co-founder and CEO Evercomm Singapore</li> <li>• <b>Gender Mainstreaming and ICTs:</b> Prof. Dr. Wai Yie Leong, Dean of Engineering, Mahsa University (Council Member of the Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM)) / Board of Director of International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists (INWES)</li> </ul> <p><i>The session will end with a short presentation on WSIS Implementation activities, including the WSIS Forum and all calls for action by Ms. Gitanjali Sah, Strategy and Policy Coordinator, ITU.</i></p>
<b>14:30-14:45</b>	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>
<b>14:45-16:00</b>	<p><b>Session 2: Case Studies and examples of Digital Transformation for Achieving the SDGs.</b></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Collaboration and Partnerships:</b> Mr. Duncan Macintosh, CEO and Executive Director, APNIC Foundation- WSIS Prizes Champion</li> <li>• <b>Digital Divide:</b> Mr. Sebastien Codeville, CEO, KaiOS Technologies</li> <li>• <b>Older Persons and ICT:</b> Ms. Sabine Henning, Chief, Sustainable Demographic Transition Section, Social Development Division, ESCAP</li> <li>• <b>Youth and ICTs:</b> Mr. Md Shahid Uddin Akbar, Chief Executive Officer, Bangladesh Institute of ICT in Development (BIID)- WSIS Prizes Champion</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Implementation by the United Nations at the regional level:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>ITU:</b> Mr. Ashish Narayan, Programme Coordinator, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</li> <li>○ <b>UNESCO:</b> Ms. Jonghwi Park, Programme Specialist in ICT in Education, UNESCO Asia Pacific Regional Bureau for Education</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Please register here:  <a href="https://www.unescap.org/events/third-session-asia-pacific-information-superhighway-ap-steering-committee-and-wsis-regional">https://www.unescap.org/events/third-session-asia-pacific-information-superhighway-ap-steering-committee-and-wsis-regional</a></p>
<b>Time</b>	<b>Thursday 29 Aug 2019</b>
<b>Asia-Pacific Regional Community Networks Summit (ISOC)</b>	
<b>08:45-10:00</b>	<i>Refreshment and Networking Session</i>
<b>10:00-10:30</b>	<p><b>Inaugural Session</b></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Tiziana Bonapace, ESCAP</li> <li>• Mr. Rajnesh Singh, Regional Director for Asia-Pacific, Internet Society</li> <li>• Ms. Kalaya Chinatiworn, Executive Director of International Affairs Division, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand</li> </ul>
<b>10:30-11:30</b>	<p><b>Plenary 1: Setting the scene - Innovating to connect the unconnected</b></p> <p>The session will feature discussions on CN technology, models, content (services) and best practice in the Asia-Pacific region.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Duncan Macintosh, Executive Director, APNIC Foundation</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Mahabir Pun, Founder, Nepal Wireless Networking Project</li> <li>• Prof. Kanchana Kanchanasut, IntERLab Asian Institute of Technology</li> <li>• Mr. John Jack, Deputy Chief Information Officer, Government of Vanuatu</li> <li>• Mr. John Garrity, Advisor, Connectivity Capital</li> </ul>
<b>11:30-12:00</b>	<i>Break</i>
<b>12:00-13:00</b>	<p><b>Plenary 2: Community Networks and SDGs</b></p> <p>The session will deliberate how CNs can play a role in supporting socio-economic development and the UN SDGs.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Duangthip Chomprang, Director, Office of International Cooperation, International Institute for Trade and Development</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Heon-Jun Kim, Senior Program Management Expert, UN Project Office on Governance</li> <li>• Mr. Babu Ram Aryal, Founding Member, Internet Society Nepal</li> <li>• Dr. Sarbani Banerjee Belur, Senior Research Scientist, Garm Marg Rural Broadband Project, India</li> <li>• Mr. Waqas Hassan, Assistant Director, International Liaison, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority</li> </ul>
<b>13:00-14:00</b>	<i>Lunch</i>

14:00-15:00	<p><b>Plenary 3: Policy and Regulatory Support</b></p> <p>The session will discuss CN policy and regulatory support around licensing, infrastructure sharing, spectrum allocation, the use of universal service funds and creating an enabling regulatory environment.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Parvez Iftikhar, ICT Consultant</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Rekha Jain, Professor and Executive Chair, IIMA Idea Telecom Centre of Excellence, Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad</li> <li>• Mr. Veari Iru, Manager Projects, National Informational Communicational Technology Authority, Papua New Guinea</li> <li>• Ms. Renuka Rajaratnam, Public Policy Manager, Access Partnership</li> <li>• Dr. Carlos Rey-Moreno, Policy and Regulation Coordinator, Association for Progressive Communications</li> </ul>
15:00-15:30	<i>Break</i>
15:30-16:30	<p><b>Roundtable: Future Prospects for alternative last mile access in the Asia-Pacific</b></p> <p>This session will capture the overall thematic discussions of the summit and be a high-level discussion on the future of alternative and complementary last mile access networks in the Asia-Pacific and the role they can play in achieving “Broadband for All”</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Naveed Haq, Regional Development Manager, Internet Society</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Atsuko Okuda, Chief, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, UNESCAP</li> <li>• Mr. Kondo Masanori, Deputy Secretary General, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity</li> <li>• Mr. Jigme Tenzing, Director, Department of IT and Telecom, Ministry of Information and Communications, Bhutan</li> <li>• Mr. Osama Manzar, Founder, Digital Empowerment Foundation</li> </ul>