

First Session of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Steering Committee, 1-2 November 2017, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

DRAFT SUBMISSION OF [Afghanistan]
Broadband Priorities for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Master Plan
[October 25, 2017]

Objective: This form is sent to the representative of each country in order to prioritise activities and better align broadband connectivity gaps with solutions. All country submissions will be consolidated as per AP-IS Pillar and subregion to develop an implementation plan for 2018 and will be presented by the Secretariat during the First Session of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) Steering Committee, 1-2 November 2017, Dhaka, Bangladesh. A similar template is sent to partners to identify their planned activities.

Please complete this form and submit to ESCAP (escap-ids@un.org) by **no later than 25 October 2017**.

(a). Background Information

(i). Government Ministry/Organization in charge of ICT connectivity: Ministry of Communications and IT

(ii). National Broadband Policy: Fiber Optic network expansion policy

(iii). Completed/Current/planned fibre-optic broadband project: [4700 Km completed, around 1500 Km is planned to be established through Digital Casa, WB funded project. This include regional connectivity and national fiber optic network expansion.

(b). Challenges and Opportunities on promoting broadband connectivity:

Within the scope of the AP-IS four pillars

- (1). Connectivity;
- (2). Internet Traffic & Network Management;
- (3). E-resilience; and
- (4). Broadband for all,

ESCAP member countries and partners outlined seven strategic initiatives in the AP-IS Master Plan (http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/pre-ods/CICTSTI1_2E_rev1.pdf) to be implemented between 2016-2018 (please refer to attached chart of AP-IS 4 Pillars and AP-IS Strategic Initiatives).

The AP-IS seven strategic initiatives are as follows:

1. Identification, coordination, deployment, expansion and integration of the regional backbone networks at the cross-border intra- and interregional levels, in collaboration with member countries and subregional organizations;
2. Establish a sufficient number of Internet exchange points at the national and subregional levels and set out common principles on Internet traffic exchange to prevent Internet traffic tromboning, decrease transit costs and improve service quality
3. Regional social and economic studies;
4. Enhancing ICT infrastructure resilience in the Asia-Pacific region;
5. Policy and regulations for leveraging existing infrastructure, technology and inclusive broadband initiatives;
6. Capacity-building; and
7. Asia-Pacific information superhighway project funding mechanism based on public-private partnerships

(c). AP-IS 7 Strategic Initiatives Implementation Plan 2016-2018: priority challenges and proposed activities

In order to match country's sub-region's and region's priorities within the scope of the AP-IS seven strategic initiatives, please complete the matrix below accordingly. Please add a row as deemed necessary.

Priority Challenges	Focus Area	AP-IS Strategic Initiatives (1-7)	AP-IS Pillars (1-4)	Remarks
Priority Challenges:	(i) Land locked countries and broadband expansion	(i) How to deal with the affordability challenges	(i) Policy and regulation (ii) Funding (iii) Right of way	
Opportunities	(i) Connecting land locked countries in our region through a terrestrial regional network will reduce OPEX and improve affordability.			
Proposed solutions/actions	(i) Developing a regional OFC network			

(d). Update to terrestrial/submarine fibre-optic cable projects: Based on the ESCAP/ITU interactive transmission map (access via link: <http://www.unescap.org/our-work/ict-disaster-risk-reduction/asia-pacific-information-superhighway/asia-pacific-information-superhighway-maps>), please check and list down if there is any recent fibre-optic cable project completed/planned for your country, which is not reflected in the interactive map. The input provided below will be used to update the interactive map accordingly.

(i) Terrestrial OFC link connecting Afghanistan, through Wakhan Corridor to China OFC network. Chines government will fund a 50 Million USD project.

(e). Any other suggestions/issues: