

Next steps...

Subregional Workshop on ICT Co-deployment along Passive Infrastructure in South Asia, New Delhi, 27 June 2019

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Joint ICT and Transport Committees (2014)

- A joint session of ESCAP ICT-Transport Committees in 2014, recommended that member States should consider amending the **Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network** and the **Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network** to encourage **co-deployment** of fibre-optic cables along passive infrastructure.



Asian Highway Working Group – November 2017

- Bangladesh proposed an **amendment** for the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network at the 7th Meeting of the Working Group on Asian Highway in November 2017.
- Proposed amendment text:

11. Co-habitation of optical fibre for strengthening information and communications technology connectivity

“There is an opportunity to leverage synergies between the concomitant deployment of optical-fibre cables during the construction and maintenance of the Asian Highway network. Such co-deployment would create additional cross-country Internet transmission routes which would contribute to the reduction of the digital divide in the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific region. In this regard, Parties shall endeavour to utilize the right of way of the Asian Highway network for the co-deployment of optical-fibre cables across and within countries.”

Asian Highway Working Group – November 2017

Working Group decisions:

- Recognized the **recommendations** contained in the report of the joint Committees on ICT and Transport;
- Requested the secretariat to **undertake a further study** on co-deployment and, drawing on this study, would consider the matter again within one year.
- Requested the secretariat to organize a **joint meeting of the Working Groups on the Asian Highway Network, the Trans-Asian Railway Network and the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Steering Group**.
- Noted the offer of the Asian Institute of Transport Development (AITD) to be associated with the study conducted by the secretariat and host a related workshop.



ESCAP activities since November 2017

Studies:

- Co-deployment of Optical Fibre Cables along the Asian Highways and Trans-Asian Railways for E-resilience: the cases of India and Bangladesh;
- A Study on Cost-Benefit Analysis of Fibre-Optic Co-Deployment and Asian Highway Connectivity;



ESCAP activities since November 2017

Meetings:

- Workshop on Cross-border co-deployment of fibre optic infrastructure along road and rail networks, 22 November 2018, Bangkok;
- Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Steering Group Meeting, 12 December 2017 and Joint Session of Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Steering Group Meeting and Seventh Meeting of the Working Group on the Asian Highway Network, 13 December 2017, Bangkok;
- Subregional Workshop on ICT Co-deployment along Passive Infrastructure in South Asia, 27 June 2019, New Delhi;
- Subregional Workshop on ICT Co-deployment along Passive Infrastructure in East and North East Asia, *3rd Week July (planned)*, Beijing;
- Subregional Workshop on ICT Co-deployment along Passive Infrastructure in North and Central Asia, *August (planned)*, Venue (TBC).



ESCAP activities since November 2017

Regional Economic, Integration & Cooperation Project:

Project objective: To enhance capacity of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Mongolia to develop sustainable and inclusive policies and mechanisms for trans-boundary infrastructure development.

Implementation period: 2018 – 2021

Activities:

- Conduct multi-sectoral assessments of transport, energy and ICT infrastructure, as well as inclusive, resilient, and financing aspects to such infrastructure;
- Develop guidelines and training materials on planning and developing inclusive and sustainable infrastructure and policy recommendations on appropriate financing options
- Organize training workshops based on studies.



ESCAP Commission Resolution (May 2019)

- Resolution 75/6: ‘Advancing the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative through regional cooperation’
- Invited ESCAP member States to consider “infrastructure sharing and **co-deployment** of fibre-optic cables **along passive infrastructure**”, in the implementation of the AP-IS in each subregion.



8th Meeting of the Working Group on the Asian Highway Network

- Scheduled for 18-20 September 2019, Bangkok;
- The WG will review and consider the amendment proposed by Bangladesh items 4 and 6 of its agenda;
- On 15 May 2019, the Secretariat received from the Government of Bangladesh a proposed amendment to the Asia Highway Network.



8th Meeting of the Working Group on the Asian Highway Network

- The proposed text as follows:

2. Proposed amendment for the Intergovernment Agreement on the Asian Highway Network.

Proposed place to insert: Annex II (ASIAN HIGHWAY CLASSIFICATION AND DESIGN STANDARDS)

Insert as paragraph 11: Co-habitation of optical fiber for strengthened ICT connectivity.

“There is an opportunity to leverage synergies between the concomitant deployment of optical fiber cables during the construction and maintenance of the Asian Highway Network. Such co-deployment would create additional cross-country internet transmission routes which would contribute to the reduction of the digital divide in the ESCAP region. In this regard, parties shall Endeavor to utilize the right-of-way of the Asian Highway Network for the co-deployment of optical fiber cables across and within countries”

Thank you!

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