UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

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

DRAFT SUBMISSION from **David Butcher and Associates** **PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES/STUDIES** 15 October 2017
(a). Background Information
(i). Organization: David Butcher and Associates, Consultants, based in Wellington New Zealand
(ii). Organization's Focus: David Butcher & Associates (DBA) has, for more than 25 years worked with clients on promoting economic development. In our experience, good governance and competition are effective tools for ensuring commercial activities meet peoples' human needs. We acknowledge that throughout history, competition has been the principal regulator of economic activity. More recently, the company advocated structural separation of telecommunications infrastructure and services to: promote development by economising on infrastructure investment, simplify regulation, encourage competitive entry and speed up access. We recognised that ubiquitous fast broadband would bring this about. DBA is led by David Butcher, a Minister in the NZ Government from 1984-1990 responsible for advocating and delivering major reforms to agricultural support, industry protection, energy markets and public-sector enterprises.
(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 <u>seven strategic initiatives</u> 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 your organization's current and planned activities with country's/sub-region's/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.

Activity/Project/Study	Description
Description of the Activity/Project/Study (existing or planned)	(i) Our first opportunity to deploy structural separation was in 2001 in Cambodia, where we advised the state-owned entity to specialise in open access infrastructure. The model satisfied the need to overcome capacity deficiencies in policy, regulation, administration and transparency. (ii) Similar models were advocated in South Africa, Rwanda, Mongolia, Bangladesh and internationally including a major meeting in Brussels. (iii) Currently, the major focus of our company is to seek New Zealand Government participation in developing a tool kit for countries to assess their disaster resilience to reduce disaster risks.
Link of the activity/project/study to the AP-IS Strategic Initiatives (1-7)	(i) The most recent focus of our company relates to Pillars 1, 3 and 4. SI-1 links to P1, P3, P4 and P5. Expansion and integration of existing and new broadband networks, Regional social and economic studies, enhancing ICT infrastructure resilience, policy and regulatory harmonisation. The Regional Toolkit for disaster resilience will have all of the above benefits.

Activity/Project/Study	Description
Link of the activity/project/study to the AP-IS Pillars (1-4)	(i) The Project will only work if there is substantial buy-in from the roading and rail authorities in the respective countries. As additional finance will be required either PPP or other financial sources will be required. P.2 and P.3 main focus. (ii) Needs a strategy to get buy in: tailored promotions to suit respective countries, analysis of support factors or issues with reservations, standard documentation, regulations and facilitation. P.2 and P.3
Beneficiary Organizations/Countries of the Activity/Project/Study	(i) The principal beneficiaries in each nation will be government departments, education sector and business engaged in international trade. (ii) Benefits will be greater redundancy, fewer outages, greater speed of communications and increased bandwidth (iii) Organisations with potential reservations will include security and censorship authorities who may have concerns about traffic passing through their territory, undermining censorship.
Outcome of the Activity/Project/Study for Beneficiaries	Currently no relevant DBA projects are underway, although previously DBA has been active in much of the region (i) Promotion should start with identification, of existing national and regional backbone networks. (ii) Cross-border intra- and interregional coordination is a high priority, obtaining political support is also a high priority; (iii) Common principles of regulation, contractual and legal frameworks, all focused on cost reduction and improved quality (iv) Studies of regional disaster resilience, social and economic benefits and analysis of obstacles; (v) Policy and regulations for leveraging existing infrastructure, technology and inclusive broadband initiatives; (vi) Capacity-building should focus on project funding, mechanisms PPP or other suitable frameworks
Timeframe of the activity/project/study	(i) None underway at present

(iv). Any other suggestions/issues:

(i) There are huge benefits to the private sector in successful implementation of the AP-IS. Involvement of other regional forums should be a crucial part of the strategy, and there should be particular focus on ensuring that in each country they are fully aware of the opportunity.
(ii) Rail and roading authorities in most countries are also short of cash so there should be a special programme to ensure they know that too.