Strengthened connectivity through implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative in East and Northeast Asia

Project of Institutes of Russian Academy of Sciences and Russian Universities

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ESCAP reports indicate that 75% of the fixed broadband subscriptions were in East and Northeast Asia
Frontier technologies such as artificial intelligence and blockchain rely heavily on the existence of robust, reliable, resilient and affordable broadband infrastructure.
Institutes of Russian Academy of Sciences suggest new project proposes to focus on implementation of the AP-IS in the East and Northeast subregion
Expected outcome of this project therefore includes:

- Strengthened capacity for engaging in regional dialogue and cooperation among target countries for the promotion on ICT regional connectivity, financing mechanisms and emerging technologies at the subregional and regional levels.

The project is expected to produce the following key outputs:

- Target groups have increased knowledge and awareness of developing regional broadband connectivity, appropriate financing mechanisms and emerging technologies based on the findings from the studies.
- Enhanced regional dialogue and cooperation among ESCAP member countries and stakeholders on improved ICT connectivity and ecosystem resilience, in line with the shared vision of the AP-IS and other sub-regional and national broadband initiatives.
Proposed activities include:

- Pre-feasibility study on enhancing broadband connectivity and creating a resilient ecosystem in East and Northeast Asia.
- Study on enabling financing mechanisms for the implementation of AP-IS.
- Organize the AP-IS Steering Committee (in 2019 & 2020) and sub-regional Steering Group meetings (in 2018 and 2019) and online communities.

Purpose: promote common understanding and discuss AP-IS implementation for improved ICT connectivity between the Far Eastern Federal District of the Russian Federation and East and Northeast Asia, and other AP-IS corridors such as in Central Asia and Southeast Asia.
Strategy relies on implementation through a number of partnerships, that based on project outputs are expected to provide enhanced contextual relevance while leading to sustainable project impacts after the completion of the project.
First the key implementing partner is the Russian Academy of Sciences as the agency with the specialized contextual knowledge of the Far East of the Russian Federation.

It is also the agency through which the Russian Federation has been supporting the development of disaster resilient ICT infrastructure, also known as e-resilience, under the framework of the AP-IS initiative.

Strengthened partnership with the Russian Academy of Sciences, is expected to enhance the delivery of project outputs
Second, implementation efficiencies are expected to be enhanced by the geographic proximity of ESCAP’s subregional office in East and North-East Asia.
Third, through the well-established capacity development program of ESCAP’s Asia-Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communications Technology for Development (APCICT) awareness raising and upgrading of individual and institutional capacity is expected
Fourth, the project will benefit from expertise available in specialized agencies. ESCAP as one of the co-chairs of the Interagency Working Group on ICT is well positioned to promote collaboration with ITU and APT, as well as ISOC in implementation of this project.
We invite partners to this project: International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), Internet Society (ISOC), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and UN Volunteers. As well as Institutions and Universities, Banks and IT companies of China, Japan, Korea and Mongolia.
We suggest to launch ESCAP trust fund for the project feasibility study and later for implementation of the results of research in AP-IS structure in North East Pacific.