

## Regional Consultation on Inclusive Technology and Innovation Policies

Bangkok, Thailand, United Nations Conference Centre  
28-29 August 2018

**Technology and innovation are a driving force** behind economic growth, expanding access to basic services (such as education, health and energy) and offering means to address environmental concerns.

Yet, **not everyone has benefited from the opportunities** offered by technology and innovation. Income and wealth inequalities are on the rise in the Asia-Pacific region. The region's combined income inequality, measured by the Gini coefficient, has increased by over 5 percentage points in the last 20 years. Rural communities, women, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable and low-income communities are often unable to make full use of technologies and innovation.

There is an **imperative to expand inclusive technologies and innovations** for the poor and by the poor to achieve sustainable development and leave no one behind.

**The Asia-Pacific region hosts some of the more transformative efforts to use technology and innovation for inclusive development:** the grassroots movement solving local needs in India, small entrepreneurs earning a better living by trading online in Indonesia, women furthering scientific careers in Malaysia, research addressing social problems in the Republic of Korea, frontier technologies enabling better care for the elderly in Japan, and technology transfer enabling affordable access to clean energy in rural areas of Tajikistan provide just a few examples.

Most inclusive innovations are developed by firms, entrepreneurs, grassroots innovations and development organisations. **Yet, public policies are required to enable inclusive innovations to flourish, reach scale, and diffuse.**

ESCAP's new ***Inclusive Technology and Innovation Policies programme*** will support governments **across the region to design and implement inclusive innovation policies** by conducting policy research, building policy making capacities and supporting knowledge exchange.

As a first step, ESCAP is convening a **Regional Consultation on Inclusive Technology and Innovation Policy** to:

- share experiences and lessons learnt regarding inclusive innovation policy
- identify emerging challenges and opportunities to encourage, enable and emulate more inclusive innovation; and
- identify inclusive innovation policy issues that require further exploration.

Policy makers, government officials, researchers, civil society organisations and private sector firms with an interest in the area of inclusive innovation policies will be participating in the Regional Consultation.

The outcome of meeting will be presented at a **dedicated session of ESCAP's Committee on Information and Communication Technologies and Science, Technology and Innovation** on 29 August.

## Preliminary Programme

**Tuesday, 28 August 2018**

08:00 – 08:30	Registration
08:30 – 08:45	<b>Welcome and objectives of the Regional Consultation</b>
08:45 – 09:15	<b>Introductions of participants</b>
09:15 – 10:30	<p><b>The story so far: Inclusive innovation in Asia and the Pacific</b></p> <p>In this session, experts will discuss key policies, milestones, and lessons learnt so far in promoting inclusive innovation in Asia and the Pacific. We will have the opportunity to hear inspiring stories from the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expert group discussions</li><li>• Inspirational stories</li></ul>
10:30 – 10:45	Tea and Coffee Networking Break
10:45 – 12:15	<p><b>Challenges and emerging issues for inclusive innovation in Asia and the Pacific</b></p> <p>This session will identify some of the challenges and emerging issues for inclusive innovation in Asia and the Pacific.</p>
12:15 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:30	<p><b>The future of inclusive technology and innovation policy</b></p> <p>In this session, participants develop a common understanding of how inclusive innovation systems could look like.</p>
14:30 – 14:45	Tea and Coffee Networking Break
14:45 – 16:45	<p><b>The way forward</b></p> <p>Experts will develop recommendations for promoting more inclusive technologies and innovation systems.</p> <p>Recommendations emanating from this discussion will be shared with government officials and policy makers during a dedicated session of the ESCAP Committee on Information and Communication Technologies and Science, Technology and Innovation (Afternoon, Wednesday 29 August)</p>

<b>Wednesday, 29 August 2018 (morning)</b>	
08:30 – 08:45	<b>Welcome back and objectives for the day</b>
08:45 – 09:15	<b>Wrap-up of the results of the day before</b>
09:15 – 10:30	<b>The caravan – Inclusive innovation in Asia and the Pacific (Part 1)</b>  Participants will have the opportunity to hear and discuss in more detail some of the inclusive technology and innovation policies and strategies implemented in the region. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four country experiences</li> </ul>
10:30 – 10:45	Tea and Coffee Networking Break
10:45 – 12:00	<b>The caravan – Inclusive innovation in Asia and the Pacific (Part 2)</b>  Participants will have the opportunity discuss in more detail how some of the critical issues of inclusive technology and innovation policies are being addressed in the region. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women, technology and innovation</li> <li>• Assistive technologies for people with disabilities</li> <li>• Technology transfer for inclusion</li> <li>• Evaluating impact</li> </ul>
12:00 – 12:15	<b>Closing remarks</b>

For those attending **ESCAP Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation**:

<b>Wednesday, 29 August 2018 (afternoon)</b>	
14:00 – 17:00	<b>Mainstreaming inclusive technology and innovation policies that leave no one behind</b>  <a href="https://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-information-and-communications-technology-science-technology-and-innovation-second">https://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-information-and-communications-technology-science-technology-and-innovation-second</a>

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