# The Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) initiative 2019-2020







ASIA-PACIFIC INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY

亚太信息高速公路

АЗИАТСКО-ТИХООКЕАНСКАЯ ИНФОРМАЦИОННАЯ СУПЕРМАГИСТРАЛЬ

L'AUTOROUTE
ASIE-PACIFIQUE
DE L'INFORMATION

The Asia-Pacific Information
Superhighway initiative aims to
increase the availability and
affordability of broadband across

Promote terrestrial and submarine fibre-optic connectivity

Asia and the Pacific

- Provide a regional intergovernmental platform focusing on the missing fibre-optic links between ESCAP countries
- ESCAP resolution 73/6 in 2017 and 75/7 in 2019



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The 1st AP-IS Steering Committee ESCAP Dhaka, Bangladesh 1-2 November 2017 AP-IS Governance Structure Proposed Activities and Implementation for AP-IS



The 2<sup>nd</sup> AP-IS Steering Committee

Bangkok , Thailand 27-28 August 2018

Updated AP-IS Master Plan (2019-2022) and Regional Cooperation Framework (2019-2022)

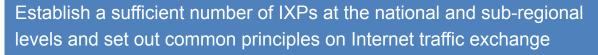
Third Session of AP-IS Steering Committee, 26-29 Aug 2019, Bangkok.

- 170+ participants attended (incl. gov reps from 30 ESCAP member States, WB, ADB & AIIB);
- Discussed the potential impact of 5G rollout; the resulting digital gaps, resilient ICT infrastructure; and the role of academia and research institutions on generating empirical base for informed policy making;
- As a result, Working Groups would be established to develop a cross-border operation model, a broadband corridor in Central Asia, and Internet traffic management in Southeast Asia and the Pacific;
- An AP-IS Academia Network would be developed to support the implementation of the AP-IS activities, in recognition of the important role played by the academia and research institutions;
- The AP-IS initiative was also recognized as a regional cooperation platform for inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnerships and was effective in addressing how to extend broadband connectivity to remote and rural areas and at the same time to advance emerging technologies for sustainable development.



# **AP-IS Strategic Initiatives** 2019-2020

	Identification, coordination, deployment, expansion and integration of
	the regional backbone network





- Enhancing ICT infrastructure resilience
- Policy and regulations for leveraging existing infrastructure, technology 5 and inclusive broadband initiatives
- Capacity-building

AP-IS funding mechanism based on public-private partnerships





















## Strategic initiative 1: regional backbone network

Goal: Development of cross-border and national broadband networks(first phase: Central Asia)

#### Completed:

- Technical study on co-deployment with power grid
- Cross-border infrastructure operation and maintenance model
- Compilation of ESCAP studies on co-deployment

#### In progress/ planned

- Subregional and national co-deployment studies (Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan Corridor)
- Capacity development workshops for policy and regulatory updates in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in 2019 and 2020
- Co-deployment capacity development workshop (ICT & Road Sector)
- AP-IS subregional meetings and update to the AP-IS subregional implementation plan in 2019 and 2020

#### **Partners**

- Development banks
- Bilateral donors
- Private sector companies

#### **Expected outcomes**

- Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan corridor project and agreement among operators & ministries
- a project which facilitates the construction of TASIM
- a co-deployment project (phase 4 and 5) of the **North-South Investment Road project** and agreement among operators and ministries



## **Strategic initiative 2: Internet Exchange Point**

Goal: Establish a sufficient number of Internet exchange points (first phase: Southeast Asia)

- Technical studies on Internet traffic management among CLMV countries
- Technical study on the GMS Information Superhighway network topology
- EGM to show the findings of CLMV report and conduct consultations, 28 August 2019
- Support to the ASEAN TELSOM meeting in 2019 on the findings of the technical studies and outcomes of the EGM for their guidance

Expected outcomes Development of the common principles and agreement Internet traffic management among **CLMV** countries

Development of a project construct the IXPs and networks based the studies on and agreement

Partners: ASEAN TELSOM and secretariat, RoK-ASEAN funds, CECP fund



## Strategic initiative 3: regional social and economic studies

Goal: Increased knowledge of social and economic impacts of broadband networks and services

#### Completed

- Technical study on how to measure the digital divide from the AP-IS perspective (by LSE)
- UNESCO-ESCAP report on school connectivity

#### **Partners**

Academia partners

#### In progress /planned

fully integrated

- Study on social media and gender digital divide
- Contribution to DESA's E-government Survey 2020
- To share the findings at the AP-IS SC and subregional meetings (2019 and 2020)

#### **Expected outcomes**

- Findings inform other strategic initiative activities to ensure that social and economic perspectives are
- Development of AP-IS Academia Network of partner universities which can undertake research

onomic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

## Strategic initiative 4: ICT infrastructure resilience

Goal: Develop knowledge, awareness and capacity in e-resilience (first phase: Pacific)

#### **Activities**

- Technical study on resilient Internet traffic management in the Pacific
- Technical study on cross-border infrastructure development
- AP-IS subregional meeting for the Pacific countries with PITA in 2020

#### **Partners**

- With ISOC to conduct a Pacific IXP study.
- Support UNODC in their efforts to increase cybersecurity capabilities of member countries
- USP, PITA among others

#### **Expected outcomes**

Findings will be mainstreamed in the activities of other strategic initiatives, in particular network design and capacity development



## **Strategic initiative 5: Policy and regulations**

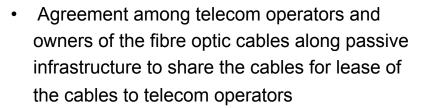
tives

Goal: Updated policies and regulations to create synergies with existing infrastructure and initiatives

#### **Activities**

- Subregional capacity development workshop on co-deployment between ICT and other sectors
- Compilation of ESCAP studies on codeployment
- Subregional capacity development workshops on co-deployment in 2019

#### **Expected outcomes**







## Strategic initiative 6: Capacity building

Goal: Institutional and individual capacity developed to support the development and implementation activities of other strategic initiatives in a systematic and sustainable manner

#### **Activities**

- Development of APCICT module on connectivity
- Regional, subregional and national capacity development workshops with APCICT in 2020
- AP-IS Steering Committee and subregional meetings to share the information on capacity development and seek their guidance

Partners APCICT, UNESCO, ITU/APT

#### **Expected outcomes**

Modules and materials developed based on the technical studies and capacity development activities conducted in other strategic initiatives, will then support future AP-IS activities.





## Strategic initiative 7: project funding mechanism

Goal: Financing partners as well as private sector companies are aware of the benefits of AP-IS strategic initiatives and develop and financing and collaboration activities in support of AP-IS

#### **Activities**

- Financing modalities for cross-border codeployment infrastructure project
- National workshops planned in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia
- AP-IS Steering Committee and subregional meetings to share the outcomes
- Support to partners' efforts, such as WSIS Forum,
   UNCT and inter-agency collaboration

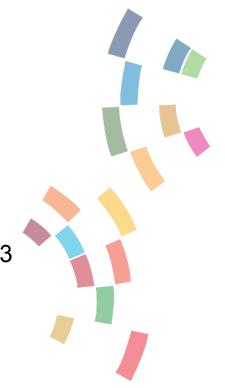
#### **Expected outcomes**

- AIID, ADB, WB, bilateral donors, private sector and CSOs decide to fund AP-IS strategic initiatives
- UNCT develops CCA and UNSDF with digital technologies which support the member country's efforts for digital inclusion.



### **Upcoming AP-IS events:**

- First National Workshop on addressing the transboundary dimensions of the 2030 Agenda through regional economic cooperation and integration in Asia and the Pacific, Kyrgyzstan, 21-22 Oct 2019;
- Subregional capacity development workshop on codeployment between ICT and Road, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 23 Oct 2019;
- First National Workshop on addressing the transboundary dimensions of the 2030 Agenda through regional economic cooperation and integration in Asia and the Pacific, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 24-25 Oct 2019;

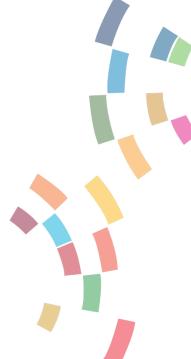




## **Upcoming AP-IS events (continued):**

- Subregional capacity development workshop on codeployment between ICT and Road, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 20 November 2019;
- First National Workshop on addressing the transboundary dimensions of the 2030 Agenda through regional economic cooperation and integration in Asia and the Pacific, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 21-22 November 2019;
- 4<sup>th</sup> AP-IS Steering Committee, August 2020, Bangkok.

For any questions, please contact UNESCAP at email: <a href="mailto:escap-ids@un.org">escap-ids@un.org</a>







## Thank you!

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