

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



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

- Promote terrestrial and submarine fibre-optic connectivity
- 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



The 1st AP-IS Steering Committee

Dhaka , Bangladesh
1-2 November 2017

AP-IS Governance Structure
Proposed Activities and Implementation
for AP-IS





The 2nd 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

		P1: Infrastructure & Connectivity	P2: Internet Traffic & Network Mgmt.	P3: E-Resilience	P4: Broadband for All
1	Identification, coordination, deployment, expansion and integration of the regional backbone network				
2	Establish a sufficient number of IXPs at the national and sub-regional levels and set out common principles on Internet traffic exchange				
3	Regional social and economic studies				
4	Enhancing ICT infrastructure resilience				
5	Policy and regulations for leveraging existing infrastructure, technology and inclusive broadband initiatives				
6	Capacity-building				
7	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

Partners

- Development banks
- Bilateral donors
- Private sector companies

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

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 on Internet traffic management among CLMV countries
- Development of a project to construct the IXPs and networks based on the studies 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

In progress /planned

- 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)

Partners

- Academia partners

Expected outcomes

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

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

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 co-deployment
- Subregional capacity development workshops on co-deployment in 2019

Expected outcomes

- Agreement among telecom operators and owners of the fibre optic cables along passive infrastructure to share the cables for lease of the cables to telecom operators

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 co-deployment 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 co-deployment 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 co-deployment 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;
- 4th AP-IS Steering Committee, August 2020, Bangkok.



For any questions, please contact
UNESCAP at email: escap-ids@un.org



Thank you!

More info: <http://www.unescap.org/our-work/ict-disaster-risk-reduction/asia-pacific-information-superhighway/resources>

www.drrgateway.net

