**Capacity Building Workshop on Digital Connectivity and Transformation**

**under the framework of   
the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Action Plan 2022-2026**

**6 July 2022, 09:30—16:00 hours**

**Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**

**Concept Note**

1. **Background:**

The rapid adoption of digital technologies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic has drastically transformed socio-economic activities of citizens across the Asia-Pacific region. One of the most profound changes has been the acceleration in the shift towards digital society, such as online working, teaching, and socializing. This systemic change has highlighted the crucial position and importance of the digital connectivity and digital transformation, and also laying bare the longstanding inequalities that have become increasingly intensified.

The Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) initiative, that ESCAP has been promoting since 2016, aims at bridging the digital divide and accelerate digital transformation - through promoting digital connectivity, digital technology and data use in the Asia-Pacific region. Member States of the Asia Pacific Information Superhighway Steering Committee, at its fifth session (AP-IS SC-5), adopted the Action Plan 2022 to 2026 of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS Action Plan 2022-2026) on 25 November 2021. The Action Plan consists of three main pillars (i.e., Connectivity for all; Digital technologies and applications, and Digital data) and 25 actions under these three pillars.

This AP-IS Action Plan 2022-2026 serves as a blueprint for regional cooperative actions for universal digital connectivity, digital transformation, and a more inclusive digital society. It also supports the UN Secretary-General’s Common Agenda on Improving Digital Global Cooperation and the Action Lines of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), to connect all people to the Internet, avoid Internet fragmentation, protect data, and digital commons as a global public goods.

In order to further contribute to the above-mentioned, and following the recommendations by the AP-IS bureau members the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) and the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (ITT LLDC) are pleased to co-organize the “Capacity Building on Digital Connectivity and Transformation under the framework of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Action Plan 2022-2026” on 6 July 2022, from 09:30 to 16:00 hours in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

1. **Objectives:**

* To enhance awareness concerning the action plan 2022-2026 of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative.
* To enhance understanding and awareness on the status and challenges in promoting digital connectivity and advancing digital transformation of countries in the Asia-Pacific towards an inclusive digital society.
* To share good practices and lessons learned in advancing digital connectivity and digital transformation.

1. **Date, time, venue, meeting mode and registration:**

* Date and time: Wednesday, 6 July 2022 (ULAT, UTC+8), 09:30-16:00 hours.
* Venue: UN House, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
* Meeting mode: In-person and on-line participation through Microsoft Teams application, are available.
* Registration: For both in-person and on-line participation, on-line registration in advance by 10 June 2022 – through this link: <https://indico.un.org/event/1001396/>, is required.

1. **Co-organizers and Invitees:**

* Co-organizers: UN ESCAP and ITTLLDC.
* Invitees: Members of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway and the regional partners.

1. **Language:** The workshop will be conducted in English only.
2. **Contact person:**

Mr. Zhenxiong FAN

Associate Economic Affairs Officer, ICT and Development Section (IDS)

ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD)

United Nations ESCAP

E-mail: [zhenxiong.fan@un.org](file:///C:\Users\USER\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\YSC2VOGX\zhenxiong.fan@un.org) (with copy to: [escap-ids@un.org](mailto:escap-ids@un.org))

**Draft Programme (First Draft)**

**ULAT, UTC+8**

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| **Time** | **Sessions** |
| 9:30-09:50 | **Session 1: Opening Session**   * Opening remarks: Mr. Tae Hyung KIM, Chief, ICT and Development Section (IDS), ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD), ESCAP. * Welcome remarks: Mr. Dulguun Dod, Executive Director, International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (ITT LLDC). * H.E. the Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Mongolia. (tbc) |
| 9:50-11:00 | **Session 2: Pillar 1 - Connectivity for All**   * “Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the digital divide in Asia-Pacific region”, by Mr. Yongwang Liu, Senior Engineer, China Academy of Information and Communications Technology (CAICT), China. * “TITLE OF STATEMENT/PRESENTATION” by, an expert from Mongolia. * “Promoting digital infrastructure development including identifying missing cross-border digital linkages and investment gaps” by Mr. Yongtao He, Deputy Chief Engineer, China Information Technology Designing and Consulting Institute, China. * “TITLE OF STATEMENT/PRESENTATION” by, a speaker from the AP-IS Bureau members.   **Q&A** |
| 11:00-11:20 | **Coffee break** |
| 11:20-12:30 | **Session 3: Pillar 2 - Digital Technologies and Applications**   * “Digital Payment Systems”, by Mr. Yuntao Wang, Associate Professor, China Academy of Information and Communications Technology (CAICT), China. * “Digital Technology Applications for Resource Management”, by Mr. Soon Myung Hong, Senior Professional Engineer, Republic of Korea. * “TITLE OF STATEMENT/PRESENTATION” by, an expert from Mongolia. * “TITLE OF STATEMENT/PRESENTATION” by, an expert from the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT).   **Q&A** |
| 12:30-14:00 | **Lunch Break** |
| 14:00-15:20 | **Session 4: Pillar 3 - Digital Data**   * “TITLE OF STATEMENT/PRESENTATION” by, an expert from the AP-IS Bureau members. * “TITLE OF STATEMENT/PRESENTATION” by, an expert on Digital technology and geospatial data on land management. * “TITLE OF STATEMENT/PRESENTATION” by, an expert from Mongolia. * “TITLE OF STATEMENT/PRESENTATION” by, an expert from UN agency.   **Q&A** |
| 15:20-15:55 | **Session 5: Future Cooperative Actions**   * Discussions |
| 15:55-16:00 | **Closing** |