

## Supporting Digital SDGs: Regional Workshop on Digital Inclusion and Community Development

18-19 September 2023

Conference Room 4, United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC)  
Bangkok, Thailand and online via Zoom

### Concept note (Second draft)

#### **Background:**

Findings from ESCAP research including ESCAP's flagship report, 'Shaping Our Digital Future – Asia-Pacific Digital Transformation Report 2022', indicate that the 'digital divide' among member States in the Asia-Pacific region is the largest in the world, and that achieving a certain level of digital inclusion requires not only the presence of technologies like mobile banking and digital legal identification but also ensuring affordability, security, and accessibility of devices and data usage for all, regardless of their income level or location.

To respond to the urgent need to address the digital divide and development gaps, member States developed and adopted the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (APIS) Action Plan 2022- 2026. The Action Plan was fully endorsed with the adoption of the resolution 79/10 on "Promoting digital cooperation and inclusion through the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026" by member States at the 79<sup>th</sup> session of the ESCAP Commission in May 2023.

Serving as a blueprint for regional cooperative action and capacity building, the APIS Action Plan 2022-2026 highlights digital inclusion as a crucial catalyst for advancing the digital economy through accelerating digital transformation on 3 pillars, namely: "Connectivity for all"; "Digital technologies and applications"; and "Digital data".

Against this background, the ESCAP secretariat, with support from the Korean Federation of Community Credit Cooperatives (KFCC), plans to organize the "[Digital SDGs: Regional Workshop on Digital Inclusion and Community Development](#)" on 18-19 September 2023, at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand, through in-person participation and online via Zoom. The Regional Workshop, which is sponsored by the KFCC, coincides with the global digital SDG day event which will be held in New York on 17 September, prior to the SDG Summit., in New York. At the regional level, this workshop will bring together the representatives from member States and related UN agencies, to address the challenges and opportunities that digital transformation can bring for SDG acceleration, within and across nations and the Asia-Pacific region.

#### **Objectives:**

- To enhance understanding of good practices and lessons learned on digital inclusion for SDGs, in particular, community-based digital financing inclusion;
- To strengthen partnerships on digital inclusion for SDGs with an emphasis on digital micro-finance models and systems in the community with an emphasis on women entrepreneurship; and
- To explore applications of new frontier technologies for community development including artificial intelligence and climate change technologies.

#### Dates, time, venue, and meeting mode:

- Dates and time: 18-19 September 2023, 09:30-15:00 hours, Bangkok time (UTC +7).
- Venue: Conference Room 4, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Meeting mode: Hybrid (In-person and online participation through Zoom).

#### Organizers and Invitees:

- Organizers:
  - United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
  - Korean Federation of Community Credit Cooperatives (KFCC)
- Invitees:
  - Members and observers of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway
  - Related UN agencies and regional organizations

#### Registration:

- For in-person participants: Please register through the following link by 25 August 2023.
- For online participants: Please register through the following link by 10 September 2023.
- Link: <https://indico.un.org/event/1006584/>

#### Language:

The Regional Workshop will be conducted in English.

#### Contact persons:

- Ms. Sowi Kim, Senior Expert, ICT and Development Section (IDS), ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD), United Nations ESCAP;
- Mr. Seul Ki Yi, Coordinator and Secretariat for AP-IS, ICT and Development Section (IDS), ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD), United Nations ESCAP;
- E-mail: [sowi.kim@un.org](mailto:sowi.kim@un.org); with copies to: [seul.yi@un.org](mailto:seul.yi@un.org); [escap-ids@un.org](mailto:escap-ids@un.org).

**Draft Programme (Second Draft)**

<Day 1>

Time	Sessions
08:30 - 09:20	<b>Registration</b>
09:30 - 09:50	<p><b>Session 1: Opening Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome remarks by ESCAP               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Ms. Tiziana Bonapace, Director, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD), ESCAP (5 minutes)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Opening remarks by ITU               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Representative of ITU (tbd) (5 minutes)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Opening remarks by KFCC               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Woojong Sim, Director, International Development Cooperation Team, Korean Federation of Community Credit Cooperatives (5 minutes)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Ms. Sowi Kim, Expert on ICT (NRL), IDS, IDD, ESCAP</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Group Photo</p>
09:50 - 10:20	<p><b>Session 2: Supporting Digital SDG day: Keynote Presentations on Digital Inclusion for SDGs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vision for E-Mongolia (Mind Mongolia: Mingolia)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Mr. Erkhembaatar Jargaltsengel, Vice Minister of Digital Development and Communications (MDDC), Mongolia (15 minutes)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Financial Inclusion and Digital for Community Development and UN SDGs               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mr. Jeong Hyeok, Professor, Graduate School of International Studies, Seoul National University (online) (15 minutes)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Q&amp;A</b></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Tae Hyung KIM, Chief, ICT and Development Section, ESCAP</p>
10:20 - 11:10	<p><b>Session 3: Community-based Digital Financing for Digital Inclusion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KFCC: Community-based Financial Inclusion and Its Future               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mr. Woojong Sim, Director, International Development Cooperation Team, KFCC (15 minutes)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lao PDR: Digital financial strategy for improving the financial literacy, welfare and well-being of local communities and indigenous populations               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Ms. Alouna Simmalavong, Deputy Head of Division, Department of Digital Technology, Ministry of Technology and Communications, Lao PDR (15 minutes)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNCDF: Ecosystem approaches to drive digital and financial inclusion in Myanmar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mr. Amit Kumar Garg, Digital Ecosystem Advisor, &amp; Sajib Azad, Policy Expert, UNCDF (online, 15 minutes)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Q&amp;A</b></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Meas Po, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Cambodia</p>
11:10 - 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 - 12:20	<p><b>Session 4: Digital Community Credit Cooperatives as an Innovation Policy Platform for International Cooperation and Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KDIS: The 12 principles of community credit cooperatives' Digital Inclusion Model <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mr. Tae Jun Lee, Professor, Public Policy and Management, KDI School (15 minutes)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Google APAC: Driving Device Equity, Sustainably <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mr. Timothy Paolini, Frontier Markets, APAC/ChromeOS Flex, INTL Google (15 minutes)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• ESCAP: Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (APIS) platform for digital financial inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mr. Tae Hyung Kim, Chief, ICT and Development Section, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP (15 minutes)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Q&amp;A</b></p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Sang-yirl Nam, Senior Research Fellow, Dept. of International &amp; Cooperation Research, Korea Information Society Development Institute (KISDI)</p>
12:20 - 13:30	<b>Lunch Break</b>
13:30 - 14:50	<p><b>Session 5: Digital (AI) Applications for SDGs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IsDB: Digital Inclusion Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mr. Shaharyar Jawaid, Senior ICT Specialist, Economic &amp; Social Infrastructure, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) (online; (15 minutes)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• AIAT&amp;NECTEC: A cultural and biodiversity platform for local community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Dr. Thepchai Supnithi, Vice President of AI Asia Expo, AI Association of Thailand (AIAT), Director of Artificial Intelligence Research Group, National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (NECTEC) (15 minutes)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• GIST: AI Strategy and Opportunities from an AI Anatomy Perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mr. Duk-jo Kong, Director, Research Innovative Center in GIST (Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology), the Republic of Korea (15 minutes)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Queen Mary University: UNESCAP Cross-Border Data Sharing Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mr. Jae-Hwan Park (Cantab), FHEA, Senior Lecturer in Engineering Management, School of Engineering and Materials Science (SEMS), Queen Mary University of London, UK (15 minutes)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Q&amp;A</b></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Tae Hyung KIM, Chief, ICT and Development Section, ESCAP</p>
14:55 - 15:00	<p>Wrap-up of the first day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Tae Hyung Kim, Chief, ICT and Development Section, ESCAP</li> <li>Mr. Woojong Sim, Director, International Development Cooperation Team, KFCC</li> </ul> <p><b>&lt;House announcement&gt;</b></p>
18:00 - 20:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Welcome Dinner</b></p> <p>Location: Shangri-la (TBD)</p>

<Day 2>

Time	Sessions
09:30 - 10:50	<p><b>Session 6: Digital (AI) Applications for SDGs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Azerbaijan: Smart services: how to achieve SDG <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mr. Semral Aliyev, Head, Digital Technologies and Innovation Department, State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations</li> </ul> </li> <li>China: Digital Inclusion: The Practice of Universal Service Project in China" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mr. Yongwang Liu, Senior Engineer, Industry and Planning Research Institute, China Academy of Information and Communications Technology (CAICT)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Fiji <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mr. Mitieli Cama, Deputy Secretary, Ministry for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management</li> </ul> </li> <li>Uzbekistan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mr. Bunyod Rakhmatullaev, Deputy Director General of the National Office for Innovation Implementation and Technology Transfer under the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation</li> </ul> </li> <li>UNPOG: Harnessing Digital Technologies with a Gender-Responsive Approach to Climate Action and Resilience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mr. Keping Yao, Senior Governance and Public Administration Expert, United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), UN DESA (online)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>

	Moderator: Mr. Tae Hyung Kim, Chief of the ICT and Development Section, ESCAP
10:50 - 11:10	Coffee break
11:10 - 11:40	<p><b>Session 7: Digital Cooperation through the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (APIS) Platform</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of the 7<sup>th</sup> session of the APIS Steering Committee in Yerevan, Armenia, 8-9 November. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ H.E. Mr. Gevorg Mantashyan, First Deputy Minister of the Ministry of High-Tech Industry of Armenia</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
11:40 - 12:00	<p><b>Session 8: Closing Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing remarks by ESCAP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Ms. Tiziana Bonapace, Director, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD), ESCAP</li> </ul> </li> </ul>