Webinar: How the Republic of Korea turned the tide on COVID-19 using ICT
28 April 2020, 1:00PM – 2:30PM, Korea Time

The Republic of Korea has been lauded for its success in flattening its COVID-19 curve. Peaking at 909 new infections on 29 February, the country was able to bring the spread of the virus under control and now has one of the world's lowest fatality rates. The government's policy of testing, tracing and treating infections, without resorting to draconian measures as locking down cities, has helped the country turn the tide on the COVID-19 pandemic.

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) have played a key role in Republic of Korea's response to fight COVID-19. Cellular broadcasting services, mobile apps & devices, telemedicine, artificial intelligence, and open government data are some of the digital solutions that helped the government in disseminating key emergency information; enforcing social distancing; administering testing; tracing and treating infections. Digital technologies have emerged as the Republic of Korea's effective tools to combat the spread and impact of COVID-19.

The Republic of Korea's experience in leveraging ICTs to combat COVID-19 offers valuable lessons to countries in Asia and the Pacific on how to respond to the pandemic. Towards this end, ESCAP/APCICT is organizing the webinar on "**How the Republic of Korea turned the tide on COVID-19 using ICT**" on 28 April 2020. The webinar will impart to the ESCAP community the Republic of Korea's policies and practices in using digital technologies to fight COVID-19. It will also provide a platform for dialogue on challenges that other countries may encounter in implementing ICT-based solutions to fight the pandemic.

Objectives

The webinar aims to:

- Share the Republic of Korea's experience in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic using ICT
- Identify digital solutions that may be replicated by other countries in Asia-Pacific

- Discuss challenges that other countries may face in deploying digital solutions to combat COVID-19

Speakers

The webinar will feature speakers from the government of the Republic of Korea, ICT experts and representatives from selected countries.

PARTICIPANTS

The webinar is open to ESCAP member states and ESCAP/APCICT partners.

Instructions on how to connect to the webinar will be provided shortly. For any questions, please email apcict@un.org.

PROGRAMME
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Time	Description
	Access via YouTube Live: *https://youtu.be/lca_tIsVXMs*
1:00 PM	**OPENING** ▪ Opening Remarks by Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP
1:10 PM	**PRESENTATIONS** **Presentation on the Republic of Korea's Report "Flattening the curve on COVID-19: How Korea responded to a pandemic using ICT"** ▪ Mr. Choi Sung Joon, Director, Multilateral Cooperation Division, Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT), Republic of Korea. **Presentation on "COVID-19 Pandemic Response with ICT and AI: The Case of the Republic of Korea"** ▪ Mr. Nam Sang-yirl, Head of Research Group on International Organizations and Cooperation, Korean Information Society Development Institute (KISDI), Republic of Korea. **Issues, challenges, and other considerations in deploying digital solutions to fight COVID-19** *Country perspectives* ▪ Mr. Emmanuel Lallana, Chief Executive, Ideacorp, Philippines. ▪ Mr. Amit Prakash, Associate Professor, International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B), India. ▪ Mr. Freddy Tan, Director, Ensign InfoSecurity Pte. Ltd, Singapore. **The digital divide challenge for digital solutions adoption in Asia and the Pacific**