

Improving broadband connectivity in Central Asia -The Asia-Pacific information superhighway

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and empowering people



Outline

- 1. Broadband connectivity and development
- 2. Central Asia Challenges regarding broadband
- 3. ESCAP Asia-Pacific information superhighway
- 4. Way forward

ESCAP, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division



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ICT & Broadband: key ingredients to development

- ICT play key contribution in sustainable development (economic, social, environmental impacts)
- Mobile phone revolution has had a transformational impact in ESCAP (106%), mobile broadband doing well in Kaz (57%), Azb (43%), 18% for ESCAP developing.
- Landlockedness is no fatal handicap when it comes to ICT, it should therefore constitute a priority
- However, potential not fulfilled for broadband penetration remains extremely low in subregion, with few exceptions
- Danger that subregion misses out on broadband revolution

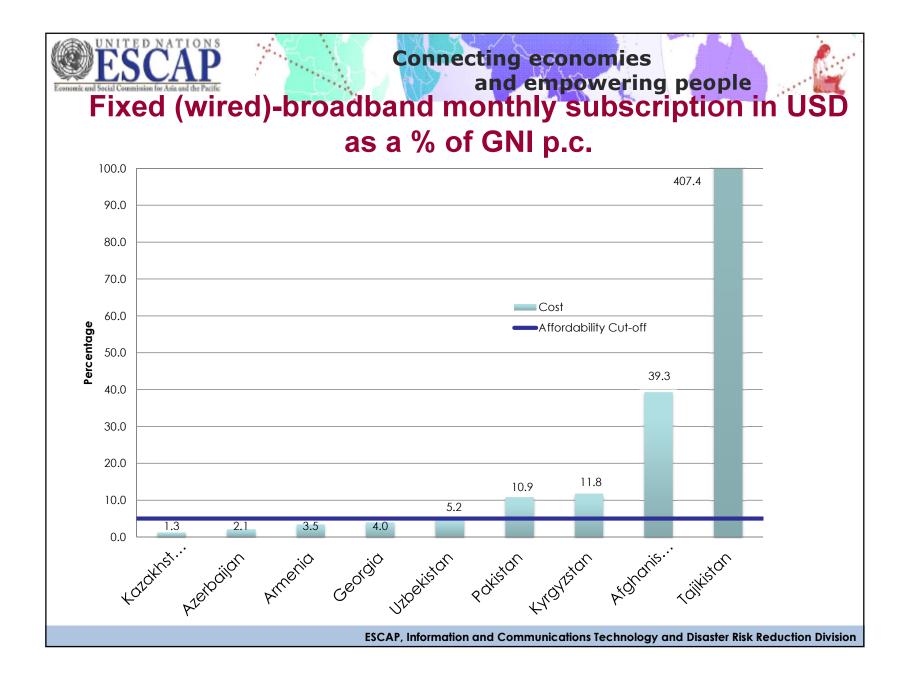


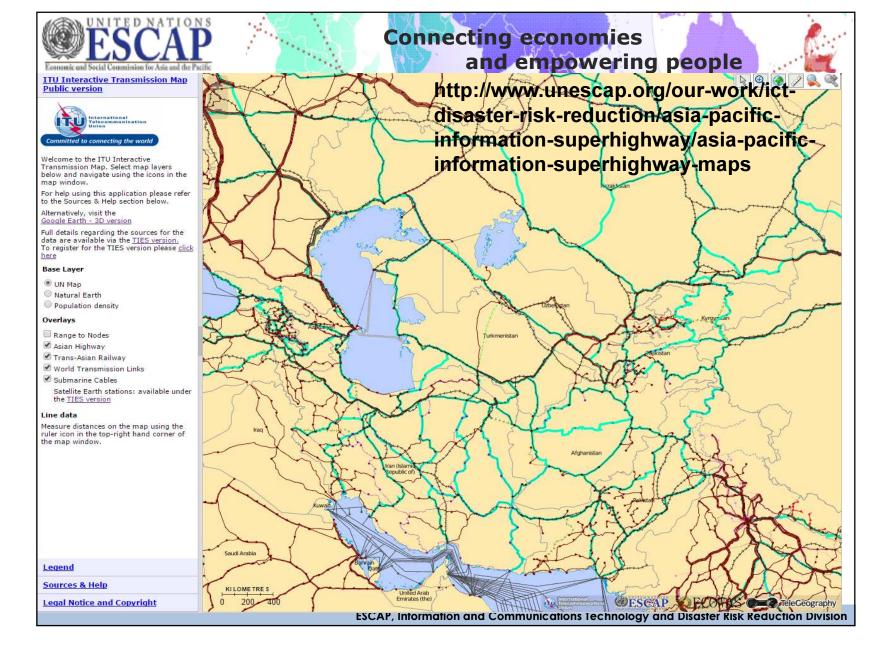




Digital divide in broadband handicaps the region

- ESCAP research shows that prices, in particular for international internet transit are among the world's highest in some countries of the region (often over \$100 per MBps/month)
- Bandwidth per capita is limited and internet service markets relatively uncompetitive in many ESCAP countries
- Results in very unaffordable broadband connections in some countries of the region
- ESCAP/ITU maps of information superhighway also reveal dependence on limited number of terrestrial fiber optic linkages in the region, concerns regarding resilience







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e of ESCAP – Asia-Pacific information superhighway

auses behind this important digital divide: ion infrastructure lacks capacity and coherence anagement (tromboning, IXPs) overnance: Incumbents dominating key ture

ircle: low level of local demand result in little nt in transmission infrastructure

andates includes facilitating regional policy on cross-border issues (trade, transport,

developed Asia-Pacific information vay initiative