

Next steps for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway

**Expert Consultation on the Asian Information Superhighway and
Regional Connectivity
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Context

- With development of intra-regional exchanges the share of intraregional data traffic is set to expand
- Inherent weaknesses and choke points with current submarine network infrastructure
- terrestrial network
 - a patchwork of bilateral cross-border linkages between incumbent carriers operating submarine cables
 - limited competition
 - limited geographic scope
 - low capacity (10 Gbps usually, a fraction of total international bandwidth capacity),
 - higher prices than submarine connectivity
 - landlocked countries worst affected
- Pan Asian continental terrestrial fiber optic network: a promising solution to provide seamless terrestrial/submarine connectivity, redundancy, enhanced competition, at regional and intercontinental levels

Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS)

- AP-IS aims to create seamless broadband international connectivity by connecting each country's international backbone networks and integrating them into a cohesive Pan Asia-Pacific backbone network ("AP-IS").
- **Mandates**
 - Decisions of the 3rd session of the Committee on ICT: Nov, 2012
 - Commission, 69th session, April, 2013: ICT Resolution 69/10, "Promoting regional ICT connectivity in Asia and the Pacific"
 - Up-coming fourth session of the Committee on ICT: 14-16 Oct 2014, joint session with Committee on Transport
- **The 1st phase of Broadband & International Connectivity Sub-regional Studies/Consultations**
 - ASEAN sub-region: Manila, Philippines, Sep 2013
 - Central and North Asia sub-region: Baku, Azerbaijan, Dec 2013 , Almaty, Kazakhstan, June 2014
 - South and South-West Asia sub-region: Paro, Bhutan, Oct 2014
- **Asia-Pacific Map on AP-IS (in collaboration with ITU)**

Towards an A-P Information Superhighway

- Characteristics
 - mesh configuration or other typology, depending on circumstances
 - uniformity in terms of transmission quality and capacity (no weak link)
 - open access
 - innovative funding (4Ps)
 - Leverage, where feasible, existing cross-border infrastructure network and agreements (transport, dry ports, energy)
- ESCAP role
 - long institutional experience in brokering pan-Asian cross-border infrastructure agreements
 - Intergovernmental neutrality: political, technological, industrial
 - Multidisciplinary scope: opportunities to leverage on trans-border connectivity already agreed to under ESCAP's agreements on the Asian Highway, Trans Asian Railway, but also dry ports, energy
 - Geographic scope: as ESCAP is the only pan-Asia-Pacific forum, can broker continental seamlessness
 - Analytical basis: ESCAP is analytical, research and normative arm of the UN in Asia-Pacific
 - UN wide leverage: ESCAP is well connected to specialized agencies, in telecom and other sectors



Next actions

on ICT and Transport

- 4: agreement to set up a working group on a cooperation framework
- ment experts on ICT infrastructure, regulators, private sector, academics, civil society, ers, notably ITU
- raft of an intergovernmental cooperation framework on principles and norms for future f a Pan-Asian Terrestrial fiber optic network, tapping on existing transport/infrastructure possible
- 4, joint session: agreement to draft provisions in intergovernmental agreements for co-reoptic cables and road/railway infrastructure
- slation at the national level for open access to passive communication infrastructure;

map on AP-IS: continue to validate information provided on updating

base of pan-regional infrastructure projects with existing or future fibre co-potential

ond phase of Information Superhighway project

- of study in ASEAN in partnership with Government of Korea
- f coverage to South and South-west Asia and Central Asia
- updating of maps and additional information
- st session of Working Group by first quarter 2015