UNITED NATIONS ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Connecting economies
and empowering people

ESCAP Committee on ICT
Third Session

Item 4: Building regional connectivity for sustainable development: the creation of a seamless regional information space

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Shamika Sirimanne
Director
ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD)
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Underinvestment in ICT infrastructure

- For the period 2010 to 2020, it has been estimated that the Asia-Pacific region needs to spend about $8 trillion on infrastructure, with the **ICT sector comprising 10 per cent of that amount**.

- Heavy reliance on Internet exchange points in the United States of America and technologically advanced countries of Asia-Pacific has led to **higher Internet transit prices** and **broadband user costs**.

- International **backhaul costs** reach up to **five times** those in more developed regions of the global economy.

Intra-regional inequalities in broadband

- The key concern for the Asia-Pacific is that it remains the most digitally divided region: intra-regional inequalities exist, particularly in broadband access, speed and user costs.
- **Divergences in access and speed:**
  - Only **5.1%** of population in developing Asia-Pacific countries has access to broadband.
  - Japan and the Republic of Korea have more than three times the number of bits per second of **international bandwidth** per user, when compared to many developing countries in the region.
- **High user costs:**
  - In the Republic of Korea and Singapore, a **monthly subscription for an entry-level broadband plan** is less than **1%** of monthly gross national income (GNI) per capita.
  - In developing economies of the region, the costs rise to **9.36%**, while for least developed countries, the equivalent figure rises to **47.14%.**

Overreliance on submarine fibre-optic cable

- In Asia and the Pacific, about **80 - 90 per cent** of the region's data transmitted along high capacity fibre-optic transmitting routes are trans-Pacific, with Hong Kong, Tokyo, Singapore and Seoul having emerged as the core **global hubs** where international carriers have established points of presence.

- Heavy reliance on a single mode of data transmission **compromises competition**, and keeps **broadband prices high**.

- Redundancy built through multimodal routes increases e-resilience.

- Interest has grown in regional network of **terrestrial cables** as complement to submarine cables and satellites.

ctor involvement and subregional initiatives

ctor companies have stepped up their efforts to invest in **cross-onnectivity**.

ıtion 64/186 welcomed the **Trans-Eurasian Information Super TASIM)**.

ater Mekong Subregion (GMS), progress continues to be made in nd upgrading the national sections of the **GMS Information nway Network (ISN).**

s-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN) provides high-capacity y among research institutions throughout Asia-Pacific.