

Sub-regional workshop on Strengthening ICT policies and applications to achieve MDGs and WSIS goals in Asia and the Pacific

Background

While a number of ICT applications and initiatives have been implemented among the countries in Asia and the Pacific, as evidenced in the WSIS follow up exercise coordinated by ITU in 2008, there is limited effort to analyze existing national ICT policies which provide a national framework of ICT development and share good practices and lessons learned on how to expand ICT access and maximize the use of ICT facilities at the regional level, taking into account ever advancing technologies and their integrated applications and services, which hold great promise for lower entry points for rural residents without literacy skills.

ESCAP analysis¹ highlighted differential growths in the uptake of key ICT among ESCAP member States, and especially worrying signs of slow growth of access to the Internet and information services and applications among the least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small islands developing states (SIDS). For instance, the Internet users per 100 population in New Zealand stands at 80, while more than 25 countries in the region still have less than 10. The disparity is even more obvious with the development trend of broadband technologies which is rapidly penetrating all ICT application fields with a converged platform, and providing a new opportunity for ICT infrastructure and information service and application development that may skip many costly traditional ICT development and application modes. Without widely available and affordable ICT access in under-served areas of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, and advantage of information services and applications, evidence-based sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development, as envisioned by WSIS outcome documents, would be difficult, if not impossible.

Project Objectives

In this background, the project aims to raise awareness through policy analysis and recommendations among ICT policy and decision makers and develop a concerted strategy for possible regional cooperation and framework in following up on the timely implementation of the relevant WSIS action line. The project will focus on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, while ensuring the sharing of experience, good practices and lessons learned from other countries, such as the Republic of Korea, China and India, and exploring for possible regional cooperation.

As a strategy, the project will undertake policy analysis and recommendations for LDCs, LLDCs and transitional economies based on the current status of ICT policy formulation and implementation with a view to expanding ICT access in under-served areas for development oriented applications. In undertaking the policy analysis and making policy recommendations, the project places particular emphasis on the role of emerging

¹ http://www.unescap.org/idd/events/cict-2008/CICT_1-E.pdf

technologies and convergence in providing information and services. The policy analysis and recommendations will take into account different needs for ICT access and information services between men and women with a view to addressing gender disparities in ICT usage.

Workshop Objectives

The project aims to create synergies and harmonize approaches to implementations by organizing expert group meetings as well as sub-regional workshops with other international and regional organizations.

The first series of sub-regional workshops planned in 2009 aims to introduce the project concept and collect baseline data and information on the status of ICT penetration and access from government experts from participating countries. The baseline data will be used to further fine tune in-depth analysis and research after the workshop as well as aggregate data at the regional level to identify a possible regional cooperation framework towards the end of the project.

The workshops are intended to provide a platform to discuss the possible technological methodology available that could be suitable for differing terrains, geographical locations and levels of technological readiness. The workshops will present the findings of our research and in-depth gap analysis done within the project framework, followed by discussions on policy options for implementation and direction support at the national level, together with a focus for a concerted strategy for possible regional cooperation and frameworks.

In addition to the workshop, an online community forum is planned and being set up, so that a basis for information sharing and collaborations could continue after the workshop completion. The terms of reference on using and moderating the forum for the participants will be decided during the workshops.

Modality of the Workshop

The workshops will start with a plenary session on the project concept as well as ESCAP's analysis on ICT access from the regional perspective, followed by an introduction of research methodology and project milestones.

The participants are requested to make a presentation on national initiatives and policies and baseline data as per the guidelines to be sent to the confirmed participants prior to the workshop. The session will be followed by a discussion on specific aspects of the research and analysis to be undertaken by ESCAP and any possible regional cooperation framework which could be proposed at the end of the project. The meeting could also discuss how the participating countries could be meaningfully engaged and any follow up actions ESCAP could undertake, in addition to some of the success criteria of the project.

Tentative Invitee Countries (TBC²)

Southeast Asia and the Pacific: Cambodia, Fiji, Lao, Marshall Islands, Myanmar, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Brunei, (Samoa), Thailand, (Tonga), India, China, Republic of Korea

South and Central Asia: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, (Armenia), Bangladesh, Bhutan, (Georgia), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, India, China, Republic of Korea

Venue and Date

The first sub-regional workshop is scheduled from 19 to 20 October 2009 for Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

The second workshop is scheduled from 21 to 22 October 2009 for South and Central Asia.

Both meetings will take place in Bangkok.

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_8217

