# Regional Action Plan towards Building an Information Society in Asia and the Pacific

ESCAP, the regional commission of the United Nations developed a Regional Action Plan towards Building an Information Society in Asia and the Pacific which was the outcome of series sub-regional conferences, expert group meeting and first regional conference, and inputs of regional interagency working group on ICT. The Regional Action Plan was adopted by the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on WSIS, held in Tehran in 2005. The regional action is presented below.

Declaration, outcome of other major regional events such as the Bangkok Agenda, outcome of the ESCAP first Regional Conference, and with due regard to the emphasis given to certain activities and priorities assigned by the ESCAP member countries at the subregional events, organized for the purpose, at Bali, Bishkek, Kathmandu and Suva, the following Regional Action Plan has been formulated. The Regional Action Plan covers specific programmes/projects, with specific objectives, expected outputs, activities, indicative time frame for implementation and indicators for evaluating progress

**Short-term: till 2007 end**
**Medium-term: till 2010 end**
**Long-term: till 2015 end**

## 1. Role of government and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development

| Objectives | Expected Output | Actions | Indicative Time Frame | Indicators for evaluating progress |
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| 1.1 To develop National **e-strategies** taking into account local, regional and national needs and concerns and private sector to be engaged in concrete projects to develop the Information Society at local, regional and national levels; | Significant progress in development and adoption of strategies in all countries of the region for mainstreaming ICTs across all sectors, with special reference to gender issues;<br><br>Social and economic development Initiatives, including the e-communities, while at the same time ensuring that traditional models are recognized and respected, so that the non-users of ICTs are not marginalized; | - To assist Governments in the development of policies for ICT development and e-strategies to promote investment in the establishment of broadband infrastructure and the provision of e-services with incentives for extending the reach of the network to cover rural and remote areas; | Short-term | - Number of countries with e-strategies;<br><br>- Number of meetings/ workshops conducted in a year at subregional and regional levels; |
| 1.2 To identify mechanisms at national, regional and international levels for | Establishment of voluntary coordination mechanism on subregional basis for exchange of ideas and experiences – success factors and lessons learnt, on action themes. | - To encourage these strategies to be designed and implemented through collaboration and participation of all stakeholders; | Short-term | - Number of public-private, buyer-supplier (e.g. e-chaupal of India) and such other |

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| promotion of partnerships among stakeholders; | | | | partnerships; |
| 1.3 To publish successful experiences of mainstreaming of ICTs. | Accessibility to information on best practices on the Internet. | - To raise awareness by holding meetings and workshops at subregional and regional levels to present policy targets, examples of success stories, exchange information on best practices, to realize the vast potential of the positive use of ICTs. Case studies to be put on the web; | Short-term | - Number of countries with their success stories put on the website; |

**2. Information and Communication Infrastructure: an essential foundation for the Information Society**

| Objectives | Expected Output | Actions | Indicative Time Frame | Indicators for evaluating progress |
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| 2.1 In the context of national e-strategies, to devise appropriate access policies and strategies and their means of implementation, targets and development of ICT connectivity for schools, universities, health institutions, libraries, post offices, community centers, museums and other institutions accessible to the public, and to address special requirements of disadvantaged people; | Improved and countrywide access to telecommunication and Internet services to all people including those in rural, remote, isolated, hitherto un-served or underserved areas; | - To develop a secure and reliable ICT infrastructure with efficient connectivity to the regional and international Internet backbone network;<br><br>- To assist developing countries in adopting policies that offer incentives to investors in building ICT infrastructure covering the rural and remote areas; with a target to cover 90% of the population and thus narrow down the digital divide within a country;<br><br>- To emphasize the use of ICTs for empowering disadvantaged social groups and people with disabilities;<br><br>- To promote pilot projects for connecting schools, universities, health institutions, libraries, post offices, community centers, museums and other institutions accessible to the public; | Short-term<br><br>Short-term<br><br>Short-term<br><br>Short-term | - Fixed telephone lines per 100 inhabitants;<br><br>- Internet subscribers per 100 inhabitants<br><br>- Percentage of localities with public Internet access centres;<br><br>- Number of primary, secondary and tertiary schools connected to the Internet and those with broadband access;<br><br>- Frequency to use open source software by government, industry and individuals; |
| 2.2. To design and produce of affordable ICT access equipment [software]; | Open and flexible international and interoperable standards to ensure that all can utilize the technology and associated content and services to their maximum potential;<br>Increased development and deployment of open-source software and open standards for ICT networking; | - To seek low cost PCs through technological breakthrough or by negotiations with industry; | Short-term | - Prices of PCs; |
| 2.3 To promote the use of wireless capacity including that of satellite, particularly for remote | Application of new technologies, such as wireless and satellite networks to improve access to ICTs in remote areas, including small island | - To assist in efficient use of radio-frequency spectrum and encourage use of wireless technologies and available satellite capacity, and promote access to rural, remote, isolated, hitherto un-served or underserved areas; | Short-term | - Mobile cellular subscribers per 100 inhabitants; |

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| areas; | developing countries, to facilitate access; | - To encourage use of wireless access technologies like Wi Fi and Wi Max to extend access to rural and remote areas in conjunction with fixed and 3G and beyond 3G mobile network infrastructure; | Short-term | - Percentage of population covered by mobile cellular telephony;<br><br>- Number of wireless LANs and WANs. |
| 2.4 To improve connectivity among major information networks, the development of regional ICT backbones and Internet exchange points. | Establishment of regional and international broadband network infrastructure of adequate capacity to meet the rapidly growing needs of the countries in the region in the emerging scenario of convergence;<br>Increased national, regional and international bandwidth, one of the critical factors in cost of access to the Internet at competitive price to promote broadband access. | - To enhance negotiating power, through concerted efforts and to evolve a mechanism for assisting the Pacific islands, land-locked developing and least developed countries in negotiating better deals for leasing bandwidth for international connectivity with international bandwidth suppliers;<br><br>- To encourage policies that foster competition in the domestic and international long distance communication with a view to reducing cost of leasing of bandwidth for Internet connectivity and consequent impact on Internet access costs. | Short-term<br><br>Short-term | - International Internet bandwidth per inhabitant;<br><br>- Cost of Internet access and broadband as a percentage of GDP (PPP); |

### 3. Access to Information and Knowledge

| Objectives | Expected Output | Actions | Indicative Time Frame | Indicators for evaluating progress |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3.1. To put policy guidelines for the development and promotion of access to information in the public domain; | Availability of government information to the public.<br><br>Improved access to ICTs through public institutions, such as, schools, libraries, post offices and multi-purpose community centres; | - To promote the development of integrated systems and conversion of information and knowledge in digital format;<br><br>- To promote the adoption of appropriate software, including free/open source software and open standards; | Short-term | - Number of countries with information access policies. |
| 3.2 To improve access to public official information through various communication resources, notably the Internet; | Increased application of ICTs to benefit the disadvantaged, through innovative initiatives; | - To promote access to government information most demanded by the public;<br><br>- To promote the development of computer interfaces that are not text based to facilitate public access to ICT; | Medium-term<br><br>Medium-term | |
| 3.3 To establish sustainable multi-purpose community public access points for affordable access to various communication resources, notably the Internet; | Establishment of multi-purpose Community Telecentres, to ensure access to information and other services to general public, particularly in rural areas; | - To promote establishment of multipurpose public and community access points by fostering partnerships between local entrepreneurs and telecommunication, cable TV and Internet Service providers; | Short-term | - Percentage of localities with public Internet access centres within 5 km reach they served; |
| 3.4. To develop appropriate low cost software that will best contribute to achieving the development goals. | Establishing of systems and content in digital format created to help better deliver essential services required to meet basic human needs through applications such as e-education and e-health, as well as e-business and other ICT applications. | - To promote the development of appropriate software, including free/open source software, that will best contribute to achieving the development goals. | Short-term | |

**4. Capacity Building**

| Objectives | Expected Output | Actions | Indicative Time Frame | Indicators for evaluating progress |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4.1 To develop domestic policies for the integration of ICT in education and training including curriculum development, teacher training and institutional administration and management; | Skills for deriving benefits from ICTs by students and teachers;<br><br>Coherence of ICT integration improved; | - To encourage introduction of ICT as a subject in school curriculum to improve understanding and acquisition of skills in ICT usage;<br><br>- To enhance levels of ICT literacy and ICT skills, relevant education and training to be promoted at every level, from primary to adult, to open up opportunities for as many people as possible, and especially for the disadvantaged;<br><br>- To promote the development of standards and accreditation for informal education;<br><br>- To hold high level seminars for ICT policy makers, to inform them about "why ICTs" in education systems, and to develop a training kit; | Short-term<br><br>Short-term<br><br>Medium-term<br><br>Short-term | - Number of schools /institutions with ICT in curricula, computer labs for training in ICTs and Internet access;<br><br>- Number of policies created/revised, and of new initiatives launched; |
| 4.2 To formulate, adopt and implement educational policies to eradicate adult illiteracy and ensure that young are equipped with knowledge and skills to use ICTs. | Upgraded quality of education in Science and technology to enable people to make the most of the Information Society; | - To conduct training of personnel engaged in network infrastructure development and operation, which is critical to the availability of efficient, reliable, and secure ICT network services; | Short-term | - Number of virtual schools/universities and Open schools/universities using ICT for delivery of courses and management;<br><br>- Number of countries where qualification on ICT literacy is a prerequisite for trained graduate teachers employed in middle/secondary schools. |
| 4.3 To conduct pilot projects using ICT based | Significant importance in the application of ICT based education delivery systems | - To enhance capacity of developing and least developed countries to apply ICTs effectively through | Short and Medium- | - Number of ICT projects on |

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| education delivery systems | towards the achieving literacy targets;<br><br>Learners, teachers and educators, and managers and leaders empowered to effectively use ICTs for expanding learning opportunities, ensuring educational quality and relevance, and furthering the quest for equality. | regional and international cooperation;<br><br>- To formulate and implement pilot projects in e-training and using ICT based education delivery systems;<br><br>- To extend existing teacher training, technical and vocational education, schoolnet and non-formal education projects, and to create new projects;<br><br>- To enhance the quality of teaching and sharing of knowledge and information through pilot projects; | term<br><br>Short-term<br><br>Short-term<br><br>Short-term | education;<br><br>- Number of Tele-training/education projects;<br><br>- Degree of integration of pilot projects into national programs. |

**use of ICTs**

| **pected Output** | **Actions** | **Indicative Time Frame** | **Indicators for evaluating progress** |
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| egislation for security, es and penal action for<br><br>/clearinghouse cum a ethical, legal and societal nformation society in Asia | - To develop network security policy, and laws with enforcement mechanisms at national, regional and global levels;<br><br>- To create regional and local observatories to provide updated information for countries in Asia Pacific on the evolution of the knowledge society in terms of ethical, legal and societal aspects; | Short-term | - Number of countries with information security and Cyber laws;<br><br>- Number of countries with local observatories, and number of countries providing inputs for the regional observatory; |
| ternational convention on vorks and systems;<br><br>tional cooperation urity issues, incidents and | - To encourage harmonization of national cyber laws on regional basis to prevent the use of ICT for terrorist, transnational crimes or other activities harmful to the society and promote an international convention in this regard;<br><br>- To take steps by all stakeholders to enhance security, user confidence and other aspects of information and system/network integrity in order to avoid the risk of wholesale disruption and destruction of the network systems on which they are increasingly dependent; | Medium-term<br><br>Short-term | - Number of cyber crimes. |
| development of a “global security”, based on a ding of regulations and isms for information and nge and international | - To formulate guidelines with respect to rights to privacy, data and consumer protection. | Short-term | - Progress in preparation of the guidelines; |
| ash economy to electronic | - To encourage SMEs to develop and use secure and reliable ICT applications for on-line transactions. | Short-term | - Percentage of on-line banking and commercial transactions to the respective totals. |