

Asia-Pacific Regional Perspective for Accessibility and ICT accessibility

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Social Development
Division

ESCAP

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Major points of the presentation

1. Regional policy guidelines on disability, “Biwako Millennium Framework for Action” and its supplement, “Biwako Plus Five” promotes “universal design” and call for multiple actions on ICT accessibility.
2. Inter-linkages of the Biwako, Biwako Plus Five with the CRPD and the MDGs



Major points of the presentation

3. Policy and data collection on ICT accessibility lags behind in Asia and the Pacific.
4. ESCAP has multiple activities to promote accessibility.



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

What is ESCAP?

Members:

Afghanistan
Armenia
Australia
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Bhutan
Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia
China
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Federated States of Micronesia
Fiji
France
India
Indonesia
Islamic Republic of Iran
Georgia
Japan
Kazakhstan
Kiribati
Kyrgyzstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Malaysia
Maldives
Marshall Islands
Mongolia
Myanmar

Associate members:

American Samoa
Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands
Cook Islands
French Polynesia

Nauru
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Pakistan
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Samoa
Singapore
Solomon Islands
Sri Lanka
Tajikistan
Thailand
Tonga
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Tuvalu
United Kingdom
United States of America
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Viet Nam

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

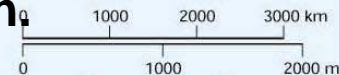
Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

➤ The only intergovernmental forum for all countries and territories of the Asian and Pacific region, dealing with Economic and Social Development Issues.

➤ 53 members and 9 associate members, representing approximately 62 percent of world's population.

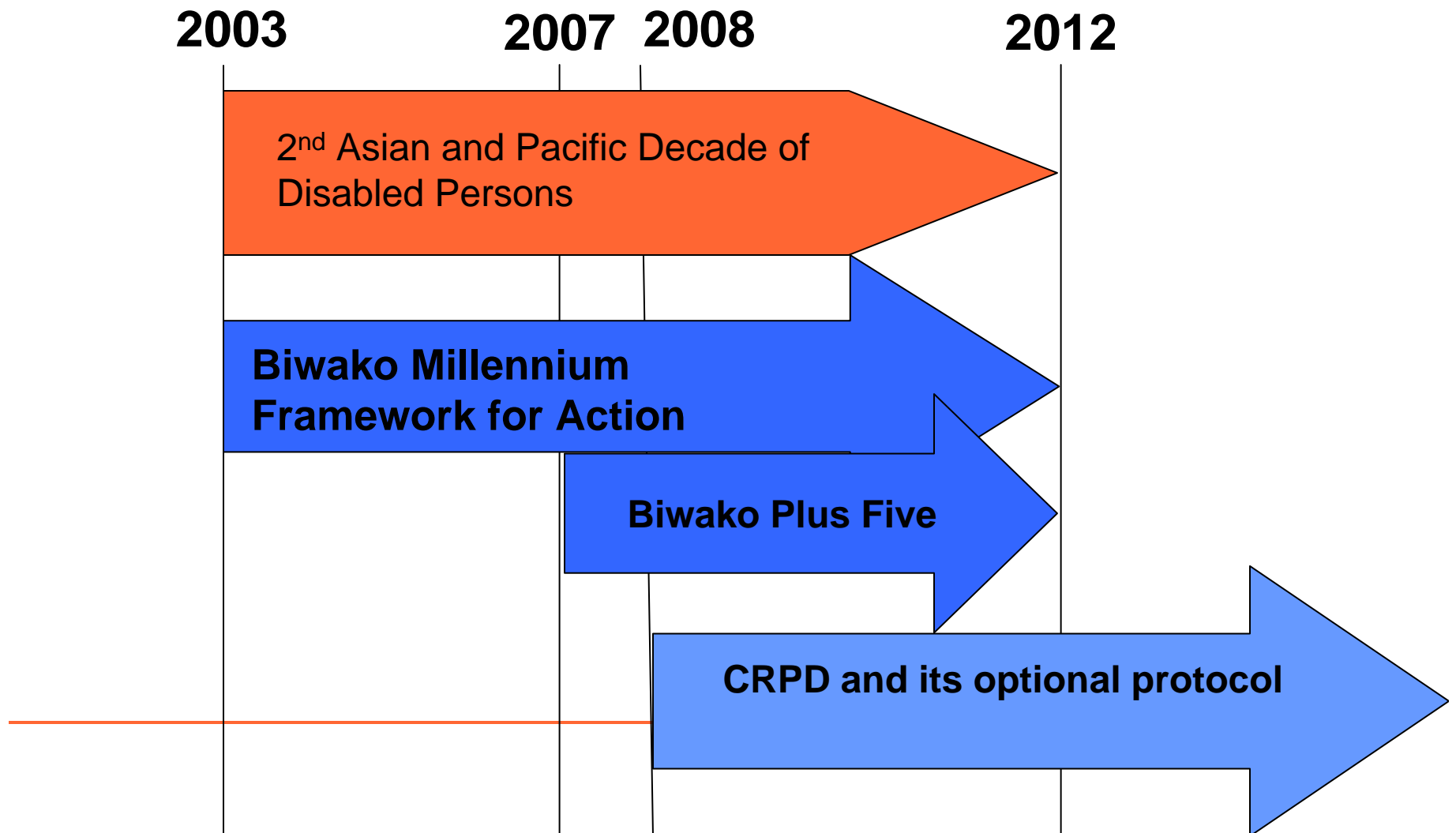
➤ The largest of the five regional commissions of the United Nations in terms of area covered, people served and membership.

➤ Serves as the regional hub promoting cooperation among member States, to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in the Asia-Pacific region.

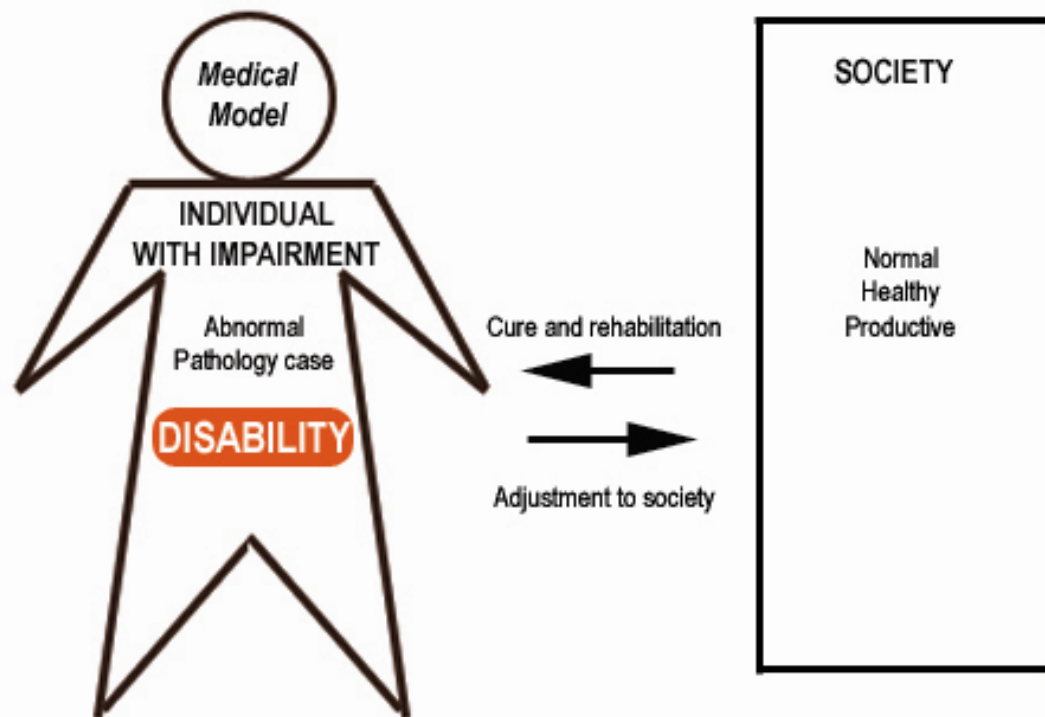


• Capital city

BMF, the Biwako Plus Five and the CRPD

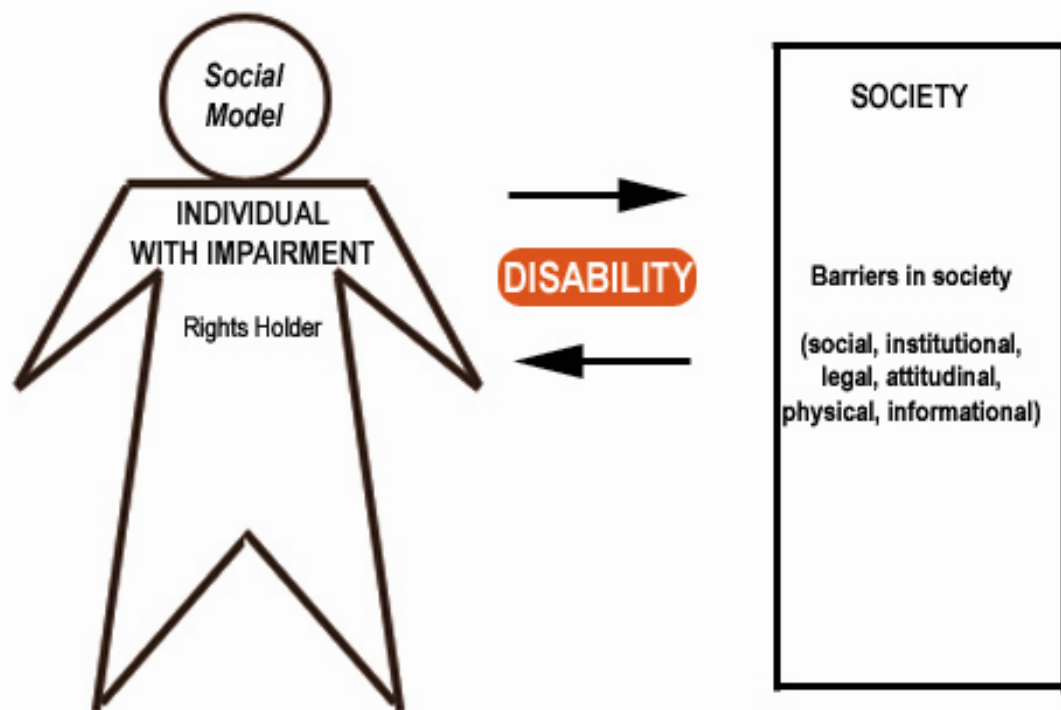


Fundamental message of the Biwako and the Biwako Plus Five-Shift from the Medical model of disability



ESCAP work on disability

Fundamental message of the Biwako and the Biwako Plus Five-Shift to the Social model of disability



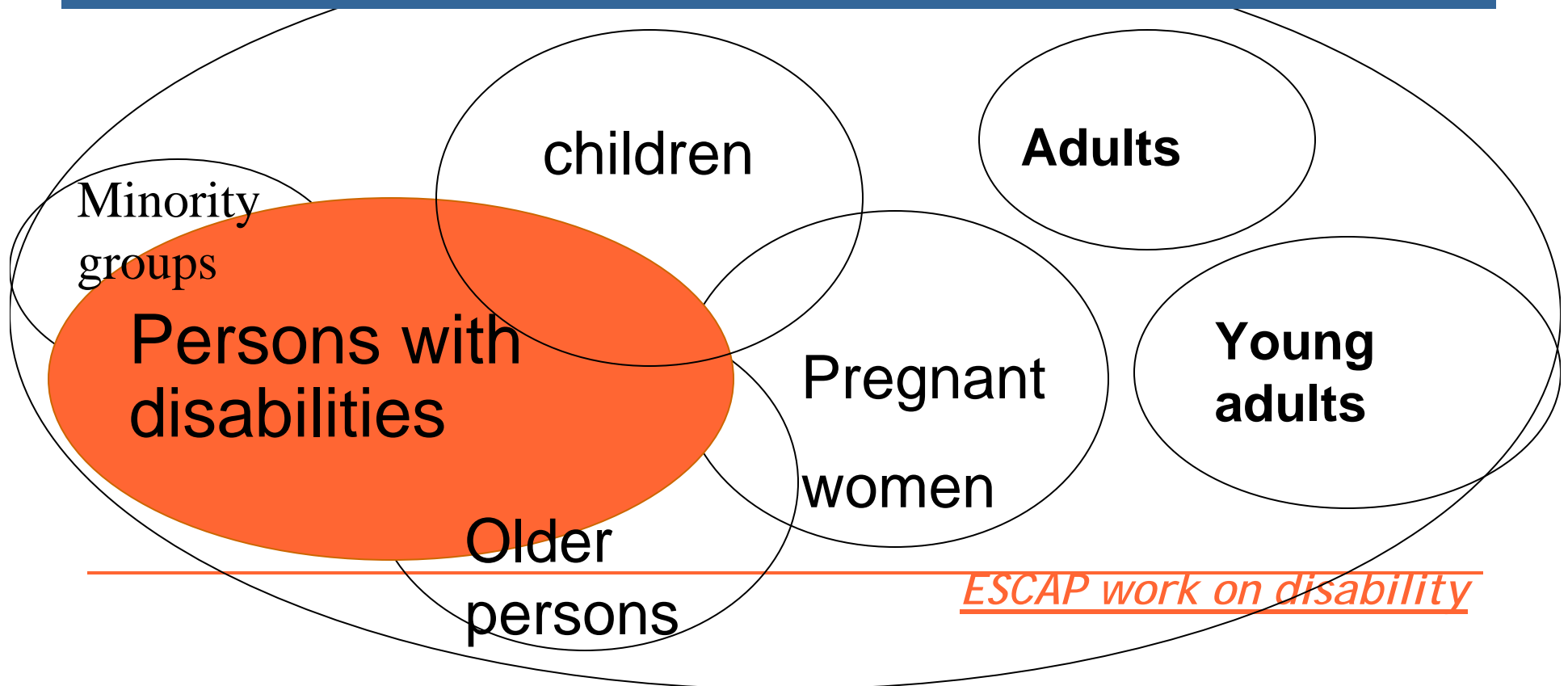
✓Key words: removal of different barriers, positive actions, reasonable accommodations, participation in decision-making processes, social causes of impairment in different country context.

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Biwako and the Biwako Plus promotes “universal design”

- Principle 9 of the Biwako Millennium Framework
 - Development of “universal design” based products and design.
- **“Universal design”** means the design of products, environments, programmes and services to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. “Universal design” shall not exclude assistive devices for particular groups of persons with disabilities where this is needed(CRPD article 2: Definitions)

Universal design
paradigm shift from
“specialized” to “all to the
maximum extent possible.”



**BMF , B+5 ,
7 priority
areas**

**Training and
employment,
including self-
employment**

**Access to built
environments and
public transport**

**Early detection,
early
intervention
and education**

**Poverty
alleviation
through
capacity-
building, social
security and
sustainable
livelihood
programmes**

**Persons with
disabilities,
family
organizations**

**Women
with
disabilities**

**Access to
information and
communications,
including
information,
communications
and assistive
technologies**

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Biwako and the Biwako Plus call for multiple action on ICT accessibility

- International level-standard setting on ICT accessibility (ITU, ISO, WTO, WWWC, Motion Picture Engineering Group).
- National level
 - Policy development.
 - Compliance with the international standards.
 - Development of law, policy and programme.
 - Standardization on sign language, finger Braille, tactile sign language.
 - Development of professional sign language interpreters, guides and human readers.
 - Institutional arrangement.
 - Establishment of ICT accessibility units in relevant ministries and agencies.

Biwako and the Biwako Plus call for multiple action on ICT accessibility

- International, regional and national levels.
 - Awareness raising on needs of accessibility.
 - Capacity building.
 - Training persons with disabilities in computer literacy.
 - Research and development
 - Universal design-based information and assistive technologies.
 - Distribution strategy-to increase availability of ICT goods.
 - Duty-exemption of accessible ICT goods.
 - Subsidize purchase of accessible ICT goods.
 - Establishment of cooperation of persons with disabilities.
 - Mainstreaming
 - Disability-inclusive disaster preparedness.
 - Promotion of accessible tourism.

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Biwako and the Biwako Plus call for multiple action on ICT accessibility

- Underlying operational principle
 - Participation of persons with disabilities in relevant processes.

Inter-linkages of the Biwako, Biwako Plus Five with the CRPD

- Linkage with the CRPD(definitions on universal design; article 4: general obligation; article 9 of accessibility)

**Linkage
with the
MDGs**

**Promote gender
equality and empower
women**

**Achieve
universal
primary
education**

**Reduce child
mortality**

**Eradicate
extreme poverty
and hunger**

**Improve maternal
health**

**Ensure
environmental
sustainability**

**People
(persons with
disabilities not
specified)**

**Combat HIV/AIDS,
malaria and other
diseases**

**Develop a global
partnership for
development**

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Inter-linkages of the Biwako, Biwako Plus Five with the MDGs

- Target 8.F: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications
- 8.14 Telephone lines per 100 population
- 8.15 Cellular subscribers per 100 population
- 8.16 Internet users per 100 population

Policy on ICT accessibility lags behind in Asia and the Pacific.

- 26 countries (Afghanistan; Armenia; Australia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; China; Cook Islands; Fiji; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Japan; Kazakhstan; Malaysia; Mongolia; New Zealand; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Singapore; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Tonga; Turkey; Vanuatu and Viet Nam) as well as the area (Hong Kong, China) Governments have accessibility standards for either the built environment or public transport or both.
- 16 (Afghanistan; Australia; Azerbaijan; Bhutan; China; Kazakhstan; Malaysia; Mongolia; Nepal; New Zealand; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Sri Lanka and Thailand) Governments reported that they had standardized sign language.

Source: ESCAP Disability Central

ESCAP work on disability

Data base on disability policy and statistics 2009

Policy on ICT accessibility lags behind in Asia and the Pacific.

- 10 Governments (Australia; Hong Kong China; Japan; Kazakhstan; Malaysia Mongolia; New Zealand; Republic of Korea; Singapore and Viet Nam) have ICT accessibility guidelines.
 - Most of the guidelines are within the framework of a comprehensive law to tackle "digital divide." More developed countries have the laws/policies/guidelines.

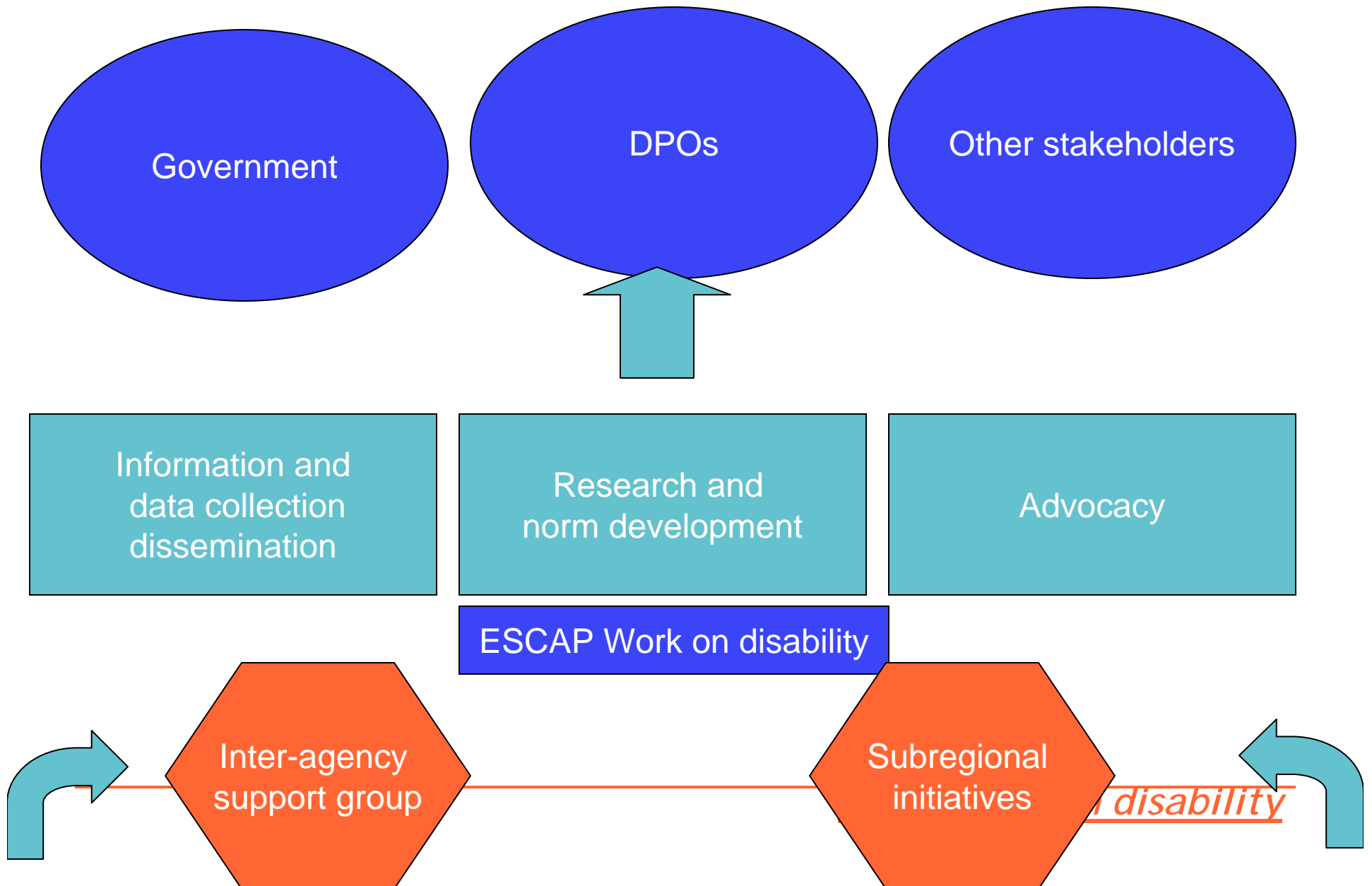
Data on ICT accessibility lags behind in Asia and the Pacific.

- Data on access to the Internet by persons with disabilities are available from two Governments (New Zealand, Republic of Korea), and it indicates a disparity between those with disabilities and those without. For instance, in the Republic of Korea, the rate of access to the Internet by persons without disabilities is 75 per cent, but among those with disabilities it is 46 per cent.

Source: ESCAP 2007 review of the Biwako implementation *ESCAP work on disability*

Data base on disability policy and statistics 2009

ESCAP work on disability



Information and data hub

- ✓ Policy Central: web-based country profile on policy and statistics on disability
- ✓ Disability at a Glance.
- ✓ Ongoing communications with the stakeholders.



Research

- ✓ Country case study
 - ✓ Legal framework on disability, mainstreaming of disability in the light of the CRPD
 - ✓ Legal framework on accessibility in Japan and Thailand.
 - ✓ Good practice on accessibility in Japan.
- ✓ Tariff regulations on accessibility related devices



Norm development

- Asia-Pacific Accessibility Guideline.
- CRPD guidebook.

Advocacy

ESCAP Takayama Asia-Pacific
Congress for Inclusive and
Accessible Community
24-26 November 2009

Information accessibility in Takayama



Audio output and sign language animation

Tour information point at the Takayama Station

ESCAP inter-divisional working group on accessibility



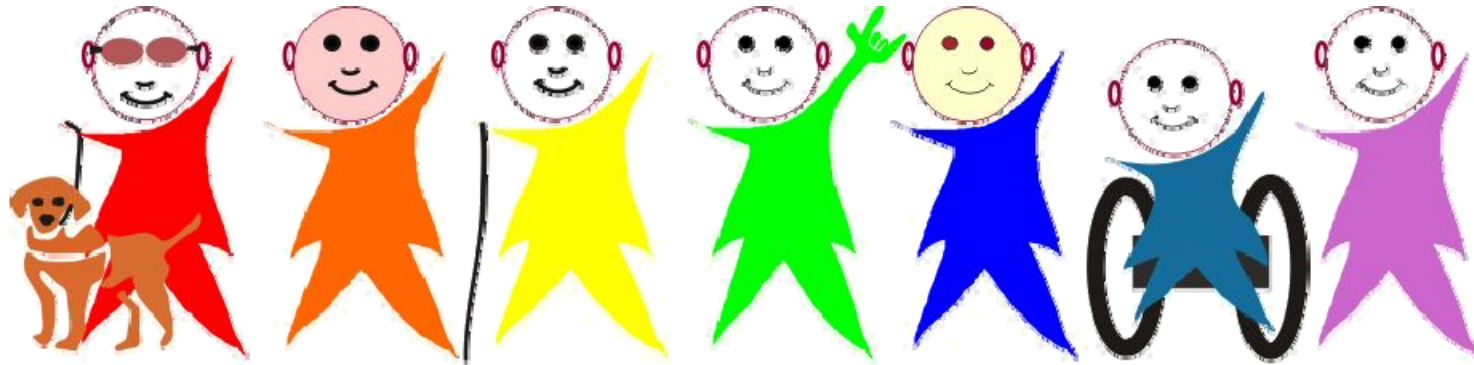
We do not want user-unfriendly, unusable, dangerous “accessible features.”



Courtesy of Ms
Adela Kono, Cebu

Philippines

Work on disability



Thank you!!