



Promoting Asia Pacific Connectivity for Achieving the Sustainable Development

Shamika Sirimanne

Director

Information and Communications Technology and
Disaster Risk Reduction Division

UN-ESCAP

ICTs and Development

- Millennium Development Goals
 - Conclude in 2015
 - Primarily viewed ICT as an enabling factor of other goals
- Sustainable Development Goals
 - 17 goals and 169 targets for 2015-2030
 - Three Goals explicitly have targets which include ICTs
 - Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
 - Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
 - Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
 - ICT also integrated into targets in areas such as innovation, data collection and infrastructure



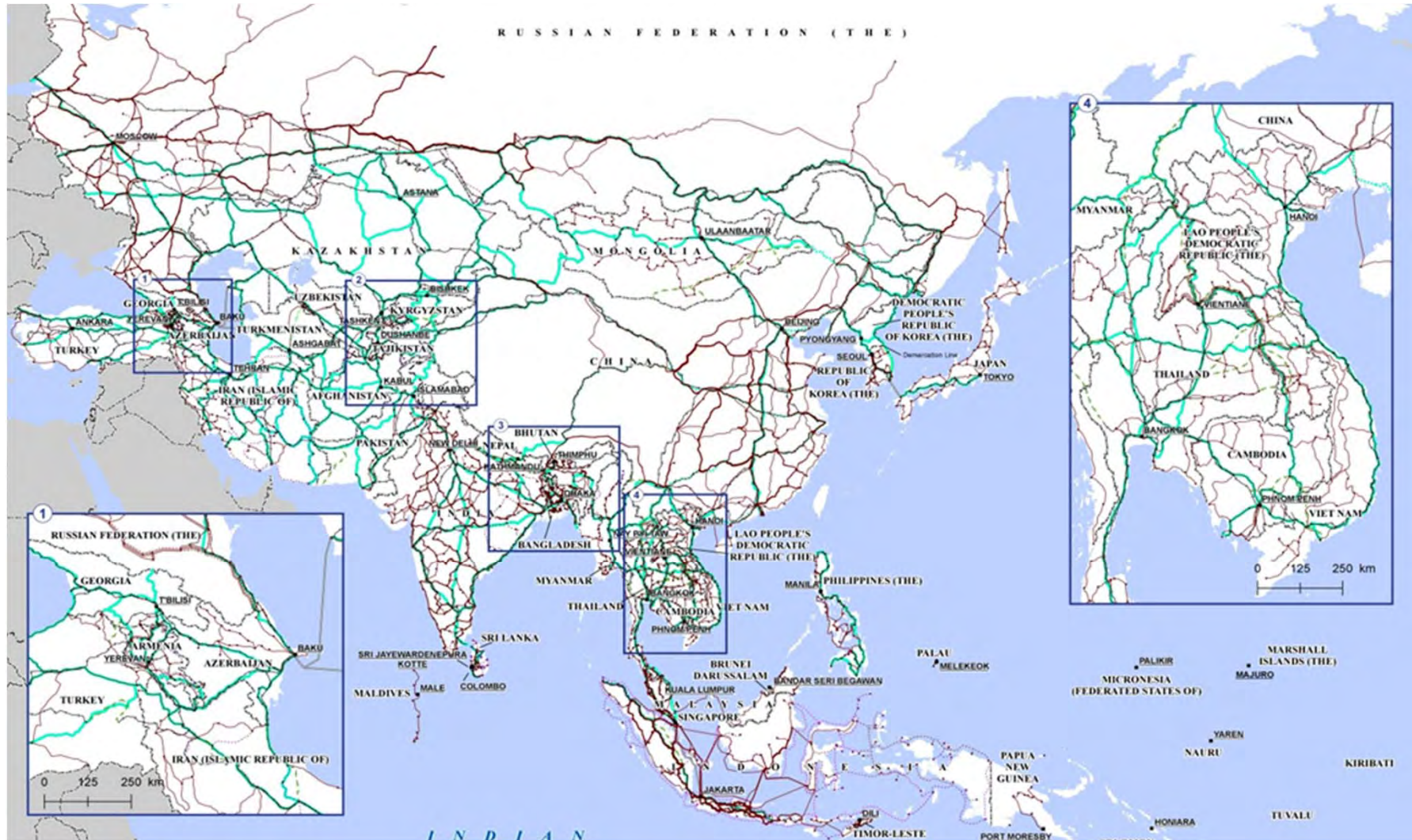
Digital Divide into a Development Divide?

- A key concern in Asia-Pacific is that it is the **most digitally divided** region in the world. Less than 6 per cent of the population living in its developing countries is connected to *affordable, reliable and high-speed fixed broadband Internet*.
- **Asia Pacific Information Superhighway** is a solution to this problem.





ESCAP-ITU Asia Pacific Information Superhighway Map



ESCAP member countries recognized the value of this proposal and have requested a working group to be formed to establish the principles and norms for the Asia Pacific Information Superhighway.

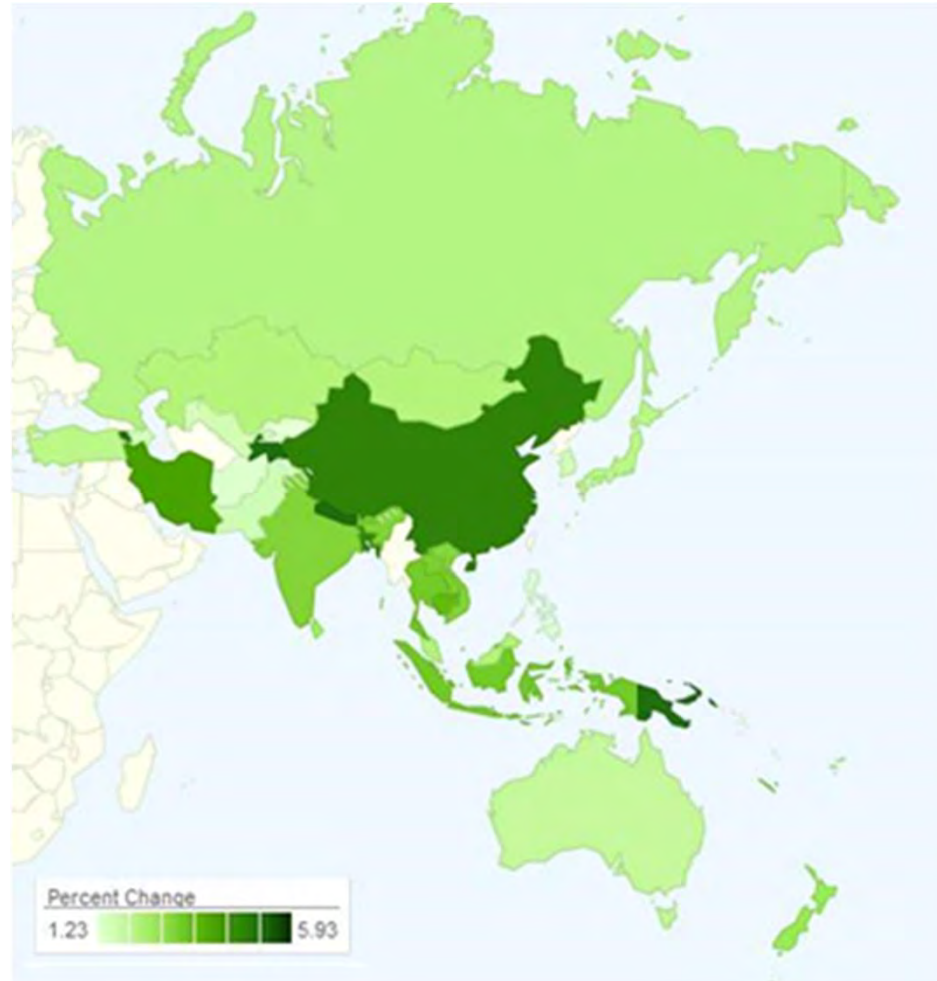
The working group primarily focuses on four themes:

- Physical Infrastructure Investment
- Internet Traffic Management
- Building Resilience
- Broadband for Underserved Areas

Physical Infrastructure Investment Needed

Industry projection estimate that telecommunications networks should grow by approximately 400% over the next five years.

Many countries are not demonstrating this level of investment, pushing them further behind in the digital divide as time goes on.





Countries Delivering 10 Megabits per second

In order to support user demand, industry recommendations call for countries to be able to deliver broadband capacities at 10 Mbps per second. While many countries in the region have networks which can deliver these speeds, there are groups of countries which would benefit from inclusion in a region-wide investment program such as the Asia Pacific Information Superhighway.





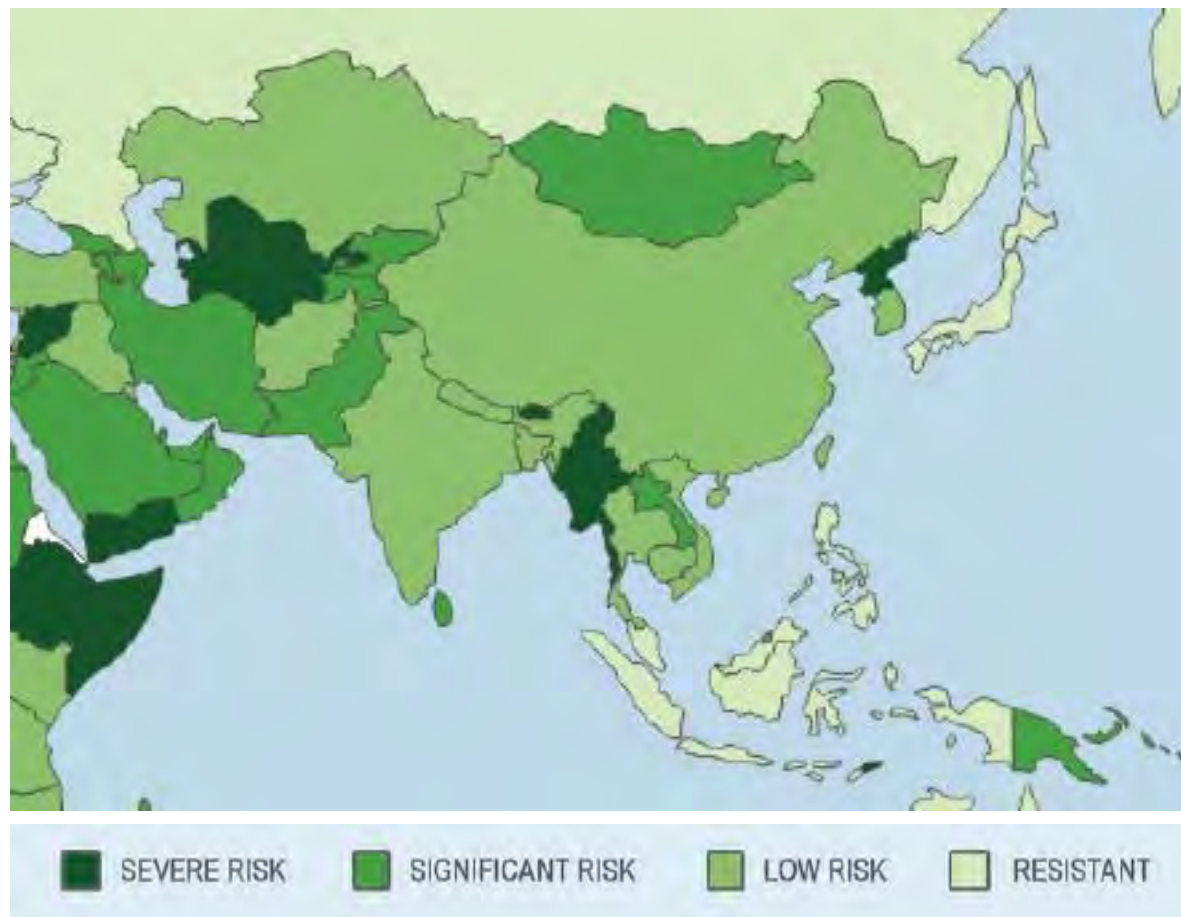
Internet Traffic Management – IPv6 Adoption Rates





Need for Resilient Infrastructure

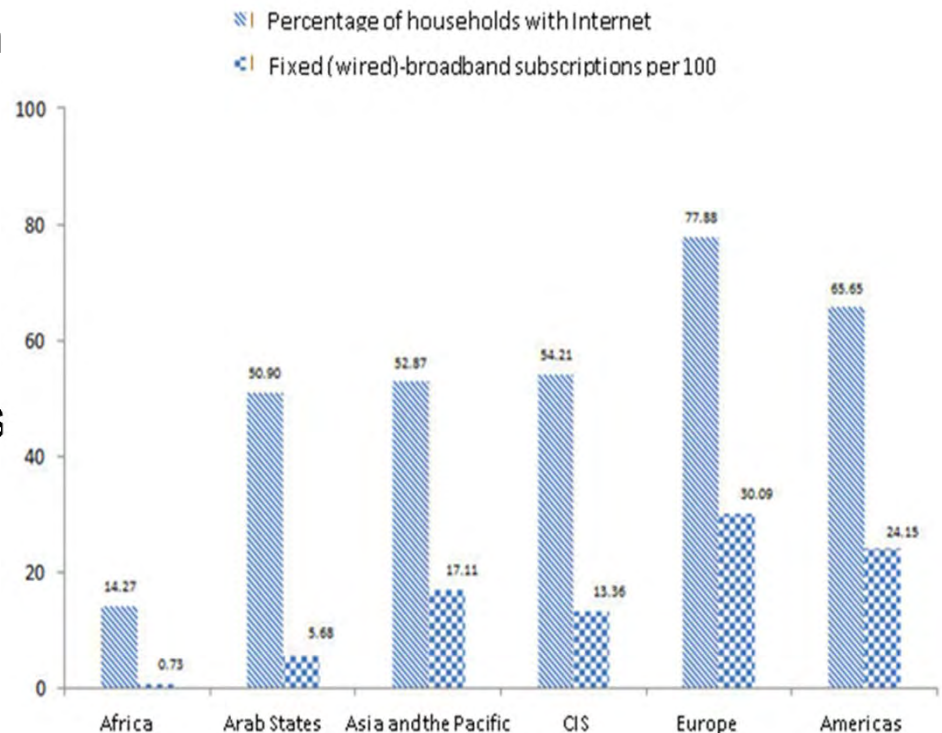
Risk of Internet Disconnection - 2012





Broadband for Underserved Areas

- A large segment of the population still remain unconnected and excluded from access to myriad of economic and social opportunities offered online.
- Modernizing government services and enhancing the interaction and accountability between public administrations, citizens and businesses—still remain unattained.



Thank you