

Concept Note

In-depth Information Session on the Smart Villages and Smart Islands (SVSI) Asia-Pacific Project

Group 1 (Phase II Implementation)

10 June 2026

09:00-10:00 (GMT+7) Bangkok time

Meeting background and information

The ITU Smart Villages and Smart Islands (SVSI) initiative seeks to transform rural and remote communities by improving livelihoods and well-being through enhanced access to digitally enabled services.

To support this objective, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), with financial support from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts (DITRDCA) of the Government of Australia, is implementing the project “Enhancing the Sustainability of Smart Villages and Smart Islands in the Asia-Pacific”.

Building on lessons learned and best practices from Phase I of the SVSI initiative, the project aims to strengthen national sustainability and governance frameworks through a whole-of-government and multi-stakeholder partnership approach, while supporting the scale-up and replication of successful models.

Following the Project Steering Committee (PSC) Inception Meeting held on 24 April 2026, which formally launched the project, confirmed governance arrangements and identified key next steps including coordination mechanisms, focal points, and implementation priorities, ITU will convene a series of in-depth sessions with participating countries.

In this context, this **in-depth information session for Group 1 countries (Phase II implementation)** is organized to the planning and implementation of Phase I project activities in the respective countries, building on country experience and lessons learned from Phase I. This session aims to focus on the practical, step-by-step implementation of Phase II, what is expected of the focal points and what ITU can offer in the course of implementation.

Objectives of the session

The session aims to:

1. Provide a detailed and practical walkthrough of the Phase II implementation approach (2026–2027),
2. Clarify step-by-step activities, expected outputs, timelines, and reporting requirements,
3. Confirm roles and responsibilities of ITU and participating countries, including focal points and coordination mechanisms,
4. Support countries in reviewing Phase I achievements and lessons learned to inform scale-up strategies,

5. Identify national priorities, partnership opportunities, and support required from ITU and partners, and
6. Facilitate alignment across participating countries to ensure coherent, coordinated, and results-oriented implementation.

Expected outcomes

The session is expected to achieve the following:

1. Alignment on the Phase II planning and implementation framework and process.
2. Confirmation or update of national focal points and coordination arrangements.
3. Agreement on priority activities and indicative timelines for 2026.
4. Improved understanding of country roles in scaling up SVSI initiatives.
5. Identification of key partners, resources, and support need.
6. Strengthened readiness of participating countries to transition from pilot implementation to sustainability and scale-up.

Target participants

- Group 1 countries (Phase II implementation):
Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Tonga.
- Relevant ministries, national focal points, implementing partners, and stakeholders.
- ITU (implementing agency).
- DITRDCSA (Australia), as project partner.

Date and time: Wednesday, 10 June 2026 at 09:00-10:00 (GMT+7) Bangkok time

Format: Online (via Zoom meeting)

Participants are kindly requested to register for this meeting by 9 June using Zoom meeting link:

<https://itu.zoom.us/join/7858123456789>

Project webpage

- For more information, please visit the project webpage at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/ICT-Applications/Pages/Initiatives/ASP/Smart-Islands/Enhancing-sustainability-of-SVSI-ASP.aspx>
- Please also explore the Smart Villages and Smart Islands website at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/ICT-Applications/Pages/Initiatives/ASP/Smart-Islands/Smart-Islands-Initiative.aspx>

Provisional Agenda

In-depth Information Session on the Smart Villages and Smart Islands (SVSI) Asia-Pacific Project Group 1 (Phase II Implementation) Date: Wednesday, 10 June 2026	
09:00-09:05 (GMT+7) Bangkok time	Opening of the meeting Introduction of the meeting objectives and agenda. • Moderator: Ms. Rory Demsey, Project Officer, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
09:05-09:10	Opening remarks • Ms. Atsuko Okuda, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific Group photo session
09:10-09:15	Scene setting and recap from PSC inception meeting • Summary of key outcomes and next steps from the meeting held on 24 April 2026

09:15-09:30	Phase II Implementation: Step-by-step approach • Overview of implementation flow • Roles and responsibilities (ITU & countries)
09:30-09:50	Discussion and open floor for participating countries • Confirmation of focal points and coordination mechanisms • Priority activities for 2026 • Key partners and support needs • Questions and clarifications
09:50-10:00	Way forward, agreements, next steps, and closing • Summary of key agreements • Next steps and upcoming engagements

How to Participate

A Zoom meeting invite, and details will be sent via email to all registered participants closer to the event date. For more information on how to use Zoom, please visit <https://us04web.zoom.us/>

When joining meeting, please use the ID in the following template
 "FirstName_LastName_Organization_Country".

Project coordinator

For further information, please contact the ITU Regional Office for Asia-Pacific:
 Ms. Rury Demsey (rury.demsey@itu.int)

Social Media

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