UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Connecting economies
and empowering people

ESCAP projects and call for partnerships

Follow-up Meeting of the Connect Asia-Pacific Summit
Launch of ADB/ITU initiative on ICT for Development in the Asia-Pacific region

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ESCAP

ESCAP's partnerships on ICT for Development

- Longstanding and fruitful partnership with ITU (UN delivering as one), including on ICT infrastructure transmission networks for seamless connectivity
- Partnerships with regional donors (RoK, Russian Federation)
- Evolving partnership with World Bank
- Welcome further partnerships, in particular on 3 areas of work:
- 1. Mapping ICT infrastructure and developing cross-sectoral infrastructure synergies, especially on *intelligent transport corridors*
- *2. ICT and statistics* for improved socio-economic quantitative analysis
- *3. ICT and education*

1. Update on ESCAP/ ITU Asia-Pacific maps on transmission networks

- Maps launched at Asia-Pacific Connect Summit, by ESCAP and ITU's respective heads, on 19 November 2013 Positive response
- Unique aspects of maps:
  - first time that terrestrial fibre optic routes mapped and consolidated across countries
  - maps' base-layers reflect highest UN cartographic standards thanks to collaboration of UN Secretariat's cartographic services, facilitated by ESCAP
  - first time ESCAP's Asian Highways and Trans-Asian Railways overlayed providing information of analytical value: show potential synergies of synchronizing fiber deployment along major transport corridors.

1. Interactive maps available on ESCAP and ITU websites

http://www.itu.int/itu-d/tnd-map-public/

http://www.unescap.org/idd/maps/asia-pacific-superhighway

1. ESCAP's way forward

- Analytical use of Maps:
  - Identify physical gaps in terrestrial fiber networks,
  - Identify related investment opportunities,
  - Identify potential synergies with transport and energy infrastructures for creation of intelligent corridors and smart grids that improve safety, security and efficiencies of systems.
- ESCAP's way forward
  - Analysis of good practices to systematically coordinate fiber optic lay-out with work on transport infrastructure (dig-once policy).
  - Introduction of recommendations into ESCAP's transport agreements (AH, TAR).
  - Add map layers on usage of fiber, reflect actual traffic measurement
  - Further improve other metrics to complete assessment of investment opportunities (speed assessment., content by languages)
  - Cost-benefit analysis at country level, taking into account ground-level situations
  - Partners: ITU, World Bank, LirneAsia

1. ESCAP's way forward

Second phase for ESCAP/ ITU maps

- MoU between ESCAP and ITU extended to 2015
- Continued update of terrestrial transmission networks.
- Cooperation with Telegeography to add submarine cables to maps.
- Inclusion of investment information, socio-economic indicators, IXP's, existing/planned regional networks
- Presentation to carrier/telecom industry audience for further feedback.

2. ICT and national statistics for evidenced-based policies

- ICT playing an increasing important role in social and economic development.
- Many ICT data gaps, especially in LDCs, Pacific Islands, quantitative measurement of the economic benefits difficult
- Makes it difficult for ICT policy officials to make the economic case to planning agencies and finance ministries, for higher prioritization of ICTs in national policy-making agendas
- 3 possible area of intervention for ESCAP and partners :
  - Measuring core ICT indicators in vulnerable economies for evidence-based economic and social policies.
  - Use of Open-Data in national statistics systems,
  - ICT for Civil Registration Statistics.

2. ESCAP project proposal for capacity building on ICT statistics

- Support definition of national priorities for ICT data needs
- Capacity building of ICT policymakers and National Statistical Systems to ensure data in line with national priorities
- Technical assistance for the production of statistics (training to NSOs, other entities),
- ESCAP to leverage partnerships:
  - Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development (12 specialised agencies)
  - Collaboration with ITU regional office, ESCAPS's ICT and statistics divisions, SIAP
  - Subregional approach: leverage on sub-regional offices.

2. Strengthening Educational Planning

- Joint project between ESCAP-ICT programme in Bangkok and APCICT (regional institute on capacity building in ICT4 D)
- Complementarities between policy research and normative functions of Bangkok programme, with capacity building/dissemination and outreach programme of APCICT
- Partners: UNESCO, ASAIHL, among others
- Initial funding from Republic of Korea

3. Strengthening Educational Planning

- The large youth population and fast growing economies, is proving to be a major bottleneck for harnessing the benefits of future innovations, competitiveness and development.
- The gender gaps in enrolment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields of study, as well as in sectoral workforce participation rates, also highlight the importance for a gender sensitive approach to maximizing human capital in this area.

3. Strengthening Educational Planning

- Need to bolster policymakers' understanding of the effects of using technology on the quality of education, and more specifically, what types of interventions lead to improved learning outcomes.
- Similarly, deeper understanding is needed about the impact of integrating ICT and ICTD into university curricula in developing countries of the region.

3. Strengthening Educational Planning

- Phase 2 will increase the impact of phase I by considering how technology-supported education has, or could:

  i) develop skills needed by markets, now and in the future,

  ii) improve learning outcomes, including engaged learning outcomes

  iii) improve policy-planning actions of governments to mainstream ICT into higher education, and the resulting state of curricula in five selected countries in the region.

Thank you

For further information please contact

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