

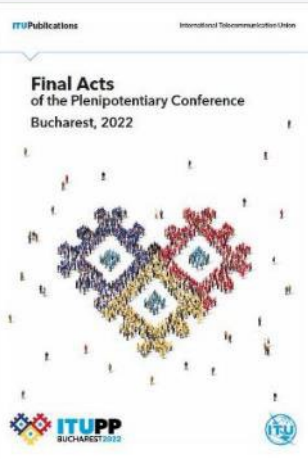
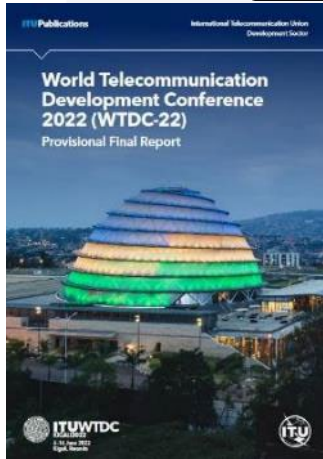


ITU Area Office for South Asia and Innovation Centre, India



Digital Innovation Ecosystems

Digital Innovation Ecosystem Thematic Priority



This Thematic Priority empowers members to unlock their digital potential, build their capabilities in innovation and entrepreneurship, and accelerate their ecosystems' impact on cross-cutting sectors for an inclusive society.

<https://innovation.itu.int>

2023 - 2025 Related Regional Initiatives

- AFR4** - Fostering emerging technologies and innovation ecosystem
- AMS3**- Effective support for the digital transformation and innovation ecosystems through scalable, funded and sustainable connectivity Projects
- ARB4**- Building capacities and encouraging digital innovation, entrepreneurship and future foresight
- ASP4**- Enabling policy and regulatory environments to accelerate digital Transformation
- CIS3**- Creating an enabling legal and regulatory environment to accelerate digital transformation
- EUR5**- Digital innovation ecosystems

Resolutions

Res 89 (Kigali, 2022) – Digital transformation for sustainable development

Res 90 (Kigali, 2022) - Fostering telecommunication/ICT-centric entrepreneurship and digital innovation ecosystems for sustainable digital development

Res 205 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) - ITU's role in fostering telecommunication/information and communication technology-centric innovation to support the digital economy and society



Product Portfolio – a set of products and services using a whole-of-ecosystem (multi-stakeholders and multi-sectors) approach to digital transformation

- 1) The **Digital Innovation Profiles (DIP)** A DIP provides an accurate assessment of an ecosystem's capacity and maturity for innovation and entrepreneurship: strengths, areas of development, gaps, detailed recommendations, governance, and projects for transformation. This analysis helps strengthen the ICT industry competitiveness and support the digital economy through leveraging ICT-centric Innovation ecosystem.
- 2) The **Ecosystem Development Curriculum (EDC)** provides human capacity development on innovation, entrepreneurship, and ecosystem development. It takes to stakeholders through a structured learning approach, including online, instructor-led and special boot camps using tools based on innovation frameworks. It also includes the toolkits and the Good Practices Reports.
- 3) The **Innovation Challenges and Mentorships (ICM)** help discover innovation champions and their ideas to transform their communities and support them through mentoring and a network of like minds.
- 4) The **Innovation Forums (GIF/RIF)** provide opportunities for stakeholders to connect, share, build capacity and engage in best practice-driven digital transformation through the Global and Regional Innovations Forum series.
- 5) The **Innovation and entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development:** will build critical local enablers to lead in the changing digital environment. It will also enable BDT to develop new organizational and human excellence capabilities, deliver new products and services for ITU Membership and strengthen the engagement of the private sector and academia in the critical work of BDT.

Case studies: Digital Innovation Profiles , Sustainable Initiatives Design and Implementation, Innovation Challenges and Mentoring



South Africa



Trinidad and Tobago



Georgia



Kenya



Mali



Moldova



Oman



Rwanda



Brunei Darussalam

Digital Innovation Profiles (20+ countries)

- The developed roadmap helps a country strengthen the ICT industry competitiveness and support the digital economy through leveraging ICT-centric Innovation ecosystem.
- After each profile assessment, the thematic area seeks to support the country in establishing in a governance model that engage the ecosystem in country transformation.
- Upon request, ITU can also support with an institutional capacity development at the national with a blueprint



Sustainable Initiative Design and Implementation

- Tech4Youth is an open innovation platform which addresses a range of issues related to empowerment, and resilience of youth for SDG3 and SDG5. The joint initiative is currently looking to raise \$12m with the roadmap and will cover 10 countries in West and Central Africa.
- Tech4Girls is an innovative training and mentoring project that aims to improve the digital, creative problem-solving, communication and entrepreneurship skills of young girls. The first cohort has graduated in Benin and is designed to scale.

INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP ALLIANCE FOR DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT

INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP ALLIANCE FOR DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT



Accelerating Digital Transformation for Sustainable Development



FAST TRACKING FIVE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



WHAT



Trends research readiness



Open technology innovation



Entrepreneurship and SMEs growth



Policy experimentation



Ecosystem initiatives acceleration

WHY

Enables countries to be ahead of the curve and make sense of the evolution of technology, policy and innovation dynamics.

Harnesses technological know-how into global goods through open innovation and multistakeholder mechanisms, accelerating access to emerging technology for all.

Accelerates the uptake of digital innovation-driven entrepreneurship and opportunities for talent to achieve socio-economic inclusion in their communities.

Develops agile policies that provide stakeholders with safe space for experimentation, encouraging innovation and attracting investment in the digital ecosystem.

Promotes collaboration and synergies that scale digital innovations and achieve cross-cutting sectoral value for a competitive digital economy.

THE THREE MAIN VEHICLES - Alliance



Digital Transformation Lab

The Lab will support the design and implementation of the network of centers and provide technical assistance, upon request, to enable countries currently lacking key capabilities in sandboxing and developing initiatives to accelerate digital development. The Lab will be located in Geneva, accessible virtually and offering innovation services to BDT staff and countries. BDT will benefit from improving its products and services to enable the Bureau to be the premier agency supporting developing countries in digital transformation.



Network of Acceleration Centers

The Network will enhance global, regional and national innovation capabilities for technology, policy and flagship initiative development. The various centers will accelerate digital transformation through a unique ecosystem-thinking approach that combines the best of three recognized methodologies: Sense Making, Systems Thinking and Design Thinking. The centers will also amplify local capabilities to accelerate local innovation, entrepreneurship and the digitalization of economies to improve the competitiveness of economic sectors.




Digital Innovation Board

This Board will guide the work of the Alliance and ensure its effectiveness, accountability, and sound decision-making toward accelerating the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan. The Board will facilitate high-level coordination and engage in global advocacy at the UN level and with regional and international organizations. Leveraging its reach, it will help mobilize resources and partnerships, share lessons learned and create a global learning community.

Network of Centers



Type of Center	Ownership	Scope	Strategic Objectives					Resources	Remarks
			Trend Research Readiness	Open Technology Innovation	Entrepreneurship and SMEs Growth	Policy Experimentation	Ecosystem Initiatives Acceleration		
Technology Acceleration Centers	ITU owned and managed	Global or Regional	✓	✓	✓	✓		Host country sponsored, managed by ITU staff	High-cost model, appropriate for countries with vibrant technology ecosystems needing scale up
Research and Entrepreneurship Acceleration Centers	Country owned. When regional, it acts as a focal point for ITU on a topic in a region	Regional or National	✓	✓	✓			Academia Member sponsored in partnership with stakeholders and academia staff	Medium cost model, appropriate for countries needing to catalyze their skilled talent from an academic and research setting
Digital Transformation Acceleration Centers	Country owned. When regional, it acts as a focal point for ITU on the topic in a region	Regional or National			✓	✓	✓	Host country sponsored, managed by host country staff	Medium cost model, appropriate for countries needing to catalyze digital transformation across the board
Initiative Acceleration Centers	Within an existing institution	Regional or National					✓	Leverages existing resources from the hosting organization	Low-cost model, appropriate for organizations with fewer resources but that can dedicate staff and operating budget



Area Office and Innovation Centre in Delhi

- The ITU Area Office for South Asia and Innovation Centre was inaugurated at the highest levels by ITU's Secretary General and the PM of India on 22nd March 2023.
- It is fully funded and hosted by the Government of India.
- The objectives of the area office are:
 - Promoting the introduction of advanced technologies
 - Contributing to the development of ICT/telecommunication networks and services
 - Providing TA to infrastructure, e-governance, and cross-sectoral ICT applications
 - Assisting with human resources and capacity development
 - Conducting other activities related to ITU's mandate to connect the world



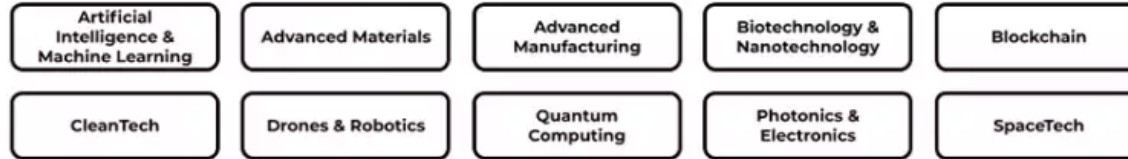


The new office was inaugurated at the highest levels by the Secretary General of ITU and the Honourable Prime Minister of India.

India has rising DeepTech and Sectorial strengths in digital innovation



DEEPTech DOMAINS



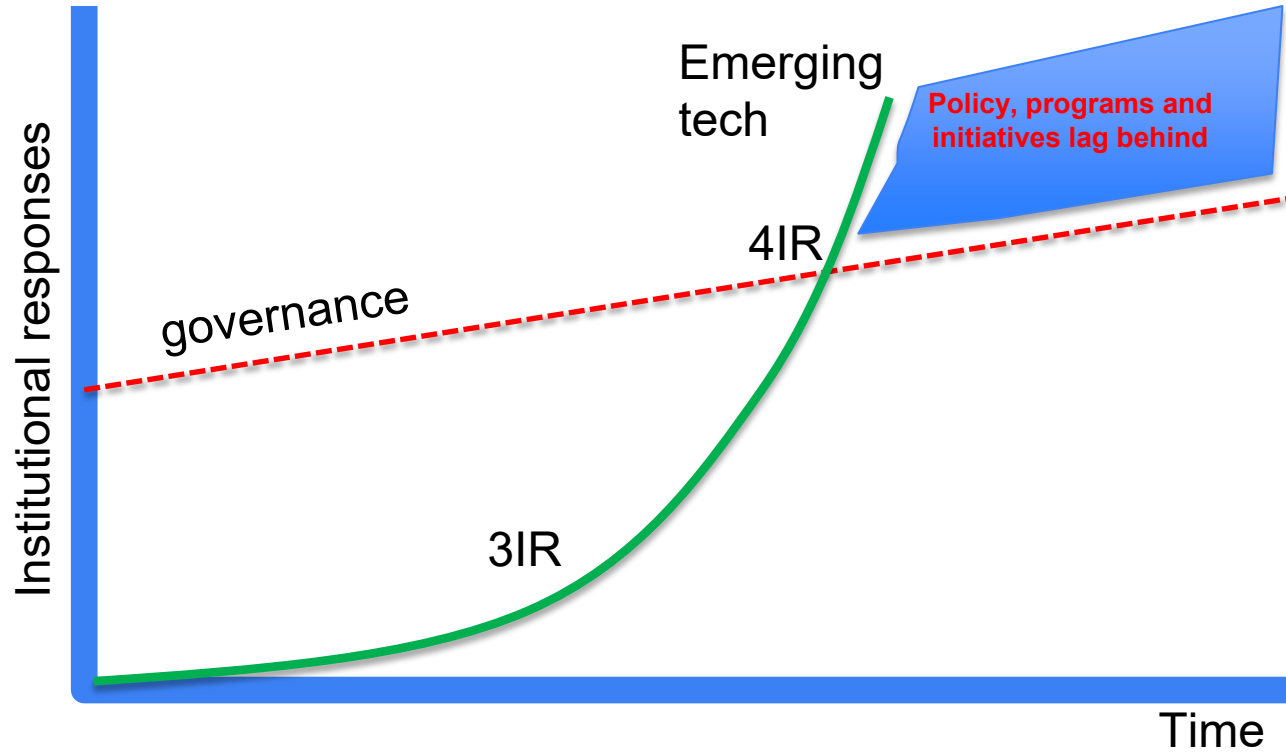
Penetrating Sectors



These strengths can be muted because stakeholders struggle to:

1. Adapt to the fast-changing global digital environment
2. Become an effective adopter of emerging digital technologies
3. Become a driver of digital innovation that creates socio-economic impact globally despite some domestic success stories

India is not alone - Stakeholders in most countries struggle to unlock the full potential of emerging technologies





The new office in India's capital includes ITU's first centre for innovation, positioning it as a hub for promoting advanced technologies within the region and beyond

To achieve these objectives, the centre will offer key services to achieve impact.

- **Trend research readiness:** Develop trend research and strategic foresight capabilities and engage academics and relevant stakeholders to conduct activities on relevant topics of focus areas
- **Open technology innovation:** Encourage technology innovation that will support projects to accelerate the development of open technology
- **Capacity building :** Develop capacity-building content and initiatives while leveraging relevant ITU capacity-building platforms and partners
- **Global goods showcase:** Develop platforms for showcasing global goods (including digital public goods) and related technology in key areas, including physical and online
- **SME and entrepreneurship scale-up:** Establish an accelerator to support calls for ready solutions and seed funding support for SME and entrepreneurship scale-up regionally or globally
- **Policy experimentation:** Establish a policy knowledge base in the selected topics of focus areas, to provide stakeholders with safe space for experimentation, encouraging innovation and attracting investment in the digital ecosystem/
- **Changemaker network:** Develop a digital innovation network of changemakers with specific interests in the key areas.

The proposed Center is inline with the recently launched framework by BDT Director to support building unique and reinforcing centres



Type of Center	Ownership	Scope	Strategic Objectives				
			Trend Research Readiness	Open Technology Innovation	Entrepreneurship and SMEs Growth	Policy Experimentation	Ecosystem Initiatives Acceleration
Technology Acceleration Centers	ITU owned and managed	Global or Regional	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Research and Entrepreneurship Acceleration Centers	Country owned. When regional, it acts as a focal point for ITU on a topic in a region	Regional or National	✓	✓	✓		
Digital Transformation Acceleration Centers	Country owned. When regional, it acts as a focal point for ITU on the topic in a region	Regional or National			✓	✓	✓
Initiative Acceleration Centers	Within an existing institution	Regional or National					✓

The Innovation centre will be quite unique, with global reach and building on the comparative advantage that the Indian ecosystem can offer to the world.

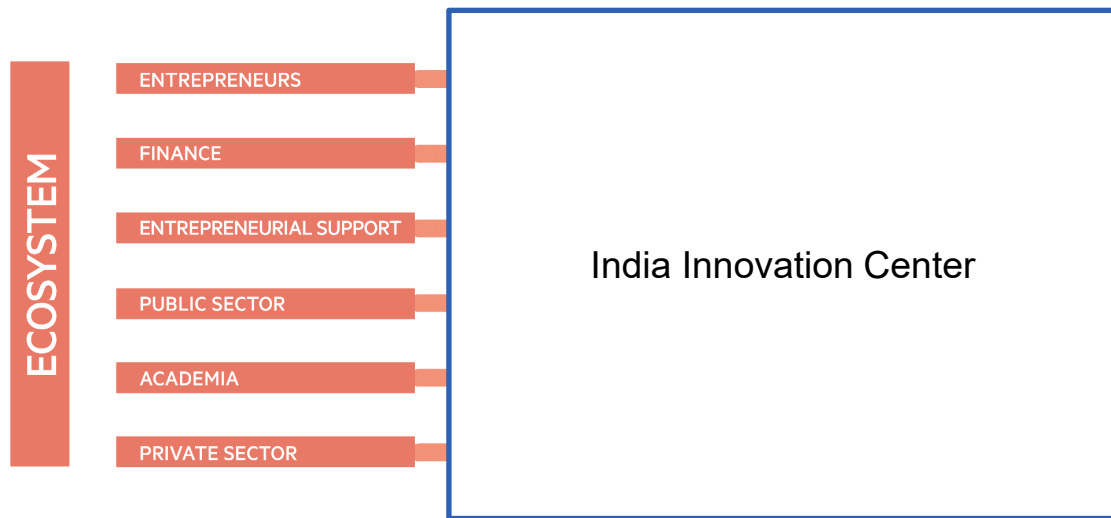
Given India's strong digital ecosystem and ambition, the Innovation centre fits the model of the Technology Acceleration Centre shown in the figure.

Its objectives cover all the possible capabilities that can be delivered with this framework.

The Global Technology Acceleration Center will be a critical enabler for countries and will accelerate Digital Development



Mainstreaming emerging technologies and digital innovation in critical aspects of inclusive and sustainable digital transformation regionally and globally to reduce technological inequities



1. A global center to reduce technological inequities
2. Spotlight the Indian ecosystem
3. Support ITU's mission with new capabilities
4. Accelerate Digital Development



Indicative Upcoming Activities



No	Service	Activities	Planned Timeline
1	Trend research readiness	<u>Event:</u> Digital Health Joint Workshop and Symposium <u>Onboard research:</u> Foresight issue on Digital health and technology for socioeconomic development	TBD
2	Open technology innovation	<u>Event:</u> Safe and Secure School Connectivity Sensitization Event	July/August 2023
		<u>Event:</u> ITU-T Metaverse Standards	TBD
		<u>Event:</u> ITU-T Climate Change Standards including data centers and e-waste	
		<u>Event:</u> ITU-T Green Data Center Standards	
		<u>Event:</u> ITU-T Financial Inclusion and Digital Financial Services Security Lab	
		<u>Event:</u> ITU-T Metaverse Standards	
3	Capacity building	<u>Challenge:</u> ITU-T Smart Incubator challenge on standards	TBD
		<u>Onboard Public good challenge:</u> Digital public goods for IOTs in agriculture and finance	
3	Capacity building	<u>Event:</u> Introduction to Govstack and Country Engagements	August 2023
		<u>Event:</u> UNDESA Bangladesh Study Tour to India <u>Event:</u> Cisco Academy and Capacity Development	TBD
4	Global good showcase	<u>Event:</u> ICANN and Universal Acceptance and Localization	August 2023
		<u>Event:</u> Global Innovation Forum	October 2023
		<u>Event:</u> AI for Good Global Summit	TBD
5	SME and entrepreneurship scale-up	<u>Onboard of SMEs Scale-up Challenge:</u> Agritech south-south IoT scale-up challenge	TBD
6	Policy experimentation	<u>Onboard of Project:</u> IoTs policy sandbox	TBD
7	Changemaker network	<u>Onboard Platform project:</u> Indian Digital Innovation Network	TBD



Thank You

For any questions, email xxx