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BANGKOK 2026

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Session 6: ITU Regional Initiatives for Asia and the Pacific: Contributions & Presentation of Contributions to RDF

17 July 2026 10:45 – 12:00 (Bangkok Time/GMT+7)

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Regional Initiative Accelerator

A framework for co-designing regional initiatives projects with beneficiaries and partners

RDF-ASP

July 2026 Update

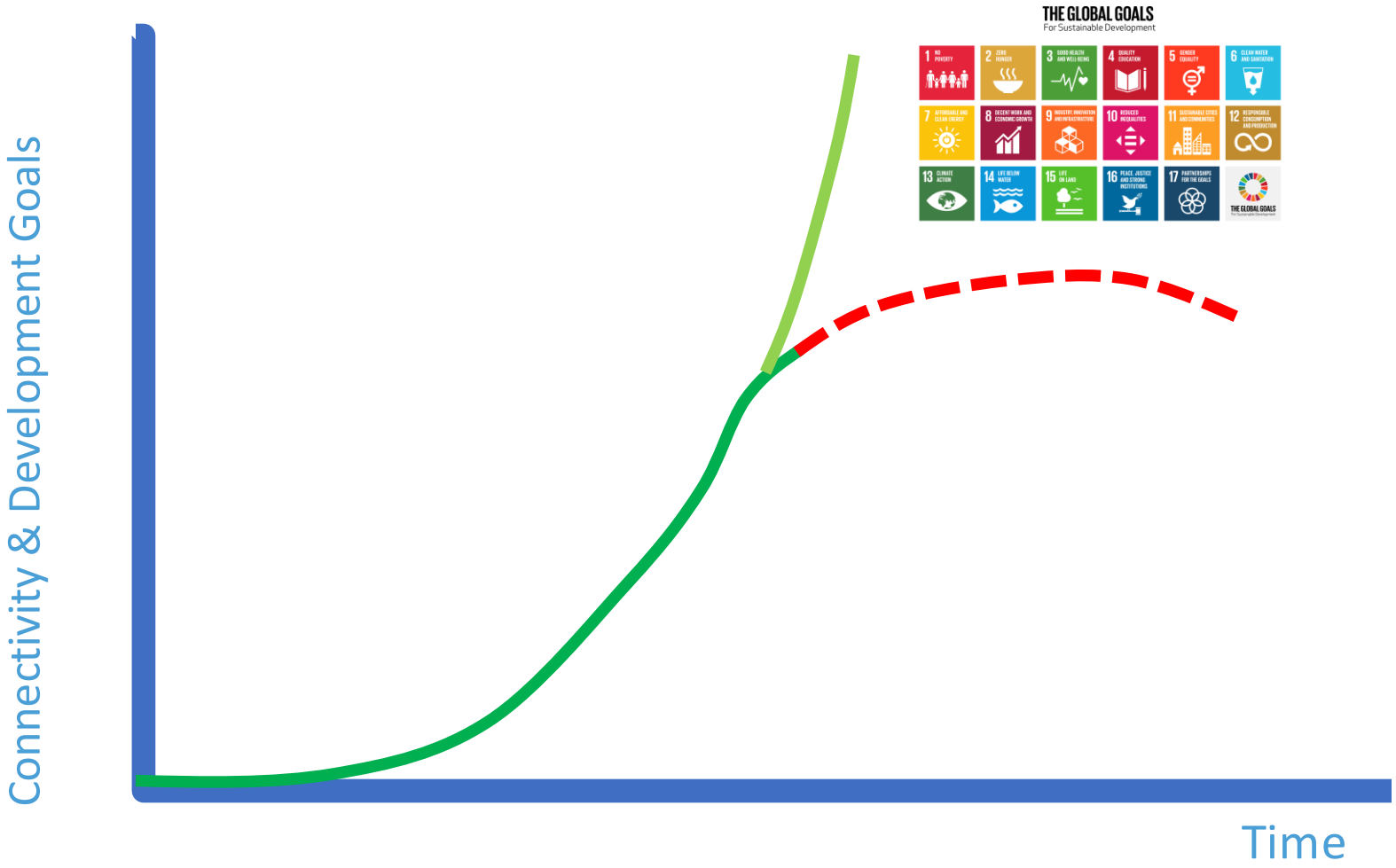
Presented by Mohamed Ba

Navigating a VUCA world

Regions today are navigating an increasingly volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous (VUCA) global environment marked by rapid change.

Rapid technological advancement, shifting geopolitical and economic conditions, evolving development priorities, and changing funding ecosystems are reshaping how regional agendas must be conceived and delivered.

Rethinking development approaches



Translating regional and global ambitions into tangible, sustainable results requires more than strategic intent.

This indicates that priorities must evolve into clearly defined, investable projects that can mobilise the right partners, secure resources, and deliver measurable outcomes for sustainable impact.

The big picture: A global Alliance to build innovation capabilities

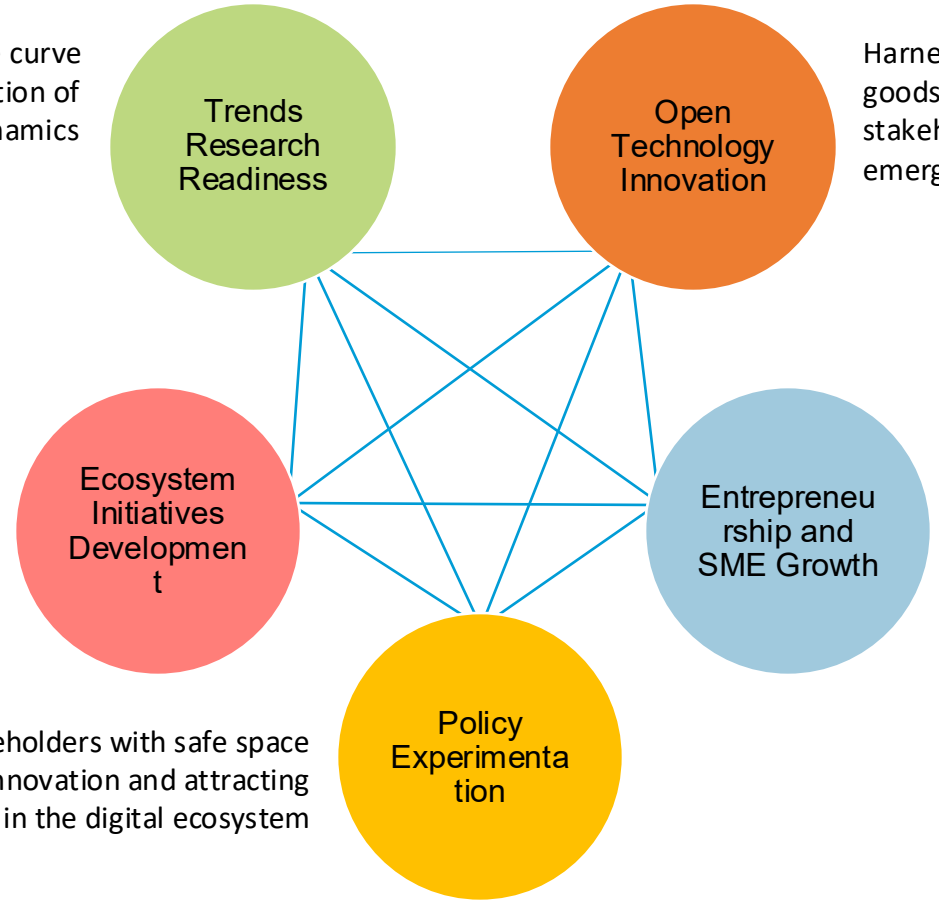
The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development **(the Alliance)** is a global initiative spearheaded by the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Launched in 2023, the creation of the Alliance responds directly to pressing and unmet innovation needs identified by ITU Member States, recognized at the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2022 (WTDC-22) in Kigali, reinforced at WTDC-25 in Baku, and further supported in the outcomes of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022 (PP-22).

The five strategic objectives of the Alliance

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 multi-stakeholder mechanisms, accelerating access to emerging technology for all



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

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

The three vehicles of the Alliance to deliver impact as one

36 Board Members

Digital Innovation Board

Provides strategic guidance, ensuring the Alliance remains aligned with ITU-D Priorities and Action Plans. It engages in high-level advocacy and tracks progress across key areas, while championing global dialogue and partnerships to foster inclusive digital innovation and entrepreneurship

Digital Transformation Lab

Is a virtual facility for building innovation capabilities. It develops knowledge programmes, designs innovation frameworks and supports the design and capacitation of ITU Acceleration Centres

14+ Centres

Network of ITU Acceleration Centres

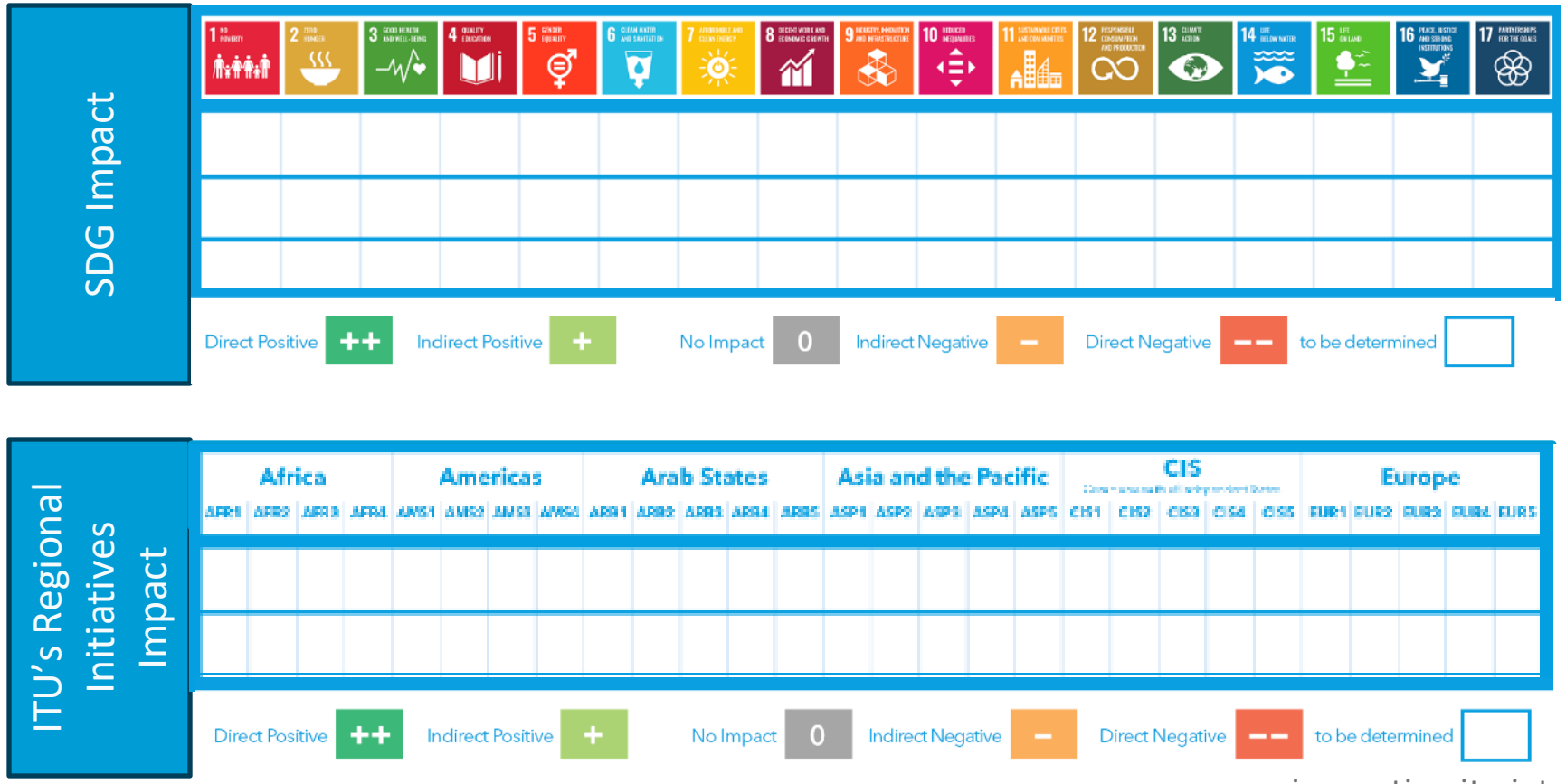
Enhances global, regional, and national innovation ecosystems. It supports countries in leveraging technology, policy, and flagship initiatives while integrating ICT innovation into national development agendas and fostering entrepreneurship that accelerate digital transformation

100+ experts in CoP

Global Expert Network

Alliance objectives align with expected results sought for ITU Regional initiatives - tools and framework can be repackaged for broader use by ITU membership and Regional Offices.

- Onboarding 100+ Initiatives over3 year in the Centres
- and key programmes with the Expert Network
- All have impacts measurement on RIs



ITU Regional Initiatives 2026-2029

Regional initiatives reflect priorities identified by each region and are endorsed at the World Telecommunication Development Conferences.

RESOLUTION 17 (REV. BAKU, 2025) - Resource mobilization, implementation and cooperation for approved regional initiatives

- Regional Initiatives are expected to be carried out through projects, with BDT supporting implementation, aligning related initiatives, and promoting well-defined proposals and investment cases to help secure funding.

RESOLUTION 92 (Baku, 2025) - Strengthening the role of ITU regional offices in accelerating digital transformation and leveraging partnership

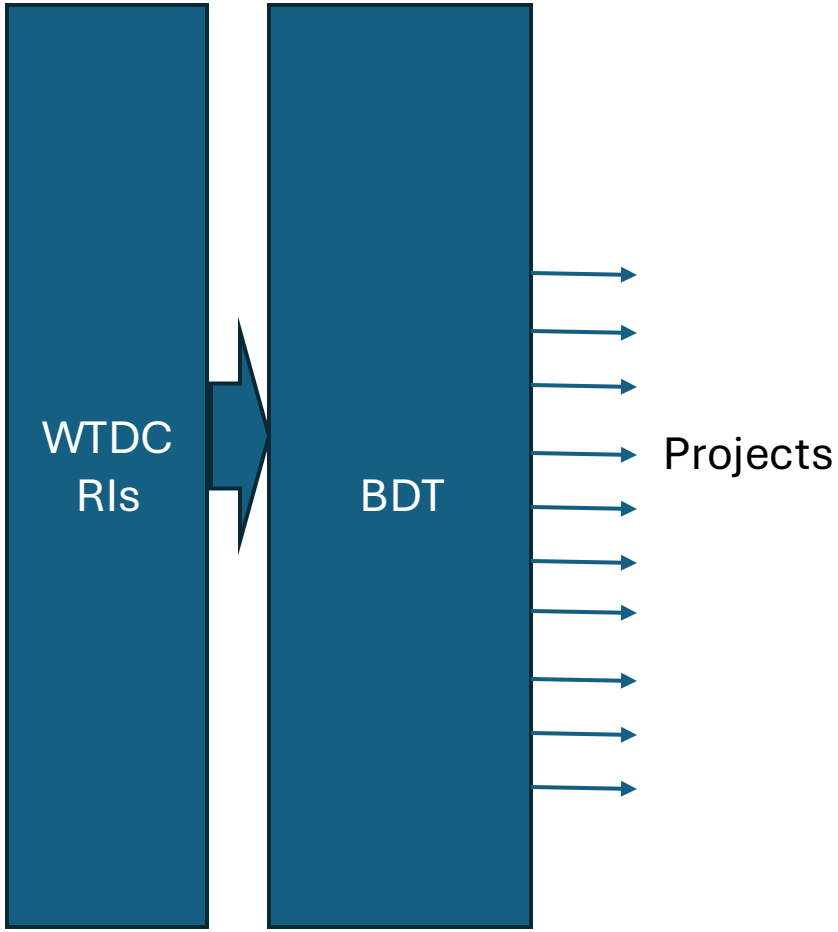
- That BDT should establish a Regional Initiative Accelerator framework within regional offices, in partnership with Member States, to co-design viable projects aligned with ITU-D priorities, while leveraging the Digital Transformation Lab to enhance innovation in the development and delivery of BDT services."

Why accelerate Regional Initiatives?

1. Co-design with beneficiaries and partners
2. Sharper articulation of results
3. Defined and measurable KPIs
4. Clear onboarding and offboarding processes
5. Bankable project pipelines
6. Diversified strategic partnerships and funding portfolios
7. Communities of practice and knowledge exchange
8. Cross-regional synergies - global projects
9. Future-ready and adaptive delivery models

What is the Regional Initiative Accelerator?
A new mechanism for co-design of project with beneficiaries

- The **framework for the Regional Initiative Accelerator has been developed through the DT Lab**, offering a structured approach to scaling bankable and projects based on adopted ITU Regional Initiatives for WTDC-25
- This model provides **a systematic, collaborative approach for stakeholders to identify and prioritize opportunities, co-design projects suitable for funding, and secure essential partnerships and resources** to facilitate successful implementation.
- The RIA provides a repeatable approach that integrates analytical reflection, collaborative methods, innovation approaches, practical tools, and core competencies into a single, coherent process.
- The **development of the RIA is achieved through a project funded by the ITU-China Collaboration fund** of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT).



The RIA framework was developed based on two pilots in 2025

Pilot RIA Framework Development Workshop in Podgorica, Montenegro, in February 2025

Pilot RIA Framework Development Workshop in Shenzhen, China, in April 2025

*Framework Development used WTDC-22 approved RIs – EUR2 and ASP4

The Regional Initiative Acceleration Framework:

- A framework for co-designing regional initiatives with beneficiaries and partners
- Regional offices of ITU will play a leading role to support Membership using this structured approach*

Phase I

I/O 1 — **Trends research readiness and foresight** — I/O 2

8 tools

Grounds the RIs in forward-looking analysis by mapping drivers of change, exploring alternative scenarios, and defining the strategic direction required to realise a desired future.

Phase II

Bankable project development — I/O 3

11 tools

Translates vision into investable and scalable project blueprints by identifying priority interventions, shaping solution pathways, and validating feasibility against clear outputs and measurable outcomes.

Phase III

Partnerships and resource mobilisation — I/O 4

3 tools

Moves from design to delivery readiness by establishing partnerships, aligning roles, and mobilising resources to transform validated blueprints into operationally viable projects.

Road ahead in Q4 2026

1. Physical workshops will be held for the development of Regional Initiatives portfolio of projects for selected Regional Initiatives in selected ITU regions. Interested host countries are being consulted. Fellowship will be provided for limited number of participants through the MIIT funded project.

- **AFR Workshop – Planned for Q4 2026 (After PP-26)**
- **ASP Workshop – Planned for Q4 (After PP-26)**

2. An online global workshop/capacity building opportunity will be offered through the ITU Academy platform to selected participants for the development of Regional Initiatives portfolio of projects for all interested ITU regions.

- **Open to all regions – Planned in Q4 2026 (To Be Confirmed)**
- **A self-paced (Regional Initiative Accelerator 101), learning course on ITU Academy based on the RIA toolkit** to expand the reach of the RIA methodology and strengthen capacity building across regions. While it is primarily developed for ITU membership seeking to translate ITU regional initiatives into credible, well-defined, fundable projects with clear ownership and delivery pathways, the course is relevant to anyone seeking to build structured, sustainable, and bankable projects in complex environments.
- **A capstone project based on real RI developed cases of participants**

3. Launch of the RIA toolkit:

The Regional Initiative Accelerator (RIA) Toolkit is a practical guide for developing bankable projects that are not only well thought through, but co-designed with beneficiaries and ready to be implemented and sustained. The toolkit provides a clear step-by-step journey that moves from identifying a priority challenge to shaping a validated, fundable, and future-ready project.

This toolkit is designed for stakeholders involved in shaping and delivering development projects, particularly where coordination across actors and sectors is essential.

innovation.itu.int/

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Network of Women

Telecommunication Development Sector

Mina Seonmin Jun
Chair of the Advisory Board of the Network of Women (NoW) in ITU-D

https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Women-and-Girls/NoW/Pages/default.aspx

NoW in ITU-D from Awareness and Advocacy to Impact

🟦 **Baku Action Plan**

Aligned with PP Resolution 70 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), Council Decision 631 (C23) and WTDC Resolution 55 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

- Reinforces the implementation mandate for gender equality

🟩 **WTDC Resolution 55 (Rev. Baku, 2025)**

- Strengthens mandate to **mainstream gender across ITU-D work**
- Promotes gender-responsive design, implementation, and capacity building
- **Supports for the Network of Women (NoW)** as a key mechanism for women's empowerment and participation in the digital age

🟧 **PP Resolution 70 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)**

•**Formally recognizes the creation of a Network of Women (NoW) in ITU-D**

•**Invites Member States** to continue the work being done at ITU, and particularly in BDT, **to promote gender equality in telecommunications/ICTs particularly for women and girls in developing countries**

•Promotes women's leadership in ITU structures and delegations

NoW in ITU-D Actions

Sessions	Updates	Impact Outcomes
9 April 2026 Network of Women in ITU-D networking event during the Telecommunication Development Advisory Board (TDAG-26)	- Networking Lunch Hosted by the Network of Women in ITU-D - Warm, welcoming space for connection and idea-sharing - Focused on growing impact at national, regional, and global levels aligned with the Baku Action Plan (2026–2029)	Inspiring suggestions to shape the NoW in ITU-D Advisory Board's work plan Key ideas shared: - Co-creating projects for young women and girls - Expanding mentoring programmes across career stages - Tracking gender equality in ICTs via data & impact initiatives

NoW in ITU-D Actions

Sessions	Updates	Impact Outcomes
23 April 2026 Session: Girls in ICT Intergenerational Dialogue and Open Discussion: AI for Development: Girls Shaping the Digital Future	- Brought together girls and young women with women leaders, policymakers, and ICT experts to discuss the role of AI in advancing inclusive and sustainable development - Facilitated an open intergenerational exchange on opportunities and challenges in AI and digital transformation - Ms. Mina Seonmin Jun, Chair of the Network of Women in the ITU-D Advisory Board, participated as a panelist and shared insights on advancing gender-inclusive digital development	- Raised awareness of the importance of equitable access to digital skills and emerging technologies - Reinforced the need for ethical, inclusive, and gender-responsive AI design - Promoted intergenerational collaboration as a key enabler for addressing gender gaps and biases in the digital ecosystem

NoW in ITU-D Actions

Sessions	Updates	Impact Outcomes
14 May 2026 Interactive Session at Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-26)	- Convened women delegates, regulators, and policymakers - Explored gender-responsive approaches to navigate the digital frontier - Aligned with GSR-26 theme: resilient, inclusive, future-ready digital ecosystems Focus areas: - AI governance and digital innovation - Strengthening women's leadership in regulatory decision-making - Embedding inclusion in evolving digital policy frameworks	- Reinforced peer learning & networking among women at GSR-26 - Powerful consensus that navigating the complex digital frontier requires regulatory frameworks that are inherently inclusive, accessible, and gender responsive. - Critical need for women to lead -not merely participate in- policy discussions surrounding AI, data governance, and emerging innovations.

Way forward
Upcoming NoW in ITU-D Activities in 2026

Timeline of Planned Activities

8 March
Announcement of the new NoW in ITU-D Advisory Board with occasion of International Women's Day

16 March
Advisory Board 1st virtual meeting

9 April
Lunch session during TDAG-26

23 April
Advisory Board contributing to Girls in ICTs

14 May
Interactive session at GSR-26

30 June
Advisory Board 2nd virtual meeting

1 July
Career Advice Webinar (in collaboration with Her Digital Skills for Life project)

August TBD
Generation Connect Youth Leadership Program Networking Event

14 September
Advisory Board 3rd virtual meeting

7 December
Advisory Board 4th virtual meeting

The planned activities are an extension of the ongoing/past planned activities such as workshops, mentorship programme etc. The new topics for the sessions will be more aligned to the WTDC-25 outcomes.

Career Advance Webinar

Detail	Webinar Information
Date & Time	1 July 2026, 9:00–10:30 AM (virtual)
Format	Online (virtual)
Target Participants	Young women from Ethiopia and Nigeria
In Collaboration With	ITU Her Digital Skills for Life project, supported by Qualcomm
Role of Now in ITU-D advisory board members	Share personal & professional experiences with young women Focus on: • Career progression in the tech sector • Navigating opportunities in digital/technology fields • Lessons learned along their career journeys • Provide practical, relatable guidance to build confidence and support informed career decisions
Expected Outcomes	1. Actionable career guidance for young women 2. Stronger pipeline of women in tech from Ethiopia & Nigeria 3. Enhanced NoW in ITU-D volunteer engagement & mentorship impact

Proposed Collaboration - Generation Connect Young Leadership Program

Detail	Webinar Information
Date & Time	TBC August (virtual)
Format	Online (virtual)
Target Participants	Generation Connect Young Leadership Program Fellows (30 fellows from the 6 ITU Regions)
In Collaboration With	ITU GCYLP project, supported by Huawei
Objective	Facilitate knowledge exchange and collaboration among the new cohort of Generation Connect Youth Leadership Program across all regions and Network of Women in ITU-D members Generation Connect Young Leadership Programme (GCYLP) is ITU programme in partnership with Huawei, to engage, empower, and inspire young digital leaders and changemakers
Expected Outcomes	1. Strengthen the engagement of the Network of Women (NoW) in ITU-D/BDT digital inclusion and youth-related initiatives 2. Support activities involving the new Generation Connect cohort, promoting youth participation and leadership in digital development 3. Connect local perspectives to regional and global processes with community engagement

Proposed Collaboration – NoW Breakfast at PP-26 a call for commitment, implementation and impact

Detail	Event information
Date & Time	November TBC (in-person)
Format	In-person
Target Participants	PP-26 Women Delegates
In Collaboration With	Republic of Korea and ITU-GS
Objective	Facilitate an action-oriented /call for commitment breakfast with PP-26 women delegates to align on NoW priorities by moving the network work beyond awareness and advocacy toward measurable impact. Use the discussion to identify practical opportunities for collaboration and capture commitments that delegates can advance during and after PP-26.
Expected Outcomes	1. Concrete commitments from delegates to champion NoW priorities after PP-26 2. Agreement on 2–3 follow-up actions/projects with identified partners and timelines to be implemented by ITU-D in line with WTDC25 resolutions and regional initiatives related to gender digital inclusion and empowerment 3. Stronger engagement of women delegates as NoW ambassadors, linking PP-26 discussions to ITU Resolutions and regional activities to advance women leadership opportunities in the digital age.

Thank you!

Email: NoW4itu-D@itu.int

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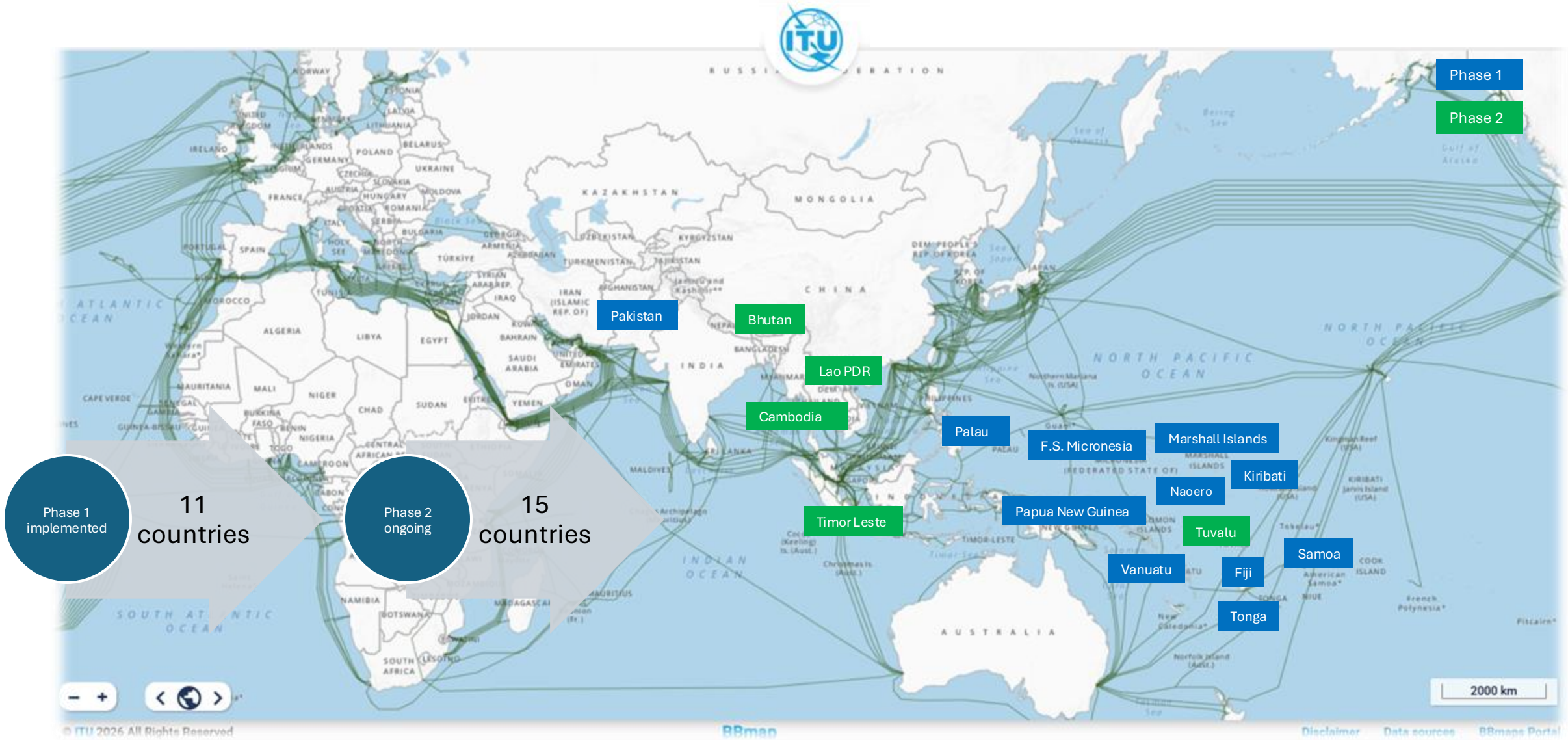
FROM PILOTS TO NATIONAL SCALE

Expanding Smart Villages and Smart Islands Across Asia-Pacific



Changing lives of rural and remote communities across Asia and the Pacific

female

Persons with disabilities

Digital inclusion

Youth

Payment

Commerce

Digital skills

Whole-of-government approach at community level with impact on multiple sectors

Health

Education

From policy and strategy to technical implementation – national level

GOVSTACK CAN BE INCORPORATED INTO POLICY

- Digital Transformation Strategy
- Digital Government Strategy/Policy/Roadmap
- Whole-of-Government Enterprise Architecture

GOVSTACK CAN GUIDE SERVICE DESIGN, PROTOTYPE & SCALING

- Service design (Life Events, User Needs, Journey)
- Prototyping (Optional in Case of Sandbox)
- Procurement
- Piloting/Scaling Up

GOVSTACK DESIGN PRINCIPLES

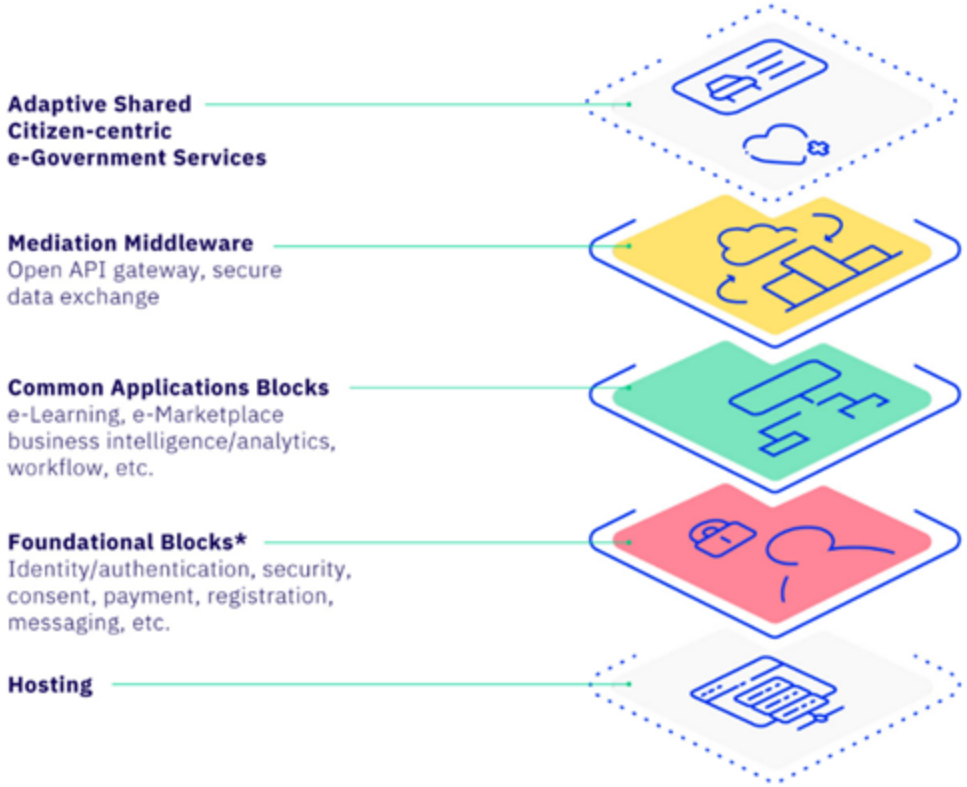
CAPACITY BUILDING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HAPPENS THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

GovStack's Whole-of-Government approach uses a common reusable stack of Building Blocks

There is growing evidence that a whole-of-government approach to digital infrastructure investment can deliver reusable digital services at scale with a greater return on investment.

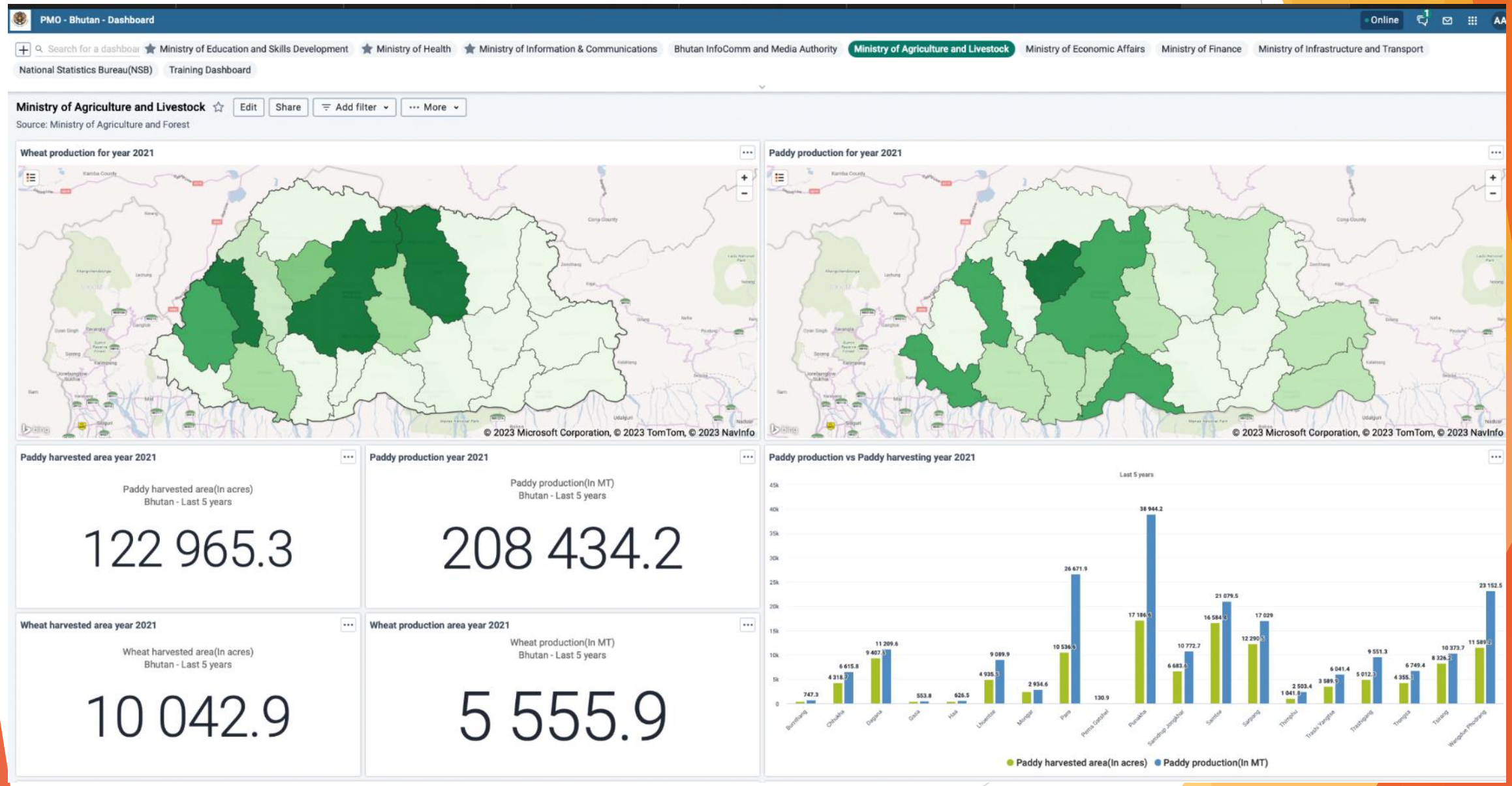
Instead of creating unique and disparate solutions, use a common reusable stack of Building Blocks to form the core platform engine and contextualize various e-government services on top.

The approach takes advantage of economies of scale that are not available when taking a piece-meal approach.



A “platform of platforms” that can be used by any government agency, department across different sectors to build new government digital services without having to design, test and operate the underlying systems and infrastructure themselves

Whole-of-government dashboards – Example PMO Bhutan



ADGMIN endorsed the ASEAN Digital Government Technical Framework to promote a reference interoperable framework for Digital Government

9 **Integrated ASEAN Digital Services**

7 **Whole-of-Government Architecture**

8 **Digital Infrastructure**

1

ASEAN Desired Outcomes

2 **ASEAN Interoperability Framework**

3 **ASEAN Digital Principles**

4 **Non-Digital Interoperability**

- Policy Interoperability **
- Organizational / Operations Interoperability
- Legal/ Regulatory Interoperability
- Cultural Interoperability

5 **Digital Interoperability**

- Technical Interoperability (APIs, Data, Technology, etc.)
- Semantic Interoperability

6 **Critical Technical and Technological Enablers**

- Technological and Data Readiness
- Technical Capacity
- Emerging ICT and Innovation
- Governance and Maintenance
- Connectivity/ Network Infrastructure

Cross-cutting, continuous governance, business continuity and change management, and monitoring and evaluation

* ADM 2025 and future masterplans

** To be updated to reflect future Digital Policy Action Areas for Connected ASEAN

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION REQUIRES AN ECOSYSTEM APPROACH

Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

総務省 MIC Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

PITA HUAWEI Internet Society

National Governments, Telecom Service Providers Satellite Providers

Partnerships are critical

in realizing digital transformation and requires resources to scale up across sectors and across geographies …

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Development of Communication Infrastructure and Emergency Communications

Maldives Perspective

Ilyas Ahmed
Communications Authority of Maldives
July 2026

Overview

- Maldives Situation
- Past Experiences
- Infrastructure Development
- Emergency Communications
- Future Plans

Maldives Situation

Distinctiveness

- Small Population
- Scattered across vast sea area
- Very low height above sea level
- Connectivity via hybrid subsea / radio networks
- Many small islands

Past Experiences

Frequent

- High Winds
- Tidal waves
- Heavy Rain

Occasional

- Tsunami

Impact on Communications

- Communication towers often near shore lines
  - Erosion of shoreline damages towers
  - Waves move inland and flood equipment shelters
- High Winds
  - Move antennas and misalign them
  - Sometimes bring down towers
- Prolonged periods of rain
  - Damage cable networks and junction boxes
  - Decrease in available solar power
  - Affects radio wave propagations sometimes

Major Focus

- Infrastructure Planning and Development
- Early Warning Systems
- Emergency Communications
- Collaboration
- Awareness

Infrastructure and Service Development

- Two independent telecom networks
- Each with fully redundant self healing rings
- Subsea cables and microwave radio
- Separate towers
- Capacity swapping between operators in case of loss cuts and network failures
- 2G 3G and 4G provided across all islands

Infrastructure and Service Development (2)

- 5G covered to > 80% of population
- Satellite Broadband (Starlink) offered to cover sea areas
- International Connectivity
  - 6 Subsea cable systems
  - Multiple international gateways with geographical diversity

Emergency Communications

- Attempt to develop independent early warning and emergency communications system
  - Cost prohibitive
- Incorporated early warning capabilities during the development of Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting

Maldives DTTB System

- Developed migration plan for digital television broadcasting in collaboration with ITU
- Plan included analogue switch off timeline
- Maldives chose Japanese ISDB-T as the digital television broadcasting technology
- ISDB-T incorporates early warning capabilities natively
  - It can automatically turn on TV and display and sound warnings
- Maldives ISDB-T standard issued
  - Standard incorporates Maldives Thaana fonts for displaying messages in local language

Maldives DTTB System (2)

- Rollout of nationwide ISDB-T network in progress, with the assistance from Japan
- Expected to be completed in the next two years
- Early warning providers will integrate with the ISDB-T network
- Sirens and public alert systems will utilize the ISDB-T network

VSAT

- With the assistance from India, one Ku band satellite transponder provided to South Asian countries including Maldives
- An independent VSAT network being implemented for emergency voice and data communications
  - All atoll capital islands and other key islands to have a VSAT terminals
  - Total of 35 islands in the initial phase
  - More islands and resorts to be added in future

Collaboration

- Coordinate between the relevant stakeholders
  - Disaster Management Centre
  - Meteorological Office
  - Army, Police
  - Telecom Operators
  - Media
  - NGOs

Future Plans

- Complement the current early warning and emergency communications systems with new technologies
- In collaboration with ITU, study the use of cell broadcasting technology to use mobile phones as a means for early warning and emergency communication

Thank you ☺

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY OF MALDIVES

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Vehicle of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development

China Branch of BRICS Institute of Future Networks

ITU Regional Development Forum for Asia and the Pacific (RDF-ASP) 2026

Jason Le Yu, External Liaison Supervisor

Overview of the Centre

BRICS Leaders Declaration: Enhance joint BRICS research, development and innovation in ICT including Internet of Things, Cloud computing, Big Data, Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence, 5G and their innovative applications.

Function: Bridge between MIIT and Shenzhen securing resources such as national policies and specialized platforms in the field of ICTs, promote the development of the local information and communications industry and make the city more cosmopolitan through international exchange and cooperation.

Vision: To foster an open, collaborative, and mutually-beneficial environment that strengthens the BRICS digital innovation ecosystem and supports a shared digital future.

Mission: Enabling multi-stakeholder collaboration to turn innovative ideas and technologies into practical solutions that advance digital development and help unlock the full innovation potential of the BRICS ecosystem.

GUANGDONG–HONG KONG–MACAO GREATER BAY AREA (GBA)

A GLOBAL INNOVATION POWERHOUSE DRIVING THE FUTURE

The GBA integrates the strengths of Guangdong's manufacturing and innovation capabilities with Hong Kong's international connectivity and Macao's unique role as a platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, building an international world-class city cluster.

POPULATION
~86 MILLION
11% of China's total

TOTAL AREA
56,000 km²
Comparable to Denmark

ECONOMY (2023)
GDP
¥14.0 TRILLION
12% of China's total

GDP GROWTH (2018–2023)
5.4%
Average annual growth

STRATEGIC POSITION
China's open window to the world and innovation highland

GLOBAL INNOVATION HIGHLIGHTS

R&D EXPENDITURE (2023)
¥1.3 TRILLION+
13% of China's total R&D expenditure

R&D INTENSITY (2023)
3.19%
Higher than the EU average (2.22%)

PCT INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATIONS (2023)
19,000+
20% of China's total

KEY UNIVERSITIES
150+
Including HKUST, HKU, CUHK, SZU, SYSU, JNU and more

THE 11 CITIES OF THE GBA

IT SECTOR OVERVIEW IN GBA (2023)

NUMBER OF IT-RELATED COMPANIES
190,000+
10% of China's IT enterprises

SOFTWARE & IT SERVICES	INTERNET & CLOUD SERVICES	ELECTRONICS & SEMICONDUCTOR	AI, BIG DATA & CYBERSECURITY
~85,000 Companies	~25,000 Companies	~45,000 Companies	~35,000 Companies

NUMBER OF IT COMPANIES IN GBA (2019–2023)

Source: MIIT, Guangdong Province, Hong Kong ITC, Macao DSEDT

WORLD-CLASS INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

HIGH-TECH ENTERPRISES	UNICORN COMPANIES	MAJOR INCUBATORS & ACCELERATORS	VENTURE CAPITAL (2023)	FORTUNE GLOBAL 500 COMPANIES
70,000+	120+ (>10% of China's total)	500+	¥600 BILLION+	25+ Headquartered in GBA

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Shenzhen–Hong Kong–Guangzhou Innovation Corridor is one of the world's most active innovation belts.
- Shenzhen–Hong Kong ranked 2nd in the Global Innovation Index 2023.
- GBA is the world's largest electronics manufacturing and ICT production base.
- Strengthening cross-border data flow, talent mobility, and collaborative innovation across the region.

GLOBAL COMPARISON

GBA GDP (2023)
¥14.0 TRILLION
Comparable to:
Spain (¥13.5 Trillion)
Australia (¥14.1 Trillion)

VISION

By 2035, the GBA aims to become a world-class innovation and technology hub and a global leader in digital economy and future industries.

Stronger Innovation | Better Connectivity | Higher Quality Development | Greater International Influence

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www.bayarea.gov.cn

Eye-catching research findings in multiple areas

Global Vision

- Biweekly **BRICS ICT Insight magazine**, No. 75
- **Compendium of ICT Industrial Policies in BRICS Countries**
- **70 Country Reports on Industry and Information technology**, including BRICS countries and cities friendly to Shenzhen

Policy Research

- Continuous Research on industries and policies for major areas
- Over 30 findings such as **Shenzhen Action Plan for Promoting the Construction of New Information Infrastructure (2022-2025)** and **Survey Report on the IT Development of Enterprises Directly Under the Shenzhen SASAC**

Technology standards and academic research

Researching on technology standards in areas such as next-generation mobile communication technology, AI, industrial applications and Internet of Things (IoT). Released 17 research outputs with experts from BRICS countries, including whitepapers and academic papers. Filed for 2 patents and software copyrights.

- **Co-authored "AIoT in Healthcare: A China-India Cooperation Blueprint" with Indian Institute of Technology**
- **Co-authored "Generative AI Applications and Future Applications" and "Whitepaper on Ethical Risks in Artificial Intelligence" with the China Unicom Research Institute**
- **Co-authored "BRICS Power in the Digital Economy 2025" with 9 research institutions from BRICS countries**

ITU Acceleration Center (Regional)

2023: Honor

On September 5, 2023, at the Opening Ceremony of the ITU/MIIT High-Level Seminar, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau of ITU announced the China Branch of BRICS Institute of Future Networks (BIFNC) as a regional "Acceleration Center of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development" (ITU Acceleration Center).

A total of 17 institutions from 16 countries around the world have been selected as ITU Acceleration Centers, only two of which are in China.

2025: Official inauguration

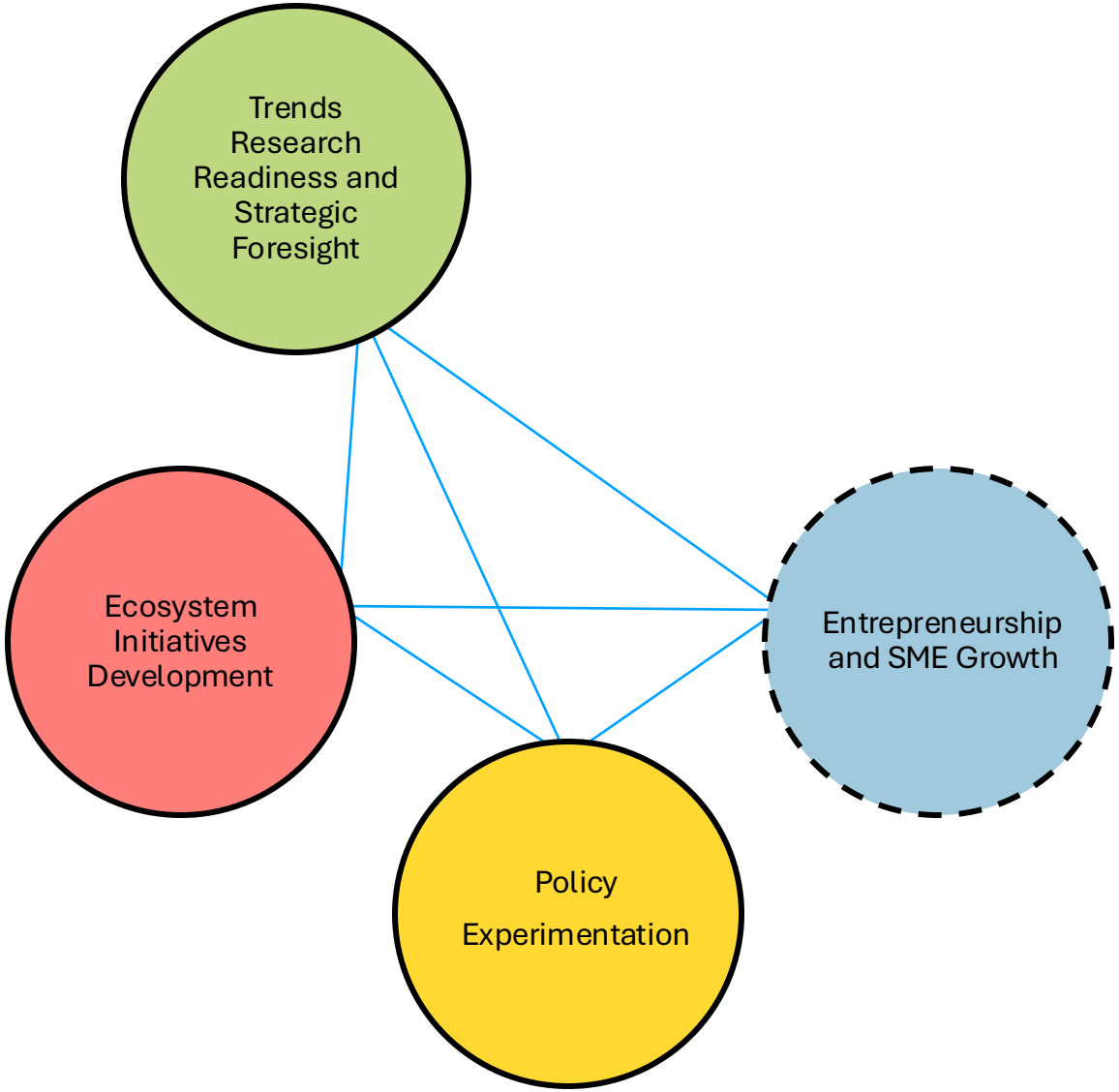
In the morning of April 28, 2025, during the opening ceremony of the 6th BRICS Forum on Future Network Innovation, the ITU Regional Acceleration Centre at BIFNC was officially inaugurated.

The Head of Digital Innovation Service of ITU and the Programme Officer of ITU Asia-Pacific Regional Office jointly participated in the unveiling ceremony.

In October 2024, the BIFNC delegate attended and spoke at a meeting of the Acceleration Centers of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development on the sidelines of the ITU's 2024 Global Innovation Forum (Malta).

From April 27 to 29, 2025, BIFNC, in collaboration with ITU and CAICT, successfully hosted a three-day 'Regional Initiative Accelerator Workshop', bringing together over 20 representatives from government, regulators, and research institutions across nine countries.

Strategic objectives of the Alliance



Key thematic / sectoral / priority areas of intervention

Key thematic / sectoral / priority areas of intervention: • **Opportunity 1: Understand scope of policy coordination among BRICS countries regarding new technologies such as AI and next-generation communications** • **Opportunity 2: Assess gaps and opportunities around infrastructure development in BRICS countries** • **Opportunity 3: Analyse ICT's role in enabling the digital transformation of SMEs** • **Opportunity 4: Build initiatives to strengthen exchanges between stakeholders on cutting-edge technologies across the BRICS region** • **Opportunity 5: Map the digital gap among BRICS members and identify targeted interventions to advance inclusive digital development** • **Opportunity 6: Analyse standardisation gaps and opportunities for shared frameworks in areas such as ICT and future networks** • **Opportunity 7: Develop initiatives to strengthen pool of experts and qualified talent** • **Opportunity 8: Explore coordinated policy options to strengthen policy coordination among BRICS countries regarding new technologies such as AI and next-generation communications** • **Opportunity 9: Understand the role of technological advancements in impacting developments in overseas markets** • **Opportunity 10: Explore coordinated policy mechanisms for addressing digital gap among BRICS members**	**Geographical Scope:** Regional

Strengths and resources of the Centre

1 Established International Cooperation Platforms

- Organizes flagship annual events, including BRICS Forum on Future Networks Innovation and BRICS Excellence Training Workshop on ICT and Digital Transformation.
- Actively contributes to major international initiatives and conferences, such as ITU AI for Good, WTDC, and other global ICT cooperation platforms.

BRICS INDIA 2026

BRICS FORUM ON FUTURENETWORKS INNOVATION

BRICS Excellence Training Workshop on ICT and Digital Transformation

ITU | AI for Good | WTDC ITU WTDC

2 Strong BRICS Collaboration Mechanisms

- Facilitates practical cooperation among BRICS members through dedicated thematic working groups.
- Four research groups have been established:

Industry 4.0 Applications | Electromagnetic Radiation | Artificial Intelligence | Next-Generation Communications

3 Extensive Experience in Digital Transformation

- Possesses strong expertise in digital transformation assessment, consulting, and implementation.
- Over the past three years, supported the digital transformation assessment of more than 4,000 enterprises in Shenzhen, providing valuable insights and best practices for industry modernization.

4,000+ enterprises assessed in Shenzhen in the past 3 years

4 Advanced R&D Capabilities and Innovation Resources

- Maintains a multidisciplinary R&D team specializing in Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Robotics, Unmanned Systems, and Future Networks.
- Key achievements include:

EOS Operating System

AI-powered Exhibition Guide Robot

Trusted Digital Space

Programmable UAV (Drone) Solutions

Strengths and resources of the Centre

Platform Resources

Support major foreign affairs events

- **BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting**
- **ICT Working Group**
- **BRICS Forum on Future Networks Innovation**
- **China-ASEAN Forum on Emerging Industries**
- **Thematic forum of ITU AI for Good Summit**

Research Capacity

Promote pragmatic work of BIFN study groups

- **Large Model Public Service Platform**
- **EOS Embodied Robots**
- **AI-powered drones**
- **Chinese team for international research cooperation**

Capacity Building

Improve ICT training for BRICS+ countries

- **"BRICS+" cooperation model**
- **Standardized training system**
- **Accreditation as a National Foreign Aid Training Base**
- **Long-term iconic training programs**

Industry Docking

Help with "bringing in" and "going global"

- **Building Digital Industry "Going Global" Docking Platform (Ongoing)**

Ongoing Policy Consultation

Advance Digital Infrastructure Connectivity Among BRICS Countries

Plan BRICS digital infrastructure cooperation projects to support foundational research on submarine cable frameworks and land optical cable routes

Strengths and resources of the Centre

Digital Development Acceleration Toolkit for Developing Countries 2025

A Chinese Roadmap for Digital Transformation

This comprehensive toolkit presents China's pioneering experience in building the high-speed backbone for a digital society.

Scan to read

ICT-Empowered SMEs 2025

Foresight Research & Practice

Developed in accordance with the ITU Strategic Foresight Methodology, this report serves as a practical guide for SMEs to thrive in the digital era.

Scan to read

BRICS Forum on Future Networks Innovation

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

2025

History and Organization

Hosted by Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and the Shenzhen Municipal People's Government; and jointly organized by the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology, the Shenzhen Municipal Bureau of Industry and Information Technology, and the China Branch of the BRICS Academy.

Representatives

BRICS government departments, international organizations, industry think tanks, research institutions, and business representatives

Forum format

The event includes thematic sub-forums, research findings releases, signing ceremonies, a launch ceremony, and city-wide research.

Promote cooperation

Aimed at promoting practical cooperation among BRICS countries in the field of information and communication.

Global Influence

Expanding the global influence of our institute and Shenzhen in the field of information and communication

7th BRICS Forum on Future Networks Innovation

International exchange and cooperation achievements: the BRICS New-Quality Internet Pioneer Cities report, the "BRICS Power in the Digital Economy 2026" report, the Joint Innovation Center for Next-Generation Communication Networks and Artificial Intelligence, and the China-ESCAP Large Language Model Capability Building Cooperation Project. Four sub-forums were held concurrently: "BRICS Digital Industry Ecosystem Cooperation," "Next-Generation Intelligent Networks," "Artificial Intelligence, Smart Terminals, and Data Sovereignty," and "Promoting Universal and Meaningful Connectivity," further expanding the dimensions of international cooperation within the BRICS framework and promoting technological exchange and practical cooperation.

Opening Ceremony and Main and Sub-Forums

Roundtable discussion and results

BRICS Excellence Training Workshop on ICT

01 结业仪式 · 北京

2024.11.25——
2024.12.08

In 2024, the first training program, jointly organized by the Global Development Promotion Center of the China International Development Cooperation Agency and the China Branch of the BRICS Academy, was successfully held in Shenzhen, Nanjing and Beijing. It recruited 23 talents from government, enterprises and academia in the ICT field from 13 countries and focused on study and exchange on information and communication and

02 工信部会见 · 北京

2025.10.12——
2025.10.26

In 2025, in order to implement the State Council's work plan on visiting China for officials from relevant countries to conduct thematic study tours on submarine cables, the second training course covered six cities including Beijing and Tianjin, and organized 31 ICT officials from 14 countries to conduct thematic study and field research on submarine and terrestrial cable innovation, interconnection and interoperability, and talent development.

03 开班仪式 · 深圳

2026.06.15——
2026.06.24

In 2026, the BRICS Academy China Branch successfully hosted the third training course, which involved study tours in five cities including Shenzhen and Hong Kong. The course brought together 21 technical experts from government and enterprises in eight countries to conduct in-depth exchanges in four cutting-edge fields: submarine cables, artificial intelligence, next-generation communications, and computing infrastructure.

Total coverage: **27 countries, 75 high level leaders, 20+ company**

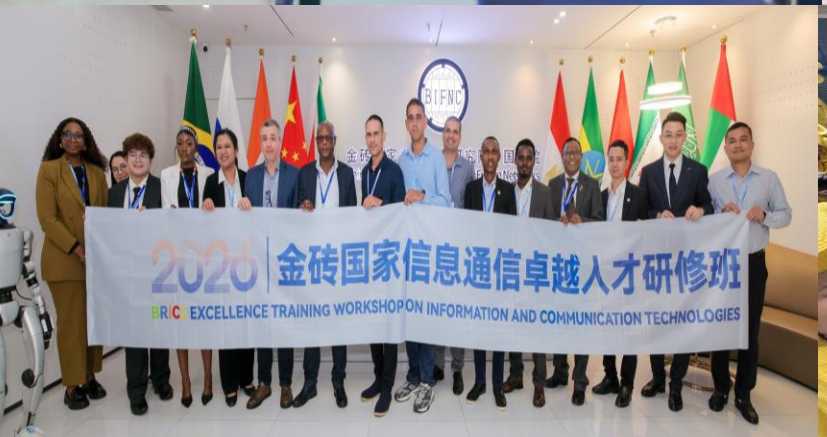
BIFNC
"AI For Good" Seminar
Member of

AI for Good
Advancing AI: Research Achievements at BIFNC
July 9, 2025

算力织网·智汇金砖
Weaving Computility Networks · Uniting BRICS Intelligence
苏雷什瓦兰·拉玛达斯
Sureswaran Ramadas
亚太IPv6理事会主席
全球固定网络创新联盟副理事长
Digitalization & AI Era Needs HIGH-QUALITY, HIGH-SPEED, HIGH-SECURITY Network Infrastru
Inclusive AI accelerates industries' digital and intelligent journeys
Explosion of foundation models, 100x↓ API usage costs

— 专题对话 —
Panel
Opportunities and Challenges of the Next Generation Network in BRICS
金砖国家下一代网络机遇与挑战
Moderator
Sureswaran Ramadass
Chair, APAC IPv6 Council
Vice Chair, NIDA
Panelists
Sami Trimech
ICT Department Director, Arab ICT Organization
Thyago de Oliveira Braun Guimaraes
Coordinator General Studies and Connectivity, Brazilian Ministry of Communications
Shavkat Sabirov
President, Internet Association of Kazakhstan
Deng Yiou
Secretary General, NIDA

中国-联合国亚太经社会大语言模型能力建设合作项目
China-ESCAP Cooperation Project on Large Language Model Capacity Building Project
正式启动
2026金砖国家未来网络创新论坛
2026 BRICS FORUM ON FUTURE NETWORKS INNOVATION
算力织网·智汇金砖
Weaving Computility Networks · Uniting BRICS Intelligence


BIFNC
2026 金砖国家信息通信卓越人才研修班
BRICS EXCELLENCE TRAINING WORKSHOP ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

Challenges and Learnings of the Centre

1 Building Consensus in Multilateral Cooperation

Challenge

- BRICS cooperation involves multiple countries with different priorities, development levels, and policy agendas.
- Reaching consensus often requires extensive consultation and longer implementation timelines.

Key Learning

- Continuous dialogue, trust-building, and focusing on common interests are essential for achieving sustainable cooperation outcomes.

2 Managing Cross-Border Diversity and Complexity

Challenge

- Significant differences exist among member countries in technical standards, languages, legal frameworks, import/export regulations, and intellectual property policies.
- These differences can increase coordination costs and slow down project implementation.

Key Learning

- Early coordination, localization, and flexible partnership models help bridge these differences and ensure successful collaboration.

Jason Le Yu

International Cooperation Dep. External Liaison Supervisor

China Branch of BRICS Institute of Future Networks

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BANGKOK 2026

16–17 July
Bangkok, Thailand

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