



ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY

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ISOC

AN INTERNET FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH

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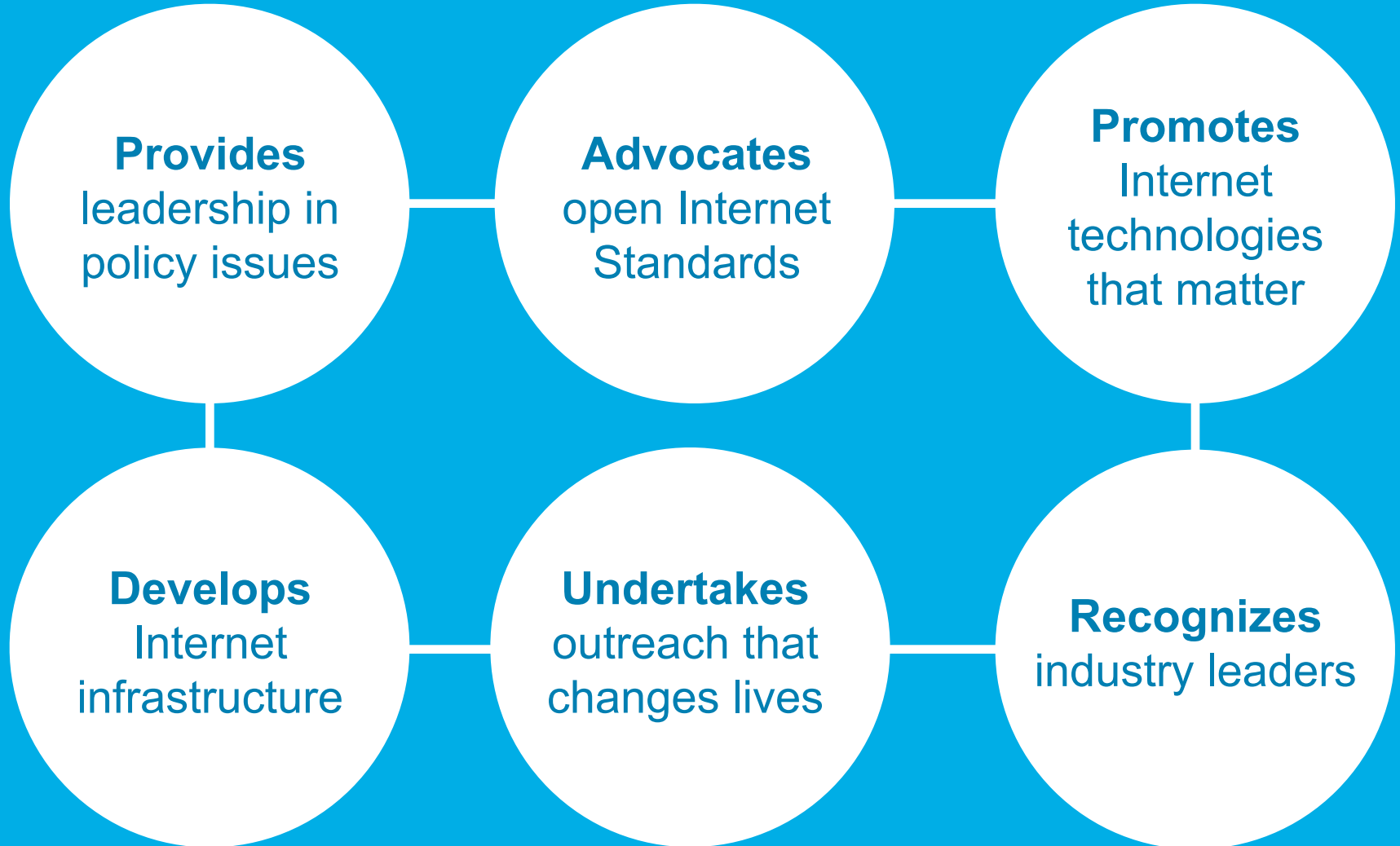
An enabling approach to developing a
digital economy



Our Mission

To promote the open development, evolution, and use of the Internet for the benefit of all people throughout the world.

The Internet Society at Work



Global Presence



110

Chapters
Worldwide

4

72k

Members and
Supporters

146

Organization
Members

5

Regional
Bureaus

18

Countries with
ISOC Offices

Asia Pacific

20 Chapters



Australia
Bangladesh Dhaka
Hong Kong
India Bangalore
India Chennai

India Delhi
India Kolkata
India Trivandrum
Indonesia Jakarta
Japan

Malaysia
Nepal
Pacific Islands
Pakistan Islamabad
Philippines

Republic of Korea
Singapore
Sri Lanka
Taiwan Taipei
Thailand

The Internet and the Digital Economy

The Internet as an engine of growth

- The Internet has been transforming from a communications platform into a universal platform through which social activities are performed, transactions are carried out and value – economic, social – is created
- It forms the foundation of the emerging digital economy, not just for Internet-based companies, but for *all* sectors of the economy that make use of it or IP-enabled networks

The Digital Economy in Asia-Pacific

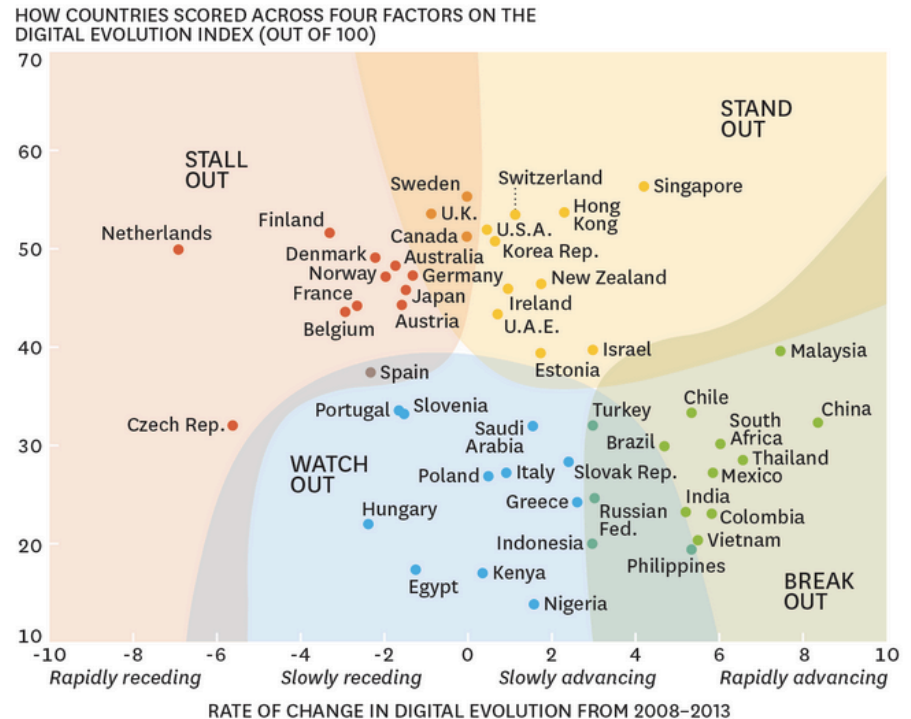
- Gartner forecasts that technology spending will grow by 7.4% to reach US\$811 billion in 2015 in Asia-Pacific
- Singapore has topped global rankings on the WEF's Networked Readiness Index for 2015, which measures how economies use opportunities offered by ICTs for increased competitiveness and well-being

Asia-Pacific: Top 10 economies harnessing information technology	
Networked Readiness Index 2015	Global rank*
Singapore	1
Japan	10
Korea, Rep.	12
Hong Kong SAR	14
Australia	16
New Zealand	17
Taiwan, China	18
Malaysia	32
Mongolia	61
China	62

Source: World Economic Forum

The Digital Economy in Asia-Pacific

- But economies in APAC are also building digital capacity at uneven rates
- While Singapore, HK and South Korea continue to evolve rapidly, emerging economies like India, China, Vietnam, the Philippines and Indonesia need further reforms and improvements



Source: Harvard Business Review

Regional Policy Initiatives

APEC TEL

- Various initiatives focused on boosting digital infrastructure, network access for consumers and developing secured applications. Early this year, it also created an Ad Hoc Steering Committee on the Internet Economy

APT

- In 2014, adopted the Brunei Darussalam Statement of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministers on Building Smart Digital Economy through ICT

ASEAN

- In 2010, developed the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity

Ongoing challenges

- The digital divide within nations, in terms of connectivity and affordable access, and between nations, in terms of bandwidth and transmission speeds
- There is a lack of Internet infrastructure, as well as a lack of open platforms, interoperability and common standards
- National policies that assert control over the online environment could undermine confidence in the Internet, stifle innovation while increasing the uncertainty of doing business

From an Internet Economy to a Digital Economy

- An *Internet economy* refers to the economic activities, inputs, outputs and employment directly associated with Internet use.
- A *digital economy* refers to the entirety of sectors that operate using IP-enabled communications and networks. It capitalises on the economies of scale and scope created by interconnectivity and interoperability to enable greater efficiencies, lower costs and build economic inclusivity.

Enabling the rise of a digital economy

Developing countries in Asia-Pacific need to directly and indirectly invest more intensively across the Internet access supply chain. This includes:

- International connectivity
- National connectivity
- Internet exchange points
- Last mile access

Download the full ISOC report at

<https://www.internetsociety.org/doc/unleashing-potential-internet-asean-economies>

Further recommendations

- Think wireless, and think mobile
 - Extend wireless networks in underserved areas
 - Adopt a mobile-first approach
 - Speed up IPv6 adoption
- Encourage competition at all levels
 - Facilities should be made available on an equal access basis
 - Support infrastructure and resource sharing
 - Actively promote interconnectivity
- Lead the way to interoperability and inclusivity
 - Integrate interoperability into future planning requirements
 - Spearhead the use of open Internet standards
- Capacity is key
 - Build ICT skillsets to encourage participation in creating a digital economy that is inclusive to all

Some points to consider

- The Internet is both a vertical and horizontal enabler that has transformed old industries and created new ones, and the economy that surrounds it is no longer a discreet part of our lives
- Preparing for the digital economy requires careful policy planning—hastily drafted and implemented regulations may have the opposite effect of adding costs to businesses and hindering further innovation
- Many of the issues around digital economy are cross-cutting, and require action and collaboration between different government agencies
- The objective of policy should be to foster new business models and to reduce friction and unpredictability in economic activities
- The role of governments is to help balance the free play of markets with public interest, and the broader goal should be to make economies more inclusive and more conducive to human and social development

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