



Twenty Seventh Meeting of the Regional Interagency Working Group (IAWG) on Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

13 March 2023

Hosted by Asia-Pacific Telecommunity
at APT Headquarters

Key Outcomes

1. 22 participants from 9 organisations shared their activities and areas of collaboration with other organisations in implementing ICT initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region.
2. Participants shared the view that IAWG is an effective Asia-Pacific regional platform for sharing knowledge, good practices and partner organisations' programmes.
3. Some organisations are involved in smart city and smart island programmes, particularly in the Pacific and LDCs, and are considering how to work together in this area.
4. On digital transformation, ESCAP plans to organise a forum in 2024 and encourages other agencies to participate.
5. A wealth of knowledge and information has been accumulated in different organisations. But it is not well shared, leading to duplication of effort or loss of understanding of what each other is doing. To improve this situation, it was discussed to find better ways to make the knowledge and information available to other organisations and to create more synergies.
6. Participants agreed to revitalise MS Teams (created in 2022 by ITU) and make them a platform for sharing information and activities with others. Those who want to be included in the Team channel are asked to contact ITU, as the owner of the Team, for addition.
7. ESCAP offered to host the next Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Regional Interagency Working Group on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in 2024.

Key Highlights and Areas from IAWG Collaboration

ESCAP, as a co-organiser of IAWG, had outlined the current and upcoming activities of ESCAP, including:

- a) Asia-Pacific Digital Transformation Forum and Asia-Pacific Digital Ministerial Conference were held from 9 to 10 November 2022 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The 2nd Asia Pacific Digital Ministerial Conference will be held in 2024.
- b) ESCAP launched the ESCAP Flagship Report on ICT in 2022, and analysed Digital Transformation Framework, Index and Landscape. ESCAP is working on the development of the 2nd Asia Pacific Digital Transformation Report, targeting July 2024.

- c) Implementation was underway for the Asia Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) Action Plan 2022-2026.
- d) Introduction of Capacity Building Projects for member states to be carried out in 2023-2024.

ITU, as a co-organiser of IAWG, had explained the current ongoing activities and programmes of ITU, including:

- a) ITU collects telecommunications data from 193 countries, and the latest data release shows that 2.7 billion people are still unconnected in LDCs. In terms of the different aspects of the digital divide, great efforts need to focus on bridging the gender gap especially.
- b) ITU has opened the new ITU Area Office for South Asia and Innovation Centre in New Delhi, India.
- c) ITU is mandated to implement five initiatives for each region, including LDCs support, digital inclusion, infrastructure and secure environment.
- d) ITU is considering whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to digital development and is working with countries in the Asia-Pacific region on smart cities, smart villages and smart islands projects.
- e) ITU continues to implement and expand Girls in ICT Day in 2023 and calls for partnerships with UN agencies and other organisations to bridge the gender digital divide.
- f) ITU Academy Training Centre is focusing on 6 focus areas, including Policy and regulations, Network infrastructure, Spectrum management, Cybersecurity, Digital inclusion and Digital services.
- g) ITU will organise World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC), ITU Regional Development Forum (ITU RDF) Asia and the Pacific and Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development - Expression of Interests-this year.

APT, as Chair of the 27th session of the IAWG, explained APT activities in 2022 and 2023 and outlined the following potential activities for collaboration with other agencies, including:

- a) APT Strategic Goals of Strategic Plan 2021-2023 have been looking for Connectivity, Innovation, Trust and Safety, Inclusion and Capacity building, and Collaboration and Partnership.
- b) APT runs many kinds of Work Programmes and collaborates with various organisations in different areas, such as Policy, Development and Technology.
- c) Because of the global Covid19 pandemic, assistance progress by APT has been slow and needs to catch up.
- d) APT has changed some of the terminology used in the context of gender neutrality, such as Chair and Vice-Chair, etc.
- e) APT Web Dialogues are in increasing demand, and a number of web dialogues are organised on various topics.
- f) APT is drafting New Strategic Plan for 2024-2026.
- g) APT will collaborate with other organisations in various situations, including Events, Meetings and Assistance, etc.

UNPOG outlined the following potential activities for collaboration with other agencies, including:

- a) UNPOG has the Vision and Strategies for programme activities on digital government and digital transformation.
- b) Advancing digital transformation is critical for people-centred digital government transformation, and the establishing legal frameworks and regulations for data privacy and public trust is critical for the digital transformation process. It is important to collaborate with academia, research institutes and other UN agencies.
- c) UNPOG plans to undertake the following research in 2023:
 - Training Toolkit on Digital Government Transformation, etc.
 - Policy Brief on Harnessing Digital Technologies with a Gender-Responsive Approach to Climate Action and Resilience, etc.
- d) UNPOG plans to conduct Capacity Development in 2023, including workshops on digital transformation and Capacity development support to developing countries.
- e) UNPOG plans to collaborate with ITU A-P Regional Office, UN Women and local agencies.

ICAO explained the following Technical Assistance Project in Lao PDR, including:

- a) ICAO is implementing the Technical Assistance Project "ATM (Air Traffic Management) Infrastructure Operations Capability Building in Lao PDR". The most important part of the infrastructure for ATM is ICT.
- b) The objectives of the project are to improve the maintenance capability of Lao ANSP and to produce an evaluation report to identify the current gap and proposals for future actions.
- c) ICAO bridged the needs and the resources between Lao and China by funding it as a Special Implementation Project (SIP).
- d) After this project, technicians in Lao will be more confident to operate the system themselves, and the goal of a safer sky will move forward.

UNCDF outlined the following potential activities for collaboration with other agencies, including:

- a) UNCDF's objective is to invest capital to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development, and it runs various programmes in the Asia-Pacific region.
- b) UNCDF is based on 6 focus themes and 4 pillars and works with regulators to support the development of a more enabling environment for digital finance.
- c) There is a gap in the development finance architecture to properly address the financing shortfalls impeding the achievement of the SDGs. UNCDF seeks to see what those gaps are and where they need to work.

WFP provided an overview of WFP activities in 2022, its outlook for 2023 and potential areas for collaboration with other agencies, including:

- a) In terms of Emergency Response, WFP works in several countries, including Afghanistan and Bangladesh and so on.

- b) With regard to Drones (UAS), Training on risk assessment, post disaster impact assessment, mapping, AI, and connectivity has been conducted in Bhutan, the Philippines and Tonga, in partnership with local governments.
- c) WFP collaborated with AHA Centres, Emergency.lu, Ericsson Response, Palantir, Governments and regional entities.
- d) The WFP is working on innovation and digital transformation in a number of areas.

UNU Macau provided an overview of UNU's work and current and ongoing projects and outlined the potential activities for collaboration with other agencies, including:

- a) UNU Macau is a UN think-tank focused on digital technologies for sustainable development, conducting policy-relevant research and providing training in digital technologies.
- b) UNU Macau is researching Systems Thinking to see if the SDGs challenges can be seen as wicked, or interconnected, problems.
- c) UNU Macau values a participatory approach and sees digital technology as a tool for people to engage with their communities.
- d) The UN World Data Forum Satellite Event is held in Macau on the 25th of April.
- e) UNU Macau worked with ITU on gender-sensitive AI policy in South-East Asia.
- f) UNU Macau offers a wide range of training courses and programmes.

Annex 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ITU)

1. Ms Atsuko Okuda, Regional Director for ITU Asia and the Pacific
Email: atsuko.okuda@itu.int
2. Mr. Ashish Narayan Programme Coordinator (Digital Services and Applications)
Email: ashish.narayan@itu.int
3. Mr. Sean Doral, Programme Officer (Capacity Development, Digital Inclusion)
Email: sean.doral@itu.int

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (UNESCAP)

4. Dr. Tae Hyung Kim, Chief of ICT and Development Section of UNESCAP
E-mail: kimt@un.org
5. Ms. Aida Karazhanova, Economic Affairs Officer, ICT and Development Section, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division
E-mail: karazhanova@un.org
6. Mr. Daesik Shin, Expert on ICT, ICT and Development Section
E-mail: daesik.shin@un.org
7. Mr. Zhenxiong Fan, Junior Professional Officer, ICT and Development Section
E-mail: zhenxiong.fan@un.org
8. Mr. Seul Ki Yi, Coordinator, ICT and Development Section, CT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division
E-mail: seul.yi@un.org

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION (ICAO)

9. Mr. Yi Luo, Regional Officer, Communications, Navigation and Surveillance (CNS)
Email: ylo@icao.int

UN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (UNCDF)

10. Ms Maria Perdomo. Regional Coordinator for UNCDF in Asia
Email: maria.perdomo@uncdf.org

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP)

11. Mr. Oscar Caleman, Regional IT Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Officer,
WFP Regional Bureau Asia & Pacific (Bangkok), Email: oscar.caleman@wfp.org

UN WOMEN

12. Ms Sarah Knibbs ,Regional Director a.i
Email: sarah.knibbs@unwomen.org

UN PROJECT OFFICE ON GOVERNANCE (UNPOG) (Online)

13. Mr. Keping Yao, Governance and Public Administration Expert
Email: yaok@un.org

UN University- Macao (UNU)

14. Dr. Jaimee Stuart, Senior Researcher
E-mail: stuart@unu.edu

15. Ms Ming Yang, Junior Researcher
Email: yang@unu.edu

ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY (APT)

16. Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General
E-mail: kondo@apt.int

17. Dr. Jongbong Park, Director, Project Development
E-mail: jongbong@apt.int

18. Ms. Chisato Kaneda, Assistant Programme Officer
E-mail: kaneda@apt.int

19. Mr. Pubate Satiempoch, Senior Administrative Assistant
E-mail: pubate@apt.int

20. Ms. Warrawan Thapanasakul, Administrative Assistant/Secretary to DSG
Email: warrawan@apt.int

21. Ms. Sherya Pradhan, Assistant Project Coordinator
E-mail: shreya@apt.int

22. Ms. Patcharaporn Anuma, Administrative Assistant
Email: patcharaporn@apt.int

Annex 2



The 27th Meeting of the Regional Interagency Working Group on Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

13 March 2023 9:00 - 12:00 at the APT Headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand

Hosted by Asia-Pacific Telecommunity

Tentative Programme

TIME (Bangkok)	PROGRAMME
8:30 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 9:20	Opening Remarks and Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Masanori KONDO Secretary General Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)• Mr. Tae Hyung Kim Chief of ICT and Development Section United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)• Ms. Atsuko OKUDA Regional Director Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
9:20 – 10:00	Co – organisers <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. ESCAP2. ITU3. APT Q & A Group Photo
10:00 – 11:30	Updates and activities in 2023 from each organization (10 mins presentation for each agency)
10:00 – 11:30	Other agencies <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. UNPOG (Online)2. ICAO3. UNCDF

TIME (Bangkok)	PROGRAMME
	4. WFP 5. UN WOMEN 6. UNU Macau Q & A
11:30 – 11:45	Area of common interest and cooperation (Free Discussion)
11:45	Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESCAP • ITU • APT