



**UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES
OF CENTRAL ASIA (SPECA)**

**Eighth Session of the SPECA Thematic Working Group
on Knowledge-based Development**

(Almaty, Kazakhstan, 22 September 2016)

**Progress report on the activities of the Thematic Working Group on
Knowledge-based Development**

The eighth session of the SPECA Thematic Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (formerly the Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development, PWG on KBD), jointly organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and hosted by the Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR), will be held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 22 September 2016. In conjunction with the session, ESCAP will organize a Regional Workshop on Resilient Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Connectivity for the Knowledge Economy, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Goals from 20 to 22 September 2016.

The Regional Workshop will address the emerging issues of resilient ICT connectivity as a basis for the knowledge economy and knowledge-based development among the SPECA countries. The meeting will specifically address how to enhance e-resilience in network design, make more efficient use of ICT for emergency communication and reduce the impact of disasters on businesses and governments, within the context of achieving internationally agreed goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the WSIS. The results of the Regional Workshop will serve as a basis for discussion of the eighth session of the SPECA Thematic Working Group.

This progress report contains activities carried out/to be carried out by the UNECE and ESCAP secretariats within the framework of the SPECA Thematic Working Group on knowledge-based development that were held since the seventh session of the SPECA PWG on KBD in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 17 June 2015. These activities are in line with the Programme of Work of the TWG for 2016-2017, which was adopted at the seventh session. UNECE and ESCAP secretariats carried out the following capacity-building activities for the SPECA countries:

Implementation of the UNECE project “Innovation Performance Reviews”

- The **Innovation Performance Review of Tajikistan** was completed in 2015. It has been published as an official United Nations publication in English and Russian.
- An international conference was organized in November 2015 in Minsk, Belarus, to learn from the experience with the first five reviews, including those of

Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, to discuss the scope for methodological improvements, to prepare for the second round of reviews, and to adapt the reviews to generate insights and recommendations on innovation for sustainable development.

- At the 2015 SPECA Economic Forum in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in November 2015, a session was organized on innovation, in which findings and recommendations from the Innovation Performance Review of Tajikistan were presented.

Implementation of UNECE capacity-building activities on policy options and practical instruments to promote knowledge-based development

- International UNECE Public-private Partnership (PPP) Forum on Implementing the United Nations 2030 Agenda through effective, people-first Public-private Partnerships, 29 March – 1 April 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland. One of the “people-first” PPP projects identified was the Pamir Private Power Project in Tajikistan.
- Meeting of the Business Advisory Board (BAB), held in Geneva, 31 March 2016, provided the occasion for Kazakhstan to present a number of PPP projects in the health sector, for feedback from the BAB.

Implementation of ESCAP activities in support of the Asia-Pacific information superhighway initiative

- The Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) Master Plan and Regional Cooperation Framework Document was presented at the Regional Workshop on Resilient ICT Connectivity for the Knowledge Economy, SDGs and the WSIS Goals on 22 September 2016 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- The AP-IS Master Plan and Regional Cooperation Framework Document will also be presented and discussed during a meeting scheduled back-to-back with the first session of the ESCAP Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation in Bangkok, Thailand, on 3 and 4 October 2016.
- In 2015, in collaboration with ADB and ISOC, ESCAP finalized a report, titled “Unleashing the Potential of the Internet in Central Asia, South Asia, the Caucasus and Beyond”, which assessed the status of Internet connectivity and identified key elements to transition from a basic Internet economy to a thriving digital economy and society.

Activities within the framework of UN-APCICT/ESCAP¹

- Organized a Roundtable on Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders Programme (the Academy) during the Global Conference on Professional Civil Service for the Successful Implementation of Institutional Reforms, Astana, Kazakhstan, 25 May 2016.

¹ Further details on APCICT’s activities are provided in the annex.

- Developed a knowledge product on “Social Media for Disaster Risk Management” for government officials to supplement the Academy module ICT and Disaster Risk Management, and shared with Academy partner institutes in the region.
- Supported civil service training programmes and initiatives through localization and utilization of the Academy Programme in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- Supported the localization and utilization of the Primer Series on ICTD for Youth (Primer Series) among institutions of higher learning in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.
- Provided advisory services for curriculum development and institutionalization of the Primer Series programme in Kazakhstan.
- Collaborated with Public Fund Civil Internet Policy Initiative to enhance awareness of issues relevant to women’s economic empowerment and introduce the Women and ICT Frontier Initiative programme (WIFI) during the Media Engagement Workshop, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 11 August 2016.

Capacity development on the utilization of ICT for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

- ESCAP provided a government official of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Kyrgyzstan with a study opportunity, a nine month post graduate course on remote sensing and geographic information systems, which was conducted at the Centre for Space Science, Technology and Education for Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAP) in Dehradun, India, from 1 July 2015 to 31 March 2016. The course provided in-depth understanding and capacity-building on the use of remote sensing and geographic information systems in diverse, sustainable development sectors such as disaster management, resource management and urban planning.
- Although Kyrgyzstan is a pilot for the Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning, work has not begun in the country yet. ESCAP is consulting with the Russian Federation and other donors on funding the implementation in Central Asian countries. Experts from Kyrgyzstan benefited from a nine-month master’s degree in India, establishing a good technical basis for future activities in the country.
- ESCAP organized the Expert Group Meeting on Capacity Development for Disaster Information Management in North and Central Asia, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 26 and 27 February 2014. Experts from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and other countries expressed support for the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) to provide capacity development activities on disaster information management. Pursuant to Commission resolution 71/11 on the establishment of APDIM, it was proposed to initiate activities of the Centre during 2016-2017 with the financial support from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to support the most vulnerable countries in Asia and the Pacific in disaster risk management.

- ESCAP is also assisting the Government of Afghanistan with the disaster management system to be aligned with the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR), in particular capacity-building training to be incorporated as a strategic component of the disaster risk management system.

Representatives of the SPECA countries participated in the following events:

- Seventh session of the UNECE Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships, London, United Kingdom, 18 June 2015
- High-level International Conference on Unlocking the Economic Potential for Sustainable Development, Geneva, Switzerland, 2 September 2015
- Ninth session of the UNECE Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships, Geneva, Switzerland, 3 and 4 September 2015
- Eighth session of the UNECE Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies, Geneva, Switzerland, 16 and 17 December 2015
- Tenth session of the UNECE Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships, 23 and 24 May 2016
- International UNECE PPP Forum Implementing the United Nations 2030 Agenda through effective, people-first Public-Private Partnerships, Geneva, Switzerland, 30 March and 1 April 2016
- Expert Group Meeting on Engaged Learning in ICTD Education for Asia-Pacific Universities, Incheon, Republic of Korea, 18 and 19 August 2015
- Regional Dialogue on ICTD Capacity Building for Sustainable Development and Annual Partners Meetings for the Academy and Primer Programmes, Incheon, Republic of Korea, 1 to 4 December 2015
- Consultative Meeting on Women and ICT Frontier Initiative (WIFI), Incheon, Republic of Korea, 14 and 15 April 2016
- Regional Forum on ICT Human Capacity Development and Launch of the Women and ICT Frontier Initiative (WIFI), Incheon, Republic of Korea, 9 and 10 June 2016
- Second session of the ESCAP Working Group on the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway, Guangzhou, China, 29 and 30 August 2016
- ESCAP Workshop on Knowledge and Policy Gaps in Disaster Risk Reduction and Development Planning, Bangkok, Thailand, 8 and 9 March 2016
- ESCAP Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) Private Sector Consultative Meeting, Bangkok, Thailand, 1 April 2016

APCICT's Activities: a Detailed Overview

APCICT has been actively supporting SPECA countries (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) on strengthening their human and institutional capacities on using ICT for socioeconomic development through the Centre's flagship programmes. It partners with ministries/agencies, civil service commissions, subregional organizations, international organizations and universities in the region.

APCICT supports national partners in institutionalizing the flagship programmes (The Academy and the Primer) through content localization, Training of Trainers (TOTs) and national workshops.

- Localized materials, including briefing notes for senior government officials, were customized with relevant case studies to enhance applicability in national contexts.²
- Through TOTs, a national-level pool of resource person was developed to ensure the continuous utilization of the Academy and Primer programmes in national capacity-building efforts without needing APCICT's further support.
- For a wider reach, the Russian version of the APCICT Virtual Academy was developed and is now being integrated in distance learning platforms of relevant partners.
- Through engaging SPECA countries in APCICT's Regional Dialogues and Partner Meetings, experiences and lessons learned on ICT capacity development from the region are reflected in the Centre's programme development and priority setting.

With this support, the APCICT/ESCAP's capacity development work has been widely adopted by civil service training commissions and institutions of higher education in the SPECA region. Some examples of country-level adoption are presented in the following section.

1. Programme utilization in SPECA countries

Afghanistan

- The **Ministry of Communication and Information Technology** customized the Academy modules with local case studies and relevant information to suit the needs of high- and mid-level government officials at national and provincial levels.

² In cooperation with national partners, the Academy Modules are now available in Azeri (Module 1), Pashto (Module 1, 2 and 3), Russian (Module 1-10), Tajik (Module 1-8) and Turkmen (Module 1-10). The Primer Series are also available in Azeri (Primer 1), Tajik (Primer 1 and 2) and Russian (Primer 1). High-level Briefing Notes on the various Academy modules had been translated for senior government officials of Uzbekistan.

- **The Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission** has institutionalized the Academy in its civil service training programme by adopting six Academy modules in its curriculum.

Azerbaijan

- **The Civil Service Commission** has been utilizing the Azeri version of Academy Modules 1, 2 and 3 in its training for civil servants.
- Following on a Primer TOT that engaged 13 national universities in Azerbaijan, new curricula were developed on “Introduction to ICT” as an Undergraduate course, and on “IT Project Management” as a master’s degree level course.

Kazakhstan

- **The Academy of Public Administration** has been using the Academy for training of civil servants.
- **The American Accreditation Commission for Accreditation of International Education Programmes** included the Primer Series in the mandatory course “Field Project for Information System” of Kazakh-British Technical University (KBTU).
- Primer Series is a requirement for fourth-year students majoring in Information Systems in Kazakh-British Technical University.

Kyrgyzstan

- The **National Information Technology Centre (NITC)** is using the Academy in its regular training for civil servants. The programme has already reached six out of the country’s seven provinces through TOT organized by NITC with support from UNDP Kyrgyzstan.
- **The Academy of Management** under the President of Kyrgyzstan has been utilizing both flagship programmes, the Academy and the Primer, in their master’s degree courses.
- **The American University of Central Asia** uses the Primer Series as an additional textbook in its management of information systems course.

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_2334

