Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Master Plan

AP-IS Second Working Group Meeting

ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division
ESCAP

Presentation Agenda

1. Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS)
2. Recent ESCAP Findings
3. AP-IS Vision
4. Four Pillars of AP-IS
5. AP-IS Layered Map of Network Structure
6. AP-IS Medium-Term Objectives
7. Proposed AP-IS Network Corridors
8. Regional Partners for AP-IS
9. Proposed Governance Structure
10. AP-IS Strategic Initiatives 2016-2018
11. Activities for AP-IS Strategic Initiatives
12. Implementation Plan 2016-2018

Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway

The Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) is an initiative to improve regional broadband connectivity, through a dense web of open access cross-border network infrastructure, integrating them into a cohesive land and sea-based fibre infrastructure with the ultimate aim to increase the international bandwidth for developing countries in the region, to lower the broadband Internet prices and to bridge the digital divide in the region.

Recent ESCAP Findings

- Despite the substantial gains reaped from broadband Internet across all sectors, progress has been unevenly spread across Asia and the Pacific and it remains to be one of the most digitally-divided regions in world.

- ESCAP's "State of ICT in Asia and the Pacific 2016" reports that over 52% of the global fixed broadband subscriptions come from the geographic ESCAP member countries.

- High-income ESCAP countries are more digitally inclusive while low-income ESCAP members show sign of digital divide.

- 74% of fixed broadband subscriptions in the ESCAP region are in East and North-East Asia, and more than half of the region's fixed broadband subscriptions is driven by the China (PR) alone.
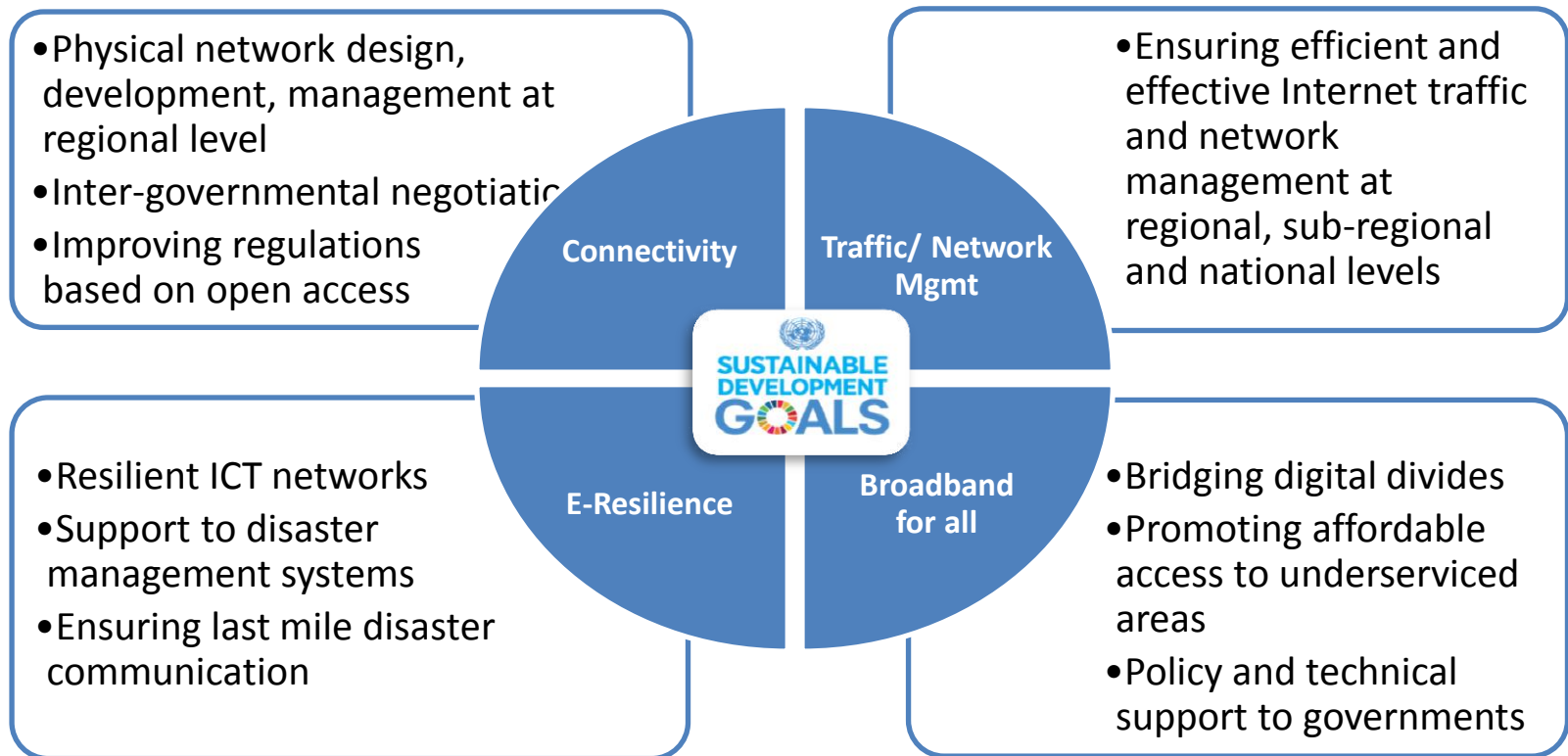
- Access to international connectivity or transit is largely dominated by submarine cable landings in the Asia-Pacific region. ESCAP's analysis of the terrestrial network has shown that many countries in the region have backhaul domestic infrastructure poorly meshed and follow a "river system" pattern.

- Furthermore, the limited number of fibre interconnections across countries also limits the availability of total and per-capita international bandwidth. This has been affecting the landlocked countries in particular, which do not have direct access to a submarine cable landing station and have to rely on limited terrestrial cross-border connections.

AP-IS Vision

As a pillar of regional connectivity, the Asia-Pacific information superhighway initiative shall be a catalyst to develop seamless regional broadband networks which improve affordability, reliance, resilience and coverage and thereby address the causes of digital divides, develop the Internet ecosystem to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and stimulate digital economy in Asia and the Pacific.

Four Pillars of AP-IS

- To address concerns on Digital Divides, the AP-IS concept was defined at the first meeting of the AP-IS Working Group based on ESCAP Findings, research and analysis that identified gaps, opportunities and need for regional cooperation. The Master Plan elucidates specific activities and milestones with regard to the four pillars:

Connectivity
- Physical network design, development, management at regional level
- Inter-governmental negotiation
- Improving regulations based on open access

Traffic/ Network Mgmt
- Ensuring efficient and effective Internet traffic and network management at regional, sub-regional and national levels

E-Resilience
- Resilient ICT networks
- Support to disaster management systems
- Ensuring last mile disaster communication

Broadband for all
- Bridging digital divides
- Promoting affordable access to underserved areas
- Policy and technical support to governments

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

AP-IS Pillar 1: Connectivity

- AP-IS advocates enhancing seamless regional broadband fibre optic backbone connectivity by **upgrading and increasing the resilience** of, and integrating cross-border, intra and inter regional broadband backbone networks, which will lead to **open access** and more well-balanced undersea and terrestrial networks.

- AP-IS advocates **leveraging existing regional connectivity** opportunities offered by the Asian Highways and Trans-Asian Railway, as well as other trans-border infrastructure