Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Steering Committee Terms of Reference

Background

The ESCAP Commission, at its 71st session, adopted a resolution 71/10 which established the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) Working Group. The first meeting of the Working Group took place in September 2015 in Incheon, Republic of Korea. The Working Group decided to establish a Steering Group to develop the AP-IS master plan, among others. Please find below the pertinent information on the Working Group meeting as well as AP-IS in general:

http://www.unescap.org/events/first-meeting-working-group-asia-pacific-information-superhighway

http://www.unescap.org/our-work/ict-disaster-risk-reduction/asia-pacific-information-superhighway

In this background, the below Terms of Reference was developed for the functioning of the Steering Group:

1. Membership Criteria

- Due to the nature of the assigned activities, the Steering Committee will be established with the membership of non-profit organizations, research institutes and experts from the member country governments (representing in their personal capacity) as multi-stakeholder representatives with policy and technical expertise.
- The Steering Committee should have geographical representation, at least one representative from 1) the Pacific, 2) East and North-East Asia, 3) South-East Asia, 4) South Asia and 5) Central Asia.
- Chair person of the Steering Committee will be selected from the members: as the Steering Committee will report to the Working Group, the Chair will not be elected from the Working Group Bureau members.

2. Steering Group Size

- In order for the group to be manageable, the Steering Committee members would not exceed 15, including the Bureau members.

3. Objectives

- The primary objective of the Steering Committee is to develop the draft Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Master Plan and draft regional cooperation framework, as agreed upon by the Working Group in September 2014.
- The drafts will be presented to the Second Working Group meeting tentatively scheduled in June 2016, and the approved versions will be presented at the Committee on ICT and STI in October 2016 for the adoption.
- The Steering Committee members will be supported in its function by the ESCAP Secretariat.
- The ESCAP Secretariat will provide an online platform which will be used as repository of information, documents and materials, as well as the space for exchange of views and communications.
- The Steering Committee will meet in person if necessary; and will be invited to the second Working Group meeting.
- If the Working Group agrees, the Steering Committee may continue its functions even after the presentation of the drafts to the Working Group as a technical advisory body to the Working Group.
- The work of the Steering Committee will be reviewed by and consulted with other stakeholders such as the private sector, UN and international agencies and development banks.

4. Outlines of the draft Master Plan and regional cooperation framework (as agreed upon by the Working Group)

- The Master Plan should include the long-term vision, targeted goals, specific activities, milestones with regard to the four pillars of 1) strengthening regional broadband backbone network, 2) establishing sufficient IXPs and harmonizing Internet traffic management systems and policies; 3) enhancing transmission infrastructure resilience and 4) providing inclusive access to broadband Internet for all.

The draft regional cooperation framework includes the amendments to the Asian Highway and Railway agreements, public financing arrangements, public-private partnerships for the promotion of infrastructure development.

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