

# **Next steps for Pan-Asian Terrestrial Fiber Optic Network Development**

**Expert Consultation on the Asian Information Superhighway  
and regional connectivity | Asia**

**4 December 2013, Baku, Azerbaijan**

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## Context

- With development of intra-regional exchanges the share of intraregional data traffic is set to expand
- Inherent weaknesses and choke points with current submarine network infrastructure
- terrestrial networks:
  - a patchwork of bilateral cross-border linkages between incumbent carriers
- operating submarine cables
  - limited competition
  - limited geographic scope
  - low capacity (10 Gbps usually, a fraction of total international bandwidth capacity),
  - higher prices than submarine connectivity
  - landlocked countries worst affected
- Pan Asian continental terrestrial fiber optic network emerges as promising solution to provide open, redundant, cost-effective access both regionally and at intercontinental level.

## **Towards a Pan-Asian Terrestrial Fiber Optic Network: how can UNESCAP help (1):**

- ESCAP long institutional experience in brokering pan-Asian cross-border infrastructure agreements
- Construction of Asian Highway (AH) and Trans-Asian Railway (TAR) backed by intergovernmental agreements,
  - ESCAP as secretariat,
  - Working Groups that review implementation, address rights of ways, issues and standards
- Geographic scope: continental seamlessness as ESCAP is the only pan-Asian forum

## **Towards a Pan-Asian Terrestrial Fiber Optic Network: how can UNESCAP help (2):**

- ESCAP Intergovernmental neutrality: political, technological, industrial
- Multidisciplinary scope: opportunities to leverage on trans-border connectivity already agreed to under agreements such as Asian Highway, Trans Asian Railway, but also dry ports, energy
- UN wide leverage: ESCAP is well connected to specialized agencies, in telecom and other sectors
- Analytical basis: ESCAP is analytical, research and normative arm of the UN in Asia-Pacific

## Next actions

- Experts from Member countries:
  - Validate information provided on map by bringing in improvements/corrections/additions
  - Review study and provide improvements
  - Request secretariat through the Chairman of the Committee on ICT to set up Working Group on seamless regional connectivity
- ESCAP secretariat
  - Initiate second phase of Information Superhighway project
  - Expand analytical study to South Asia and East Asia
  - Continuous update of maps until year-end and beyond
  - Secure funding
  - Convene Fourth Session of Committee on ICT by third quarter of 2014, back to back with Transport Committee

## Next actions (2)

- 4 objectives:
  1. Information on physical capacity of networks (capacity, length of networks, main standards for transmission, cross border and submarine connections )
  2. Information on economics of broadband connectivity (tariff for IP transit, final destination of transit, projected demand, content by language), capacity of network, economic cost of low connectivity,
  3. Cost-benefit analysis of future deployment of fibre
  4. Provide analytical base for an intergovernmental agreement that sets out common principles and norms for future network development

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\\_5995](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_5995)

