

Policy Recommendation and Regional Cooperation

- “Strengthening ICT Policies and applications to
achieve UN MDGs and WSIS goals in Asia Pacific”-

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I. Introduction

- Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD) of UN ESCAP conducts a variety of activities to raise awareness among ICT policy and decision makers on policy implications of introducing emerging and new technologies for expanding ICT access and on appropriate policy options
- Participants also shared cases of ICT for MDGs, such as e-government, m-health, m-banking and discussed policy options for facilitating new services and applications as well as promoting emerging technologies for ICT access expansion and developing ICT to achieve WSIS and MDGs goals in Asia Pacific.

A set of common challenges and areas requiring attention beside sharing lesson learned and information dissemination;

- Challenges
- ✓ The persistent lack of qualified IT manpower,
- ✓ The need to further strengthen project management functions,
- ✓ The need to strengthen ICT security,
- ✓ The challenge of integrating and aligning of various ministries to manage e-Government projects.
- ✓ Carrying-out third party assessments of e-Government services provided in order to verify the effectiveness of the initiatives.

- Areas requiring attention
- ✓ Research and projects on broadband to the home in urban and rural areas, using various technologies including wireless broadband, and fiber to the home,
- ✓ Improving delivery of government services continuously through e-Government initiatives,
- ✓ Investing in infrastructure is required to cover all areas with telecommunications,
- ✓ Strong leadership is required at a high-level to accelerate development of the ICT at the national level,
- ✓ Finding a right balance between centralized and decentralized initiatives for the implementation of e-Government projects,
- ✓ Establishing service level agreements,
- ✓ Establishing multi-channel public service delivery for anytime, anywhere,
- ✓ Deploying common ICT infrastructure to avoid duplication by various ministries
- ✓ Promoting ICT capacity building,
- ✓ Emphasizing Public Private Partnerships,
- ✓ Carrying-out third party assessments of e-Government services provided in order to verify the effectiveness of the initiatives.

WSIS Progress Report

This report reviews the WSIS progress made in Asia and the Pacific region. Here also challenges ahead and Recommendation were summarized,

- Challenges
- ✓ ICT capacity development, especially among policy and decision makers as well as teachers and students
- ✓ Development of applications and content
- ✓ More bandwidth, where mobile network exists, and further expansion of mobile and other networks for inclusive and universal access to information and knowledge
- ✓ Regional cooperation to share resources, knowledge, good practices and lessons learned

lations

growing mobile subscribers' base in remote and rural areas, promote ns which have direct impacts on the achievement of MDGs, such as n-health;

s and strategies to take advantage of mobile and broadband particular updating telecommunications regulations

development of private sector companies which are aspired to provide ve applications for socio-economic development should be

t of broadband networks should be prioritized in view of expected and other Internet applications and increased demand for bandwidth ars;

ity should remain as a priority in the region, given slow growth in lband subscriptions in the Pacific;

d agencies should strengthen the function to monitor the progress ; goals set by WSIS;

ation should be further strengthened; in particular the work of sub- itions should be supported to more efficiently and effectively channel ogical and financial resources and expertise to less advanced

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