



**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA  
AND THE PACIFIC**

**REPORT OF THE  
EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON REGIONAL ROADMAP TOWARDS INFORMATION  
SOCIETY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC AND  
FIFTH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON ICT  
BANGKOK, THAILAND (13-15 AUGUST 2003)**

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**This report has been issued without formal editing**

## **A. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING**

1. The Expert Group Meeting on Regional Roadmap towards the Information Society in Asia and the Pacific and the Fifth Meeting Regional Interagency Group Meeting on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) were held concurrently as one Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, from 13 to 15 August 2003. The Meeting was organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in cooperation with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT).
2. The overall objective of the Meeting was to formulate the regional “roadmap” towards establishing an information society in Asia and the Pacific for effectively narrowing the digital divide among the countries, different social groups and within the countries of the region.
3. The participants of the Meeting were ICT experts/country representatives from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Maldives, Nepal, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Thailand, In addition, members of the regional interagency working group on ICT representing UNESCAP, UNDP, UNEP, UNODC, World Bank, FAO, UNESCO, ITU, UNIDO, ICAO, APT, ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Foundation, and representatives of AIT, UNU and AIBD also attended the meeting. The list of the participants and programme of the meeting are given in Annexes I and II, respectively.
4. The Meeting was opened by Mr Kim Hak-Su, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations, and Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). In his address, Mr Kim mentioned that ICT has a great potential to facilitate the achievement of the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals, particularly, to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environment degradation and gender inequality. Yet, despite

significant efforts at the national and regional levels, it is still very far from ensuring that the benefits of ICT are available to all in Asia and the Pacific. This is partly because the Digital Divide is the reflection of the economic and social divides of poverty, illiteracy, and access to health care. He further mentioned that how the existing digital gap and divide between different groups of the Society could be narrowed or bridged by creating digital opportunities through the provision of equitable, affordable and universal access to ICT to all in the region was a real challenge for us.

5. Mr Kim stressed that the concerted efforts must be made at the national, regional and global levels, to enhance cooperation, and share relevant and timely information and knowledge towards the creation of the information and knowledge-based society in the region. He sincerely believed that the joint efforts by the representatives of countries in Asia and the Pacific supported by the members of the Regional Interagency Working Group (IWG) on ICT, which was established in August 2001 by UNESCAP in cooperation with ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and APT, could play a significant role towards that direction.

6. Mr Kim pointed out that the vision of an Information Society is one where all persons, without distinction of any kind, exercise their rights to freedom of opinion and expression, including freedom to hold opinion without interference, and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers. He informed the participants that the Tokyo Declaration adopted by the Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Conference for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), 2003 which was jointly organized by the Government of Japan and the UNESCAP in cooperation with other Stakeholders in the region, provided critical guiding principles for bridging the digital divide and building the Information Society in Asia and the Pacific. In particular, the Declaration has prioritized eight areas for action. The Tokyo Declaration was selected along with the Resolutions of other Regional Conferences as the basis for formulating the Summit Declaration and Action Plan by the recently concluded

WSIS PrepCom-2 in Geneva in February 2003. The PrepCom-2 has listed a number of issues and has also formulated specific benchmarks for actions towards bridging the digital divide.

7. Mr Kim stressed the urgency of translating the guiding principles of all the relevant Declarations, such as, Tokyo Declaration of Asia-Pacific Regional Conference for the WSIS (2003), and other relevant national, regional, global initiatives towards Information Society into a regional Information Society Initiatives, and formulating a regional plan of action with specific benchmarks to narrow the digital divide in the region.

8. Finally, Mr Kim expressed his strong belief that the meeting, with the valuable contribution by all the participants, would come up with concrete outcomes, such as, the formulation of the clear outlines of roadmap towards building the Information and Knowledge-based Society in the region. He appealed to all to further work together to promote the spread of information and knowledge through the provision of affordable, equitable and universal access to ICT to all social groups in the region.

9. In his address, Mr Michael Calvano, Head, ITU, Regional office for Asia and the Pacific mentioned that the global information society is evolving at breakneck speed. The accelerating convergence between telecommunications, broadcasting multimedia and information and communication technologies (ICTs) is driving new products and services, as well as ways of conducting business and commerce. At the same time, commercial, social and professional opportunities are exploding as new markets open to competition and foreign investment and participation. The modern world is undergoing a fundamental transformation as the industrial society that marked the 20<sup>th</sup> century rapidly gives way to the information society of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This dynamic process promises a fundamental change in all aspects of our lives, including knowledge dissemination, social interaction, economic and business practices, political engagement, media, education, health, leisure and entertainment. He pointed out that the world is indeed in the midst of a revolution, perhaps the greatest that humanity has ever experienced. To

benefit the world community, the successful and continued growth of this new dynamic requires global discussion.

10. Mr Calvano highlighted that the preparations for the first phase of the Summit are in high gear, and are being carried out at the global, regional, national and even local levels. The Asia and Pacific region is playing a strong leadership role in these preparations. ESCAP, APT and the ITU Regional Office for Asia and Pacific have been working closely together to support ITU global preparations, support regional level preparations with countries and other stakeholders, and to implement WSIS preparatory activities directly. With so many activities taking place in various places and sectors across the region, for the WSIS it was felt that it would be useful and timely to conduct a stock take at this time and discuss it with a group of representative experts from the region. This is where we stand today. In conclusion, he expressed his best wishes for a lively and fruitful meeting.

11. In his address, Mr Amarendra Narayan, Secretary-General of the APT, at first, thanked to Mr Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary of UNESCAP, Mr Xuan Zengpei, Chief of Information, Communication and Space Technology Division (ICSTD), Mr Guennadi Fedorov, Mr Ram Tiwaree and other officers from UNESCAP for their initiative in organizing the Expert Group meeting which was very timely. He also welcomed Mr Xuan Zengpei who has recently joined UNESCAP as the head of the Information, Communication and Space Technology Division.

12. Mr Narayan gave an update on the progress made in the WSIS Preparatory process. He said that the Geneva Summit would adopt the Geneva Declaration and Geneva Action Plan. The progress of related follow up activities would be evaluated at the Tunis Summit. Therefore, it was essential that the countries of the region and the concerned organizations prepare their proposals for the Action Plan and submit the proposals to the Geneva Summit. He called upon UNESCAP and the Regional Interagency Working Group (IWG) on ICT members to take a leading role on the issue, else, the voice of the Asia Pacific region would not be appropriately represented at the

WSIS. He also emphasized upon the need to mobilize resources for the implementation of the Action Plan and also upon the importance of active participation from the private sector in the WSIS process. Mr Narayan also requested the countries and organizations to urgently finalize their delegation for the Summit so that closer interaction can be established among the delegates from the Asia Pacific region before and during the summit.

13. The Meeting adopted the following Agenda:

1. Opening Remarks by the Executive Secretary, UNESCAP
2. Remarks by the Head, ITU Regional Office, Bangkok
3. Remarks by the Secretary-General, APT
4. Adoption of meeting agenda and election of bureau
5. Presentation by the Chief, Information, Communication and Space Technology Division, UNESCAP
6. Presentation by Mr Somkiat Tangkitvanich, UNESCAP Consultant
7. Presentation by Mr S.K. Hajela on Regional Roadmap towards Information Society in Asia and the Pacific
8. Presentation by the Experts/country representatives regarding ICT development strategies and preparation for WSIS 2003
9. Presentation by Regional IWG on ICT members and other distinguished participants
10. Discussion of the draft report on Regional Roadmap and other proposals
11. Adoption of the draft report on Regional Roadmap
12. Concluding remarks by the Acting Chief, ICT Policy Section, ICSTD, UNESCAP

14. The Meeting unanimously elected Mr Thaweesak Koanantakool, Director, National Electronic and Computer Technology Centre, Thailand, the Chairman of the Meeting, Ms

Kathleen G. Heceta, Deputy Commissioner, National Telecommunications Commission, Department of Transportation and Communication, Philippines, Mr Luo Delong, Director, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technology, China, Vice-chairmen of the Meeting, and Mr Naresh Kumar Gupta, Deputy Director General (Information), Department of Telecommunications, India, the Rapporteur of the Meeting.

15. At the commencement of the first Session following the conclusion of the Opening Session of the Meeting, Mr Xuan Zengpei, Chief, Information, Communication and Space Technology Division, UNESCAP presented the Objective of the meeting. Mr Xuan expressed his concern for not having equitable, affordable and universal access to ICT and capability to harness the power of ICT in many countries of the region. He mentioned that the developing countries countries with economies in transition, and especially, the least developed countries, island developing countries account for a small fraction of the global digital economy. There is a large disparity in ICT development and applications among different sub-regions: between developed and developing and least developed countries, urban and rural areas, and rich and poor in the region.

16. Mr Xuan briefed the Meeting a number of past initiatives and declarations including MDGs, Tokyo Declaration of Asia-Pacific Conference for the WSIS (2003), APT meeting on Asia-Pacific Initiatives for Information Society, WSIS PrepCom-1 and PrepCom-2, and other declarations adopted aiming at narrowing or bridging the digital divide in the region, and stressed the need to formulate the regional “roadmap” towards the Information society by taking all relevant past initiatives and declarations. He hoped that the meeting would formulate clear outlines of roadmap towards the formation of regional Information Society, prepare action plans for the implementation of the roadmap at national and regional levels, and provide guidelines for the preparation of national/regional strategies for Information Society. He also informed the Meeting that the outcome of this Meeting would be presented to the WSIS PrepCom-3,

Committee for Managing Globalization of UNESCAP in November 2003, and finally, to the WSIS in December 2003. Finally, he informed the Meeting that UNESCAP would like to work with (i) countries with focus on broadband initiatives, poverty reduction through ICT, empowerment of the disadvantageous group, ICT policy initiatives, (ii) members of the regional interagency working group on ICT, and also, (iii) with private sector and NGOs, for providing digital opportunities to all in the region.

17. During the meeting, two studies were presented. Firstly, Mr Somkiat Tangkitvanich presented the “Study on Enabling Policy for Bridging Digital Divides in the Asia-Pacific Region”. Thereafter, Mr Shailendra Kumar Hajela presented the study entitled “Regional Roadmap towards Information Society in Asia and the Pacific” which was the main focus of the Meeting. Both studies were thoroughly discussed during the Meeting.

18. The country papers were presented by the experts/representatives of the following countries: China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Maldives, Nepal, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Additionally, presentations were made and/or views were expressed by the representatives of ITU, APT, AIT, UNU, AIBD, FAO, ICAO, UNODC, UNESCO and UNIDO. Summary of the presentations is given at Annex III.

### **C. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT STUDY ON REGIONAL ROADMAP**

19. The meeting unanimously adopted the draft study on “Regional roadmap towards Information Society in Asia and the Pacific” on 15 August 2003. The study will be posted on the UNESCAP web-site ([www.unescasp.org](http://www.unescasp.org)) in due course. The *area of priority at the regional level for action* recommended by the meeting are as follows:

- **Policy, Regulatory and Legal framework**
  - Open and transparent competition policy to act as driver for better quality of service and lower prices

- Investor friendly to attract domestic and foreign investment by declaring ICT industry as “Priority” and providing preferential tariff, interest rates on borrowed capital and other fiscal incentives
- Level playing field
- Regulatory and legal framework to boost confidence
- Universal access
- **Regional Broadband Network**
  - Provision of broadband interactive services
  - Provision of Internet exchanges in countries according to a regional master plan to be developed based on techno-economic and national considerations for the routing of domestic and intra-regional traffic
  - Ensuring a win-win situation for all stakeholders
  - Provision of digital TV broadcast and other multimedia services
- **E-readiness Index**
  - Identification and promotion of the application of agreed e-readiness index and relevant indicators for quantifying the digital divide
- **Security**
  - Development of network security policy at national, regional and global level
  - Data integrity and prevention of dissemination of virus and hacking
  - Encouraging the enactment of national cyber laws and their regional harmonization and cooperation to build confidence, trust and security; prevent the use of ICT for terrorist, trans-national cyber crimes or other activities harmful to society
  - Promotion of an “International convention on security of ICT networks and systems”
  - Promotion of a “Regional/International convention to prevent the use of ICT for purposes incompatible with international stability and security”

- **Human Resource Development**

- Capacity building for ICT and promotion of ICT literacy and skills
- Application of ICT to improve basic and advanced education
- Strengthening institutions and networks for production, acquisition, absorption, and dissemination of knowledge products and service
- Building national capabilities to administer information systems and to develop sustainable ICT projects
- Creation and dissemination of multi-cultural and multi-lingual content

- **Research and development**

- Promotion and creation of technological incubators linked to universities and research centres;
- Encouraging the R & D efforts for development of low cost terminals and related devices for IT access, new broadband access technologies
- Study of migration of IPv4 to IPv6
- Development of technologies especially suitable for disadvantaged people
- Standardization: based on platforms of internationally interoperable open system standards;

- **Language and culture**

- Promotion and development of multi-lingual translation software to permit all the world's languages to be present and used on the Internet;
- Preservation of cultural diversity:

- **Application of ICT in archiving**

- **Production of content in local languages**

- **A handbook on good practices and success stories from Asia-Pacific region to be prepared and reissued periodically as a permanent sharing exercise**

- **Governance of Internet for Domain name registration**

- Conducting a feasibility study and entrusting the work to a regional body, taking into account the concerns of national sovereignty, regional cooperation and global co-ordination.
- **Model ICT Projects aimed at youth and gender equality objectives (examples)**
  - School-Net
  - Text to Teach
- **Special programs for least developed, Land-locked and small island developing countries**
- **Partnerships**
  - Global and Regional digital compact to create a new pattern for partnership and interaction between governments and non-governmental agencies, based on division of labour specialized responsibilities, the identification of specific and common interests
  - Innovative resource mobilization and other forms for ICT development projects
  - Networks of E-centres of excellence to support ICT in the region.

**ANNEX-I****LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****BANGLADESH**

Mr Ikhtiar M. Chowdhury, Counsellor (Pol) and Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Bangladesh Embassy, Bangkok

Mr Asad Alam Siam, First Secretary and Assistant Permanent Representative to ESCAP. Bangladesh Embassy, Bangkok

**BHUTAN**

Ms Ugen Chozom, First Secretary and Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Royal Bhutanese Embassy, Bangkok

**CAMBODIA**

Mr Ung Tea Seam, Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Royal Embassy of Cambodia, Bangkok

**CHINA**

Mr Luo Delong, Director, International Organizations and Conferences, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technology, Beijing.

Mr Zhang Wanhai, Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Bangkok

Mr Zhang Yaqiang, Assistant to the Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Bangkok

**DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

Mr Mun Jong Nam, Counsellor and Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Bangkok

**INDIA**

Mr Naresh Kumar Gupta, Deputy Director General (I), Telecom Engineering Centre, Department of Telecommunications, New Delhi

Mr S.P. Chakravarty, CGM, Calcutta Telephones, Department of Telecom India, New Delhi

Mr Amit Kumar Project Engineer, Telecel Communications (P) Ltd, New Delhi

## INDONESIA

Mr Gunadi, Head of Regional Section for Posts, telecommunications and Information, Directorate of International Affairs, Directorate General of Posts and Telecommunications, Department of Communications.

Mr R. Broto Utomo, Deputy Chief of Mission and Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, Bangkok

Mr Sjahril Sabaruddin, Minister Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, Bangkok

## JAPAN

Mr Hiroaki Kimura, Assistant Director, International Policy Division, Telecommunications Bureau, Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Post and Telecommunications, Tokyo

Mr Yoshitake Tsuzuki, First Secretary and Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to UNESCAP, Embassy of Japan, Bangkok

Mr Masanori Hashimoto, Second Secretary and Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Bangkok

## LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Mr Kham-Inh Khitchadeth, Second Secretary and Assistant Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Bangkok

## MALDIVES

Mr Mohamed Shareef, Systems Administrator, National Centre for Information Technology, Ministry of Communications Science and Technology, Male

## NEPAL

Mr Purushottam Ghimire, Under Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), Singha Durbar, Kathmandu

## PHILIPPINES

Ms Kathleen G. Heceta, Deputy Commissioner, National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), Department of Transportation and Communications, Mandaluyong City

## REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Ms Whasun Jho, Ministry of Information and Communication, Seoul

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr Ivan N. Kurnosov, Deputy Director General, Department of Information, Ministry for Communications and Information, Moscow

Mr Andrey V. Miroshkin, Director General, Grotek Ltd., Moscow

SRI LANKA

Mr Bharatha Manju Sri Kumar Haththotuwa, Managing Director, Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (Pvt.) Ltd, Colombo

Mr S.G. Ratnayake, Second Secretary and Assistant Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Bangkok

THAILAND

Mr Kraisoron Pornsutee, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, Royal Thai Government, Bangkok

Mr Thaweesak Koanantakool, Director, National Electronics and Computer Technology Center, Bangkok

Mr Jesada Katavetin, Director, Development Affairs Division, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangkok

Mr Chadamas Thuvasethakul, Assistant Director, National Electronics and Computer Technology Center, Bangkok

Mr. Kasititorn Pooparadai, Researcher, National Electronics and Computer Technology Center, Bangkok

Ms Jiraporn Bhongsatien, Senior Expert in Policy and Planning, Post and Telegraph Department of Thailand, Bangkok

Ms Anchansiri Sriyanont, First Secretary, Development Affairs Division, Department of International organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangkok

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## Members of Interagency Working Group

### UNITED NATIONS BODIES

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Mr Tanya Janjarasskul IT Manager Bangkok
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Mr Per Sorensen Associate Environmental Affairs Officer Bangkok
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)	Mr Tun Nay Soe Data Analyst Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok
	Mr Fumio Ito Associate Expert

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### SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Mr Michael Riggs Information Management Specialist Regional Office for Asia & Pacific Bangkok
	Mr Jude Aidoo Consultant (Information Management), Bangkok
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Ms Lapapan Choovong National Professional Officer (Communication and Information) Bangkok
	Mr Cedric Wachholz Programme Specialist and Focal Point for ICTs in Education Bangkok
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)	Mr Michael A. Calvano Head ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	Mr Ngu Yen Khac Tiep Industrial Development Officer Regional Office, Bangkok
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)	Mr Li Peng Regional Officer Communications, Navigation and Surveillance (CNS) Bangkok
World Bank	Mr Tanatat Puttasuwan Adviser World Bank Thailand Office Bangkok

#### INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)	Mr A. Narayan Secretary-General Bangkok
	Mr R. Salvador Coordinator (HRD and ICT)
ASEAN Secretariat	Mr Lim Hock Chuan Assistant Director for ICT Jakarta
ASEAN Foundation	Mr Ruben C. Umaly Executive Director Jakarta
	Mr Andy Pradjaputra Senior Officer Preogramme and External Relations Jakarta
Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO)	Mr Arief S. Sadiman Director Bangkok
	Mr Maung Ye Tun Information Technology Officer Bangkok

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## OTHER ENTITIES

The United Nations University (UNU)	Mr Brendan Barrett Academic Programme Officer Tokyo
Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)	Ms Kanchana Kanchanasut Head, Internet Education and Research Laboratory, Patumthani
Asian-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)	Mr Wilfried Solbach Human Resource Development Manager Asian-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development, Kuala Lumpur

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## SECRETARIAT

Mr Kim Hak-Su	Executive Secretary
Ms Keiko Okaido	Deputy Executive Secretary
Mr S. Thampi	Principal Officer
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Mr Xuan Zengpei	Chief Information, Communication and Space Technology Division
Mr G.M. Fedorov	Chief ICT Policy Section Information, Communication and Space Technology Division
Mr S.R. Din	Economic Affairs Officer ICT Policy Section Information, Communication and Space Technology Division
Mr Ram S. Tiwaree	Economic Affairs Officer ICT Policy Section Information, Communication and Space Technology Division
Mr Shailendra Kumar Hajela	Consultant
Mr Somkiat Tangkitvanich	Consultant
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Ms Keiko Okaido	Officer-in-Charge, a.i. Administrative Services Division
Mr Christian de Sutters	Chief Conference and General Services Section Administrative Services Division
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Mr David Lazarus	Chief United Nations Information Services
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**ANNEX-II****PROGRAMME****Wednesday, 13 August 2003**

0830-0900	Registration of participants
0900-0915	Opening Remarks by <i>Mr Kim Hak-Su</i> <i>Executive Secretary, UNESCAP</i>
0910-0920	Remarks by <i>Mr Michael A. Calvano</i> <i>Head, ITU Regional Office</i>
0920-0930	Remarks by <i>Mr A. Narayan</i> <i>Secretary-General, APT</i>
0930-0940	Adoption of agenda and election of bureau
0940-1000	Coffee Break
1000-1015	Presentation on the objective of the meeting by <i>Mr Xuan Zengpei, Director Information, Communications and</i> <i>Space Technology Division, UNESCAP</i>
1015-1100	Presentation of the study on enabling policy for bridging digital divides in the Asia-Pacific region by <i>Mr Somkiat Tangkitvanich</i> <i>UNESCAP Consultant</i>
1100-1120	Presentation of the draft study on regional roadmap towards information society: Overview by <i>Mr S.K. Hajela, UNESCAP Consultant</i>
1120-1215	Presentation of the draft study: Detailed analysis by <i>Mr S.K. Hajela, UNESCAP Consultant</i>
1215-1315	Lunch
1315-1400	Presentation of the draft study: Recommendations by <i>Mr S.K. Hajela, UNESCAP Consultant</i>

- 1400-1500 Presentation by Experts/country representatives (China, India, Indonesia, Japan)
- 1500-1515 Coffee Break
- 1515-1615 Presentation by Experts/country representatives continue (Thailand, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal )

**Thursday, 14 August 2003**

- 0915-1015 Presentation by Experts/country representatives continue (Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka)
- 1015- 1030 Coffee Break
- 1030-1100 Presentations by other country representatives (if any)
- 1100-1115 Presentation by Ms Kanchana Kanchanasut
- 1115-1130 Presentation by Mr Brendan Barret, UNU
- 1130-1145 Presentation by ITU Official
- 1145-1200 Presentation by APT Official
- 1200-1300 Lunch
- 1300-1430 Presentations by other Regional IWG on ICT members (3-5 minutes for each member) and other participants
- 1430-1445 Coffee Break
- 1445-1615 Discussions on the draft regional roadmap and other presentations/proposals.

**Friday, 15 August 2003**

- 1315-1430 Adoption of the draft regional roadmap study
- 1430-1440 Concluding remarks by  
*Mr G.M. Fedorov, Acting Chief, ICT Policy Section, Information, Communication and Space Technology Division, UNESCAP*
- 1440- End of meeting

**ANNEX-III****SUMMARY OF THE COUNTRY AND ORGANIZATION REPORTS****China**

The representative from China, Mr Luo Delong stressed that market driven development of Information and communication technology (ICT) cannot lead the global economy to an even development. On the contrary, digital divide coming along with it has continuously deteriorated the regional disparities and widened the gap between the North and the South, between the rich and the poor. Substantial gap exists among different regions within China, between China and some other countries in the Asian and Pacific Region, and between China and the developed countries.

Chinese government attaches great importance on informatization of national economy and has made great efforts on elimination of digital divide. With limited financial resources and poor infrastructure, Chinese government adopts the policy to develop information and communication industry as one of the top priorities for development and gives strong supports to fixed assets investment in ICT. Utilization of information technology on transformation of conventional industries is another measure Chinese government takes to promote informatization of her national economy. Other steps include promotion of e-government in central and local governments, promotion of electronic, and information and software industry development. International cooperation is particularly important in the efforts bridging digital divide among different countries in the world.

The goals set for 2005 include: communication business income reach 1 trillion Yuan with an average annual growth rate of 23% in five years, telephone penetration rate reach 40%, the number of customers for electronic data, multi-media and Internet 200 million and internet penetration rate 15%.

**India**

The representative of India, Mr Naresh Kumar Gupta mentioned that India is diverse economically, culturally and socially. India has ICT as a National agenda. According to him, India believed that ICT would enable greater freedom for supporting social welfare and cultural activities and would help in bridging the digital divide. India is following the model of multi-purpose community center for promoting easy access to ICT for its vast population. India is promoting new technologies into access network based on economical and geographical suitability. India is also developing applications to suit different linguistic zones in the country. To promote online economic activities – law on electronic signatures and users identities – IT Act 2000 has been established. India believes that for generating confidence in ICT applications, on-line security and reliability is needed.

India strongly believes in HRD for ICT. It has one of the largest IT knowledge force in the World. India is also looking forward to cooperate with other countries to enhance ICT literacy. India is also involving private sector and NGOs for promoting ICT applications. He also mentioned that India's Telecom sector has been totally open for private participation.

Mr Naresh Gupta's Recommendations to the Meeting include:

- I. Opening of Internet exchange within the Asia-Pacific Region for the improvement of regional traffic.
- II. Setting up of ICT fund.

**Indonesia**

Indonesian representative, Mr Gunadi pointed out that the Meeting on regional roadmap towards information society in Asia and the Pacific should take into account some existing international and regional frameworks and strategies, such as, ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration, Tokyo Declaration on Information Society in Asian Regional Conference on Information Society, as well as ASEAN strategies such as e-ASEAN frameworks agreement signed by ASEAN Heads of Government/States in Singapore; and Manila Declaration 2002 of Telecommunication Ministerial Meeting in Manila.

It is imperative for the meeting to address the needs, vision, mission and objectives for inclusive ICT policymaking and its role in creating regional roadmap of information society in Asia and the Pacific. Priority should be given to:

- Provide equitable and appropriate access for all to well-developed, affordable and easy-accessed to information and communications network infrastructure;
- Enhance the sharing and strengthening global knowledge for development and the technological innovation and policy capacity of developing-country stakeholders in the area of ICTs to enhance national and regional ICT policymaking processes and its institutions;
- Increase awareness of the importance of international ICT decisions on national policies and regulations in developing countries;
- Overcome financial and other barriers;
- Promote the use of ICTs for capacity-building and human resource development;
- Promote equity enhancing mechanisms and the lowering of access barriers within regional ICT policy foras, where necessary.

Based on the above elaboration and for the purpose of a Regional Roadmap of Information Society in Asia and the Pacific, he suggested that the meeting participants to give due considerations to the following recommendations:

- a. Digital divide should be tackled by providing an affordable, robust and ubiquitous infrastructure. For this reason, government considers to implement a three-year plan development as a part of universal service obligation (USO) to develop basic telecommunication networks in the rest of underserved areas which have not been reached by basic telephone services.
- b. Improve national infrastructure development towards a regional network. Ensure that the regulatory regime does not hinder the development of the Internet infrastructure. Introducing broadband network infrastructure whenever possible to enhance network efficiency and provide capacity that match the needs of the countries in the region;
- c. Establish e-strategy in national level covering three (3) main subjects i.e. infrastructure development, human resource development, and content creation. E-strategy should also address availability of radio frequency spectrum allocation for broadband network infrastructure.
- d. Promotes network security to give the public more secure access to information. Network without security is danger. Regional cooperation in network security and law enforcement is really urgent to be brought into reality to avoid any potential cyber crimes and terrorism action.
- e. Develop national programmes to promote capacity building in development and positive use of Internet to all level of people and societies, and the creation and dissemination of multicultural and multilingual Internet content to narrow the digital divide.

- f. Government political will is needed to develop human resource capacity by accommodating ICT literacy into education curricular in schools and universities and enhance existing education and training centers through e-learning or e-education that easily accessed by all people.
- g. Encourage the development of information strategies and models that facilitate community access and reach out to all levels of society, including the setting up of multipurpose community tele-centers. In this case need to urge more initiatives and partnership involving all stakeholders, including government, public, and private sectors.
- h. Urge ISPs to develop concessionary rates for Internet access in public service and development-oriented institutions such as schools, academic institutions, museums and public libraries as a transitional measure towards low-cost access to cyberspace.
- i. Speed up the regional and international cooperation in several aspects including infrastructure development, financial issues, capacity building, and law enforcement, to support and to synchronize ICT development in national level.
- j. Promotes an innovative technology that enable to converge some services altogether such as radio, television, internet, and telephone services as well. Mass product of such technology shall be emphasized to provide the public with affordable equipment price.

## **Japan**

The representative of Japan, Mr Hiroaki KIMURA, Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications informed the Meeting that IT Strategic Headquarter was established in Japan in accordance with IT Basic Law formulated in January 2001. He also

informed the Meeting that e-Japan Strategy has major focus on Ultra-High Speed Network Infrastructure, e-Commerce, e-Government and Human Resource Development. Priority policies for building Ultra-High Speed Network Infrastructure include deregulation of telecom services, establishing independent commission for dispute settlement, ensuring transparency in radio spectrum assignment and narrowing digital divide. Priority policies for e-Commerce are establishment of clear rules for electronic trade and consumer protection. In the area of e-Government, the national and local governments are asked to use ICT, to provide services to their customers on-line, and to publicize information on the Internet. Priority policies for human resource development include improving ICT literacy of individuals and expanding workforce in the field of ICT.

Since the formulation of e-Japan strategy, the number of users of broadband services such as DSL and FTTH has been growing extensively. At the same time, broadband Internet access charges became cost effective in terms of transmission speed. However, the infrastructures have not been utilized effectively.

E-Japan Strategy II formulated in July 2003 emphasizes that socio-economic reform using ICT infrastructures are necessary to allocate resources efficiently and to create new industries. To this end, the strategy proposes advanced applications of ICT for purposes such as ensuring safety of life and society, ensuring opportunities for education by remote education and promoting trade in digital contents by securing intellectual property rights. The strategy also updates policies for continuously improving infrastructures for ICT-based society in areas such as ubiquitous networks and international cooperation.

The Japanese government formulated “Asia Broadband Programme” in March 2003 describing action items of Japanese government targeting at realizing the broadband environment in the Asia-Pacific region in cooperation with other countries. The programme describes policy measures for building broadband network infrastructures and for promoting penetration of the use

of the broadband infrastructures. The measures for building broadband network infrastructure include improvement of network infrastructures in developing countries through copper, optical fibre or wireless based on the Internet protocol, promotion of international interconnection of the networks built in each country to facilitate intra regional exchange of information, development and practical application of technologies such as Broadband Satellite Internet appropriate for the region, promotion of R&D and standardization activities and human resource development and personnel exchanges in the ICT fields.

The measures for promoting penetration of the use of the broadband infrastructures include: ensuring security, rulemaking on Intellectual Property Rights; promoting public domain applications such as e-government, e-learning and e-health to enhance benefits to the society; encouraging information exchange and distribution of digital contents in the region through development of machine translation technologies between diverse languages used in the region; digitalizing and disseminating cultural assets in variety of forms, such as films, artefacts and dancing performance; sharing know-how for formulating national strategies and information of best practices for broadband deployment with other countries in the region, and providing support to developing countries on these measures.

### **Lao People's Democratic Republic**

The representative of Lao PDR, Mr Kham-Inh Khitchadeth informed the meeting that ICT programme was started in the Lao PDR in 1980. The IT market is very small; and most computer services are located in the capital city. The percentage of expenditure on tertiary education as a percentage of all levels in the Lao PDR is lowest comparing to all ASEAN countries. However, the ICT has been gradually developing in both Government and private sectors. The Government, increasingly, recognizes the need of ICT development and has considered as ICT is one of four priority developments in the Lao PDR. The Government pays special attention to encourage both

state and private schools in providing ICT courses to students. So far, Lao people including state and private sectors have been very interested in ICT development. However, there are some challenges for ICT development in the Lao PDR, such as, lack of telecommunication infrastructure, lack of human resources, lack of know how on IT, lack of financial support, lack of legal infrastructure. Furthermore, there are some barriers on access to and application of ICT. For example, the price of equipment is high, telecommunication infrastructure is mostly in urban areas, and there is a limited knowledge capability on ICT.

In order to raise the ability on ICT of Laos in the future, the Government strengthens in encouraging ICT development especially infrastructure and industry of ICT developments, providing more education and training on ICT to different levels in the societies. The Government pays special attention in improving both quantity and quality of ICT professionals in order to meet international standards. The implementation of the project “Creation of Lao Code page, software standard and national computer plan”, under Prime Minister’s Office approval No. 385/PMO dated 12 June 1996 would have a large and significant influence on all aspects of social-economic life in the Lao PDR. In order to achieve the mentioned objectives, it requires to mobilize various resources of the country: from public agencies, from the system of education, from economic and social organizations, from business sectors, etc.

He proposed some suggestions for developing countries which include:

- Improve applications of ICT as a priority in the national strategy for social-economic development. Using ICT as the basic tool to accelerate the development and expansion of the industry and reducing the ICT development gap between developed and developing countries;
- All key sectors such as economy, culture, social, defence and education have to use ICT;
- Create favourable conditions that would encourage the increased utilization of information technology and its development in the national telecommunication network

which will be the infrastructure for socio-economic development and to ensure that the network has high speed, good quality and meet the international standard.

- Improve the human resource development on ICT which is the main key for improving ICT development of the developing countries in the future.

## **Maldives**

The representative of the Maldives, Mr Mohamed Shareef pointed out that particular geographical dispersion of very small islands combined with the high degree of population density distribution has led to uneven socio-economic growth in the country, leading to substantial digital divides between the island communities, especially between the island capital Male and the rest of the country. The government, in its efforts to curb these disparities actively encourages ICT application and has initiated a number of ICT projects. Maldives has the belief that ICT is one of the main vehicles by which it can bridge the digital divide. This has been recognized and realized in its Information Technology Development Project (ITDP) and its National ICT Policy Formulation Project. The ITDP project aims to connect the country via broadband IP technologies and develop applications and portals for better governance whilst the ICT Policy project is aimed at formulating national ICT policies, strategies and activities and to devise business models for Multipurpose Community Telecentres (MCTs) and digitalize local content. There are also a number of other national and organisational level projects aimed at empowering local communities via community portals and capacity building, liberalisation of markets and those that are aimed specifically towards e-governance, such as, the Public Accounting System.

Mr Shareef reiterated the importance of programmes to share the expertise and experiences of the region, the need for programmes aimed at capacity building for small island developing nations and the requirement for open standards and the development of open source as a viable alternative to user based licensed software. Special attention is also essential on the impact of fast

ICT development on fragile environments and ICT programmes suited to minimise these impact and protect low lying small island environments.

## **Nepal**

The representative of Nepal, Mr Purushottam Ghimire highlighted the country ICT status with institutional arrangements and legal framework for the ICT development, and the ICT policy with strengths and weaknesses and constraints. His expressed views during the meeting is summarized below.

The 21<sup>st</sup> century is now considered to be the age of Information Technology (IT). Nepal is adopting liberal telecom policy, which was announced in 2001. From 2004, telecom service would be open for private sector. Cyber law is in the formulation process. To enhance the ICT in the country and to access the ICT to the general public, the following steps should be taken into consideration:

- Telephone cost is very high, so it should be reduced as possible.
- Digital gaps that exist within the country and those with respect to the outside world.
- Need to bridge the gap through development and extension of IT resources and services by mobilizing internal resources as well as by attracting foreign investment in this sector.
- The current lack of coordination between the ministries the gap between policy and implementation as well as lack of clear cut open policy towards the investors all need to be addressed and resolved.
- Digital gaps that exist within the country and those with respect to the outside world.

- Need to bridge the gap through development and extension of IT resources and services by mobilizing internal resources as well as by attracting foreign investment in this sector.

## **Philippines**

The representative of the Philippines, Ms Kathleen G. Heceta reported on the country's present telecommunication and broadcast infrastructure, the enabling legal, policy and regulatory framework, the nation's programme for security and the Strategic Roadmap for ICT formulated by the Information Technology and Electronic Commerce Council (ITECC) headed by no less than Her Excellency, the President of the Philippines, with members from eight (8) government ministries/agencies (Science and Technology, National Economic and Development Authority, Transportation and Communication, Trade and Industry, Budget and Management, Education, Local Government and National Computer Center) and the 7 members representing the educational institutions, Federation of private industries/private sector and consumer groups.

She also reported on ICT initiatives/activities undertaken in partnership ventures by ICT stakeholders, namely: government, the industry, international organizations and the consumers as follows:

(1) A Project to provide Personal Computers for Public High Schools and Local Governments. A Department of Trade Industry programme funded by the Japanese Government under its Non-Project Aid aimed to bridge the digital divide between public and private schools of local governments all over the country with the acquisition of PCs to upgrade IT literacy and the capabilities of local governance and

(2) A Project called "Bayan: I-text and Resibo" by means of a Raffle with Cash Rewards to improve on the government's Tax Awareness Programme for its citizenry and

intensify tax collection through the use of SMS (Short Messaging Service) technology. A programme by government with cellular mobile operators and the citizenry.

(3) Text 2 Teach project: Texting for Education (Bridget) – a global programme in partnership with a Filipino company, the AYALA Foundation, UNDP, International Youth Foundation, Pearson Library and NOKIA for a text to teach project in 40 Philippines schools (37 public and private) representing both urban and rural areas. The Philippines has been chosen as the pilot site, due to the country's comfort level for digital technology, particularly the cell phone and its English proficiency.

(4) Community E-Centers: Philippine Model – to bring solution to the “last Mile” problem and provide connectivity with rural and remote areas to spur social and economic activities.

## **Republic of Korea**

The representative of Korea, Ms Whasun Jho pointed out that over the past ten years, a new knowledge-based information society is coming up with a new paradigm shifted from the industrial society. Republic of Korea has experienced a remarkable achievement. Supported by the rapid diffusion of digital technologies and services such as the world's most advanced broadband Internet and 3rd generation mobile services on the existing frequency spectrum, Republic of Korea successfully laid the foundation for the network economy within a short period of time, and became the test-bed of the most advanced digital technologies in the world. Republic of Korea's ICT industry recorded an average growth rate of 21 percent since the mid-1990s and has become the new engine of Republic of Korea's economic growth. In addition, Republic of Korea has

witnessed a nationwide efficiency increase through the embodiment of ICT technology in the government administration, business management and people's lives.

In her view, the world is facing great challenges, such as, the digital divide in the process of moving onto an information era. As a leading country in ICT, Republic of Korea has made a constant effort to bridge the digital divide at a national and international level. In order to bridge the international digital divide, the Republic of Korea government established IT Learning Center equipped with computers and access to the Internet in developing countries. Also, the Republic of Korea government introduced ICT HRD programme, which include relatively short-term training courses of ICT policies and technical supports for developing countries. There is a Fellowship Programme which aims to support the next generation telecom leaders in ICT sectors of developing countries, who want a master degree in Republic of Korea. Internet volunteers, funded by the Republic of Korea government, were sent to various developing countries in order to narrow down the digital divide. Republic of Korea will make constant efforts for bridging the digital divide in Asia-Pacific countries by utilizing its highly advanced IT infrastructure and high-quality human capital.

### **Russian Federation**

The representatives of the Russian Federation, Mr Ivan N. Kurnosov and Mr Andrey V. Miroshkin presented the overview of Russian Information initiatives. According to them, the overall revenue in ICT sector grew by almost 40% in 2002 which was the result of the growth in investment in this sector by more than 10% compared to the previous year. The Restructuring process of main national telecom operators was completed in 2002 and at present, there are 7 large inter-regional telecommunication companies. Russia has made e-Russia programme with established goals upto 2010. The priority areas are:

- i. Access to information and ICT – Infrastructure development, cyber-post projects

- ii. e-government technologies – online services like taxation, customs, social services, e-voting, e-procurement, etc.
- iii. Regulatory framework – Electronic digital signature at Act. 2002, Communication Act. 2003
- iv. Social oriented ICT application – e-learning, e-health, e-culture
- v. e-Security issues - Cyber-crime preventions

Finally, their recommendations include the following:

- 1. The key role of ESCAP in strengthening regional cooperation;
- 2. Special attention economies in transition

## **Thailand**

The representative of Thailand, Mr Thaweesak Koanantakool highlighted the National IT policy framework, IT 2010 of Thailand, which aims to move Thailand towards the Knowledge-based Economy. The IT 2010 identifies three main components for the development of Information and Communication Technology in Thailand. They are:

- (1) To promote Innovation
- (2) To Build up human capital
- (3) To strengthen information infrastructure and industry

Within the IT development framework, there are 5 flagships which are classified by the application of IT in main sectors: e-Industry, e-Commerce, e-Society, e-Education, and e-Government. The ten year IT policy framework also layouts the basis for the development of a 5-years national ICT master plan, 2002-2006. The vision for ICT development sets out in the ICT master plan is for Thailand to be the regional center of ICT development and business, particularly in software. Besides, Thailand is to have strong and competitive economy as well as knowledge-based society, given that entrepreneurs and majority can access the information. In this

development context, Thailand has set development goal based on ICT and knowledge as enabling technology.

The representative stressed that bridging the digital divide has received high priority in IT 2010, under e-Society flagship. Furthermore, poverty reduction has always been on top priority issues in Thailand development agendas. One major cause of economic poverty in the information society is knowledge poverty or “the lack of access to information that can empower people”. Therefore, fighting against knowledge poverty would help bridging digital divide.

To overcome this knowledge poverty, Thailand has taken number of programmes and projects such as:

- (i) Internet in school: via SchoolNet project
- (ii) Content creation: Digital Library
- (iii) Community Empowerment: Telecenter project
- (iv) R&D in the area such as Wireless local loop for rural area, Multilingual Machine Translation, technologies for the Disabled.

The Thai representative also summarized from the Thai lessons that technology is not a problem, but rather, the management and human resource readiness. And no single organization can fight against knowledge poverty alone.

## **FAO**

Mr Michel Riggs, Information Management Specialist of FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific pointed out that ICT was an important component of agricultural and rural development. FAO was actively involved in preparation for WSIS and in supporting agricultural information management in Asia-Pacific.

FAO has four general priority areas for action in knowledge management and ICTs: human and institutional capacity building; information content; systems, especially for rural or agricultural applications; and community development.

FAO would launch a new strategic programme to bridge the Rural Digital Divide, which the organization believed was critical to recognize and address the unique issues of the digital divide in rural areas. This programme goal was the reduction of hunger by ensuring that the rural poor and the organization that serve them were able to reduce and eventually bridge the rural digital divide.

## **UNESCO**

Ms Lapapang Choovong, National Professional Officer, UNESCO Bangkok, informed the meeting on various activities organized by the UNESCO in preparation for the WSIS, such as, co-organization of Pacific Islands Regional ICT Consultation in Suva, Fiji (9-11 April 2003), organization of Expert Group Meeting on Gender Issues in the Information Society in Paris (14 July 2003), co-organization of WSIS Intersessional Meeting in Paris (15-18 July 2003). From 1 to 9 August 2003, UNESCO supported the organization of the World Library and Information Congress convened by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) in Berlin. In September, UNESCO will co-sponsor, through IFLA, a regional workshop on school library services to be held in Bangkok from 9 to 11 September 2003. UNESCO will co-organize the forum on ICT and Gender in Kuala Lumpur from 20 to 23 August 2003. During the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Conference of UNESCO in Paris, UNESCO will organize a Ministerial Roundtable Meeting of ministers in charge of ICT on 9-10 October 2003. Finally, in the run-up to the WSIS, UNESCO will co-organize a conference on the Role of Science in the Information Society on 8-9 December 2003 in Geneva.

Ms Choovong also mentioned that UNESCO will encourage governments to formulate or review national information and ICT policies to ensure inclusion of all population groups and to

promote equitable access to information and knowledge for developed. She informed the participants that more information is available at [www.unesco.org/bangkok/education/ict](http://www.unesco.org/bangkok/education/ict).

## ITU

Mr Michael Calvano, Head, ITU Regional Office for Asia and Pacific, reviewed the development programme for Asia and the Pacific for 2003 as an example of ITU's efforts to bridge the digital divide. He indicated that the development framework for the ITU is set every four years by the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC). The last WTDC was held in Istanbul, Turkey, in March 2002.

The Istanbul Action Plan, one of the key outputs of the WTDC, identified the following areas of focus for the ITU's development activities for the next four-year period.

- sector and regulatory reform
- technologies and telecommunication/network development
- e-strategies and e-services/applications
- economics and finance incl. costs and tariffs
- human capacity building
- special programme for least developed countries
- special initiatives
  - private sector initiatives
  - gender issues
  - youth initiatives
  - assistance to indigenous peoples

Mr Calvano concluded his presentation with some comments on the draft Roadmap presentation given by Mr Hajela on 13 August 2003.

Regarding the management of Internet domain names, Mr Calvano indicated that the ITU Standards Bureau has been in serious discussions with ICANN and various stakeholders for over a year now on how ITU can assist in the Internet domain name management process. Due to ITU's global perspective, it might be best if the ITU takes the lead in this area. Of course, ITU would continue to work with both ESCAP and APT on Internet domain name issues that had a regional focus. He indicated that ITU would be working with APNIC on training for the region beginning next year.

ITU began investigating the need for a regional broadband network several years ago. ITU believed that not only pricing of services was affected by the lack of a high speed regional network, but also quality of service. ITU supports all efforts to establish this network. However, ITU sees this as a joint project of the public and private sectors. Public sector inputs and oversight is needed to assure that small island, landlocked and least developed nations are not bypassed by such a project. ESCAP could play a key role in organizing and overseeing such a regional effort.

Finally regarding the e-readiness index for Asia and the Pacific, Mr Calvano indicated that ITU was already working on updating telecom and ICT indicators to make them more relevant. These new indicators could be used in a e-readiness index for the ASP. ITU supports the concept of an e-readiness index since it would assist developing and least developed countries in the region to better understand what areas need strengthening in their efforts to bridge their national digital divides.

## **UNIDO**

Mr Nguyen Khac Tiep, Industrial Development Officer of UNIDO, Regional Office in Bangkok distributed at the Meeting two papers of UNIDO, namely: UNIDO Contribution to the WSIS and UNIDO Proposal for the WSIS: The needs for industry, in particular small and

medium-sized enterprises, as a driving force in the information society. He mentioned that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) play a vital role in most of the countries in the region, at whatever stage of economic development, especially SMEs help to achieve long-term sustainable poverty reduction through income generation and job creation. Use of ICT is instrumental in helping SMEs to grow and become competitive and UNIDO has developed and implemented various programmes, projects and softwares around the world to support SMEs in this process. UNIDO proposes to hold a workshop together with other interested organizations and partners at the WSIS to discuss and exchange of experience on the use of ICT for and by SMEs. UNIDO feels that an important outcome of the WSIS should be some concrete and practical ways to support SMEs in using and benefiting the progress of ICT as well as in contributing to the development of ICT, as explained in UNIDO's paper: Contribution to the WSIS.

## **ICAO**

Mr Li Peng of ICAO/ROAP mentioned the meeting regarding the ICT requirements and Policy in the Civil Aviation Sector. ICT based telecommunication and information service is the fundamental requirement for safe aircraft operation and regular air transportations services. The public Internet has been used by some administrations in the region's back up means of the Aeronautical Fixed Telecommunication Network (AFTN) to support aeronautical information exchange with security provisions adequately addressed as recommended by the regional Aeronautical Telecommunication Network Transition Task Force. The target date of implementation of the ground-to-ground segment of the regional Aeronautical Telecommunication Network (ATN) is 2005. It was further informed that ICAO Assembly adopted Resolution A33-24 for enhancing information systems to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization. ICAO ICT Management Committee was established and ICT Interim Master Plan for 2003-2004 had been developed. In accordance with relevant Conclusions formulated by the ICAO Asia-pacific Air navigation Planning and Implementation Regional

Group (APANPIRG), States and telecommunication service providers were requested to consider special requirements of aviation sector and provide reliable digital communication circuits and network to civil aviation administrations. To overcome some regulatory restrictions, telecommunication regulators were also requested to permit aviation administrations to establish international VSAT links between Air Traffic Service Units of adjacent countries and to use an International Private lease Circuit (IPLC) sharing with aeronautical voice and data requirement.

## **UNODC**

Mr Fumio Ito, Associate Expert of UNODC informed the meeting that UNODC was assigned to take care of both drug control matters and crime prevention matters. UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific has recently started to follow the crime matters, after three decades of contribution to drug control in the region.

UNODC is now considering furthering its efficiency by introducing standardized ICT platforms, such as, satellite Internet connection and common e-mail systems. UNODC Regional Centre has also launched several websites on drug control for public awareness rising. UNODC Regional Centre is now constructing an information sharing system based on the Internet for China and ASEAN countries under the ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) framework.

UNODC Regional Centre has made a big success in delivering computer based drug law enforcement training for six countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-Region, namely, Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The training course consists of 60 modules with comprehensive information on drug control law enforcement techniques. All the components were

developed in English and six local languages. Training has been delivered in more than 50 training centres around the region.

## **APT**

Mr A. Narayan, Secretary-General of APT pointed out the Meeting regarding Asia-Pacific regional Conference for WSIS which was held in Tokyo in January 2003. He informed the Meeting that the revised version of WSIS PreCom-2 was available at [www.itu.int/wsis](http://www.itu.int/wsis) and WSIS Intersessional Meeting was held from 15 to 18 July 2003 in Paris. He also informed the Meeting that WSIS PrepCom-3 would be held in Geneva from 15-26 September 2003. He further informed the Meeting that APT organized 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Pacific Initiatives for the Information Society (AIIS) Meeting in Bangalore, India from 21 to 25 July 2003. Mr Narayan also presented the key recommendations made by that meeting, and asked the participants to give their due considerations on those recommendations.

## **ASEAN FOUNDATION**

Mr Ruben C. Umaly, Executive Director of ASEAN Foundation informed the Meeting that the mission of the Foundation was to promote greater awareness of ASEAN countries and greater interaction among the peoples of ASEAN, as well as their wider participation on ASEAN's activities inter-alia through human-resources development that enable them realize their full potential and capacity to contribute to progress as productive and responsible members of society. He pointed out that ASEAN Foundation would like to collaborate with UNESCAP, especially, in the area of ICT. He also highlighted the present activities of ASEAN Foundation, especially, in the area for CMLV countries (Cambodia, Myanmar, Lao PDR and Vietnam) under the initiatives

for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Programme and the ICT 4D (ICT for Development) projects with support of IDRC, Canada.

## **UNU**

Mr Brendan Barrett, Academic Programme Officer, described the ICT activities of the UN University in the Asia Pacific. He explained that there are three UNU training centres in the region that have an ICT focus including the International Institute for Software Technology in Macau as well as the Institute for Advanced Studies and the UNU HQ in Tokyo. The UNU has been working on research related to Virtual Universities since 1996 and last introduced a new Online Learning Unit (<http://www.onlinelearning.unu.edu>) which is responsible for the implementation of two major projects - the Global Virtual University and the Asia Pacific Initiative. The latter includes collaboration with Keio University, LEAD Japan and CISCO systems as well as a network of universities in the region and seeks to promote online communication of research and e-learning. A new Media Studio was established in March 2003 in order to support this initiative and will engage in various experiments related to the next generation of IP based broadcasting. Innovation is required in the area of educational content development to match the shift to broadband in the Asia Pacific. UNU will facilitate the creation of an online community of practice in the region dealing with innovation in e-communication and e-learning. The UNU is actively seeking to create open platforms and new partnerships between universities, businesses and governments.

## **AIT**

Ms Kanchana Kanchanasut, head, Internet Education and Research Laboratory, AIT, presented the role being played by AIT in human resource development (HRD) in ICT area which

is an important factor for Information Society. She informed the meeting that AIT-carries a mission to be the Center of excellence IT for the region, setting examples in effective use of IT for sustainable development within the institute and the region, creating an ethically conscious IT Community and producing highly qualified and committed IT professionals.

## **AIBD**

Mr Wilfried Solbach, Human Resource Development Manager of AIBD informed the Meeting that AIBD has been playing important role in human resource development in Radio and TV. He briefed the meeting that AIBD in cooperation with different international organizations, such as United Nations Secretariat, UNESCAP, ITU, APT and other regional stakeholders organized the first conference of the Ministers on Information and Broadcasting in Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok from 27 to 28 May 2003, and thanked UNESCAP Secretariat and participants for giving due consideration to the outcome of that meeting.

Mr Solbach pointed out that the Institute is running about 15 IT-related training activities per year on top of it's radio and TV skills related activities. IT training plays an ever increasing role as all radio stations in the Asia-Pacific region are in the one or the other phase of migrating from analogue to digital technology.