

UNESCAP: Information Communication and Space Technology Division

UNESCAP is the regional headquarters of the United Nations Secretariat in Asia and the Pacific, dedicated to promoting economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific. Founded in 1947 in Shanghai, China, it moved to Bangkok, Thailand in 1949. It consists of 53 members and nine associate members.

The focus of UNESCAP's work is on three key areas:

1. Addressing Emerging Issues
2. Managing Globalization, and
1. Poverty Reduction

The Divisions within ESCAP are organized according to the thematic area that they serve: the Information, Communication and Space Technology Division serves the "Managing Globalization" thematic area.

Information, Communication and Space Technology

The Information Age with its new technologies I- the Internet, mobile phones, electronic commerce, GIS (geographic information systems) – has arrived in Asia and the Pacific. However, it has created an enormous digital divide between the developed and developing world and within countries themselves. The region contains globally connected mega-cities and remote villages that are only accessible by foot. UNESCAP works to help developing countries access this new world while building an enabling environment and the necessary regulatory frameworks. Information and communication technology (ICT), while drastically changing managerial and commercial requirements significantly improves productivity, quality and efficiency. Furthermore, it creates digital opportunities to integrate even remote and poor communities into the mainstream of social and economic development.

ICT provides great opportunities for development. It also poses critical challenges, such as social and cultural changes, marginalization of disadvantaged social groups, and cyber crime, if appropriate, policies are not properly addressed. Recognizing the importance of information in the knowledge economy and its impact on the economic and social development of Asian and Pacific countries, UNESCAP created the new Information, Communication and Space Technology Division in July 2002. To bridge the digital divide, this Division promotes policy development and applications of these technologies to benefit all the peoples of the region, encourages the development of cooperative mechanisms for the use of ICT for improved disaster management and facilitates human resources development in ICT.

As part of its technical assistance programme, national Governments can request the assistance of the Regional Adviser on ICT Policies and Strategies. The costs of this technical assistance are fully covered by UNESCAP.

For more information please visit the website: www.unescap.org or e-mail us at:

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