

*ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division*  
**ESCAP**

IMPROVING REGIONAL BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY THROUGH THE  
**ASIA-PACIFIC INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY**



# Landscape



Minimising production cost



Reducing car accidents



Increasing convenience of daily life



Reducing healthcare cost



Maximising stability of energy supply

New Values

AI



Cognition, learning and deduction

Cloud computing

Judgement deduction

Big data



Data analysis, storage

Internet



Broadband



LTE



4G



Wifi

Transmission

IoT



Surveillance cameras



Cars



Smart appliances



Health and medicine



Infrastructure

Simple data gathering

# Trends

## A FORCE

behind the fourth Industrial Revolution & a potential enabler of sustainable development

## UNPRECEDENTED

opportunities—and challenges

‘Data’ is considered the new ‘oil’ resource.  
to social, economic and environmental development in AP

## UPSURGED

- The region has overtaken Europe in the number of innovation centres built and operated
- Steep increase in private investment on new businesses based around AI, such as driverless cars and IoT.

# Potentials for Dev.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Positive relationship between AI and economic development (GDP)

## INVESTMENT ON R&D:

Positive relationship between quantity (and quality) of AI research and technological absorptive capacity

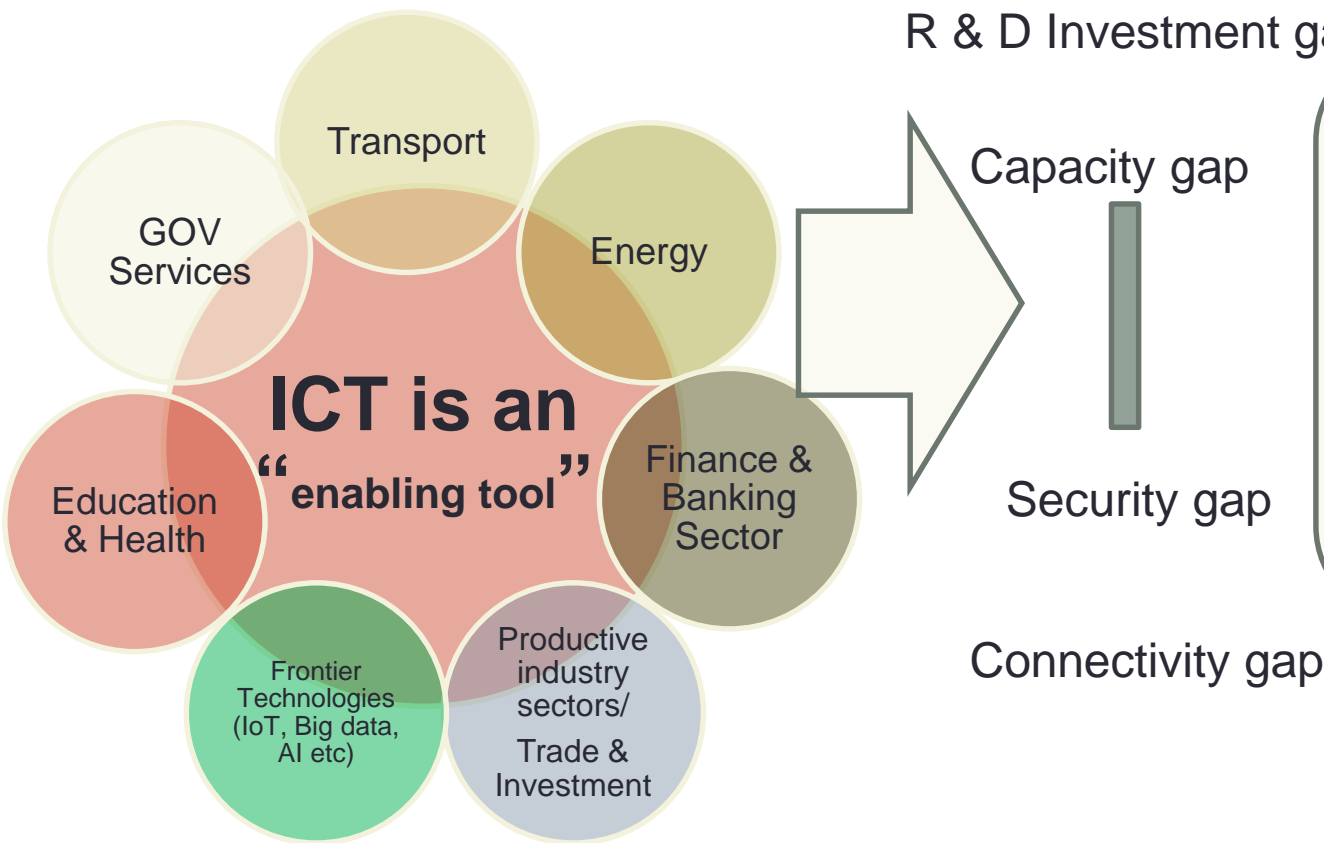
## BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY

Positive correlation between AI and broadband connectivity



# Opportunities & challenges in ICT Connectivity

It is central to all public/private operations



## Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

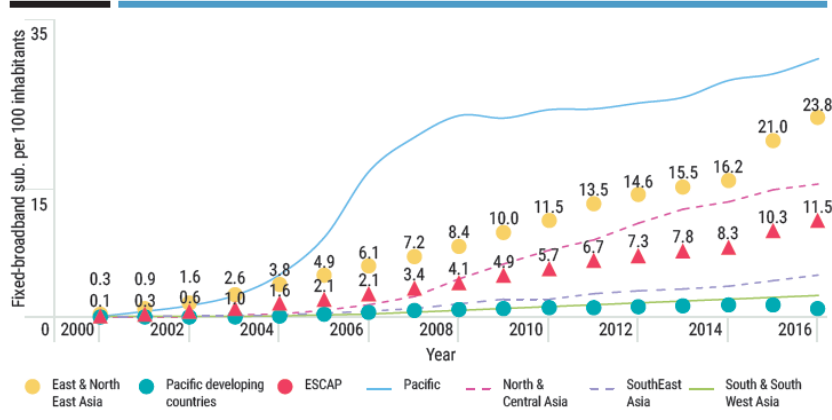
- SDG 4 (Quality Education),
- SDG 5 (Gender Equality),
- SDG 9 (Infrastructure);
- SDG 17 (Means of Impl.)
- Other SDGs...

It is an important component of future technologies and software applications



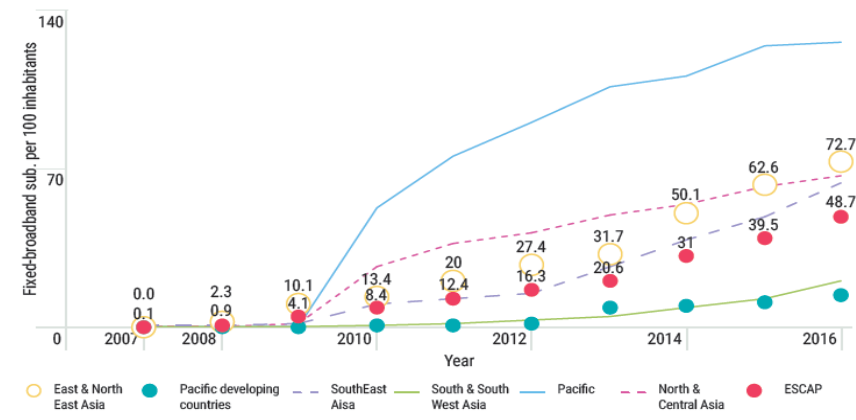
# Regional Digital Divide in Broadband Subscriptions

**Fixed** Fixed-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants by ESCAP subregion in 2016



Source: Produced by ESCAP, based on data from ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database (accessed July 2017).

**Mobile** Mobile-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants by income group, 2007-2016



Source: Produced by ESCAP, based on data from ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database (accessed July 2017).

Social Media usage has a higher correlation with mobile broadband subscriptions than with fixed broadband subscriptions:

**0.75** active social media user for every mobile-broadband subscription

**3.18** social media users for every fixed-broadband subscription in ESCAP



# Regional solution:

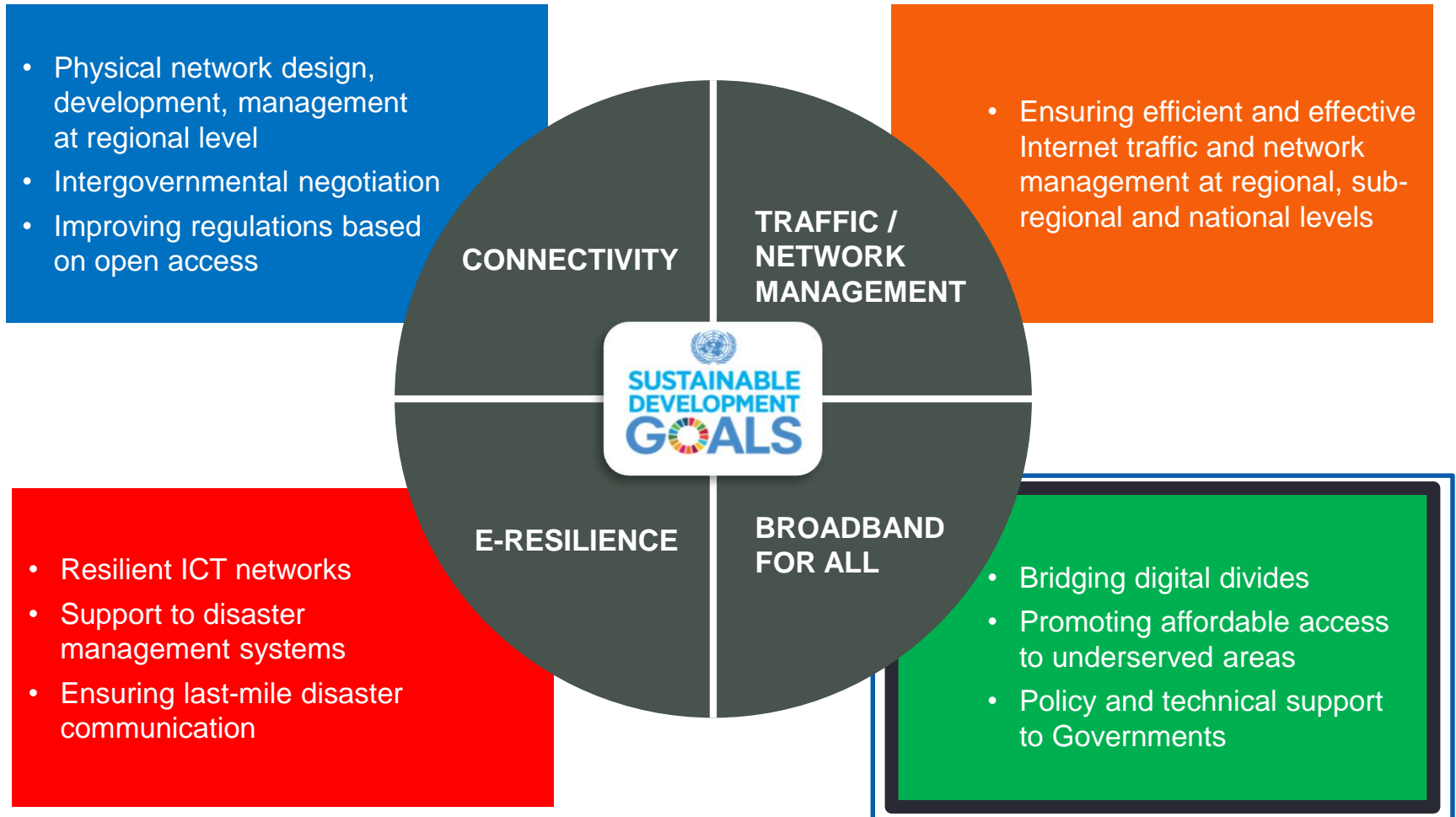
## Asia- Pacific Information Superhighway

- Mandated by ESCAP resolution 73/6
- Aims to **increase the availability and affordability of broadband Internet** across Asia and the Pacific,
- By strengthening the underlying Internet infrastructure in the region.
  - Promote **terrestrial and submarine fibre-optic connectivity**
  - **Provide a regional intergovernmental platform** focusing on the missing fibre-optic links between ESCAP countries



# Four Pillars

## of Asia- Pacific Information Superhighway



# AP-IS Initiatives

## Strategic Initiatives 2016-2018

1	Identification, coordination, deployment, expansion and integration of the regional backbone network
2	Establish a sufficient number of IXPs at the national and subregional levels and set out common principles on Internet traffic exchange
3	Regional social and economic studies
4	Enhancing ICT infrastructure resilience
5	Policy and regulations for leveraging existing infrastructure, technology and inclusive broadband initiatives
6	Capacity-building
7	AP-IS funding mechanism based on public-private partnerships

P1: Infrastructure & Connectivity

P2: Internet Traffic & Network Mgmt.

P3: E-Resilience

P4: Broadband for All





# Conclusions

- Development and expansion of AI
  - will be difficult without robust broadband connectivity
  - need **continuous learning** in all sectors.
  - Need mitigating measures on **cybersecurity**.
- Multi-stakeholder cooperation and collaboration is key
  - **Regional cooperation** is key for addressing the digital divide
  - **AP-IS Project** is crucial to promote the AI Revolution



# The way forward:

Welcoming the private sector, through this taskforce, to contribute to regional platforms

- In the development of AP-IS pre-feasibility and feasibility studies
- In regional forums:
  - the AP-IS Steering Committee meeting (27-28 August)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation (29-31 August)

