

UN teams up with Indonesia to develop urgently needed ICT training in the country

First four workshops in national language to take place in Bali and Jakarta

The United Nations will start next week a series of training workshops for Indonesian government officials aimed at equipping them with the knowledge and skills to fully utilize information and communication technology (ICT) for national development.

According to the government, Indonesia will need more than 300,000 personnel for the ICT industry by 2010. However, the ICT and Computer Higher Education Association of Indonesia says the country currently produces only about 20,000 ICT graduates every year.

The United Nations Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT) has been collaborating with the University of Indonesia and the Indonesian Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT) to find ways to boost training for ICT professionals. The first national workshop will be held in Bali, 30 March - 2 April, for heads of ICT agencies of local governments.

An Indonesian national language version of the *Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders (Academy)* - APCICT's core curriculum - will be used for the workshop.

The *Academy* consists of eight core modules that begin with ICT basics and build up to more advanced ICT for development topics. The workshop will focus on two of the eight *Academy* modules - on the linkages between ICT and the Millennium Development Goals; and ICT for development policy, process and governance. Three other workshops, focusing on the remaining six modules of the *Academy*, will take place in April and May, in Jakarta. Additional workshops are being planned.

This first workshop will also be attended by high-level government officials from Timor-Leste. During the session, discussions will be held on developing a tripartite partnership between the University of Indonesia, Timor-Leste's Directorate National for Information and Communication Technology and APCICT to roll-out the *Academy* in Timor-Leste.

Since 2008, APCICT has been rolling out national *Academies* by working closely with a number of national training institutions, providing support in customizing, translating and delivering *Academies* that take national needs and priorities into account. This approach has not only enabled APCICT to build the capacities of national training institutions and policymakers, but also expanded the reach and impact of the *Academy*.

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Headquartered in Bangkok, ESCAP is the largest of the UN's five Regional Commissions in terms of its membership, population served and area covered. The only intergovernmental forum covering the entire Asia-Pacific region, ESCAP works to promote sustainable and inclusive economic and social progress. More information is available at www.unescap.org.

To date, such partnership has been or is being established with Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and Pacific Island countries.

About UN-APCICT: A subsidiary body of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and located in Incheon, Republic of Korea, APCICT aims to strengthen the efforts of the member countries of ESCAP to use ICT in their socio-economic development through building human and institutional capacity for ICT.

For more information about the *Academy*, please visit <http://www.unapcict.org/academy>.

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