



Capacity Building Webinar on Cross-Sectoral Infrastructure Sharing for Broadband Connectivity

29-30 September 2022 (Virtual, via Zoom)

BACKGROUND

The Asian and Pacific Training Centre for ICT for Development (APCICT/ESCAP), in collaboration with the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI), is organising the **Capacity Building Webinar on Cross-Sectoral Infrastructure Sharing for Broadband Connectivity** from 29 to 30 September 2022. The webinar is being held in conjunction with the Third Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific (RECI) on 28-30 September 2022 in Bangkok.

The event will mark the launch of APCICT's Academy Module on "Cross-Sectoral Infrastructure Sharing for Broadband Connectivity". The module introduces the concept of cross-sectoral infrastructure sharing and provides an overview of how suitable strategies can be leveraged to expand the reach of broadband connectivity to the unserved and underserved living in rural and remote parts of the world.

The webinar aims to foster a better understanding and appreciation of cross-sectoral infrastructure sharing that supports broadband connectivity to reach the unconnected. It will also explore the policy and regulatory issues around infrastructure sharing and explain prevalent models of cross-sectoral infrastructure sharing with illustrative examples. The module will support policymakers in decision making process and provide recommendations to support meaningful broadband connectivity.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the webinar, participants are expected to:

- Gain a better understanding of the benefits of sectoral and cross-sectoral infrastructure sharing for expanding broadband connectivity.
- Understand how the cost of installing broadband can be reduced by sharing existing utilities and coordinating future expansions with them.
- Explore approaches for regulation and business models for cross-sectoral infrastructure sharing.
- Enhance their knowledge on open access broadband networks and open access broadband infrastructure as a common utility.
- Understand the various models of sectoral and cross-sectoral infrastructure sharing.
- Share ideas on cooperation and collaboration among the sectoral players for sectoral and cross-sectoral infrastructure sharing.
- Provide practical insights on how to apply the approaches in cross-sectoral policymaking

TARGET AUDIENCE

- The event is targeted to policymakers and civil servants at the national and local government levels who are responsible for or associated directly or indirectly with telecommunication infrastructure, ICT, renewable energy, transportation, utilities, finance, planning and implementation.

STRUCTURE

The webinar will be held from 29 September (10:00 am to 1:00pm Bangkok time, UTC+7) to 30 September 2022 (9:00 am to 1:00 pm Bangkok time, UTC+7). It will consist of a series of presentations, case studies and group discussions.

CONTACTS

APCICT/ESCAP

Mr. Robert De Jesus, Programme
Officer, dejesus3@un.org

Ms. Sara Bennouna, Team Assistant,
sara.bennouna@un.org

Alliance for Affordable Internet

Ms Anju Mangal, Head of Asia Pacific,
anju.mangal@webfoundation.org

PROGRAMME AGENDA

Capacity Building Webinar on Cross-Sectoral Infrastructure Sharing for Broadband Connectivity

29-30 September 2022, via Zoom

Time*	Day 1 (Thursday, 29 September 2022)
10:00 am – 10:15 am	<p>Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Remarks, Mr. Kiyoungh Ko, Director, APCICT/ESCAP • Partnership Remarks, Ms. Anju Mangal, Head of Asia Pacific, A4AI-Web Foundation • Group Photo
10:15 am – 10:30 am	<p>Roundtable Introductions by participations (break-out rooms)</p>
10:30 am – 11:45 am	<p>Session 1: Introduction, Advantages and Economics of Infrastructure Sharing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The session aims to explore cross-sector infrastructure sharing as an avenue to expand the reach of broadband at a lower cost. We start with a discussion on the ‘infrastructure’ behind our seamless movements in the Internet world. Here we introduce the argument around cost-sharing and highlight the challenges of maintaining the quality of services and the security and resilience of a ‘shared’ infrastructure. Breakout sessions will focus on the major advantages of sharing the infrastructures across the sectors regarding revenue, services, expansion, affordability and quality. <p>Resource Person: <i>Prof. KM Baharul Islam</i>, Chair, Centre for Public Policy and Government, Indian Institute of Management Kashipur and Visiting Professor, London School of Economics</p>
11:45 am – 1:00 pm	<p>Session 2: Policy and Regulatory Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In this session, we discuss issues like market distortions and fair competition that is raised by incumbents and discuss how these issues are tackled from legal and regulatory contexts. We will discuss cross-sector infrastructure sharing as a voluntary process and evolving market dynamics around such arrangements. It will also talk about the role of national regulatory agencies (NRA) in mandating infrastructure sharing in the context of commercially non-lucrative rural broadband deployment programmes. Breakout sessions will focus on policy issues related to

	<p>cross-sector infrastructure sharing that might support and facilitate the faster rollout of broadband connectivity.</p> <p>Resource Person: <i>Prof KM Baharul Islam</i>, Chair, Centre for Public Policy and Government, Indian Institute of Management Kashipur and Visiting Professor, London School of Economics</p>
--	--

Time*	Day 2 (Friday, 30 September 2022)
9:00 am – 10:00 am	<p>Panel Session: National Perspectives and Experiences on Cross-Sectoral Infrastructure Sharing for Broadband Connectivity</p> <p><u><i>This session is organized as a side-event of the Third Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific (RECI) taking place in Bangkok.</i></u></p> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brigadier General Md Nasim Parvez, Director-General, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) • Ms. Tenanoia Simona, CEO, Tuvalu Telecommunications • Mr. Talant Sultanov, Co-Founder of Internet Society-Kyrgyz Chapter and IlimBox.kg Online School • Representative from the Ministry of Technology and Communications, Lao People’s Democratic Republic <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Anju Mangal, Regional Head of Asia Pacific, Alliance for Affordable Internet
10:00 am – 11:00 am	<p>Session 3: Challenges and Opportunities of Open Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In this session, we will discuss the open access model of the broadband network where ownership of the infrastructure and delivery of services are in different hands. It will address how multiple service providers can use a shared broadband infrastructure and enter new markets without investing in costly infrastructure. We also examine the arguments that open access broadband is an alternative solution to investing in last-mile connectivity. We will explore the prevalent open access

	<p>network business models, highlighting some potential risks in terms of conflict in competitive interest, technical compatibility and inter-party disputes.</p> <p>Resource Person: <i>Prof. KM Baharul Islam</i>, Chair, Centre for Public Policy and Government, Indian Institute of Management Kashipur and Visiting Professor, London School of Economics</p>
<p>11:00 am – 12:00 pm</p>	<p>Session 4: Business Models of Infrastructure Sharing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The session will extend the discussion on different business models and roles of different players in the rolling out the broadband. The session will highlight some illustrative cases covering three basic types of business models. Three major models will be discussed here: infrastructure asset sharing, infrastructure mutualisation and infrastructure cooperation. <p>Resource Person: <i>Prof. KM Baharul Islam</i>, Chair, Centre for Public Policy and Government, Indian Institute of Management Kashipur and Visiting Professor, London School of Economics</p>
<p>12:00 pm – 1:00 pm</p>	<p>Group Discussion and Reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A general group discussion on a strategic case will be organised in this session where potential solutions, based on the inputs from previous sessions, is expected to be put forward by the participants. <p>Closing</p>

(*) Bangkok time