***APCICT Annual Digital Leaders Programme***

# **Trustworthy AI and Digital Government for Public Sector Innovation**

# *5-6 November 2025, Incheon, Republic of Korea*

# **BACKGROUND**

Digital transformation is reshaping governance across the Asia-Pacific region and globally. Governments are increasingly adopting digital technologies to modernize administrative systems, enhance transparency, and deliver more efficient and inclusive public services. Emerging tools such as big data analytics, blockchain, and artificial intelligence (AI) are becoming integral to the public sector’s innovation and reform agendas. However, with these opportunities come new challenges, including data privacy, cybersecurity, ethical risks, and persistent digital divides.

Against this backdrop, AI has emerged as one of the most transformative technologies of our time. While AI offers immense potential to improve service delivery and efficiency, its deployment raises questions of trust, ethics, and accountability. Policymakers must navigate a complex landscape of opportunities and risks, ensuring that AI adoption is transparent, fair, and secure. Trustworthy AI is now a global priority, with international frameworks from UNESCO, OECD, and the European Union emphasizing principles such as fairness, accountability, transparency, inclusiveness, and human rights. Governments need to build institutional readiness, strengthen governance frameworks, and ensure that public officials are equipped to lead responsibly in this new AI-driven environment.

At the same time, digital government remains the broader foundation for public sector transformation. Beyond technology adoption, digital government is about redesigning governance processes to be more agile, participatory, and citizen-centric. It encompasses strategies for open data, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, digital literacy, and the use of emerging technologies for innovation. Countries that have advanced in digital government demonstrate the value of integrated digital ecosystems in driving efficiency, transparency, and trust in government.

In the Asia-Pacific region, countries are at varying stages of digital transformation. Some have developed advanced digital government strategies, while others face significant barriers such as limited infrastructure, digital skills gaps, and institutional challenges. Policymakers and civil servants across the region consistently highlight the need for targeted capacity building to strengthen understanding of digital government strategies and frameworks, and to responsibly harness frontier technologies like AI.

The Asian and Pacific Training Centre for ICT for Development (APCICT), a regional institute of ESCAP, has been responding to this demand through its flagship programme, “Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders”. Two new modules on Trustworthy AI and Digital Government for Public Sector Innovations have recently been developed to equip policymakers and civil servants with practical knowledge and actionable tools to address these emerging needs.

To roll out these new modules, APCICT, in collaboration with the Ministry of Science and ICT of the Republic of Korea, Incheon Metropolitan City and Incheon Tourism Organization, is organizing a two-day capacity-building programme that will convene its network of national partners, comprising of government officials, policymakers, and practitioners to explore the fundamentals of trustworthy AI and digital government, share good practices, and strengthen institutional capacities for innovation.

# **OBJECTIVES**

The programme aims to:

# Enhance awareness and understanding of the principles, opportunities, and risks of trustworthy AI in the public sector.

# Equip policymakers and civil servants with knowledge on global and regional AI governance frameworks, as well as organizational readiness assessment tools.

# Strengthen capacities to design and implement digital government strategies that foster innovation, openness, and citizen-centric service delivery.

# Provide a platform for dialogue and exchange of experiences among policymakers, experts, and practitioners in the region.

# **PARTICIPANTS**

The event will be attended by policymakers and government officials from Asia and the Pacific involved in digital transformation and regulatory frameworks related to AI and data, including representatives of APCICT’s network of partners from ICT-related ministries and civil service training institutes in the region.

**PROGRAMME[[1]](#footnote-2)**

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| Wednesday, 5 November 2025 | |
| Time | Description |
| 08:30 – 9:00 | *Registration* |
| 9:00 – 9:15 | **Opening Session** |
|  | ***Module on Trustworthy AI*** |
| 9:15 – 10:30 | **Session 1: Fundamentals of Trustworthy AI** |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | *Coffee Break* |
| 10:45 – 11:45 | **Session 2: Global and Regional Frameworks for Trustworthy AI** |
| 12:00 – 13:30 | *Lunch* |
| 13:30 – 15:30 | **Session 3: Organizational Readiness for Trustworthy AI** |
| 15:30 – 15:45 | *Coffee Break* |
| 15:45 – 16:30 | **Session 4: Building Trustworthy AI** |

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| Thursday, 6 November 2025 | |
| Time | Description |
| 08:30 – 9:00 | *Registration* |
|  | ***Module on Digital Government for Public Sector Innovation*** |
| 9:00 – 10:30 | **Session 1: Foundations of Digital Government** |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | *Coffee Break* |
| 10:45 – 12:00 | **Session 2: Governance Frameworks for Digital Transformation** |
| 12:00 – 13:30 | *Lunch* |
| 13:30 – 14:45 | **Session 3: Enablers of Digital Government** |
| 14:45 – 15:00 | *Coffee Break* |
| 15:00 – 16:30 | **Session 4: Innovation and AI for Public Sector Innovation** |
| 16:30 | **Evaluation and Closing** |

1. The programme will combine presentations by experts, interactive discussions and group exercises based on the two new Academy modules. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)