***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**

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| Wednesday, 5 November 2025 | |
| Time | Description |
| 08:30 – 9:00 | *Registration* |
| 09:00 – 09:10 | **Opening and Introduction**   * Mr. Kiyoung Ko, Director, APCICT/ESCAP |
|  | **Academy Module on Trustworthy AI**  *Resource Person: Mr. Timothy Huey En, APCICT AI Consultant, Lead Trainer at TÜV SÜD Singapore and Associate Trainer at NTUC Learning Hub, Singapore* |
| 09:10 – 10:15 | **Session 1: AI Power Journey to Industry 5.0**  Explore the evolution of AI from Industry 3.0 to 5.0, highlighting generative, agentic, and physical AI. Learn how these technologies are reshaping governance and public services, and why “trustworthy AI” is essential for ethical use. Includes a hands-on activity mapping AI risk to human rights.  **Learning Activity 1: Generative AI Risk Mapping to Human Rights** |
| 10:15 – 10:30 | *Coffee Break* |
| 10:30 – 11:30 | **Session 2: Trustworthy AI Framework**  Get an overview of global and regional AI governance frameworks, including UNESCO, OECD, and EU guidelines. Learn how to adapt these principles to national contexts and build multi-layered governance. Includes expert sharing on legal implementation.  **Expert Sharing: Prof Heng Wang, Professor of Law, Yong Pung How School of Law, Singapore** |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | **Special Messages from the Co-Organizers**   * Representative from the Ministry of Science and ICT, Republic of Korea * Representative from Incheon Metropolitan City   **Group Photo** |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | *Lunch* |
| 13:00 – 14:30 | **Session 3: Building A Trustworthy AI Model**  This session focuses on how public sector leaders can translate AI governance principles into operational practice. Participants will explore key components of a trustworthy AI operating model, including strategic alignment, lifecycle governance, risk management, and stakeholder engagement. The session introduces practical tools and frameworks to guide responsible AI deployment, with emphasis on leadership roles, organizational readiness, and continuous oversight. An industry expert will share real-world experiences in implementing AI governance within institutional settings  **Expert Sharing: Mr. Amit Prakash, Professor, International Institute of Information Technology Bangalaore (IIIT-B)** |
| 14:30 – 14:45 | *Coffee Break* |
| 14:45 – 16:00 | **Session 4 : Is Your Organisation Ready for Trustworthy AI?**  Assess your organization’s readiness for responsible AI deployment using UNESCO’s framework. Identify gaps and priorities through a practical group exercise. Includes expert sharing on institutional capacity building.  **Learning Activity 2 – Readiness assessment for a selected AI Use Case**  **Expert Sharing: Mr. Sriganesh Lokanathan, Regional Digital Transformation Specialist, UNDP** |

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| Thursday, 6 November 2025 | |
| Time | Description |
| 08:30 – 9:00 | *Registration* |
|  | **Academy Module on Digital Government for Public Sector Innovation**  *Resource Person: Mr. M. Jae Moon, APCICT Consultant, Underwood Distinguished Professor and Director, Institute for Future Government, Yonsei University* |
| 9:00 – 10:30 | **Session 1: Foundations of Digital Government**  The session introduces the foundations of digital government. It will examine the scope of digital government, trace its evolution over time, and highlight the paradigm shift from one-stop to zero-stop service models. The session will also review global trends and performance in digital government, providing participants with a broad understanding of how countries are advancing in this area and setting the stage for deeper discussions on strategies and innovations. |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | *Coffee Break* |
| 10:45 – 12:00 | **Session 2: Governance Frameworks for Digital Transformation**  This session focuses on how governance must be redesigned in the era of digital transformation. It explores agile and adaptive governance models, the growing importance of data-driven decision-making, and the role of inclusiveness and participation in strengthening public sector governance. The session also examines how digital government contributes to good governance and elaborates on the UN’s whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches that emphasize integration and collaboration across institutions and stakeholders.  **Country Sharing: Mr. Artem Golubev, Specialist, Laboratory of International Development, Standardization and Application of ICTs, The M.I. Krivosheev National Research Centre for Telecommunications, Russian Federation** |
| 12:00 – 13:30 | *Lunch* |
| 13:30 – 14:45 | **Session 3: Enablers of Digital Government**  This session examines the operational enablers of digital government, beginning with the evolution of open government and the shift from traditional models to data-driven approaches. It highlights the policy, information, administrative, and citizen dimensions that distinguish “old” from “new” open government, emphasizing the importance of transparency, interactivity, and collaboration. The session emphasizes the importanc of digital literacy and skills development as critical factors for successful digital government, addressing persistent divides by gender, income, and geography, as well as emerging inequalities linked to AI competences.  **Expert Sharing: Ms. Anju Mangal, Technical Director, Cadmus Group and Founder, Pacific-Global Digital Alliance** |
| 14:45 – 15:00 | *Coffee Break* |
| 15:00 – 16:30 | **Session 4: Innovation and AI for Public Sector Innovation**  This session explores how artificial intelligence can be harnessed to drive public sector innovation and transformation. It highlights the urgency of inclusive AI governance, expanding AI’s role for social good, and addressing governance challenges through participatory approaches. The session will conclude with key policy recommendations for advancing global collaboration on AI governance to ensure it supports sustainable and inclusive development.  **Expert Sharing: Mr. Yudho Giri Sucahyo, Professor, Faculty of Computer Science, Universitas Indonesia** |
| 16:30 | **Evaluation and Closing** |