

**Interventions by INDIA on Agenda Item 3(e) & 3(f) – Information & Communication Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction**

E/ESCAP/69/3, Section V	Sub-programme Overview : Issues and Challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific
E/ESCAP/69/9	Report of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology on its third session
E/ESCAP/69/10	Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its seventh session
E/ESCAP/69/25	Note Verbale dated 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2013 from the Embassy of Japan in Thailand addressed to the Secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
E/ESCAP/69/INF/5	Report of the Typhoon Committee
E/ESCAP/69/INF/6	Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones

Mr. Chairperson,

On the Report of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology on its third session (E/ESCAP/69/9):

India acknowledges the importance of ICT as an enabler of cross-sectoral development goals and supports the role of ESCAP as a regional platform for inter-governmental cooperation and for developing a regional action framework. Focused analysis of gaps in infrastructure, policy framework and financial outlays is an important step in deciding the way forward. Collaboration with all relevant national and international agencies must be explored for addressing the ICT needs of the region. Capacity building needs to be given special attention for enabling ICT led development. India has already adopted a National Policy on IT for inclusive and sustainable development.

India has also adopted a Citizen Engagement Framework for e-Governance Projects and a Framework and Guidelines for Use of Social Media by Government Agencies for ensuring continued multi-stake holder dialogue in e-Governance. Participation of civil society, private sector and academic institutions is being leveraged to attain India's development goals through ICT.

Regional Cooperation in documenting statistical information will be of great importance in identifying factors critical for creating an ICT enabled society and India supports efforts to collect and analyse such statistical information. Efforts to develop training programmes addressing this need should to be supported by all the stakeholders.

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Knowledge sharing by addressing new target groups and developing special training programmers will be of great importance in disseminating information as well as obtaining feedback on the efforts being made in this direction.

**B. Matters brought to the attention of the Commission**

Cost effective and affordable access to broadband internet through fixed and mobile media is a primary need and India supports efforts to provide affordable bandwidth to all users, especially the socially and economically disadvantaged sections.

Use of both existing and emerging technologies for providing multi dimensional access to citizens through internet, mobile and voice media for accessing government services is extremely important in today's world and India supports such initiatives taking into account the unique socio-economic conditions of the region.

India has adopted a Policy Framework for Mobile Governance for providing government services to the people through mobile devices and ensuring much wider access to such services, especially in rural areas.

*Mr. Chairperson, on the - Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its seventh session (document E/ESCAP/69/10):*

India endorses the appreciation for the programmes and activities of APCICT. Long term institutionalization of APCICT programmes is necessary for a sustainable approach to knowledge sharing, multi-stake holder engagement and overall capacity building efforts in the region. Special efforts must be made to develop new training modules addressing the needs of new target groups which would enable greater knowledge sharing as well as feedback from them to sharpen the focus of training initiatives as per their needs.

Impact assessment of the efforts in this direction will enable focused analysis based on empirical data and India supports efforts to develop and collect such statistical data and also for ensuring its availability in the public domain. India supports the recommendations for active websites with sharable knowledge repositories containing information on both successful initiatives as well as capacity building content. India has supported APCICT administratively and financially and such support will continue to be provided in future as well.