



# Agenda Item 2: Asia-Pacific Digital Transformation Landscape

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Information and Communications Technology  
and Disaster Risk Reduction Division



# 1. COVID-19 and Digital Big Bang

1. In the drive to combat COVID-19, many governments, businesses and people began to rapidly adopt digital technologies, becoming “digital by default”, thereby detonating a “digital big bang”.
2. ESCAP is pleased to present the *Asia-Pacific Digital Transformation Report 2022*, the first edition of a biennial flagship publication series of ESCAP, as summarized in the secretariat note prepared under agenda item 2.

## 2. Key Objectives

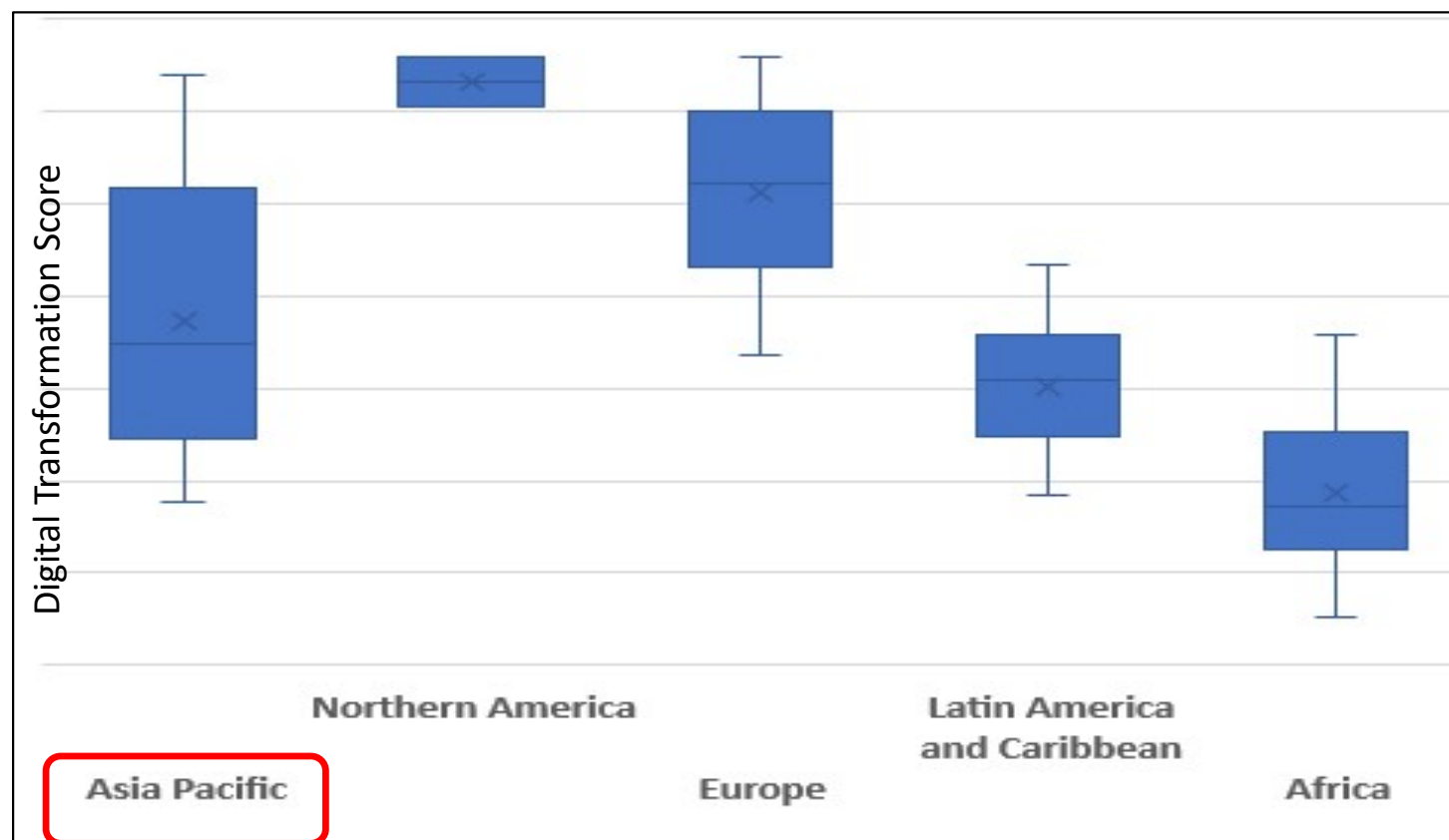
1. Using a data-driven analytical approach, **deepen our understanding** of the rapid and complex digital transformation process resulting from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. **Draw insights for policy development** by identifying and sharing good practices on digital transformation
3. **Highlight regional cooperative actions** to advance digital transformation

## 3. Findings

1. A dynamic digital transformation process is underway
2. The region has some of the most digitally advanced countries. Middle income countries show dynamic processes of both digital innovation as well as adaptation and adoption. However, most low-income countries lag behind.
3. With digital by default, Asia-Pacific region is now the most digitally divided region of the world

# 3. Findings

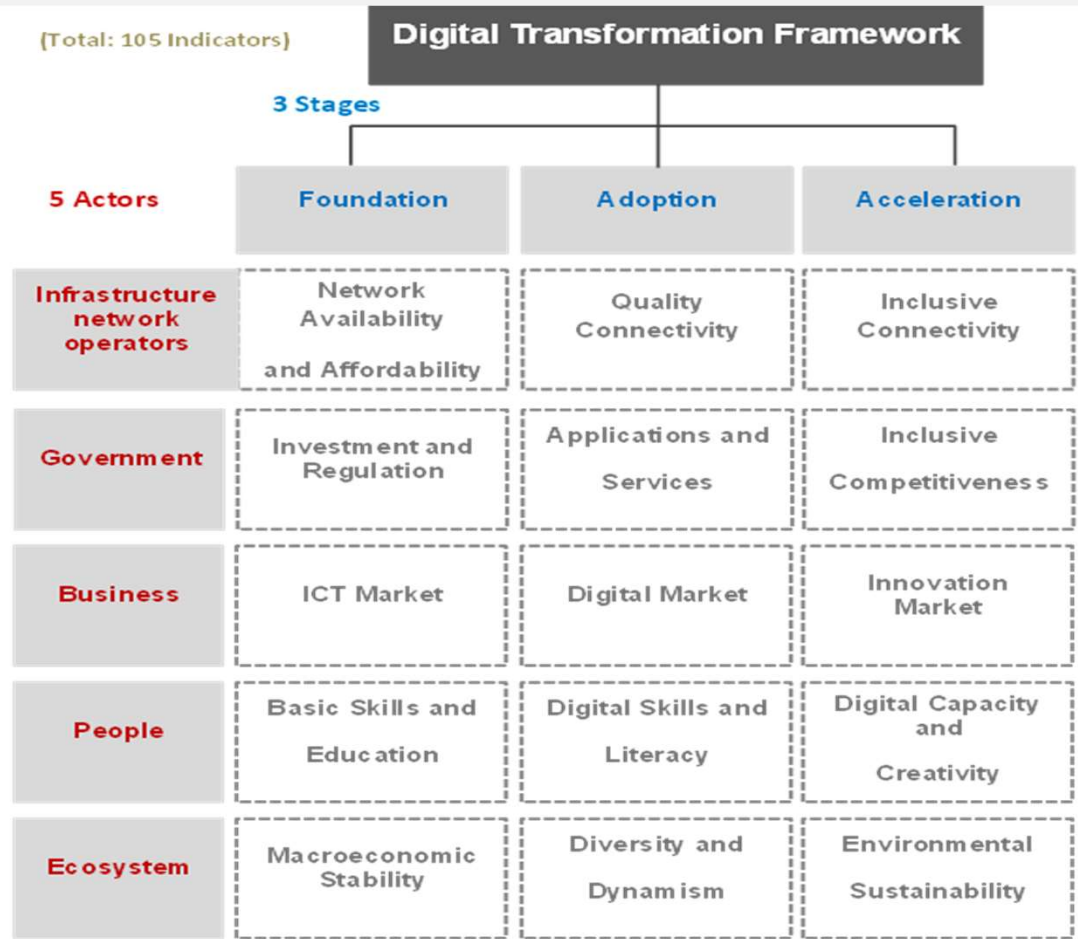
1. Age, gender, education, disability and geography the key driving characteristics of the digital divide.
2. A vicious cycle of economic inequalities within & across countries.



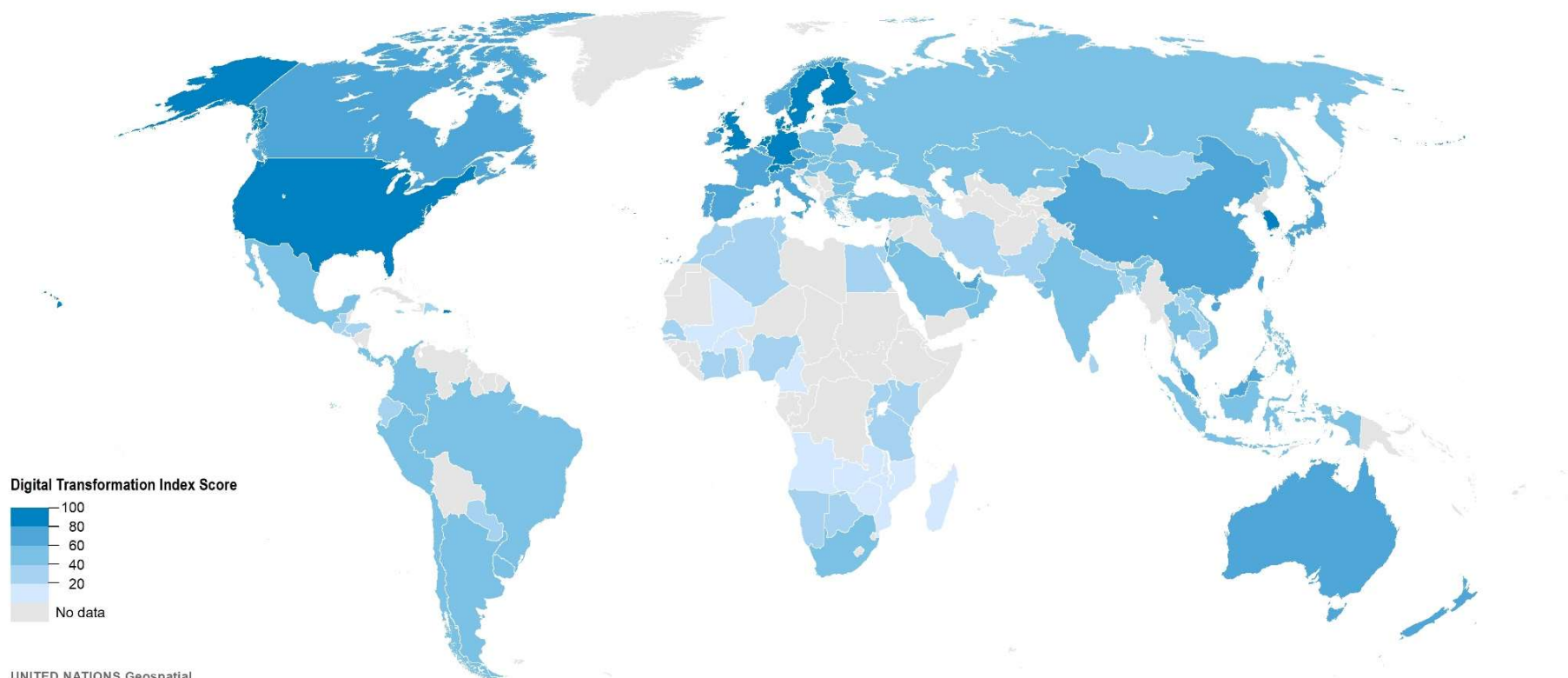
Source: Produced by ESCAP based on data from various sources from UN agencies and global/regional organizations sources.

# 3. Findings

Framework of digital transformation and its Index 1.0



# 4. Dynamics of Digital Transformation



UNITED NATIONS Geospatial

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

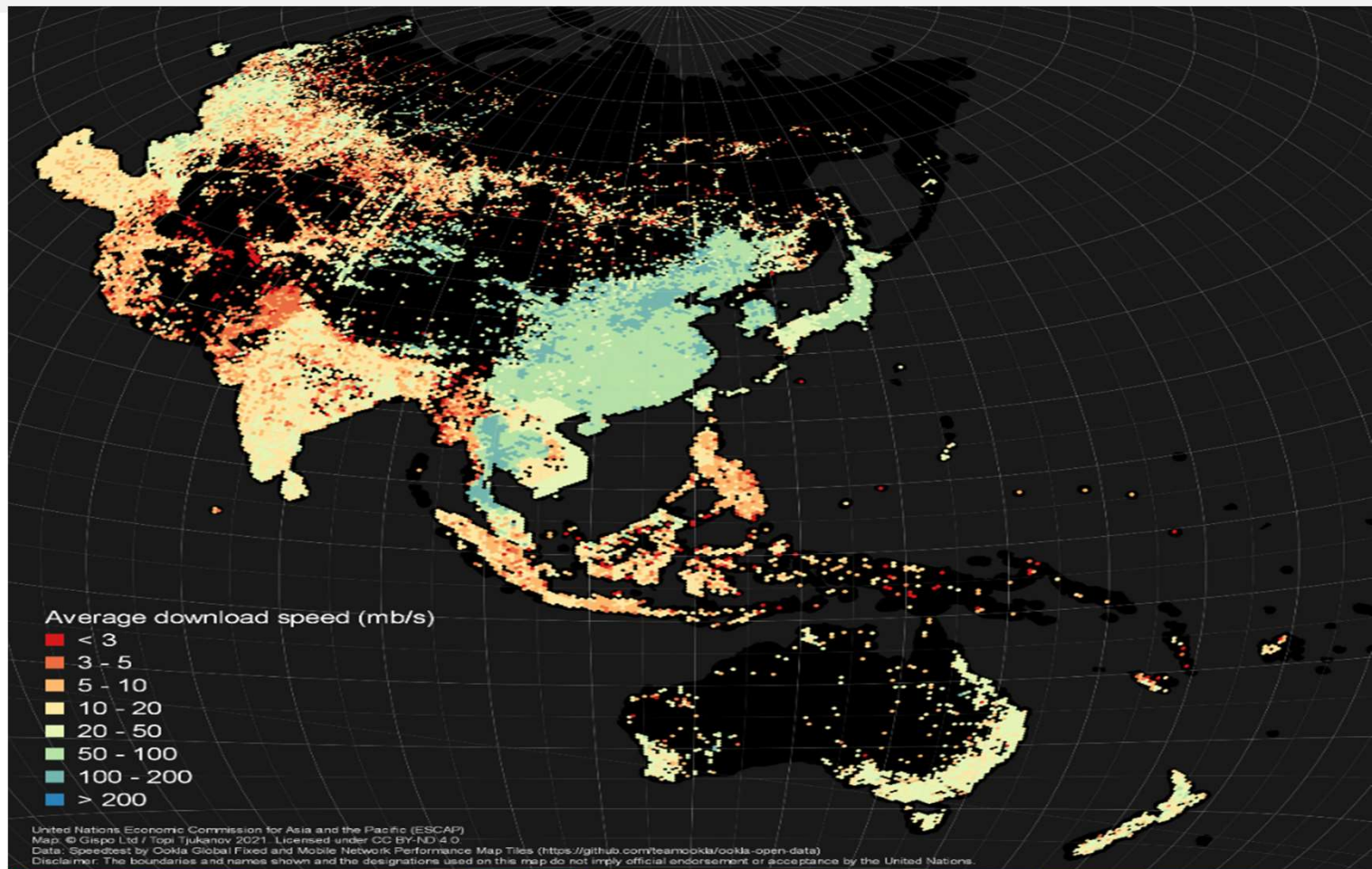
Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

Jul 2022

# 4. Dynamics of Digital Transformation

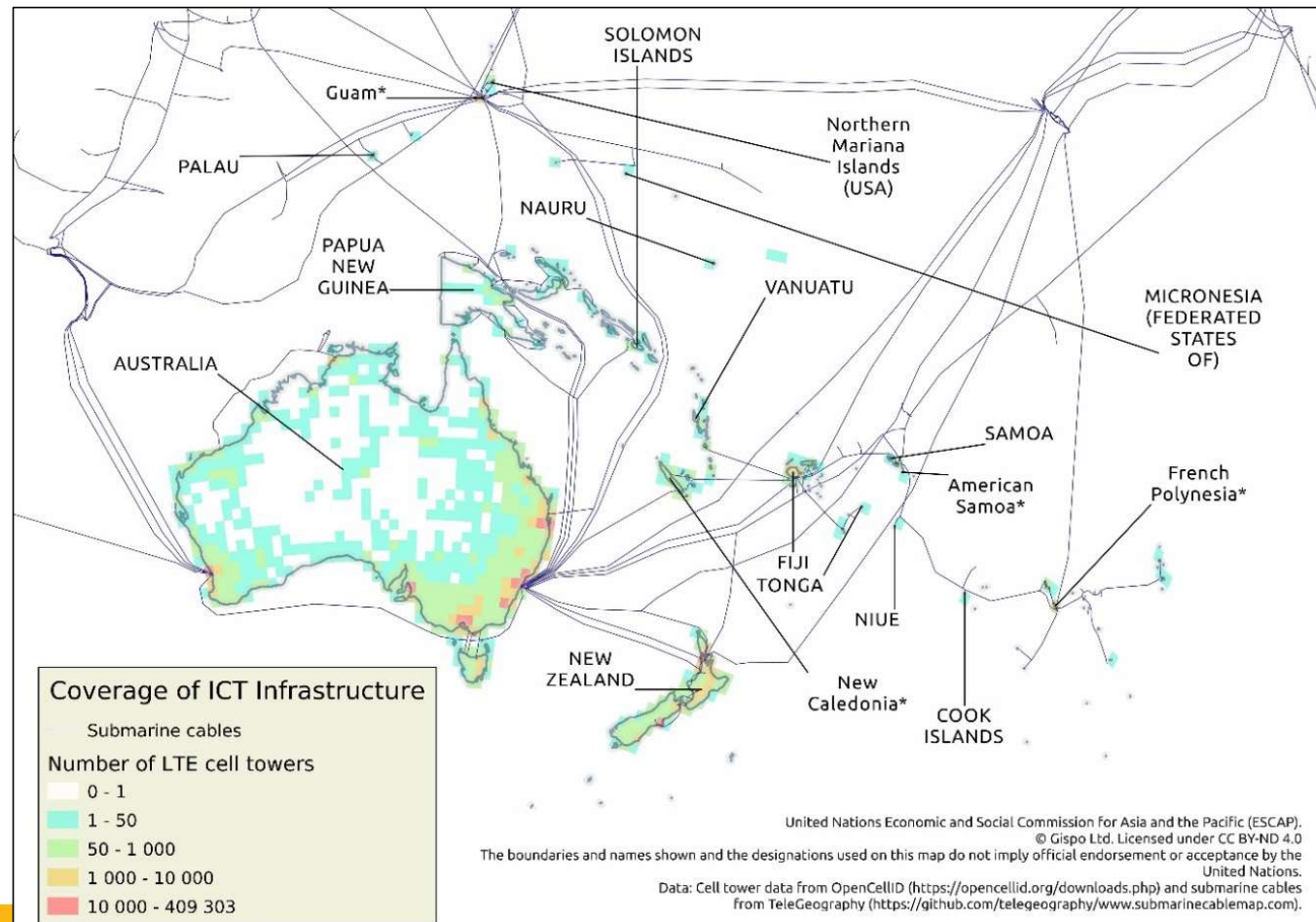
Fixed  
broadband  
speed gaps in  
Asia and the  
Pacific based  
on real time  
aggregated  
Internet usage





# 4. Dynamics of Digital Transformation

## ICT infrastructure in the Pacific small island developing States



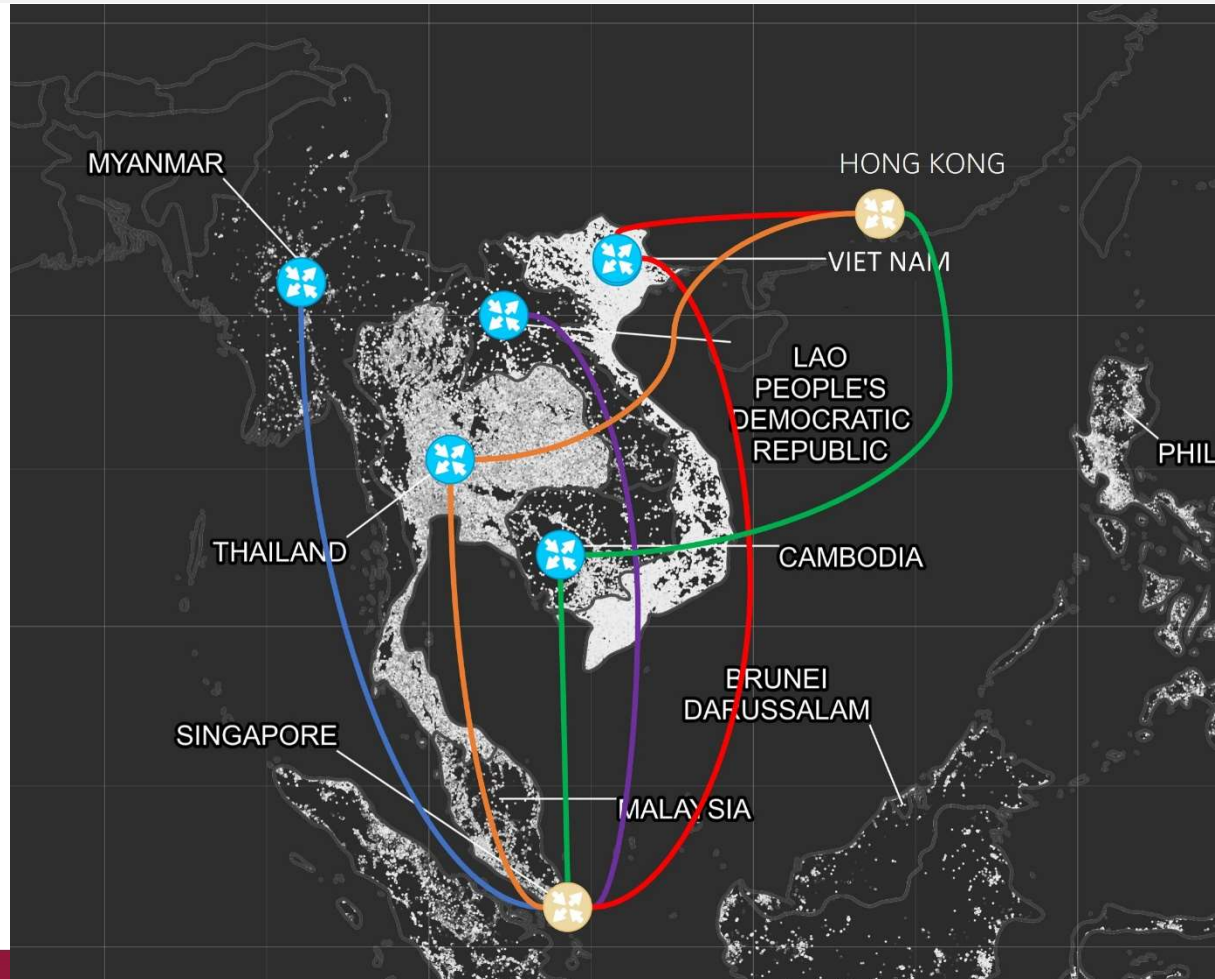
## 4. Dynamics of Digital Transformation

Because of fewer IXPs in Pacific and CLVT, Internet traffic between neighbouring countries may be routed via Singapore or Hong Kong, China, and further afield, over privately leased lines

- high transit costs and latency

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affordability and quality loss for end users affected.



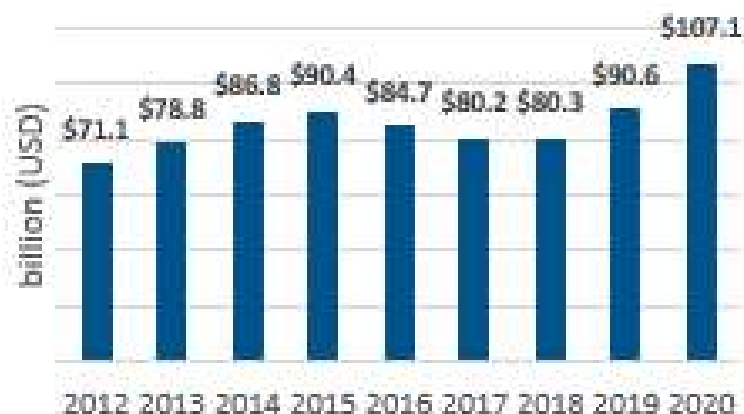
## 5. Governing Digitally

1. E-government central driver of the digital transformation
2. **Based on UNDESA's e-government Development Index (EGDI):**
  - The highest proportion of countries with very-high EGDI values are concentrated in Europe, followed by Asia
3. **One key role of e-government, is how government agencies systematically collect and share digital data in a secure and efficient way.**
4. Additionally, how to simplify regulatory complexity in e-government services. Detracts from user friendliness, impacting elderly and those with low education levels, who stand to benefit most from e-government services

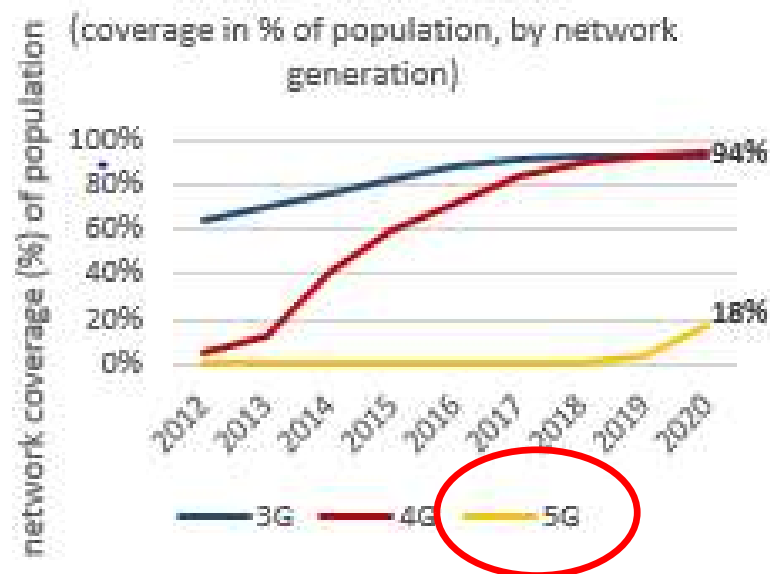
# 6. Infrastructure Investment Increasing but Not Enough

## Investment and coverage in mobile Internet in Asia and the Pacific

Total investments by the mobile industry in Asia and the Pacific (capex, in billion USD)



Mobile Broadband Coverage in Asia and the Pacific (coverage in % of population, by network generation)



## 7. Shaping Our Digital Future (1)

1. The challenge now is to shape our digital future with **new development paradigms**.
2. Policy and regulatory frameworks that
  - a. strengthen national **competitiveness**,
  - b. boost **productivity** of business and manufacturing, and
  - c. provide people with **new value and services**, while opening up opportunities that change values and mindsets.
3. Flexible, adaptive, corroborative policies and regulations with new methods of consultations and partnerships

## 7. Shaping Our Digital Future (2)

3. The *Report* suggests **three pathways**, aligned with the AP-IS Action Plan 2022-2026,
  - a. **Supply:** providing relevant policy practices for the development of cost-effective network infrastructure;
  - b. **Demand:** strengthening capacity-building programmes and policies to promote digital demands and digital literacy;
  - c. **System-wide:** enhancing the use and management of digital data as an essential component of digital economy and society.

## 7. Shaping Our Digital Future (3)

4. The Report also emphasizes the importance of **high-level leadership, vision and decision-making**
  - Towards that end, the secretariat is supporting the first “**Asia-Pacific Digital Ministerial Conference 2022**”, organized by the Republic of Korea and ESCAP, under the theme “**Shaping Our Common Future**”, scheduled on **10 November 2022 in Seoul, Republic of Korea**.

## Matters Calling for the Attention of the Committee

- The Committee is invited to **share national policy perspectives on digital transformation**
- The Committee is invited to **propose ways in which digital transformation can support the implementation of the action plan** of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative, 2022–2026.
- The Committee may wish to **request the secretariat to coordinate multi-stakeholder partnerships )** to implement the action plan of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative, 2022–2026.



# Appreciation to Contributing Partners

- **United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)**
- **United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)**
- **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)**
- **GSM Association (GSMA)**
- **National Information Society Agency (NIA) of the Republic of Korea**
- **Korea Telecom (KT)**
- **ESCAP Divisions and Regional Institutes**
- **Data and analysis sourced from ITU, Internet Society and the Alliance for Affordable Internet. GISPO developed aggregated real time Internet speeds**

**Thank you**



**Thank you**

**Information and Communications Technology  
and Disaster Risk Reduction Division**

**United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

