

Concept Note of Side Event

Expanding Digital: Innovations for SDG Fulfillment

April 22, 2024 (13:15-14:15 Bangkok time)

United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) CR2, Bangkok

Organized by the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Kingdom of Thailand, “National Information Technologies” JSC, International Technopark of IT startups Astana Hub, and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Background

Digital technologies are transforming societies and economies around the world. With their huge potential for accelerating the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this side event, “Expanding Digital: Innovations for SDG Fulfillment,” seeks to be a critical discussion platform aligned with the theme of the 80th Commission Session ‘Leveraging digital innovation for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific’.

In line with ESCAP Resolution 79/10, the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation (APMCDIT) will be organized in Astana, Kazakhstan, in September 2024. This side event will allow participants to engage on the agenda items and topics for the upcoming APMCDIT and exchange their views on its expectations and outcomes. The Government of Kazakhstan will also present the vision of the proposed Digital Solutions Centre for Sustainable Development.

In addition, at the margins of the 80th Commission Session, Kazakhstan’s “GovTech X: Innovations for Better Future” exhibition booth will be showcased to demonstrate cutting-edge technologies that are driving efficient governance, fostering citizen engagement, and enhancing public service delivery. This side event will officially open the exhibition booth for participants to learn about these digital applications.

Objectives

The objectives of the side event are to promote information sharing and dialogue on the upcoming APMCDIT, open the Kazakhstan exhibition booth on GovTech, and present the vision of the proposed Digital Solutions Center for Sustainable Development. The side event will help provide insights and promote regional cooperation to leverage digital innovations for the SDGs.

**Tentative Programme
April 22, 2024**

13:00 - 13:15 Registration

13:15 - 13:23 Opening Remarks

Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under-Secretary-General, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

H.E. Mr. Askar Zhambakin, Vice Minister of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Moderator: Ms. Tiziana Bonapace, Director of ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

13:23 - 13:25 Group Photo

13:25 - 14:05 Panel Session on Sharing Best Practices on Digital Solutions

- H.E. Mr. Askar Zhambakin, Vice Minister of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- H.E. Dr. Isa Zare Pour, Minister of Information and Communications Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran (online)
- H.E. Mr. Uchral Nyam-Osor, Minister of Digital Development and Communications of Mongolia (Online)
- H.E. Mr. Gevorg Mantashyan, First Deputy Minister of High-Technology Industry of the Republic of Armenia
- Mr. Rashad Khaligov, Deputy Chairman at Innovation and Digital Development Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Ms. Moon-sil Choi, Vice President, Department of Digital Inclusion, National Information Society Agency of the Republic of Korea
- Mr. Supakorn Siddhichai, Group Executive Vice President, Digital Economy Promotion Department of the Kingdom of Thailand

14:05 - 14:10 Group Photo

14:10 - 14:15 Closing Remarks

Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)