Addressing the Transboundary Dimensions of the 2030 Agenda through Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific (RECI) 2018-2021

e-resilience
Monitoring
Dashboard

RECI Project Resources

Co-deployment
Partnership Portal

Simulator

CO-DEPLOYMENT

UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

ESCAP 75
MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

ICT/DRR

Social Inclusion

Energy

Transport

Social and Financial Inclusion in the RECI Master Plan 2020-2021

ESCAP
MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

THE WAY FORWARD

ESCAP
MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Business Plan- One Year

National:

Intra & Inter-ministerial Working Groups

Integrated Approaches

RECI ACTION FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION

1. National Intersectoral Policies
2. Legislations, Rules & Regulations
3. RECI Planning & Design
4. RECI Economy & Municipal Finance
5. National Implementation

Per Sector

DRR

Energy

Financing

ICT

Transport

List of Tools/Approaches

Social Inclusion

Visualisation of Sector Interlinkages & Leverage Points
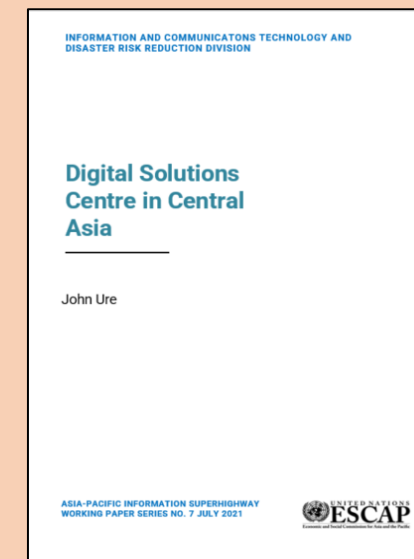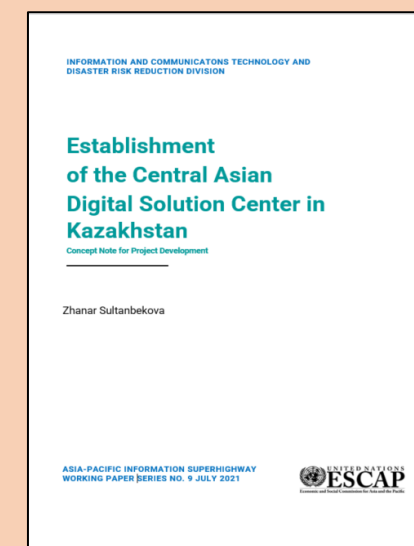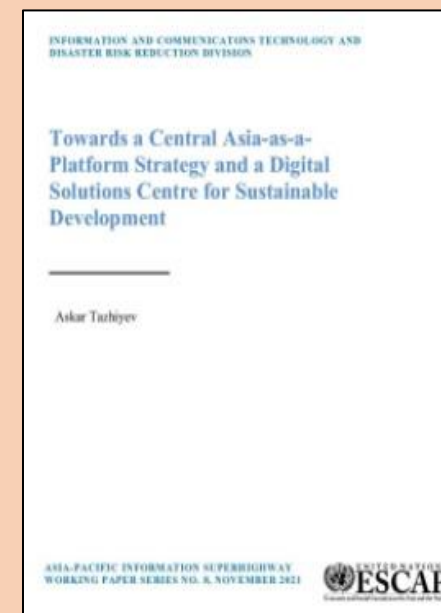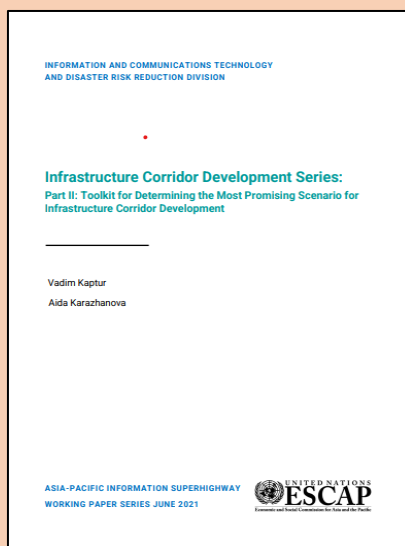
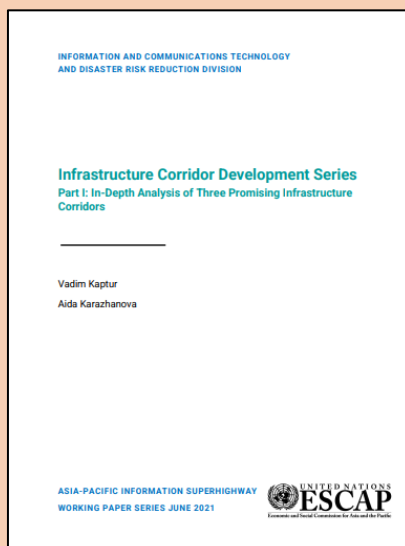Master Plan RECI – Four Years

Progress of RECI 2020-2021

1. **Launched a single information platform with automation and simulation modules on determining compatibility, economic efficiency, and identification of infrastructure projects that lend themselves to ICT deployment for smart corridors.**
2. **Proposed an e-resilience framework from pandemic management perspective and support a common work plan for digital transformation in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia**
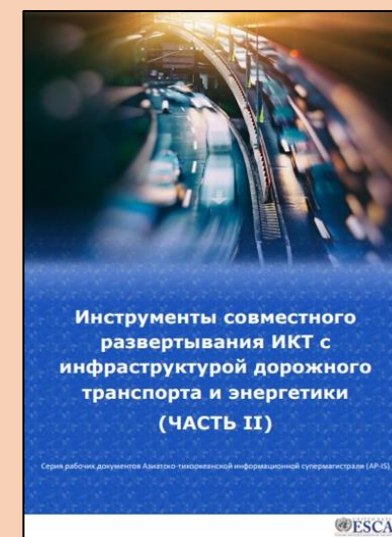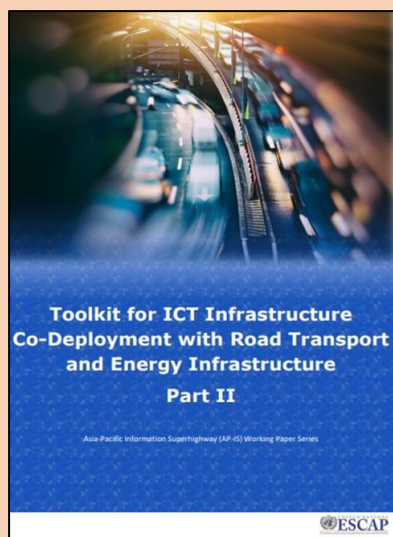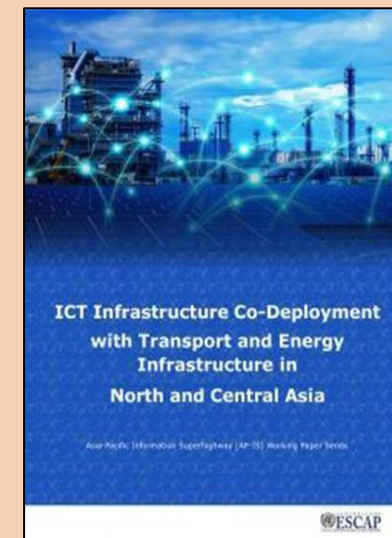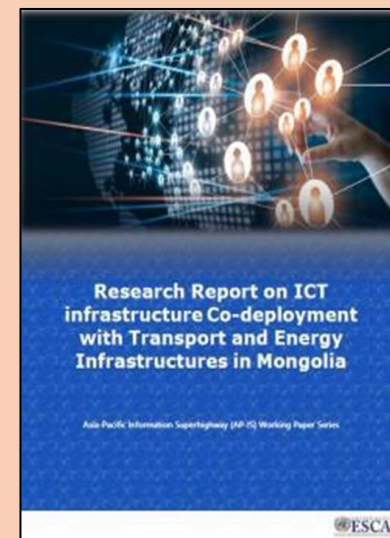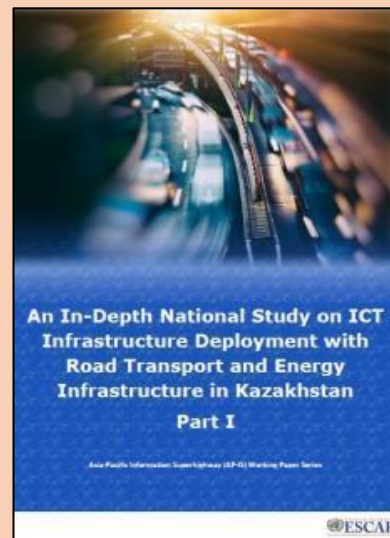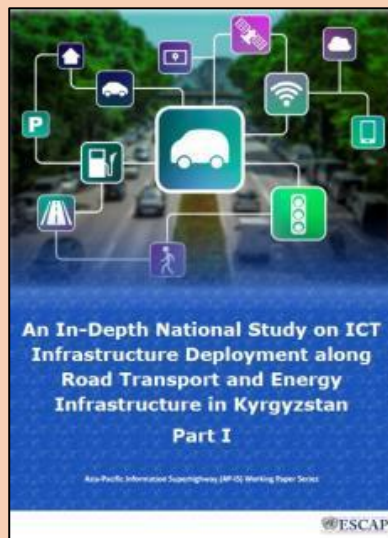
Mandate:
- **CICTSTI 2019**
- **SPECA WG on ITSD 2020-21**
- **SPECA EF and GC 2020-21**
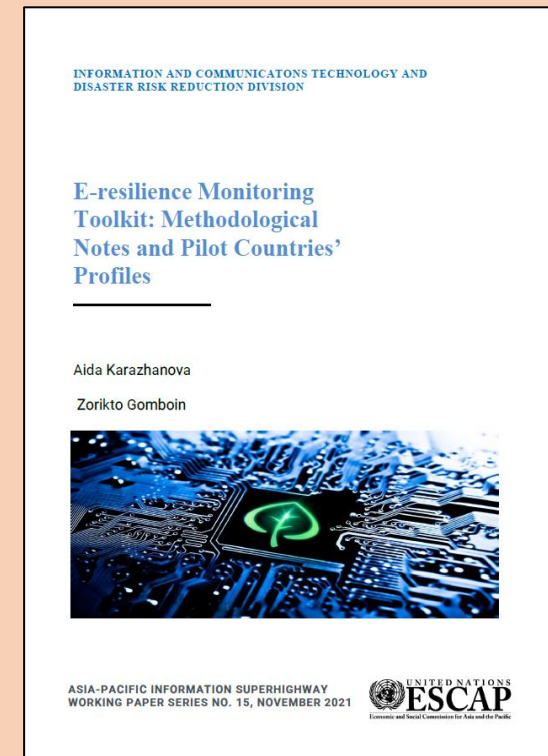
RECI Project Working Papers Issued in 2021

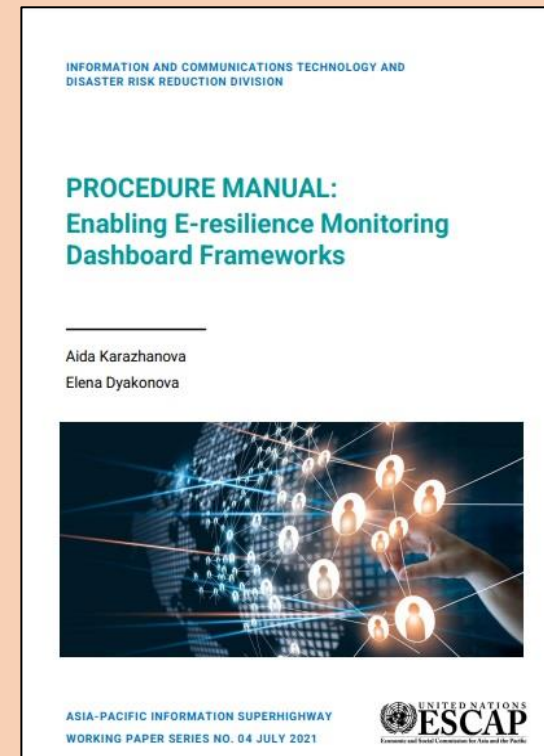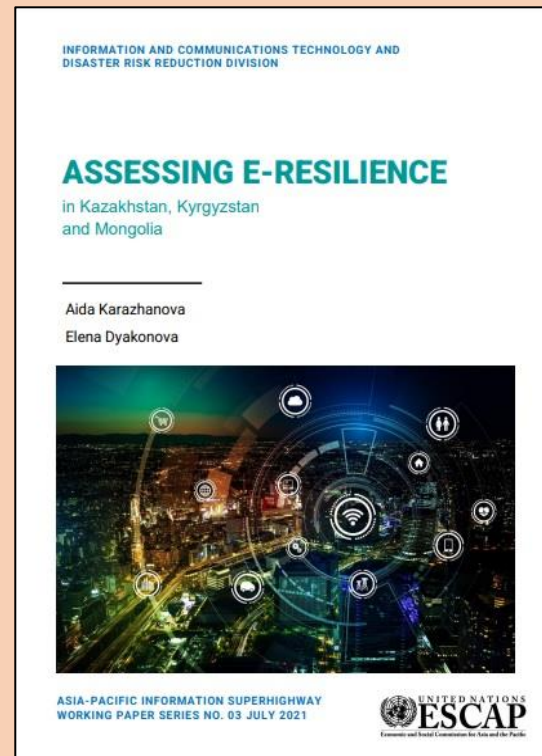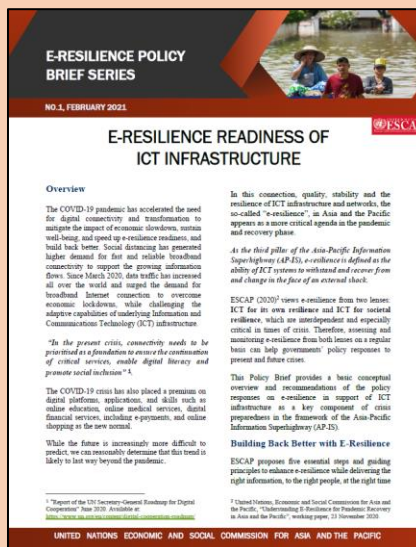INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY
AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION DIVISION

Infrastructure Corridor Development Series
Part I: In-Depth Analysis of Three Promising Infrastructure Corridors

Vadim Kaptur

Aida Karazhanova

ASIA-PACIFIC INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY
WORKING PAPER SERIES JUNE 2021

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY
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Infrastructure Corridor Development Series:
Part II: Toolkit for Determining the Most Promising Scenario for Infrastructure Corridor Development

Vadim Kaptur

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Towards a Central Asia-as-a-Platform Strategy and a Digital Solutions Centre for Sustainable Development

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Establishment of the Central Asian Digital Solution Center in Kazakhstan
Concept Note for Project Development

Zhanar Sultanbekova

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Digital Solutions Centre in Central Asia

John Ure

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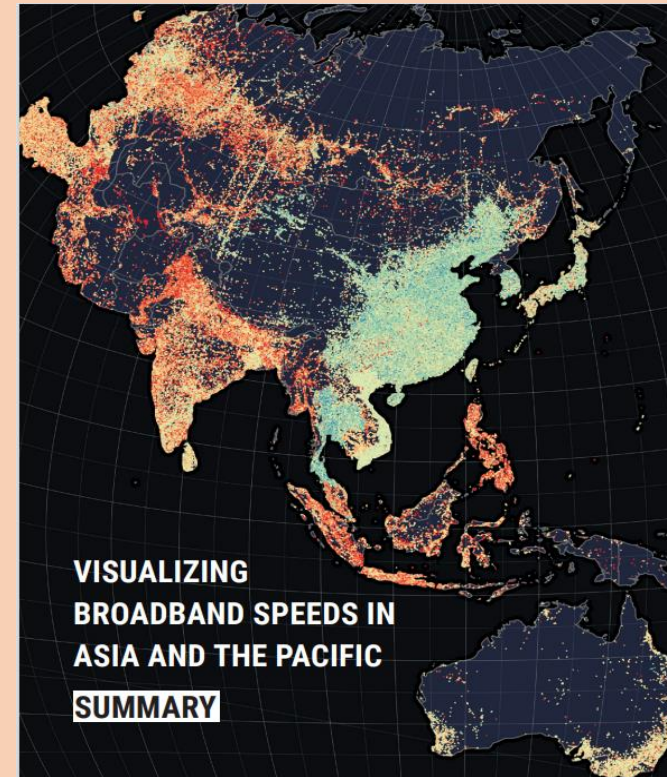WORKING PAPER SERIES NO. 7 JULY 2021

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY AND DISASTER
RISK REDUCTION DIVISION

**Visualizing
Broadband
Speeds in Asia
and the Pacific**

Siope Vakataki 'Ofa
Cristina Bernal Aparicio

ASIA-PACIFIC INFORMATON SUPERHIGHWAY
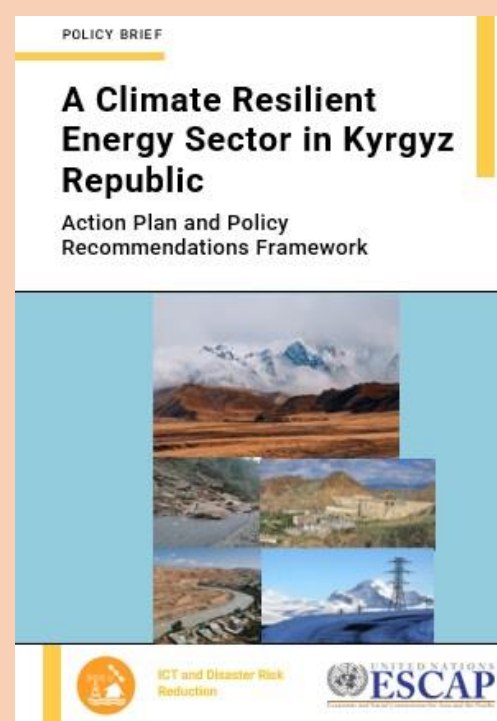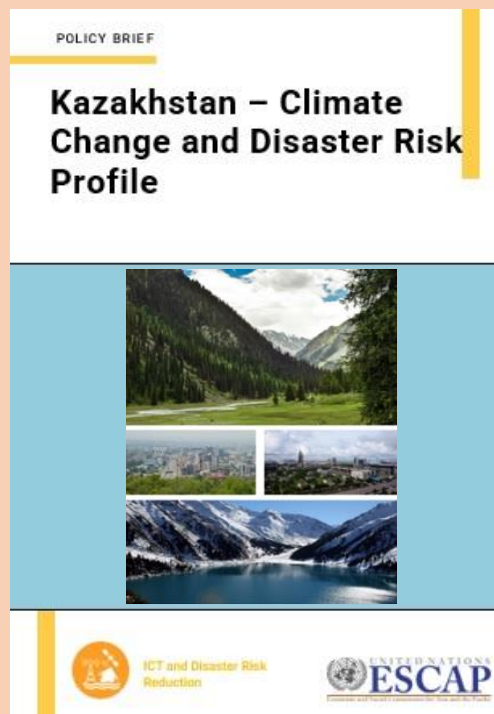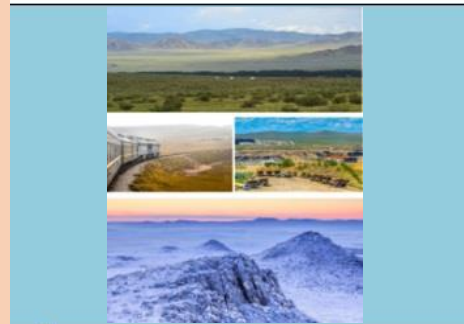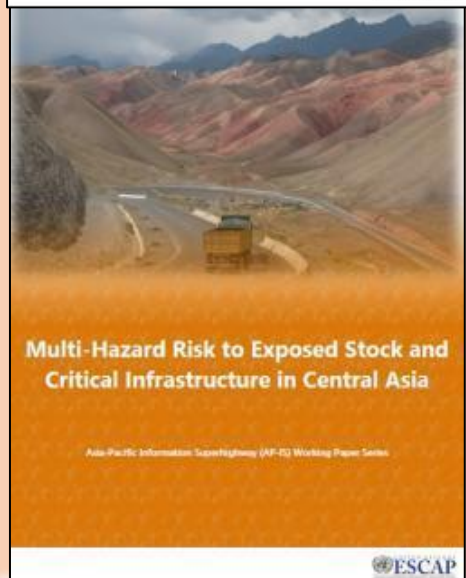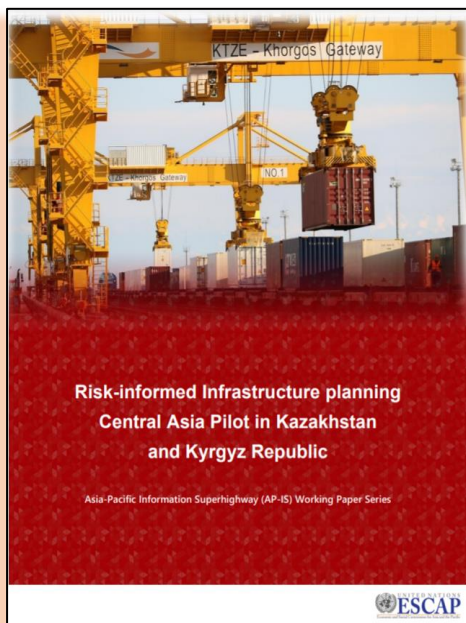WORKING PAPER SERIES NO. 02 MAY 2021

**VISUALIZING
BROADBAND SPEEDS IN
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

SUMMARY

IDD DRR Policy
Briefs (upcoming)
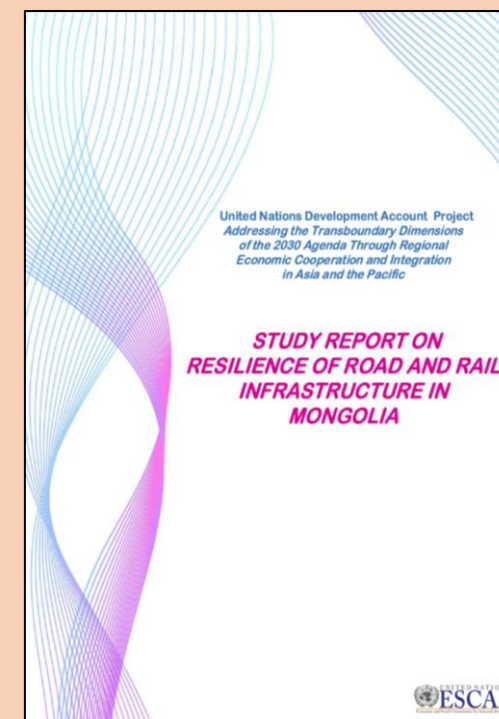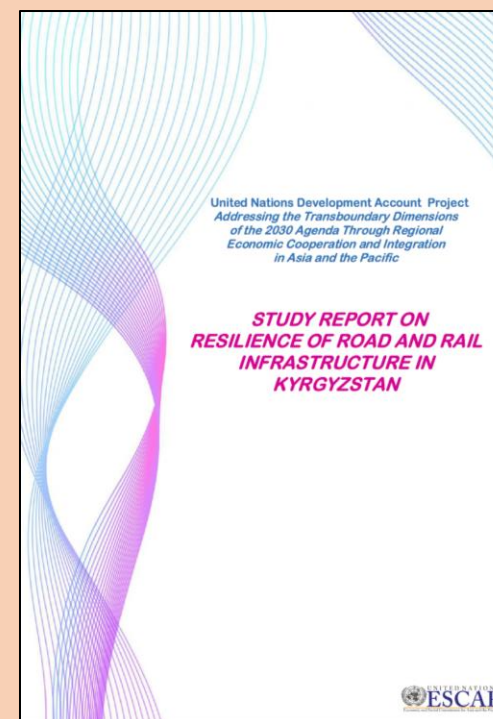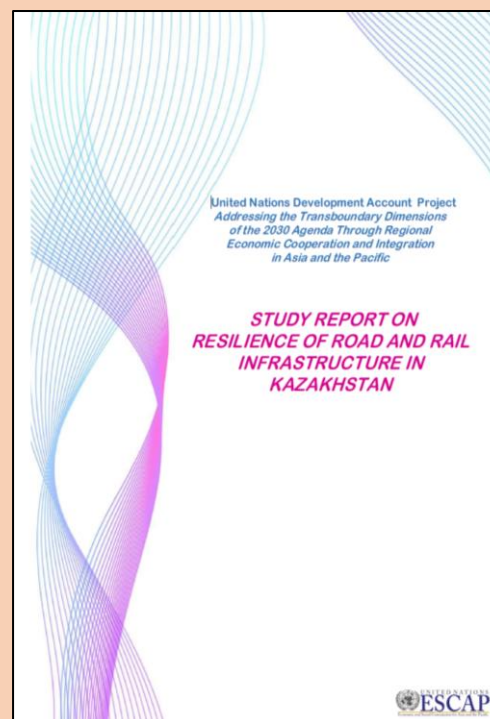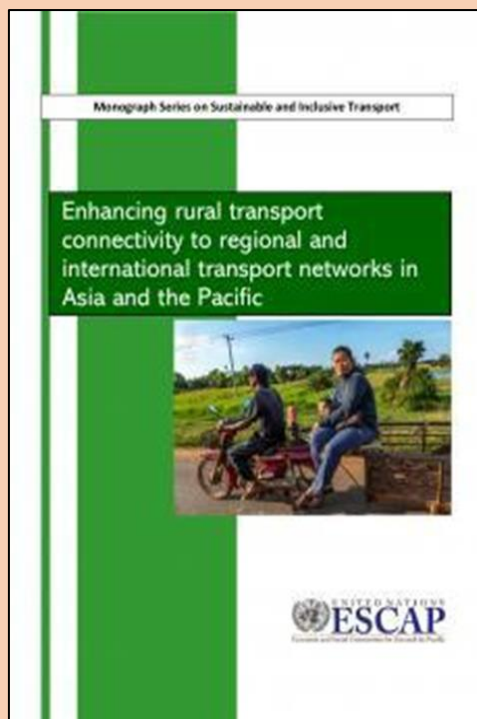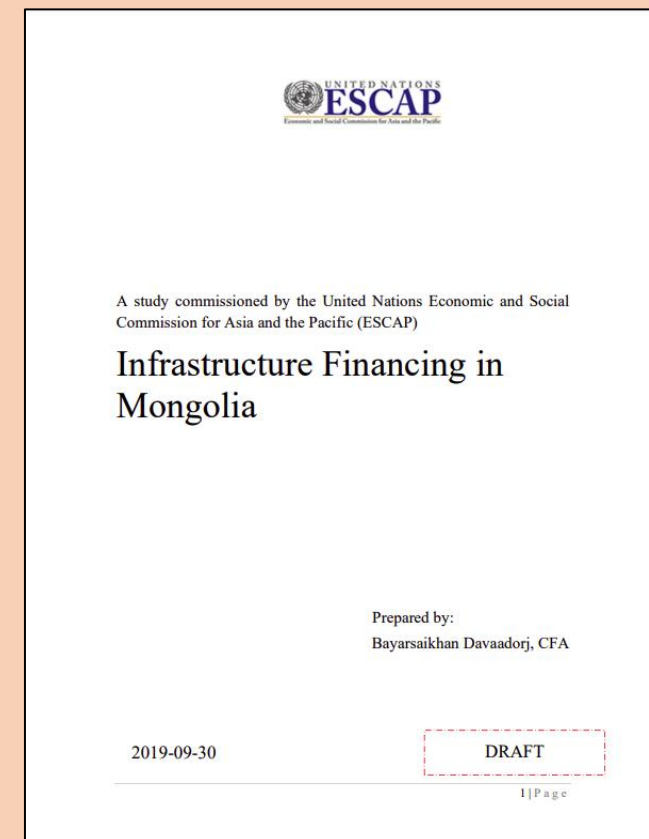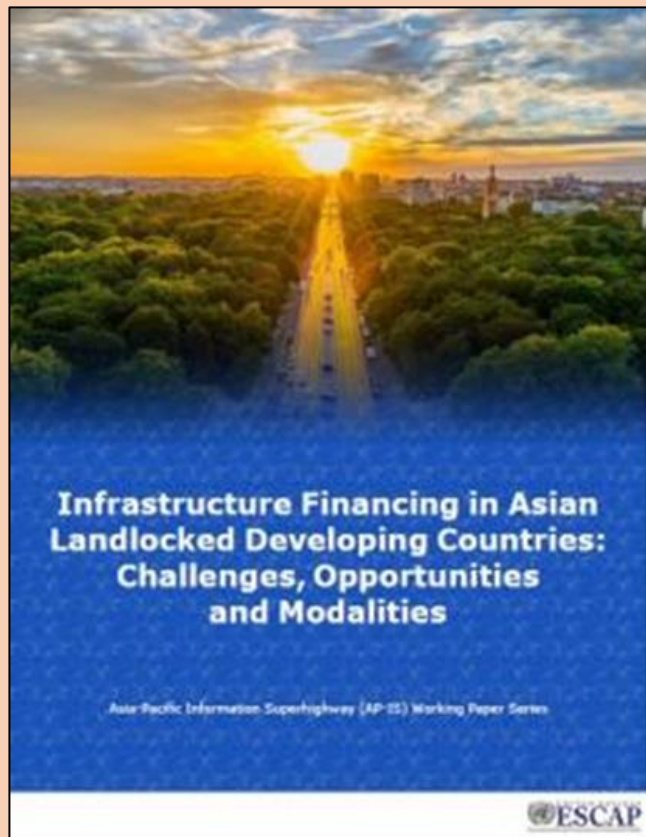
Contribution by ITTLLDC

Policy Brief — INTERNATIONAL THINK TANK FOR LLDC

KAZAKHSTAN: Adding Value to Digitalization Efforts

Key messages:
- The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the correct path taken by the Government of Kazakhstan to develop E-Gov platform and to digitalise public services, which enabled the Government to take civil services to the on-line mode and to ensure efficiency of the critical public services online amid the pandemic.
- The level of digital readiness through recent large national ICT projects e.g. enabling broadband internet access across the country has significantly increased fixed and mobile internet availability at the level of household, workspaces, and schools. This serves as a good foundation for progressing with the digital economy and making the country much more resilient to the effect of the pandemic.
- The ability to reduce exposure to the COVID-19 pandemic has shown the way ahead in speeding up the introduction and practicing valid e-services both public and private. Education, social aid, healthcare, banking and finance, trade and freight including cross-border import-export-transit operations are the fields for further ICT interventions and respective cooperation within the SPECA region and beyond.
- Large infrastructure development projects implemented in the recent past allowed Kazakhstan to release the pressures resulting from its land-locked status, connecting the country to the main international transport corridors. These projects enabled favourable investment environment, public-private partnership serve a solid foundation for further development of the infrastructure both of large and smaller scales. In line with this, infrastructure co-deployment has a great potential to make more efficient investments. Regional collaboration and integration are the keys for further progressing in this direction.

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has depressed the economy of Kazakhstan by 2.6% in 2020 and continues slowing down the economy in the first half of 2021 with only 2.5% growth rate.[1] The depression of the service sector due to the drop in trade, tourism, hospitality sub-sectors was compensated by the growth in the ICT and telecommunications, education. The ICT sector with telecommunication networks, e-services and e-businesses can be considered an engine for balancing the economy of Kazakhstan against the COVID-19 impact throughout 2020, during which time the global economy dipped by 4.5%.[2] It provides evidence for the need to further digitize the economy for being better prepared for such disruptive events in the future.

This Policy Brief highlights the urgency of the issues and gaps to be addressed, presents findings and recommendations that can justify and guide the digitalization efforts. Online tools capable have also been developed to support this process and country e-readiness assessments of the other Central Asian and the Asian-Pacific countries have been prepared examining ICT co-deployment with development of the other infrastructure e.g. roads, railways, powerlines, oil and gas pipelines.

[1] https://stat.gov.kz/
[2] https://www.statista.com/topics/6139/covid-19-impact-on-the-global-economy/

Policy Brief — INTERNATIONAL THINK TANK FOR LLDC

KYRGYZSTAN: The way ahead to address e-resilience readiness and co-deploy infrastructure

Key messages:
- The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the gap between e-resilient and vulnerable economies. It has brought into focus the need for an immediate digital transformation of the economy both publicly and privately, for which the high-speed internet access and digital integration of the entire nation are necessary.
- To overcome consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and reduce further exposure to its continued effects, there is a vast need to speed up introduction and application of public and private e-services. Education, social aid, healthcare, banking and finance, trade, and freight including cross border import-export-transit operations are the fields of the special focus of ICT interventions and respective cooperation within the SPECA region and beyond.
- Kyrgyzstan's landlocked status, leaving the country less connected and besides of the main international transport corridors is to be strategically addressed in the medium and long term. Regional collaboration and integration are the key for progressing in this direction. The legal changes to set up more favourable investment environment, private sector involvement as well as the infrastructure co-deployment including through the integrated international transport corridors laid on the territory and connecting the country with outside world look like required measures.

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic brought significant economic loss to Kyrgyzstan in 2020 (-8.6% of GDP) and continues to slow down the economy in 2021.[1] Disruptions to the air and road transport cross-border and transit operations, and the entire service sector were the main generators of the loss. The ICT sector being comparably stable itself was not able to contribute significantly to reducing economic dropdown due to limited development of ICT networks, e-services and e-businesses inside of the country and for cross-border operations and interactions.

This Policy Brief communicates online tools capable to keep decision makers and the public aware of the status of the country with e-resilience readiness as well as to assess co-deployment opportunities and initiate infrastructure projects enabling the country to be more resilient and less exposed to the pandemics such as COVID-19

Where does Kyrgyzstan stand with e-resilience readiness?

The e-resilience readiness monitoring panel as a planning tool, has been introduced recently by ESCAP. ESCAP also held dedicated surveys and developed analytical report on

[1] http://mineconom.gov.kg/froala/uploads/file/137ff8773a6fcb9a3663f16e9166d7fa2c5f29f8.pdf

Policy Brief — INTERNATIONAL THINK TANK FOR LLDC

MONGOLIA: The e-resilience readiness

Key messages:
- Countries around the world are looking for ways to anticipate and respond to disasters with minimal damage and to integrate disaster risk reduction actions into their development plans.
- COVID-19 has put the economy under deep pressure, despite resolute action taken by the Government of Mongolia to contain the virus.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, digital technology has become a critical tool for all sectors, including health, education and other economic sectors. It also presents a reason to accelerate the digital transformation.
- The Government of Mongolia launched the "Digital Nation" initiative, which aims to apply information technology as a development accelerator and digital development with the concept of the 2030 SDG pledge of "leave no one behind".
- Currently, 97% of soum (rural administrative unit) centres in Mongolia have connected to fibre-optic network. 4G network covers more than 90% of Mongolian population. Now, in rural areas, 100% of the soums have mobile broadband coverage.
- More than 60 companies have been providing internet service; and outbound transit network traffic reached 155.2 Gbps.
- The frequency of 4-magnitude earthquakes has increased 7.5 times Compared to the same period last year in Mongolia. The recorded heavy rains and floods (62) in 2021 were three times more than the recorded cases in 2011.

Introduction

COVID-19 has put the economy under deep pressure, despite resolute actions taken by the Government of Mongolia to contain the virus. Gross domestic product contracted by 5.3% in 2020.[1] Globally every country is facing negative effects from natural disasters resulting from geographical features, climate change, human factors and rapid industhalization, and the damage is increasing drastically in recent years. Therefore, countries around the world are looking for ways to anticipate and respond to disasters with minimal damage, and are incorporating their disaster risk reduction into their development plans.

The ESCAP designed and launched the toolkit "E-Resilience Monitoring Dashboard" in 2021. Through online visualization, the E-resilience monitoring framework and dashboard aims to inform the policymakers and professionals about the available and relevant e-resilience indicators, and help assess digital performances across the region, which ensures availability of safe, affordable, and reliable digital connectivity to manage future crises.

In Mongolia, over 32 earthquakes were registered in June 2020, and in June of this year this number increased to 242. There were 18 cases of heavy rains and floods in 2011, while in

[1] https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/27781/mon-2020.pdf

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Контактное лицо:
г-н Тае Хун КИМ,
Руководитель ИКТР, ДИКТ УОБ

Координатор ЭСКАТО:
Аида Каражанова, ИКТР, ДИКТ
УОБ
Karazhanova@un.org