

## Summary of ICT Policy Perspective for APEC

### ○ Opening

I would like to explain the future prospects of ICT policies within APEC.

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According to the IMF, while the average growth rate of GDP in the world is 4.4%, that of the Asia-Pacific region is 8.5% which is twice as high as that of the world. Moreover, the share of mobile phones users in the Asia-Pacific region in the world is 52% and broad band connections is 44%, indicating the concentration of this region, which has a high potential in ICT.

The Asia-Pacific region has become a high-powered engine in the world economic growth. And for this region to lead the world in the future, besides securing economic growth in this region, strategically utilizing the ICT is extremely important.

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However we have some issues as follows.

Firstly, although we have high percentage of broadband subscribers and mobile phone subscribers in the world, yet

in some countries these services have not yet become widespread. It is important that each country endeavours to bridge the digital divide.

Secondly, although each country is promoting its own strategic ICT plans, since cross-border data flows are taking place, cooperation between each country's ICT policies and coordination of each their legal system is being called for. Specifically in the field of information security and privacy, such cooperation and coordination is becoming necessary.

Thirdly, although remarkable progress has been made in the field of ICT technology, since ICT is a tool, it is necessary to promote the ICT policies together with other policy areas such as energy policies, physical distribution policies, medical policies and education policies.

Fourth, it is important to return the benefit of the technological innovation of ICT to this region and its people. Especially, there is a need to actively use new innovative technologies such as IoT, Cloud, SNS, AI, robotics and big data, and thereby boost economic growth and enrich people's lives in an appropriate way.

Fifth, "global issues" are emerging that cannot be solved by a single country such as disaster prevention, global warming, energy and medical care. It is essential that each country utilizes ICT in collaboration to tackle these issues.

To solve these issues, I will introduce 3 basic viewpoints.

Firstly, policies to bring about WIN-WIN relationships between each country and APEC region should be promoted. Namely, the prosperity of each country should bring about the prosperity of APEC regions, and the prosperity of APEC regions should benefit each country. When initiatives to solve global social issues are taken internationally, it should be done in a way to contribute to the problem solving of each country.

Secondly we need to create added values through information. Currently social economic system is mainly comprised of “people” + “things” + “money”. However, it is now possible to create new added values by connecting them through ICTs. In this regard, it is vital that we clearly position “information” as a component of regional strategy and build a new social economic system.

Thirdly we should establish free flow of information, not only domestically but also within the APEC region. Without free flow of information, it would not be possible to achieve economic growth or improve the lives of citizens.

Based on these view points, I would like to make proposals for the next ICT strategy of APEC.

Firstly, we would like to propose “strengthening connectivity in cyber space”.

In order to utilize the potential of ICT, it is essential to enhance the connectivity of “Cyber Space”, along with “Physical Space” and “Institutional Space” across borders. I would like to call them “CPI connectivity”.

Cyber space is a space where ICT brings together people to people, people to things, and things to things at anytime, anywhere. This space has been created by humankind for the first time. The "Physical Space" is a space known in a conventional sense and is also known as Real space, composed of the movement of people and things. "Institutional Space" is a space composed of legal systems or institutions that serves as the foundation of society. So far, the social economic system has been comprised of the "Physical Space" and "Institutional Space", but the development of ICT has led to the emergence of “Cyber Space” that can be accessible to everyone. Now, we have entered a phase where it is imperative to build a social economic system while being aware of the existence of these 3 types of spaces. Especially, it is extremely important to

enhance the connectivity of the newly emerging “Cyber Space” within the APEC region.

“Strengthening the connectivity in cyber space” does not mean only enhancing connectivity in cyber space alone, but also enhancing the connectivity of “Cyber Space” with “Physical Space” and “Institutional Space” across borders.

“APEC Connectivity Blueprint” was adopted last year and set action plan to reinforce physical, institutional, and people-to-people connectivity. Now by creating this new notion of “Connectivity in cyber space” and promoting this connectivity in the region, I believe we can further enhance regional economic integration.

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As an initiative for Connectivity in cyber space, first I would like to propose the “Promotion of application to application connectivity”.

Projects such as “Disaster Prevention ICT”, “e-government”, “e-medicine”, “e-learning” and “Smart Cities” are now being pursued by each country. Yet, for the convenience of the citizens, it would be desirable to connect various applications and let them operate in conjunction with one another as necessary, not only within one country but also within the region. It is important to build a platform to

achieve this. The initiative can be carried out in two ways; linking different applications together in a country is one way, and linking some specific applications, such as disaster management application with other country is another. Promoting these two ways in parallel will enhance efficiency and convenience within the APEC regions.

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As another initiative, I would like to bring up “the reduction of mobile roaming rates within APEC economies”.

Mobile roaming issue is a common issue to tackle in APEC region. Firstly, we need to share basic idea for the appropriate level of IOT (Inter-Operator Tariffs). When all APEC members recognize this as a common principle, we can discuss how to implement this.

For example, use of network for internet access by mobile device is basically same for telecommunication operators, whether it is roamed-in or used by domestic customer. In this regard, we might be able to share a principle such as “IOT should be set below the level of domestic retail charge” among APEC members.

If we can make it, this will result in the reduction of mobile roaming rates, and contribute to the convenience of the people traveling in this region.

Besides, I would also like to propose “promotion of exchange of broadcast programs” and “promotion of open data flow” in the region.

These initiatives would increase data flow, and spur the construction of a WIN-WIN relationship in the region.

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So far, I have talked about “Strengthening of the connectivity in cyber space”, Now, let me propose 2 more.

Firstly, we need to collaborate for common understanding on Internet governance. I believe Internet governance should be managed in “multi-stakeholder process” with participation of the government, industries, academia and communities. I believe there is no other ways.

Next, we would like to call for the “Regional coordination regarding information security and privacy”.

In order to strengthen the “connectivity in cyber space”, how to deal with the cyber attacks and privacy issues is important. The keywords for these two issues are international cooperation and public-private partnerships.

Each country should be encouraged to build specific success models and share them with other countries in this region.

## ○Conclusion

I sincerely hope that these proposals will contribute to the formulation of new ICT strategy of this region. Thank you for your kind attention.