



UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES
OF CENTRAL ASIA (SPECA)

**Seventh Session of the SPECA Project Working Group
on Knowledge-Based Development**

(Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 17 June 2015)

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE PWG ON KBD**

This report contains activities organized by the UNECE and ESCAP secretariats either within the framework of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (PWG on KBD), or addressing topics within its thematic areas that were held since the sixth session of the SPECA PWG on KBD in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 11 June 2014.

The Programme of Work of the PWG for 2014-2015 was adopted at the fifth session of the PWG on KBD, held in Baku on 4 December 2013. The UNECE and ESCAP secretariats have carried out the following capacity-building activities for SPECA countries since the sixth session:

Implementation of the UNECE project "Innovation Performance Reviews"

- Within the framework of this project, *Innovation Performance Reviews of Kazakhstan and other CIS countries* have been completed. Reports are available in English and Russian. *The Follow-up Workshop to the Innovation Performance Review of Kazakhstan "Strategy for International Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovations and International Technology Transfer: Policies and Practices"* was organized in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 29 October 2014.
- Within the framework of the preparation of *the Innovation Performance Review of Tajikistan*, the UNECE preparatory mission on Innovation Performance Review of Tajikistan and the Fact-finding mission on Innovation Performance Review of Tajikistan with participation of the International Team of Experts were held in November 2014 and March 2015. Ongoing preparation of the Innovation Performance Review of Tajikistan will be discussed during the *International Conference "Practical steps towards a knowledge-based economy"* in Dushanbe on 16-17 June 2015.

Implementation of the ESCAP project “Expanding connectivity of North and Central Asia with the Asia-Pacific region through the development of ICT infrastructure and networks”

- The outcomes of the ESCAP High-level Regional Roundtable on Telecommunications Connectivity in Central Asia in Almaty, Kazakhstan, 3 June 2014 provided the basis for the Almaty Declaration on Strengthening Central Asia Connectivity through Enhanced Telecommunications Infrastructure, which was presented at the 4th session of the ESCAP Committee on ICT held in Bangkok, Thailand, 14 - 16 October 2014.
- Under this project, ESCAP has established a partnership with the Internet Society to carry out *a joint study on Unleashing the Potential of the Internet in Central Asia and Beyond*. Early results of this study will be discussed in Dushanbe on 17 June 2015.
- ESCAP also carried out an *In-Depth Study on the Broadband Infrastructure in Afghanistan*, April 2015, focusing on an assessment of current fibre optic infrastructure and an analysis of broadband trends.

Institutional capacity-building for regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

- ESCAP provided sustained technical support to Kyrgyzstan, which hosted a series of regional ministerial conference on disaster risk reduction, to prepare a framework for regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction and the accompanying short-term plan of action. The draft was presented to and endorsed by a pre-conference ministerial meeting at the World Conference on DRR in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015, with the presence of ESCAP Executive Secretary.
- ESCAP supported the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic in *establishing national geoportals for disaster risk management (Geo-DRM)* in 2014 to address disaster by using integrated geospatial data. In addition, in May 2015 ESCAP dispatched an expert to provide technical advisory services and training in operating Geo-DRM. This should contribute to addressing disaster monitoring and management by using integrated geospatial data and socio-economic data in Kyrgyzstan.

Activities within the framework of the ESCAP - APCICT

- The National Training of Trainers Workshop on the “Primer Series on ICTD for Youth” was organized in Baku, Azerbaijan, 20 - 22 February 2015.
- Localization for APCICT Primer Series issue 1 “An Introduction to ICT for Development” in Azeri was completed, and the localization efforts for Primer Series issue 2 “Project Management and ICTD” are ongoing.

- Localizations of additional Academy Modules in Turkmen were completed, including modules 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10.

Representatives of the SPECA countries participated in the following events:

- Sixth session of the UNECE Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships, Geneva, Switzerland, 23 - 24 June 2014.
 - Seventh session of the UNECE Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies, Geneva, Switzerland, 16 - 17 October 2014.
 - UNECE International Conference on Public-Private Partnerships in the Water and Sanitation Sector, Geneva, Switzerland, 21 - 22 October 2014.
 - “PPP Days 2015”, London, United Kingdom, 16 - 17 June 2015.
 - ESCAP Regional Workshop on Social Media for Development, Incheon, Republic of Korea, 30 June - 2 July 2014.
 - ESCAP Regional Training Workshop on the Use of Space Technology for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning, Beijing, China, 28 - 30 October 2014.
 - ESCAP Regional Dialogue on ICTD Capacity-building for Sustainable Development and Annual Partners Meetings for the Academy and Primer Programmes, Incheon, Republic of Korea, 25 - 28 November 2014.
 - ESCAP Workshop on Promoting ICT for Inclusive and Disaster Resilient Development, Ulan Bator, Mongolia, 14 - 15 May 2015.
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