

A map of Asia and Oceania with a yellow banner overlaid. The banner contains the title and workshop information. The map shows countries like Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Australia, and various island nations. A yellow banner is centered over the map.

# Asia and the Next Billion: Challenges in Digital Inclusion

## IGF2016 Workshop Proposal No. 14

**Satish Babu**  
Chair, APRALO, ICANN

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## The Asia-Pacific Region

- APAC is a region that's home to almost 60 % of humanity
- The definition of APAC varies by context, but includes at least areas to the South and East of the Caspian Sea
- The ICANN definition of APAC includes the Middle East and Armenia
- An extremely diverse region
- Has about 1.7b Internet users, close to 55% of the total 3.6b Internet users



# The Digital Divide

- The digital divide takes several forms in the region:
  - Social
  - Demographic
  - Geographic
  - Economic
  - Technological
  - Policy

## Challenges in Connecting the Next Billion

- Difficult terrain (mountains to SIDS)
- Diversity of languages/scripts
- Large rural populations
- Highly variable Internet infrastructure (penetration varies from 91% in Japan, to 1 % in Timor Leste )
- Social and Educational backwardness
- Gender-based access issues
- Extreme diversity
- Existence of linguistic and cultural minorities (eg., indigenous peoples, differently-abled)
- Lack of policy coherence



## Positive Factors

- Increasing technology use across barriers, esp. mobile phone (also TV)
- Falling costs for Internet access
- Better education
- More openness towards technology, particularly from the youth
- Internet Governance gradually coming to the fore, through a number of institutions (including ISOC, ICANN)

## Workshop Objectives

- Take stock of factors that block or promote Internet penetration in different countries and subregions of APAC
- Follow on from items evolved at national IGFs and APriIGF
- Identify common factors across regions, particularly for community-based action for equitable, sustained digital inclusion

## Thematic Areas for Breakout Groups

- Infrastructural and Economic Issues
- Social issues
- Technology issues
- Policy Issues

# The Workshop

- A 90-minute Breakout Session format
- Agenda is as follows:
  - 1 Initial Plenary (10-15 minutes)
  - 2 Breakout Group Discussion (40-45 minutes)
  - 3 Report Presentation and discussions (25-30 minutes)



## Participant Composition

- Need to ensure diversity and regional balance amongst speakers
- We have identified a set of speakers from those available to begin with. Need more speakers from Governments & Industry
- So, still open to experienced resource persons from APAC!
- Remote participation available and encouraged
- Social media participation (Twitter) also encouraged

# Thank You!

Presentation created in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X and Beamer

