

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION  
DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE



# Next generation regulations in the digital era

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

**24 September, Ulaanbaatar**





**Connecting the world since 1865**



# 1) Who are we?

160 years of technologies empowering humanity

ITU is the United Nations  
**Specialized Agency for  
information and  
communication technologies**  
(ICTs)



*The UN agency for  
digital technologies*

ITU members

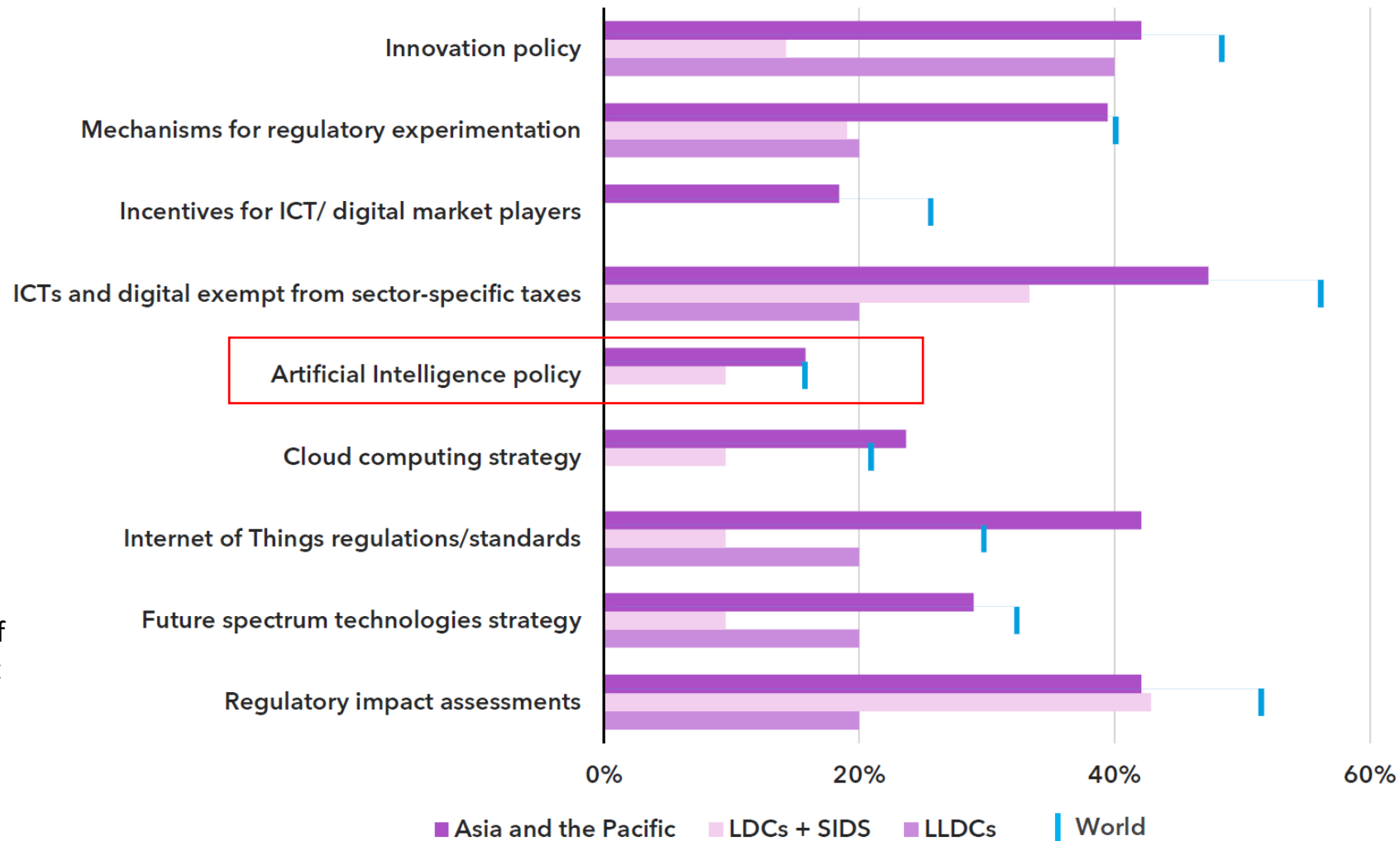
+1000

194

Member  
states

Members from the  
private sector,  
academia,  
international and  
regional  
organizations

# Enabling environment for emerging technologies, Asia and the Pacific, 2023



Source: ITU, State of digital development and trends in Asia and the Pacific: Challenges and opportunities



Note: The regions' average scores for key indicators in the national digital agenda, legal instruments for digital markets, stakeholder engagement and good governance under the ITU Unified Framework are compared to the averages for LDCs and SIDS (combined) and for LLDCs in the region, and to the world average.



# AI activities in ITU at global level

## AI for Good (AI4G):

- **AI4G summit 2025 - 8-11 July 2025, Geneva, Switzerland.**
  - International AI standards summit – 2 to 3 Dec, 2025 in Seoul.
- Webinars – All year, every year, archived for on-demand access.
- In-person events in every region.
- Regional and national impact programmes.
- AI Governance Day and UN collaborations.

## Publications:

- AI for SDG and Policy guidance reports.
- AI standards reports.

## Capacity building:

- AI4G impact initiative.
- AI Skills Coalition.
- Challenges and competitions:  
Focus on the next generation of experts.





## 2) Regional Projects



# “Enhancing the Development of Standards and Frameworks for Critical Technologies in Southeast Asia”

## Project focus:

- Artificial intelligence + gender equality + social inclusion
- Development of standards, policies, frameworks, and initiatives

## Timeline:

June 2021 – December 2024

## Project countries:

- Indonesia
- Malaysia
- Thailand
- The Philippines

Supported by the Australian Government’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade under the Cyber and Critical Tech Cooperation Program



**Australian Government**

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

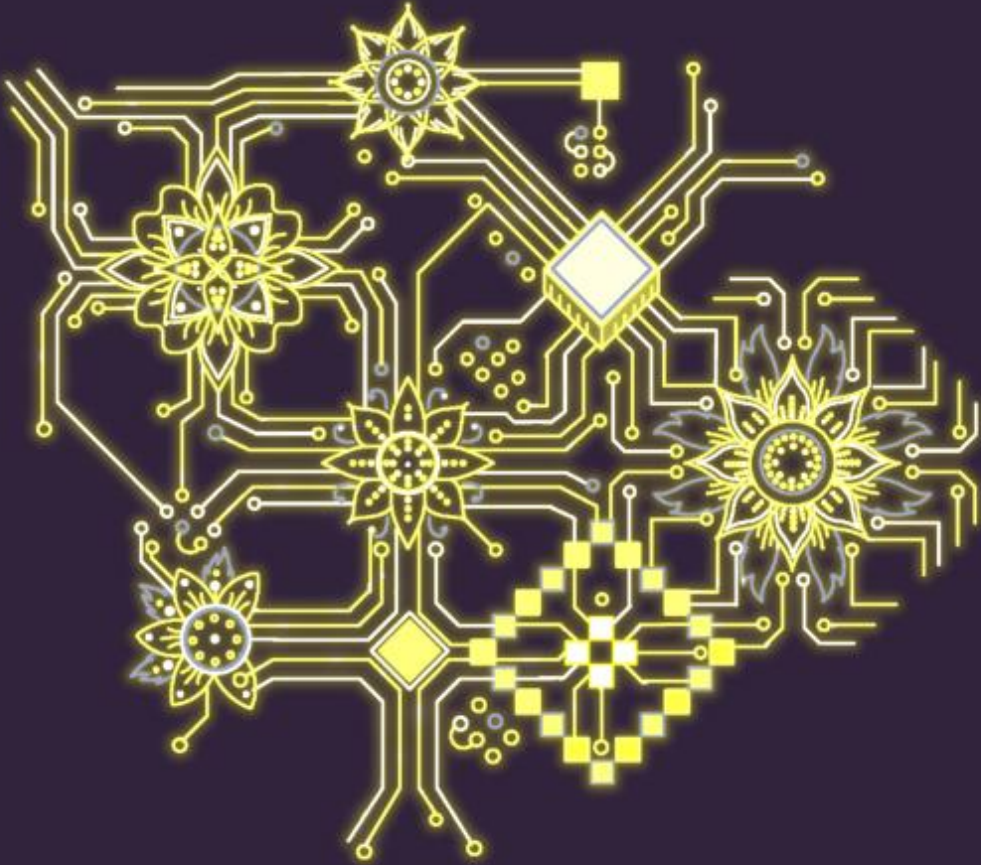


# Activities under the project

- AI Socialization Trainings
- Women in AI Policymakers' Network in Southeast Asia
- Webinar Series on Inclusive AI Policies and Standards
- Research on Inclusive AI Policies in Southeast Asia
- Collaboration with UNESCO, UNU Macau



## GENDER-SENSITIVE AI POLICY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA



## Report Recommendations

1. Create specific guidelines on gender and AI.
2. Establish committees and task forces to lead gender/societal impact assessments.
3. Develop gender-sensitive AI standards.
4. Invest in efforts that accelerate women's participation in AI.



# Artificial Intelligence Technology and Standards Capacity Building in Asia Pacific

## Collaboration between ITU-T and ITU-D sectors

### Project focus:

- Workshops to provide trainings on AI standards and technologies
- Baseline study to understand AI requirements in ASP

### Workshops/Trainings:

- 5-7 May, Delhi for South Asian countries
- 9-11 Sep, Kuala Lumpur for Southeast Asian countries
- 22-26 Sep, National workshop for Bhutan
- 8-10 Oct, National workshop for Cambodia

### Sub-regions:

- South Asia (India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka & Maldives)
- Southeast Asia (Malaysia, Brunei, Timor Leste, Thailand, Cambodia, Mongolia, Laos & Pakistan)
- National: Bhutan & Cambodia

Supported by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Japan



# Activities

- Trainings in Delhi attended by 74 participants from 6 countries (India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka & Maldives)
- For the workshop in KL, around 80 registered participants from Malaysia, Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Mongolia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Brunei, and Timor Leste.
- Training on “AI Fundamentals” to be organized for civil servants of Bhutan (22-26 September 2025)
- Training on AI standards and technology to be organized for Cambodia (8-10 October 2025)





### **3) Findings from the recently completed AI Feasibility Study**

**Artificial Intelligence adoption in Landlocked Developing countries, Least Developed Countries, and Small Island Developing States**

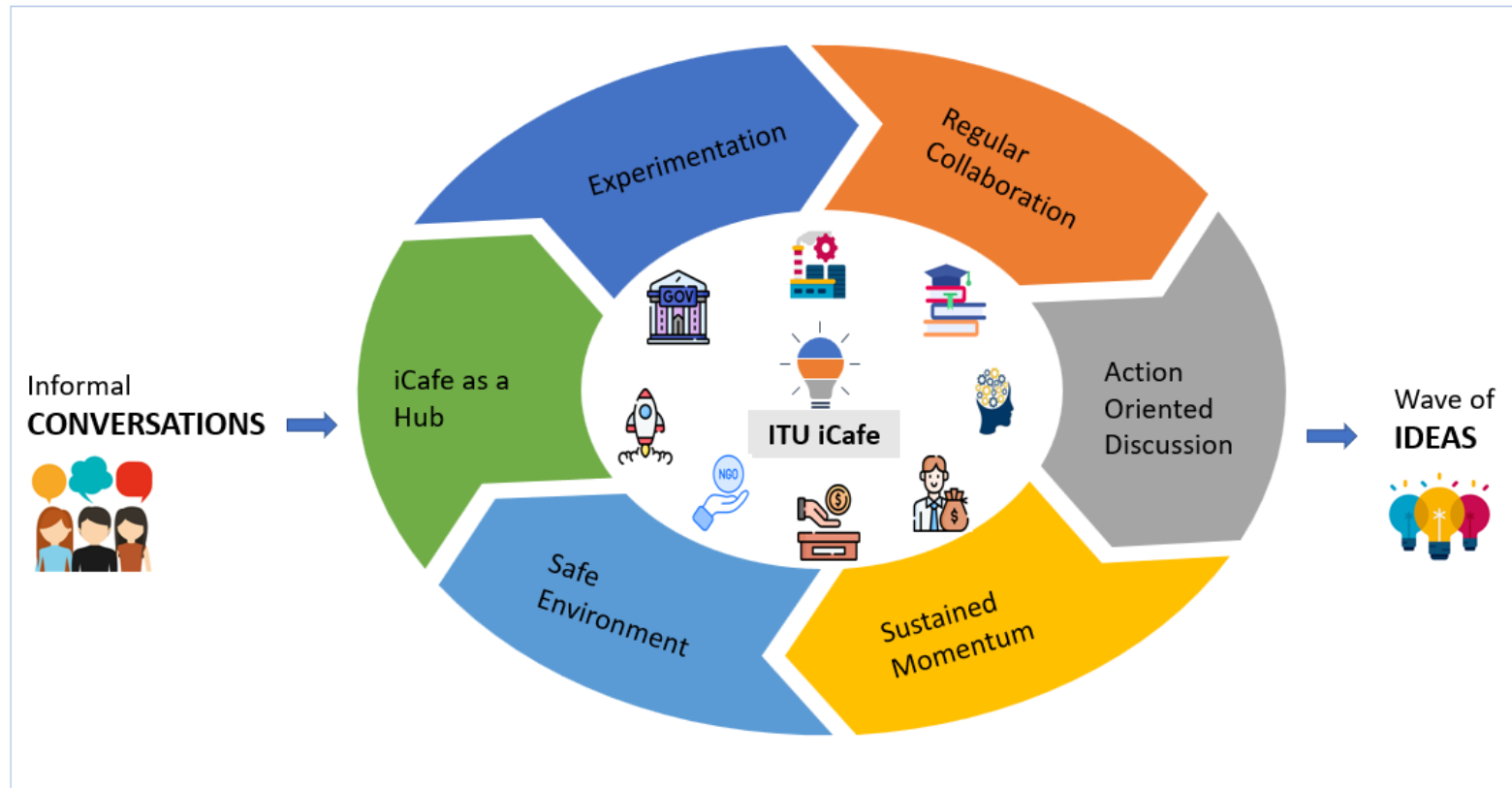


# Study findings

- ❖ Overall, the level of government AI-readiness among LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS in the Asia-Pacific region remains below 50% of the global average.
- ❖ While varying levels of AI maturity exist among LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, Bangladesh, Fiji, and Mongolia currently exhibit the highest rates of AI adoption.
- ❖ AI-related policies and governance among LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS are at various maturity levels.
- ❖ Infrastructure (internet connectivity) and human capacity continue to pose significant barriers.
- ❖ Link for the detailed report: [AI Feasibility Study for Asia & Pacific](#)

## 4) ITU Innovation Café

The objective of ITU iCafé is to unlock hidden opportunities for the Innovation Centre and turn abstract innovative ideas into actionable outcomes, in partnership with global stakeholders who are at the forefront of technology and innovation.



# Innovation Cafés – so far



- Turning abstract innovative ideas into tangible outcomes through action-oriented discussions
- **8 innovation cafes** conducted on AI & IoT, Digital ID, Sustaining Smart Islands initiative through innovative solutions, Ewaste, AI & Standards for Dx, Future of AI and Enhancing connectivity in LLDCs.
- Attended by over **300 participants** from **30 countries**.
- Highlight strategic opportunities for ITU – including the need for **knowledge-sharing initiatives on AI and Digital ID**; the revision of WTDC **Resolution 66** on e-waste; and the importance of **innovative** solutions for the **sustainability of smart islands**.

- **AI series**
  - Climate & Disaster Risk Reduction
  - Whole - of - Government
  - Digital Health
  - Capacity Development
  - Other topics to be added
- **Co-creation Workshops**
  - Creating Digital ID for the Pacific
  - Applications of AI in ITU Smart Villages & Smart Islands initiative



# 5) ITU Academy Resources

# Upcoming Trainings on AI Governance

## **Online Training:**

Dates: 20 October 2025 - 21 November 2025

Modality: Online

Applications open by: 28 September 2025

<https://academy.itu.int/training-courses/full-catalogue>

## **Face-to-Face Training Opportunities:**

### **Bangkok, Thailand:**

Dates: 15-19 December 2025

Modality: Face-to-face

Applications open until: 11 October 2025

### **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia:**

Dates: 2-6 February 2026

Modality: Face-to-face

Applications open until: 09 November 2025

### **São Paulo, Brazil:**

Dates: 9-13 March 2026

Modality: Face-to-face

Applications open until: 30 November 2025

**Thank you**