

PRESS-RELEASE



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Broadband and ICT development issues are in the centre of the international and national experts' attention

21 June, 2007, Tashkent - Workshop on "Broadband and ICT development for improved communications in Central Asia" will be held in capital of Uzbekistan, Tashkent city.

The workshop will be organized jointly by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and the United Nations Development Programme in Uzbekistan through ICT Policy Project in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan through Communication and Information Agency of Uzbekistan and Association of IT Companies and Organization of Uzbekistan. This event first of its kind in Uzbekistan will attract key government officials of Central-Asian countries, international and regional organizations, private sector and leading specialists and experts in ICT field to discuss the role of broadband access in socio-economic development in general and development of the ICT industry in particular, at national and regional levels. This workshop will be financed by the contribution of the Government of Japan to UNESCAP. Technical sponsor of the event is Sarkor Telecom.

Over 100 national and international experts from Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Switzerland and Japan, as well as from international organizations will participate in the workshop discussions.

The principle objective of the workshop is to promote and support the cooperation among Central Asian countries in broadband and ICT development. The workshop particularly aims to achieve the following specific outcomes:

- increase of awareness and knowledge on broadband and ICT issues;
- serve as a discussion forum on issues of broadband and ICT development in Central Asia;
- facilitation of cooperation among Central Asian countries in ICT development;
- formulation of the strategy to enhance regional cooperation on ICT development involving all stakeholders in Central Asia.

The workshop participants will address important and challenging issues of broadband and ICT development, regional ICT development trend, mobile Internet and recent technologies for promoting broadband, telecommunication standards, Next Generation Network, xDSL technologies, FTTx optical broadband access, standardization on Broadband Wireless Access, and discuss the role of international organizations in broadband and ICT development.

The workshop will encourage further cooperation among Central Asian countries and all stakeholders in the development of regional broadband network and creating enabling environment for development of such a network in Central Asia. Based on discussions and major findings of the workshop Tashkent Communiqué will be adopted.

The workshop will be followed by open round table "Introduction of Broadband access technologies in the countries participating in Regional Commonwealth in the field of communication"

Ms. Michiko Fukahori

ICT Expert
Information, Communication and Space Technology
Division, UNESCAP

fax: +66-2-288-1085
e-mail: fukahori@un.org

Mr. Sandjar Saidkhodjaev

Project Manager
UNDP "ICT Policy" Project (ICTP),

Tel.: +998 71 134 10 51/52
fax: +998 71 134-10-63
e-mail: sandjar.saidkhodjaev@ictp.uz

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