



80th Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC IS A HUB OF GLOBAL DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Digital innovations, such as artificial intelligence, digitalization of government services and the internet of things, are already transforming the way we do business, deliver public services, and protect people and our planet

The finance sector has embraced digital tools, and the value of digital transactions is projected to reach

\$6.7
TRILLION BY 2026



THE REGION IS UNIQUELY POSITIONED TO SCALE-UP DIGITAL INNOVATION

DIGITAL TRADE HAS GROWN SIGNIFICANTLY

Demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of Asia and the Pacific make it ripe for the diffusion and adoption of digital innovation



Digitally deliverable services in sectors such as IT, finance, retail, education and legal services, accounted for around \$958 billion in trade by 2022. This represented 52 per cent of the region's total service exports

CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IS ESSENTIAL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

RURAL INTERNET USE 52%

URBAN INTERNET USE 80%

Eighty per cent of individuals use the Internet in urban areas compared to 52 per cent in rural areas (ITU)

ONLY 40

PER CENT OF THE POPULATION HAS BASIC DIGITAL SKILLS

CREATING A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR HIGH-IMPACT DIGITAL INNOVATION

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Predictable Policies

Flexible Regulations

Skills Development

Stakeholder Engagement

Digital Inclusion

Workers with advanced digital skills earn 65 per cent more, while those with basic skills earn 39 per cent more

REGIONAL COOPERATION IS KEY TO LEVERAGING DIGITAL INNOVATION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Digital innovations are already shaping development in Asia and the Pacific

Smart grids foster the development of renewable energy and enhance resilience

Digital tax systems improve accuracy and reduce evasion

The focus in transport is shifting from easing the flow of traffic to meeting people's needs

Cognitive digital technologies could contribute to ensuring that every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems by 2027

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