



Plan of Action for Asia-Pacific e-Cities Alliance¹

For submission to the II World Summit of Cities and Local Authorities on the Information Society in Bilbao, Spain, November 2005

[A] Introduction

1. The spirit of this Plan of Action is built upon the Lyon Declaration and Plan of Action 2003, and the Plan of Action, Geneva 2003. The Information Society envisaged herein will be realised in partnership with multiple stakeholders, including cities and local governments, municipal and local government associations, private sector and civil society groups.
2. Partnerships are a key component in the success and sustainability of the information society.

[B] Objectives, Goals and Targets

3. This Plan of Action is aimed at bridging the digital divide through the development of the Information Society, which will benefit every strata of the community, especially marginalised groups within the society.
4. The objective of this Plan of Action is to promote good governance and, in parallel, to lead up to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals affirmed by countries of the Asia-Pacific.
5. The foundation of this Plan of Action is a spirit of decentralisation, which is gaining momentum in the Asia-Pacific.

[C] Lines of Action Incorporating Sustainability

6. In implementing the Lines of Action given below, there should be additional emphasis on legitimacy given by national governments to the municipal and local government associations and enhancing their capacity.
7. The Lines of Action below are the result of consultations and brainstorming sessions among representatives of local authorities, municipal and local governments associations and civil society groups. They are aimed at being practical and sustainable. These Lines of Action are meant to be implemented locally through vigorous public-private partnerships, which have proven successful at the local level, and also through city-to-city cooperation approach.

a. Developing and institutionalising city-level plans and strategies on ICT into a documented time-bound roadmap, with quantifiable milestones

¹ This Plan of Action was the outcome of the – Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Bilbao Summit 2005, held on May 31, 2005, on the theme, “Building Public-Private Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation for City Informatization”. The meeting was organised by Shanghai, RCOCI, UNITAR, CIFAL Bilbao, CITYNET and UCLG.

8. The formulation of the plans and strategies will take the form of a visioning exercise approached through a participatory process.

9. This will complement and build on the effort put into City Development Strategies of particular local governments.

10. One of the activities will be to standardise the language related to ICTs by developing a manual/guidelines to be used by cities and local governments when developing ICT programmes.

b. Training and Capacity-Building on ICT for elected and municipal officials; benchmarking of skill levels and technical exchanges with other actors.

11. Training and capacity-building will be achieved through a wide range of means, including CIFAL Shanghai, CIFAL Kuala Lumpur and direct city-to-city exchanges.

12. These training and capacity-building programmes will focus on GIS applications and public safety issues, which will be addressed based on the needs of individual cities and local governments.

c. Disaster management systems

13. Employing ICTs to develop disaster monitoring and management systems for natural and man-made disasters.

d. Promoting, developing and implementing e-Governance

14. Priority will be given to traffic management and surveillance, e-accounting, e-health and e-education, that will be suited to local conditions.

e. Best practices compilation, dissemination and transfer

15. The projects arising out of this Plan of Action will rest upon previous experiences of local authorities in the region. To enable this correlation, best practices from the Asia-Pacific will be collated and made available to local authorities in the Region. Knowledge exchanges will be facilitated wherever there is a need for transfers related to these best practices.

This Action Plan was prepared by cities and local governments especially those associated with CITYNET and UCLG ASPAC present in Shanghai on May 31, 2005. The Plan was initially drafted by the CITYNET Secretariat.