

## **The Plan for the EBC-K Project 2024 To Facilitate ICT Application in the Asia-Pacific**

### **1. Background**

ICT is a key to sustainable economic growth and social development. ICT is a crucial force driving innovation throughout society and the economy. ICT has rapidly permeated all economic, social areas and our daily life and it leads to significant changes to them.

Brunei Darussalam Statement, adopted in 2014 at the APT Ministerial Meeting, highlights the importance of ICT applications as key elements for the socio-economic development of the Asia-Pacific region and encourages APT Members to promote ICT applications. In this regard, APT is committed to the mission of promoting ICT applications to support solving economic and social issues such as increasing efficiency, improving productivity and bridging the digital divide in each Member country. To fulfill this mandate, APT aims to implement the “Project to Facilitate ICT Application in the Asia-Pacific”, which is designed to support these objectives.

This project is funded by the Extra Budgetary Contribution from the Government of the Republic of Korea. The outcome of the project will be shared among APT Members and beyond.

### **2. Objectives of the Project**

- 1) To facilitate development of ICT applications and its usage in APT Member countries in order to provide new values and benefits in the field of services or industries such as tourism, agriculture/aquaculture, education, healthcare, transportation and so on.
- 2) To overview impact and benefits of ICT applications and extract issues to be solved in deploying ICT applications and consider possible measures be taken.
- 3) To share the best practices in ICT development including Korean experience.

### **3. Aims of the Project**

The proposed project should aim to implement and utilize ICT applications that incorporate emerging ICT or smart technologies into the services or industries of APT Member countries.

Projects should target existing public or private services/industries such as tourism, agriculture/aquaculture, education, healthcare, transportation, or any other services or industries in our APT Member countries.

The proposed ICT applications in the project should aim to contribute to increased efficiency and productivity of the existing services/industries or provide new economic values and benefits to them through the utilization of these ICT applications.

< Examples from Korea of integrating ICT with industries >

<b>Industry</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Tourism</b>	To overcome the accessibility challenges faced by visitors due to the traditional reliance on pamphlets and on-site guides for cultural heritage services, a mobile app has been developed specifically for Gyeongbokgung Palace. This app enables users to explore a wide range of cultural heritage content. It incorporates features such as location recognition, augmented reality (AR)-based tour guidance, multilingual support, and sign language videos, enhancing the tourist experience. Initially introduced at Gyeongbokgung Palace, the service has now been extended to include other important cultural sites such as royal palaces, Jongmyo Shrine, and Joseon Dynasty royal tombs, providing comprehensive information on various cultural heritage locations managed by the Cultural Heritage Administration.
<b>Aquaculture</b>	The management of tidal flat octopuses, a limited resource, has historically been inefficient, relying solely on experience and intuition due to the lack of accurate data. To address this issue, Shinan County in Jeollanam-do has initiated a project utilizing drones to scan the expansive mudflats. The project leverages AI to automatically identify octopus burrows from the images captured, enabling the creation of detailed mudflat topographical maps. Through image analysis, it became possible to accurately determine the octopus population in different mudflat fishing grounds. Shinan County is now using these results to set fishing restrictions, select sites for young octopus release projects, and more, exemplifying a shift towards data-driven, scientific administration in the agricultural sector.
<b>Education</b>	Addressing the challenges in providing personalized education through public schooling and the inequalities in educational opportunities due to socioeconomic factors in private tutoring, a step-by-step recommendation learning system called 'DanChu' has been developed using big data and AI technology. Key features include AI-recommended problems, AI-recommended courses, and problem search for high school students, offering tailored learning content that matches each user's learning style and level. Initially targeted at high school students, the service has now expanded to include elementary and middle school students, providing a nationwide service that is felt by the entire population.
<b>Healthcare</b>	Community centers, essential welfare hubs for the elderly in Korea, have traditionally operated in a static and closed manner. In addition, seniors residing in remote mountainous areas, especially in regions facing population decline, often find themselves in healthcare service blind spots. To address these issues, a new initiative has been launched to equip community centers with remote, interactive video call infrastructure. This enables local seniors to engage in leisure and welfare programs like laughter therapy, silver aerobics, and singing contests on a weekly basis. Notably, this approach allows seniors in isolated areas to have regular health lectures and consultations with doctors from major hospitals. Following a successful implementation in Bucheon City, Gyeonggi Province, this initiative is rapidly spreading to other areas, with the potential to transform community centers into healthcare hubs for local seniors.
<b>Transportation</b>	Traditional Bus Information Systems (BIS) could only determine bus locations based on bus stops, making it challenging to reflect real-time information such as traffic signals or road congestion, leading to time discrepancies and inconveniences for the public. To address this issue, a high-precision location information service using GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) has been developed. Key features of this service include providing bus arrival information with 10 cm accuracy, enabling the precise determination of a bus's location, speed, and direction. This enhancement has reduced bus waiting times and improved the convenience of transfers. Moreover, the service has been integrated with private platforms to provide safety and convenience as a life-oriented service. Initially launched in Jeju, the service is currently expanding nationwide, including Chuncheon, Busan, Gwangju, Mokpo, and Ulsan

\* In addition to the examples provided, various other cases of convergence in Korea are available via the National Information Society Agency (NIA).

#### 4. Structure of the Project

Project should be implemented by beneficiary country (APT Members) in collaboration with Korean experts. It consists of the following three parts.

- 1) Field survey: The field survey involves visiting the APT Member country to assess and analyze the current state of the targeted ICT application and the service/industry proposed by the APT Members.
- 2) Study visits to Korea: The study visit to Korea involves a trip to Korea to closely examine the implementation of the targeted ICT application as a case study, providing insights into its practical application and impact within the Korean context.
- 3) Report (Feasibility analysis and Proposals for further action): The report should conduct a feasibility analysis of the proposed ICT application services within APT Member countries using a pilot system/test and provide recommendations for further action to advance the project.

#### 5. Financial support by APT

- 1) Each project will be supported up to USD 60,000 by the Extra Budgetary Contribution from the government of the Republic of Korea (EBC-K). The APT Secretariat will determine the total amount of financial support for the project.
- 2) Projects that have matching funds from APT Members or other external sources, in addition to EBC-K support, will be given preference during the selection process.

#### 6. Participants of the project and their roles

Participants		Roles
APT Members	Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit proposal to APT</li> <li>• Represent the Member's side of the Project</li> <li>• Extend necessary support for implementing the Project</li> <li>• Overall supervision of the cooperating partners of the Member's side</li> </ul>
	Cooperating partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate and implement the Project under the supervision of the Administration</li> <li>• Conduct the Project with experts assigned by APT</li> </ul>
Korean Experts (Rep. of Korea)	National Information Society Agency (NIA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the submission of the proposal</li> <li>• Represent the Korean experts' side of the Project</li> <li>• Consult the Project as Expert</li> <li>• Extend necessary support for the Project</li> <li>• Overall supervision of the cooperating partners of the experts' side</li> </ul>

	Cooperating partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult the Project under the supervision of NIA</li> <li>• Provide any other supports requested by the NIA related to the Project implementation</li> <li>• Consult the interim and final report</li> </ul>
APT Secretariat		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall management of the Project</li> <li>• Consult with Korean Government in planning and selecting projects to be implemented</li> <li>• Provision of project fund (EBC-K)</li> <li>• Receive final report from APT members</li> </ul>

## 7. Requirements of application

- 1) Applications must be submitted through APT Members or Associate Members.
- 2) the project should be carried out in collaboration with Korean experts. Applicants lacking expert partners can contact Korean experts through NIA by emailing [yjkang@nia.or.kr](mailto:yjkang@nia.or.kr) during the application preparation stage.
- 3) Organizations and institutions involved in the project should be well coordinated with each other in advance. All cooperating partners must be listed in the application form, which is requested to be sent to the APT Secretariat.
- 4) The project should be carried out within the APT Member countries.
- 5) The organizations involved in the project are requested to ensure that experts from beneficiary country and Korea nominated for the project will be available for the full period of the project.
- 6) All participants from both countries in this project should have sufficient ability to conduct.
- 7) The project is to be completed within 18 months, starting from 1 January 2025
- 8) If selected as a task for EBC-K Project 2024, a specific action plan should be established through consulting with NIA.

### < Checklist for application >

- Endorsement by APT member administration: The application form should be endorsed by the focal point of APT member administration. The application without the endorsement by the focal point or with the signature of applicant's organization /institution instead, shall not be considered as duly completed application.
- Purpose of EBC-K project is to transfer of ICT knowledge or share experience from Korea to applicant country. The Korean expert should be from the ICT area, not from the areas irrelevant to ICT.
- Applicants may find proper Korean experts by themselves if possible. If the help to find Korean experts is needed, applicants needs to contact NIA.

- Simple implementation projects such as website development are not recommended to apply since it does not seem to need the expertise or experience from Korean experts.
- Proposal should describe the detailed plan for field survey, study visit to Korea and pilot system/test.
- Description of the specific ideas of implementation and close collaboration plan such as field survey and study visit between Korea and applicant country need to be detailed.
- Amount of proposed budget should not exceed the max. allowable limit (USD 60,000). However, this limit does not exclude a project with a budget above that limit as long as there are other secured financial resources to finance it.
- Wage or labor cost of participating members should not be included in the budget plan.

## **8. Selection**

- 1) The proposed projects will be in the selection process at the APT Secretariat in consultation with the government of the Republic of Korea based on the above-mentioned requirements and the criteria stated below.
- 2) APT Members or Associate Members who have submitted the applications will receive notification from APT Secretariat on the result of the selection.
- 3) During the selection process of the project proposals, the APT Secretariat may interview persons involved in the projects in order to examine the conformity with the requirements and the selection criteria.
- 4) During or after the implementation of the projects, APT Secretariat may conduct investigation and meeting to monitor the progress or successful completion of the project.

## **9. Selection Criteria**

The following points will be considered in the selection process.

- 1) Objective of the proposed project

The proposed project plan should be in line with the above-mentioned objective and aim of this plan and the Brunei Darussalam Statement adopted in 2014 at the APT Ministerial Meeting that mentioned promoting ICT applications is important to support solving economic and social issues in each Member country.

- 2) Feasibility of the project implementation plan

The proposed project should have accurate current situation analysis, feasible action plan and appropriate understandings of ICT applications.

- 3) The execution capability of the organizations or experts

The organizations and experts, which proposed their project should have sufficient experience and the appropriate ability to complete the project in time.

#### 4) Suitability of the budget plan

The budget plan of the proposed project should have the validity and efficiency to complete the project and the proposed project will be given a priority if the matching fund from APT Members and other resources besides EBC-K provides financial support in cash or in kind.

### **10. Areas of Financial Support**

Financial support shall be given to the following items:

- 1) Expenses for engaging experts necessary for the planning, investigation, and preparation of reports essential to the project's implementation (The combined expert fees for both the Korean side and the Member country should not exceed 25% of the total APT support amount.)
- 2) Equipment procurement: costs for procuring necessary equipment/software required for implementation of the project
- 3) Shipping fee: postal charges and shipping costs related to transportation of materials for the projects
- 4) Business trips: travel expenses, accommodation fees, and other business trip costs for field survey, study visit and reporting activity (Please see detail in financial support detail below)
- 5) Miscellaneous: unforeseen expenses not mentioned above (Up to 10% of the total amount of the APT financial support)

### **11. Financial Support Detail**

#### 1) Costs in the applicant's country

- a) It is expected that any local costs related to this project are to be borne by applicant's organization or other collaborating organizations in the applicant's country for the project implementation as far as possible. APT may consider providing additional financial support on a case-by-case basis in case of need.
- b) Above-mentioned local costs include daily allowance, accommodation, and transportation in the applicant's country, costs related to the office space and equipment (such as table, chair, and communication costs).
- c) Salary for researchers from the proposing Members organizations shall not be borne by APT.
- d) The proposing APT Member country should make its best effort to exempt import taxes and custom clearance fees of all relevant equipment used in the project.

#### 2) Costs of business trips to a foreign country

- a) For a researcher traveling to expert's country, the daily allowance of 90 USD and the actual rate of the hotel accommodation, up to 50% of the UN DSA rate as of May

2024 are to be used for the proposal estimations. The actual UN DSA rate will be applied while implementing the project. Necessary local transportation costs in the expert's country, attached to the overseas trip, can also be included in the estimation.

- b) For an expert traveling to developing countries of project implementation, the UN DSA rate as of May 2024 is to be used for project proposal estimations. The actual UN DSA rate will be applied while implementing the project. This amount covers both the daily allowance and the hotel accommodation.

3) Other details about APT financial support

- a) In receiving the financial report, including documentary evidence such as receipts, the APT Secretariat will determine the total amount of the APT financial support.
- b) Upon request, up to 60% of the approved budget will be provided prior to the project implementation.
- c) Since this project is a joint activity of Korean experts, the overall project cost should be considered so that the consulting fees of Korean experts are included. The appropriate consulting fees should be determined in consultation with NIA , taking into consideration the number of participating experts and the proportion of the total project budget.
- d) If selected as a project task, at least 60% of the consulting fee of Korean experts must be paid within 3 months after receiving the project funds from APT.
- e) The balance will be paid after the completion of the project. All the financial transactions should be proved with relevant receipts or documents. APT transfers 1st payment of 60% of total allocated budget upon the start of a project. However, 2nd payment will be made after receiving of the financial report along with the final report submission, which must include all receipts or documents to prove financial transactions. 2nd payment will be transferred after deduction of the amount without receipts/documents from the remaining 40% of total budget.
- f) If the completion of the project is delayed for more than 6 months without special reasons approved by the APT Secretariat, 2nd payment will not be paid.
- g) If the total cost of the project is less than the amount provided, the balance shall be returned to the APT.
- h) Any project cost in excess of the approved budget shall be borne by the Members administrations or the institutions involved.

## **12. Reporting to the APT Secretariat**

- 1) An interim project report and an interim accounting report shall be submitted to the APT Secretariat according to the proposed schedule of the project implementation within 9 months after the commencement of the project.
- 2) The following reports shall be submitted to the APT Secretariat within one month after

the project completion.

- a) The project completion report with detailed outputs and analysis of the project results.
- b) The accounting reports, attached with the certification or original receipts.
- 3) In case any changes are needed to the initial project plan or budget, such changes shall be immediately reported to the APT Secretariat for approval.
- 4) Further information may be requested by the APT Secretariat if deemed necessary.
- 5) The results of the projects shall be reported at APT meetings related to ICT development in order to share the result with the APT members.

### **13. Expected Time Schedule**

- 1) May 2024 : Circulation of APT letter of call for proposals
- 2) May to August 2024 : Proposal Submission
- 3) August to September 2024 : Selection of the proposal
- 4) September to November 2024 : Preparation of detailed implementation plan
- 5) November to December 2024 : Disbursement of the 1st portion of the APT support after final approval

### **14. Liability**

- 1) APT will not be responsible for any accidents, personal injury, or any loss of any nature during the implementation of the projects under this project.
- 2) APT is not liable for any legal implications arising from the implementation and operation of the projects.

### **15. Application and Contact Details**

- 1) The application form and accounting form shall be filled out appropriately and submitted to the APT Secretariat through at e-mail address to [ebc-k@apt.int](mailto:ebc-k@apt.int) or fax no. +662 573 7479.
- 2) For any inquiry of the project proposal and implementation, please contact the APT Secretariat at tel. no. +662 573 7479 or e-mail [ebc-k@apt.int](mailto:ebc-k@apt.int).
- 3) For inquiry for Korean Experts, please contact NIA at tel. no. +82 64 909 3012 or e-mail [yjkang@nia.or.kr](mailto:yjkang@nia.or.kr)