



Sponsors:



CONCEPT NOTE

SIDE EVENT

**DIGITAL INNOVATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN LLDCS
80TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION OF UN ESCAP**

Date: 22 April 2024
Time: 13:15–14:15 hrs
Mode: On-site in person
Venue: Conference Room 3, Level 1, United Nations Conference Center, Bangkok, Thailand

Background:

Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) face unique challenges that hinder their sustainable development and integration into the global economy. Geographical constraints, limited access to the sea, and inadequate infrastructure often impede trade, economic growth, and overall development. In the face of these challenges, leveraging digital innovations has emerged as a transformative force that can propel LLDCs towards sustainable development.

Moreover, these nations face infrastructural deficits that exacerbate their developmental hurdles. Insufficient road and rail networks, coupled with outdated border facilities, impede the smooth flow of goods and services across borders. Inadequate energy infrastructure further hampers economic activities, constraining the potential for industrialization and economic diversification. Beyond physical constraints, LLDCs encounter institutional and regulatory challenges that affect their competitiveness and attractiveness to investors. Cumbersome customs procedures, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and unpredictable regulatory frameworks often deter foreign direct investment, limiting the avenues for economic growth.

In light of these challenges, the urgent need for innovative and sustainable solutions becomes apparent. The rise of digital technologies and analytical planning tools presents an unparalleled opportunity to transcend geographical limitations, streamline trade processes, enhance connectivity, and catalyze economic transformation. The potential impact of digital technologies extends beyond mere efficiency gains; it encompasses the empowerment of local communities, the facilitation of inclusive growth, and the establishment of resilient economies capable of navigating the complexities of the global landscape.

This side event seeks to explore how digital innovations can serve as a catalyst for positive change. By embracing the possibilities that digitalization offers, LLDCs can not only overcome their unique

obstacles but also emerge as dynamic contributors to the global economy, fostering a new era of sustainable development and prosperity.

Objective:

The principal objective of the forthcoming side event resides in a comprehensive exploration and deliberation on the ramifications of digital innovations in addressing the distinctive challenges encountered by LLDCs and fostering sustainable development within the region. The event will be a platform wherein experts, policymakers, and stakeholders can assemble to exchange profound insights, disseminate best practices, and offer innovative solutions.

The overarching goal is to provide substantive contributions to the crafting of policy documents and the next Program of Actions for LLDCs to be adopted at the forthcoming 3rd United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (3LLDCs).

Organizers:

- International Think Tank for LLDC (ITLLDC)
- Embassy of Mongolia to the Kingdom of Thailand (Permanent Mission of Mongolia to ESCAP)
- ESCAP

Sponsors:

- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)

Target Audience:

- Government officials and policymakers from Asian LLDCs
- Representatives from international organizations and development agencies
- Industry experts and technology innovators
- Academia and research institutions
- Non-governmental organizations and civil society

This side event seeks to catalyze dialogue and action towards harnessing the power of digital innovations for sustainable development in Asian LLDCs, contributing to their integration into the global economy and strengthening institutional capacities to deal with external shocks.

Registration:

Participants are encouraged to register for the event through email: thinktank@land-locked.org

Contact persons:

Mr Dulguun Damdin-Od
Executive Director
International Thinktank for
Landlocked Developing Countries (ITLLDC)
Email: dulguundod@land-locked.org

Ms Aida Karazhanova
Economic Affairs Officer
ICT and Development Section (IDS), ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD)
Email: karazhanova@un.org, escap-ids@un.org

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

1. Opening Remarks:

- H.E. Ms. Battsetseg Batmunkh, Head of Delegation, Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia
- Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP

Moderator: Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of ITTLLDC

2. Presentations:

- ICT Development of Mongolia and LLDCs challenges in terms of ICT
 - ✓ Mr. Odbayar Erdenetsogt, Foreign Policy Advisor to the President of Mongolia (tbc)
- Digital Transformation in LLDC
 - ✓ Ms Atsuko Okuda, ITU Regional Director
- Leveraging digital connectivity and innovation for SDGs of LLDC
 - ✓ Mr. Tae Hyung Kim, Chief of ICT and Development Section, ESCAP
- Introduction of Innovation Hubs and Entrepreneurship
 - ✓ Mr Vitaliy Alexandrov, Deputy Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to ESCAP
- Industrial Systems Engineering and AI
 - ✓ Dr Mongkol Ekpanyapong, Associate Professor, Department of Industrial Systems Engineering of Asian Institute of Technology and Director, AIT A.I. Center

3. Open discussion on International Cooperation and Partnerships

- *Objectives are to highlight importance of global collaboration, partnerships, and international support for implementing digital innovations in LLDCs*
 - ✓ by participants

4. Closing Remarks: Path Forward

- *Summarizing key takeaways to 3LLDCs and outlining potential next steps for advancing digital innovations in LLDCs*
 - ✓ ITTLLDC

* **Note:** *The event will encourage active participation through Q&A sessions, panel discussions, and networking opportunities to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange among participants.*