



**Microsoft®**

# Bringing Technology to Governance in Asia Pacific

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) is the regional development arm of the UN Asia-Pacific region. With a membership of 62 Governments that stretches from Turkey to the Pacific island nation of Kiribati in the east, UNESCAP is the most comprehensive of the United Nations five regional commissions. Established in 1947, it aims to be the regional hub to address key development challenges, and to implement innovative solutions for regional-wide economic prosperity, social progress and environmental sustainability.

The relationship between UNESCAP and Microsoft began in 2004 with the organisation of joint events and workshops on technical issues and for capacity building. In June 2006, the cooperation between the two partners was formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), with an additional focus on the application of technology for the development of public sector employees' skills across the region.

## **Regional ICT Training Centre for Government Officials**

Since 2006, Microsoft has supported the newly established Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT) – a key initiative in advancing UNESCAP's mission to meet regional ICT requirements

in the field of human resources development. Based in Incheon, Korea, this is the UN's first information communications technology (ICT) training centre for government officials in the Asian and Pacific region.

The facility is a regional resource for policy-makers, ICT professionals and trainers from developing nations across the region to learn from and share good practices in the area of ICT development, helping in the transition to the 'knowledge economy'.

Microsoft is providing expertise and resources to the Centre in a variety of ways including the provision of software and services, and assistance in the development of a technology and training roadmap. Microsoft will also contribute support in ICT education and certification, which includes extensive curricula for training on ICT skills development and capacity building, as well as more advanced training materials in diverse areas – ranging from e-Government solutions, to online collaboration and communication technologies, interoperability of ICT systems, security and Internet safety, and intellectual property management.

*“Policies and partnerships are urgently needed to turn the advances in knowledge technologies into advances for the whole of humanity – and to ensure access for the poor to the benefits of the knowledge economy.”*

Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Secretary of UNESCAP

