



International Conference on

SCALING UP AND ADOPTION OF FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION TECHNOLOGIES FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

15 September 2023
Guangzhou, China (Virtual Mode)

Organizer:

- Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Advisor:

- Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technology, People's Republic of China

Host :

- Asia-Pacific Regional Innovation Knowledge Network for 4th Industrial Revolution Technologies (APRIKNET-4IR) and Secretariat Office, People's Republic of China

BACKGROUND:

According to the World Bank, climate change poses major challenges to environmental stability, economic growth and human development in the East Asia and Pacific region. The region includes 13 of the 30 countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and without concerted action, the region could see an additional 7.5 million people fall into poverty due to climate impacts by 2030. East Asia and the Pacific are also critical to global efforts to combat climate change. The region accounts for one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions and 60 percent of the world's coal consumption. ¹

The *Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2023* of ESCAP reveals that Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate action) continues to regress in the region and must be given priority to reverse the negative trends.² Towards supporting Goal 13, the fourth industrial revolution (4IR) technologies (e.g., IoT, AI, Big Data, blockchain, intelligent manufacturing systems, robotics among others) are providing many innovative solutions for addressing local challenges. A study by the World Economic Forum, 70% of the 169 targets under the SDGs could be enabled by existing 4IR technology applications³. While there are immense opportunities for 4IR applications, their potential impact largely depends on how they are harnessed and implemented. The strategy for scaling up and adoption of 4IR technologies requires systematic planning, identifying priority needs, open innovation, pilot-testing of innovations and prototypes, skill development, developing partnerships, enabling policy incentives and finance.

This international conference will provide a platform to deliberate on the priorities, strategies and good practices for scaling up and adoption of 4IR technologies for addressing climate change, and to explore potential opportunities and modalities of cross-border collaborations.

OBJECTIVES

¹ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/eap/brief/climate-and-development-in-east-asia-and-pacific-region>

² <https://www.unescap.org/kp/2023/asia-and-pacific-sdg-progress-report-2023>

³ http://www3.weforum.org/docs/Unlocking_Technology_for_the_Global_Goals.pdf

- Increase knowledge and awareness of enabling policy and incentives for adopting innovative and affordable 4IR technologies to address climate change in the Asia-Pacific region
- Explore innovative strategies and good practices to scale up and adopt 4IR technologies for addressing climate change
- Identify opportunities for cross-border collaboration for transfer and diffusion of innovative 4IR technologies and provide recommendations for strengthening regional cooperation

PARTICIPANTS

Policymakers and government officials from the member States in Asia and the Pacific, representatives from the academia, national laboratories, R&D institutions, and industrial and research organizations and enterprises engaged in the development and deployment of 4IR technologies.