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Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Scientific and Industrial Research

International Conference on Fourth Industrial Revolution Technologies for Sustainable Development

Jointly Organized by

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

and

Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India

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(Virtual)

BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted socio-economic fabric of our societies across the world, causing unprecedented human suffering and economic disruptions as well as our way of life. The crisis has clearly affected the advancements towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Towards fighting the pandemic, the fourth industrial revolution (4IR) technologies (such as Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, Big Data analysis, blockchain, intelligent manufacturing systems, among others) are playing a critical role in integrating the development approaches to calibrate economic, social and environmental dimensions. The 4IR technologies are rapidly becoming mainstreamed, enabling faster digital transformation of production and manufacturing systems, and thus have become the means and solutions to many of the world's problems. It is imperative for countries to understand how and where these technologies could be harnessed to tackle some of the world's most pressing environmental, economic, and social challenges, under the umbrella of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The 4IR technologies have offered ground-breaking applications in the healthcare sector in the development of vaccines and medicines as well as designing targeted responses such as population screening, tracking the infection, contact tracing, prioritizing the use and allocation of resources, among others. Innovative 4IR technologies can be key enablers of sustainability and environmental resilience – offering opportunities to respond to climate change.[1] The technologies are also supporting economic recovery of countries through providing novel and efficient ways of conducting business, production, education, and research and development (R&D).

This International Conference is envisaged to facilitate knowledge sharing on the development and utilization of 4IR technologies for sustainable development, particularly in the post COVID-19 era. The conference also aims to foster collaboration among policymakers in Asia and the Pacific region, representatives from public and private sector organizations, R&D institutions, academia, and experts involved in various aspects of 4IR technologies.

OBJECTIVES

- Enhance awareness on the opportunities, policy tools and strategies to promote innovations and utilization of 4IR technologies for achieving sustainable development, focusing on sectors such as healthcare, climate change, sustainable production, and resilient recovery of industries.
- Explore innovative strategies and best practices to advance 4IR technological innovations to address the critical developmental challenges in the post COVID-19 era.
- Provide policy recommendations to facilitate regional cooperation and cross-border transfer of 4IR technologies to support achievement of SDGs.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Policy makers and Government officials from the member States in Asia and the Pacific, representatives from public, private as well as non-governmental organizations, R&D institutions, academia, representatives from technology promotion agencies, and other relevant stakeholders.

[1] https://www.itu.int/en/action/environment-and-climate-change/Documents/frontier-technologies-to-protect-the-environment-and-tackle-climate-change.pdf