

## International conference on

# INNOVATION, TRANSFER AND DIFFUSION OF FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION TECHNOLOGIES

30 June 2022

Guangzhou, China (Virtual Mode)

### Organizers:

- Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technology, People's Republic of China
- Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

### Host :

- Asia-Pacific Regional Innovation Knowledge Network for 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution Technologies (APRIKNET-4IR) and Secretariat Office at Guangzhou University, People's Republic of China

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### BACKGROUND:

The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), also known as Industry 4.0, is the unfolding age of digitalization - from the digitally connected products and services to smart automation of tasks and services in our homes or at work, to advancements in smart cities and smart factories. From consumers to manufacturers to cities, 4IR is more than a set of technologies; it is gradually transforming the ways we live and work. The 4IR technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, Internet of Things, big data, cloud computing, robotics, among others, are rapidly becoming mainstreamed, enabling transformation of entire networks, systems and societies.

Countries in the Asia-Pacific region are fast embracing the 4IR technologies and the rate of adoption of such technologies has been fast-tracked by the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to further accelerate the adoption of 4IR technologies and harness their benefits, it is imperative to focus on the three key aspects- innovation, transfer, and diffusion of 4IR technologies. Some of the key challenges related to innovation, development and transfer of 4IR technologies are low research and development spending, digital infrastructure and access gap, regulation and policy gaps, and skill and education gaps.<sup>1</sup> The intra-regional disparity in terms of development and usage of 4IR technologies is a significant challenge for the Asia-Pacific. In this regard, regional cooperation is the key to faster diffusion of 4IR technologies across countries which can be facilitated through collaborative research, innovation and technology transfer. Across the Asia-Pacific region, there is a diversity among countries in their levels of absorption capacity for up-taking 4IR technologies, and this provides immense opportunities for regional cooperation and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

This international conference will provide a platform to deliberate on strategies to enhance regional collaboration on innovation, transfer and diffusion of 4IR technologies, and to explore possible modalities of collaborations.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unescap.org/kp/2022/apctt-working-paper-innovation-transfer-and-diffusion-fourth-industrial-revolution-4ir>

## **OBJECTIVES**

- Increase knowledge and awareness on the challenges, mechanisms and good practices of innovation, transfer and diffusion of 4IR technologies in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- Explore innovative strategies and modalities to strengthen regional cooperation for cross-border transfer and diffusion of 4IR technologies.
- Provide recommendations on addressing the critical challenges for strengthening regional cooperation for 4IR technologies.

## **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 engaged in development and deployment of 4IR technologies.