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**Subject: Validation Process: Terrestrial Fibre Optic Transmission Networks and Broadband Transmission Capacity Indicators**

Dear Sir/Madam,

As per the replies received to the Circular letter - Request for Information ([RFI](#)) related to the implementation of the ITU/ESCAP Project for the implementation of Interactive Terrestrial Transmission Maps for Asia-Pacific countries which was recently circulated in the ASP Region on 9 January 2013, substantial inputs have been collected from the concerned stakeholders so far.

ITU and ESCAP are, therefore, pleased to announce that the Interactive Transmission Map and its validation framework have now been implemented on the secure ITU TIES website and is ready for you to access it. The research for this map is still ongoing, and has so far (February 2013) been populated with information for several network operators in a number of countries.

The Interactive Transmission Maps are now available, under TIES password, at:

<http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Technology/Pages/InteractiveTransmissionMaps.aspx>

## 1. Background

During the year 2012 ITU started the implementation of the Project for building the Interactive Terrestrial (Optical Fibers and Microwaves) Transmission Maps, in cooperation with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) for Asia-Pacific countries. The Framework and the Methodology of the Project were presented during the last Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) and the World Telecommunication Indicators Meeting (WTIM) held in Bangkok, Thailand from 25 – 27 September 2012 (<http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/wtim12/index.html>). One of the outcomes/recommendations of the meetings was the endorsement of the Project for developing an interactive web map of regional transmission networks, and the definition of a new set of broadband transmission capacity indicators.

One of the final recommendations adopted by the WTIM was: “The meeting welcomes the ITU pilot project to collect indicators to measure backbone terrestrial transmission capacity. These include transmission network length (route kms), node locations, equipment type of terrestrial transmission network, network capacity (bit rate), number of optical fibres within the cable, operational status of the transmission network, and population within reach of transmission networks. The data, which will be collected by ITU through an external consultant, will be shared with and verified by national authorities. The aim of the project is to meet the demand for transmission capacity data and to develop an interactive online transmission map.”



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### What does the map show?

The ITU/ESCAP Interactive Transmission Map shows the terrestrial transmission networks of network operators. These backbone networks underpin the ability of network operators to deliver high capacity broadband services. The map shows:

- The routing of long-haul fibre optic transmission networks.
- The operational status of transmission networks (operational, under construction, planned, proposed).
- The nodes (add/drop points) on these transmission networks.
- The range to operational fibre nodes on these networks (10-km, 25-km, 50-km range).
- A selectable map layer which shows the validation status of each piece of network.
- Information for each link in the network (where available): who owns it, where it runs from and to, how long it is, and the source material that was used to create the map.

Using the information shown in the map, ITU has used the GIS data to calculate the Broadband Capacity Indicators for the first countries for which the data has been already received. For each country, this shows the total number of route kilometers of terrestrial fibre optic transmission network, and the population and area within reach of nodes on an operational fibre optic network. For Asia-Pacific countries, the map will be overlaid with maps from the Trans Asian Railway and Asian Highway Initiatives of ESCAP. ESCAP has also secured access to the UN base map layer of boundaries and names so that our end product will be in conformity with United Nations cartographic standards. (framework of [collaboration](#) ITU-ESCAP)

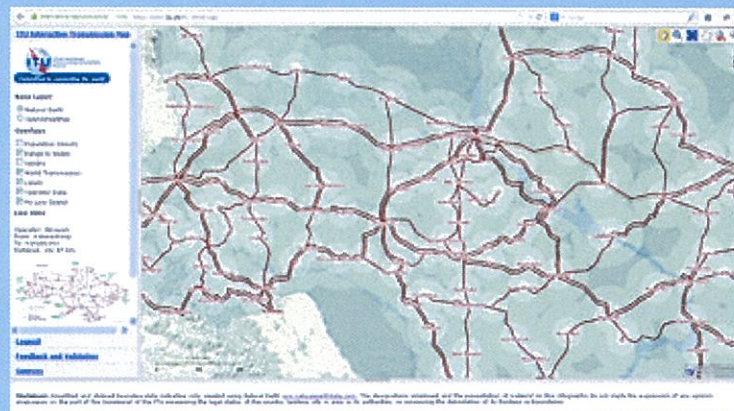
ITU and ESCAP invite you to log in to view the Interactive Transmission Map using your TIES username and password at the URL link below, to check the information which is shown in the map, and we look forward to receiving your comments, corrections and feedback as per the validation procedures indicated in Annex 1.





We invite you to check the information shown in the Maps for your network or country, and to validate this information by following the validation procedures described in Annex 1, by the end of June 2013.

### Access Details: ITU Interactive Transmission Map



The homepage for the ITU Interactive Transmission Map project is located at:

<http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Technology/Pages/InteractiveTransmissionMaps.aspx>

Circular Letter/ Request for Information (RFI)

<http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Technology/Pages/InteractiveMapsRFI.aspx>

ITU Interactive Transmission Map (log in using your TIES password)

<https://www.itu.int/itu-d/tnd-map/>

ITU Interactive Transmission Map Validation Framework (log in using your TIES password)

<https://www.itu.int/itu-d/tnd-map/validation/>



Whoever is not having TIES access (either not being ITU Member or not having already requested such access) can apply for receiving username and password by using the following procedures:

- a) ITU Members (Member States, Sector Members, Associates, and Academia)

Request on line <http://www.itu.int/TIES/>

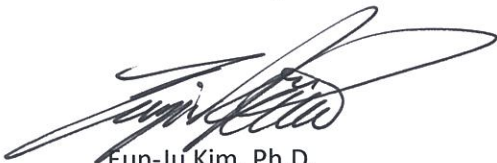
Non ITU Members will be given temporary TIES access for validating the Transmission Maps. Send request for receiving TIES access (username and password) to Service email: [itutmaps@itu.int](mailto:itutmaps@itu.int) indicating the following information:

- i) Name of the Organization/Operators
- ii) Contact details (Name, Email, Phone, Functions, etc.)

The Administrations are kindly requested to provide further feedbacks and comments, if any, by the end of July 2013. After that the validated information will be disclosed to the public domain.

With your help and collaboration ITU and ESCAP will continue working to make this worldwide transmission map as accurate and up-to-date as possible. I look forward to receiving your feedback.

Yours sincerely,



Eun-Ju Kim, Ph.D.  
Regional Director  
ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Annex: Validation Procedure