



CENTRE FOR
STRATEGIC AND
INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES

Deepening Openness and Integration by Accelerating Connectivity Agenda

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Why connectivity matters more?

Pressures on Integration and Openness

- Geopolitical rivalry
- Protectionism and tariff risk
- Supply chain disruption
- Energy security concerns

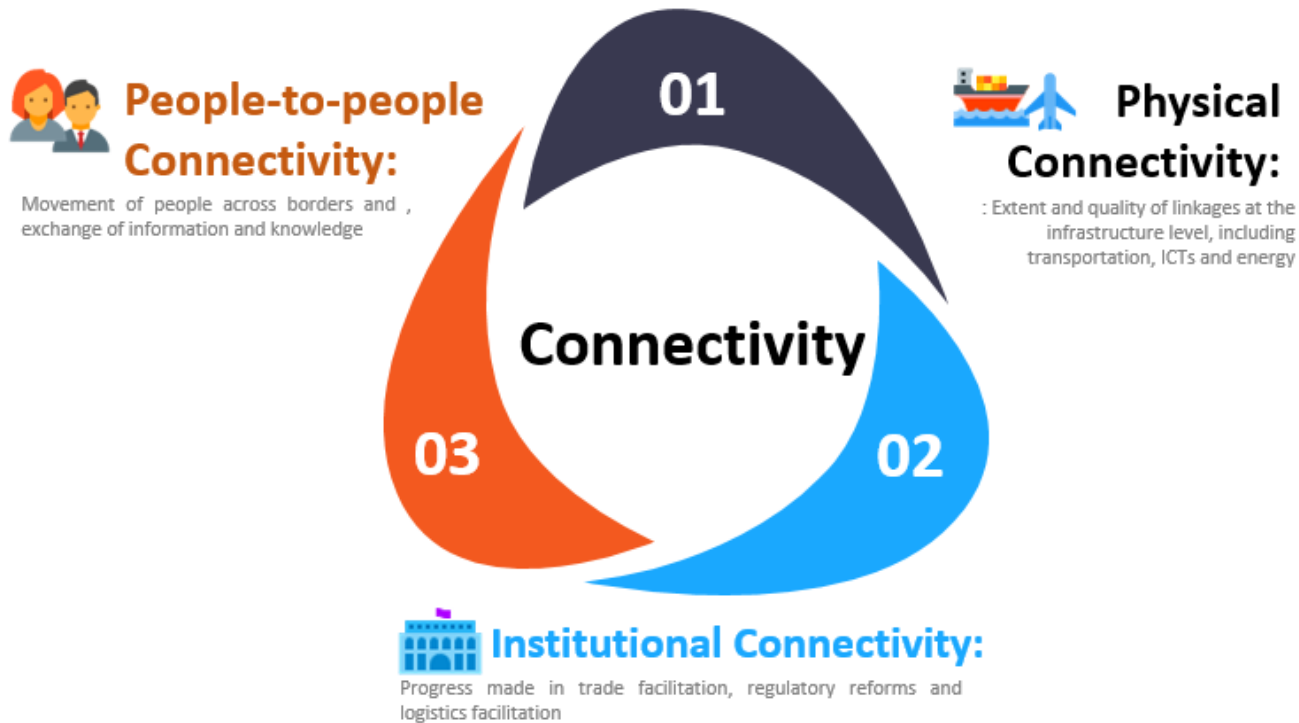
Connectivity Supports Effective Responses

- Diversified logistics routes
- Paperless customs
- Regional energy links
- Skills and business mobility

Openness and integration is no longer only about reducing tariffs. It depends on whether economies are connected through infrastructure, rules, digital systems, energy networks, and people

Making connectivity agenda works...

Three Pillars of Connectivity



Supply chains connectivity



Digital connectivity



Energy connectivity

Supply Chain Connectivity

Goal: faster, greener, more predictable trade flows.

2022–2026

APEC Supply Chain Connectivity Framework
Action Plan III

~90%

import and export declaration clearances are
digitalized in APEC

Main chokepoints

- Uneven digitalization
- Infrastructure gaps
- Weak data and payment links
- Green supply chain uncertainty
- MSME integration gaps

APEC actions to push

- Digital trade documents
- Interoperable single windows
- E-certificates and e-bills of lading
- Green logistics data
- MSME export onboarding

Maritime Shipping Liner Connectivity Index (2023=100)

	2011-2013	2023-2025	
Australia	151.4	144.9	↓
Canada	148.2	157.4	↑
Chile	96.8	104.8	↑
China	897.4	1228.2	↑
Hong Kong	543.2	375.9	↓
Chinese Taipei	327.5	338.3	↑
Indonesia	228.9	235.7	↑
Japan	445.0	417.0	↓
Malaysia	483.0	500.7	↑
Mexico	160.1	187.2	↑
Korea	519.2	630.8	↑
Singapore	567.9	598.6	↑
Thailand	199.7	266.9	↑
United States	483.2	513.8	↑
Viet Nam	225.1	424.1	↑

UNCTAD

Digital Connectivity

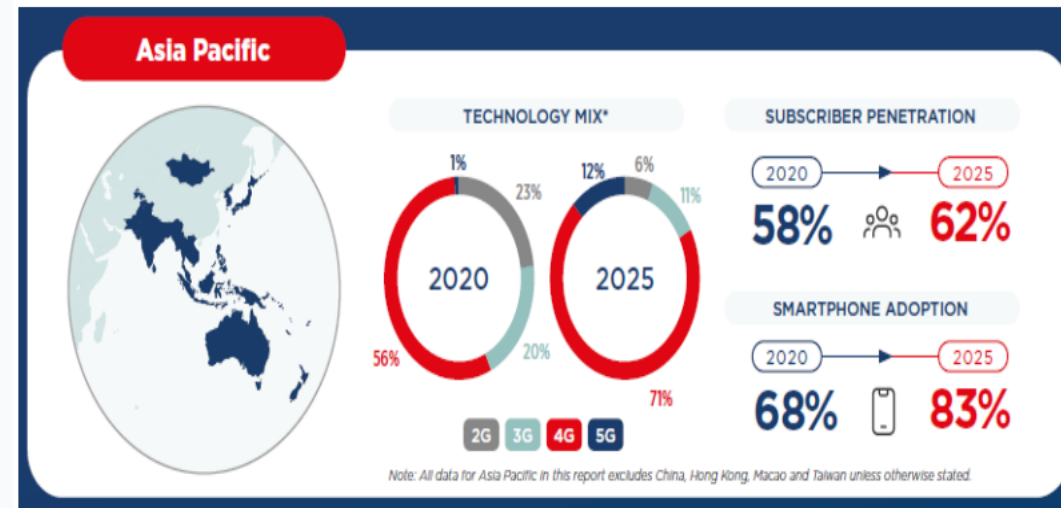
Goal: trusted movement of data, services, and digital trade.

15.5%

estimated digital economy share of global GDP

2018

APEC established the Digital Economy Steering Group



Promote interoperability, not one-size-fits-all regulation

Infrastructure

- Broadband
- Data center
- Subsea cable

Regulatory Framework

- Data flow
- Privacy
- Cybersecurity

Trust

- Standards
- AI governance

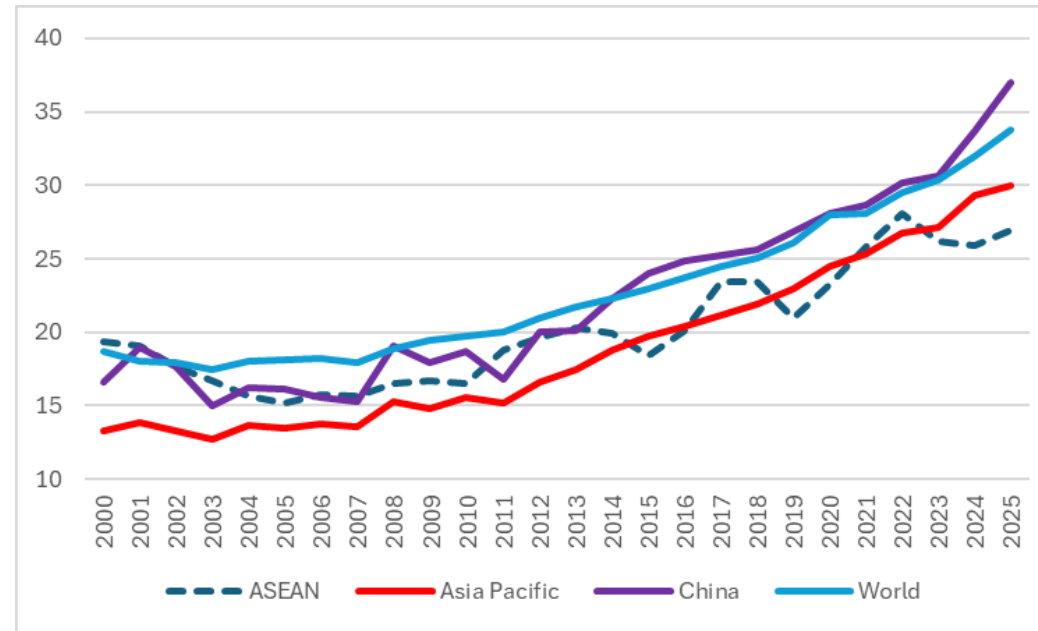
Access

- Digital payments
- Skills and talents

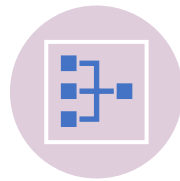
Energy Connectivity

- Industry needs reliable power
- Digital economy needs clean electricity
- Data centers raise demand
- Clean tech depends on minerals
- Energy shocks raise trade costs

Renewable in Electricity Generation (%)



Source: IEA



Cross-border power connection



Clean energy tech cooperation



Critical minerals transparency and cooperation



Storage cooperation

