Future of eGovernance in a South Asian Subregion

Harshita Bhatnagar
National ICT Expert

Asian Development Bank

- **Vision-** Asia and Pacific region free of poverty

- **Mission-** is to help its developing member countries reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of their people.

- Headquartered in Manila, ADB is owned by 67 members, including 48 from the region.

Subregional Programs of ADB

1. Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA)

2. Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program

3. Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Program

4. Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT)

5. **South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC)**

South Asia Sub regional Economic Cooperation(SASEC)

- SASEC program brings **together 7 countries** - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, and Sri Lanka in a project-based partnership.

- Launched in 2001, IInd Phase-2016-2025

South Asia Sub regional Economic Cooperation(SASEC)

- It aims to promote regional prosperity, improve economic opportunities, and build a **better quality of life**.

- SASEC countries have implemented 46 regional projects worth over $9 billion in the energy, transport, trade facilitation, economic corridor development, and information and communications technology (ICT) sectors.

ICT in SASEC Region

- The large IT workforce in India and China has been instrumental in ICT advancements in the South Asian region.

- Still some parts of India's $2.3 trillion economy are still "untouched by modernization". Same is true of other SASEC countries also.

- Therefore ADB developed a ICT project for four countries in SASEC region in 2007.
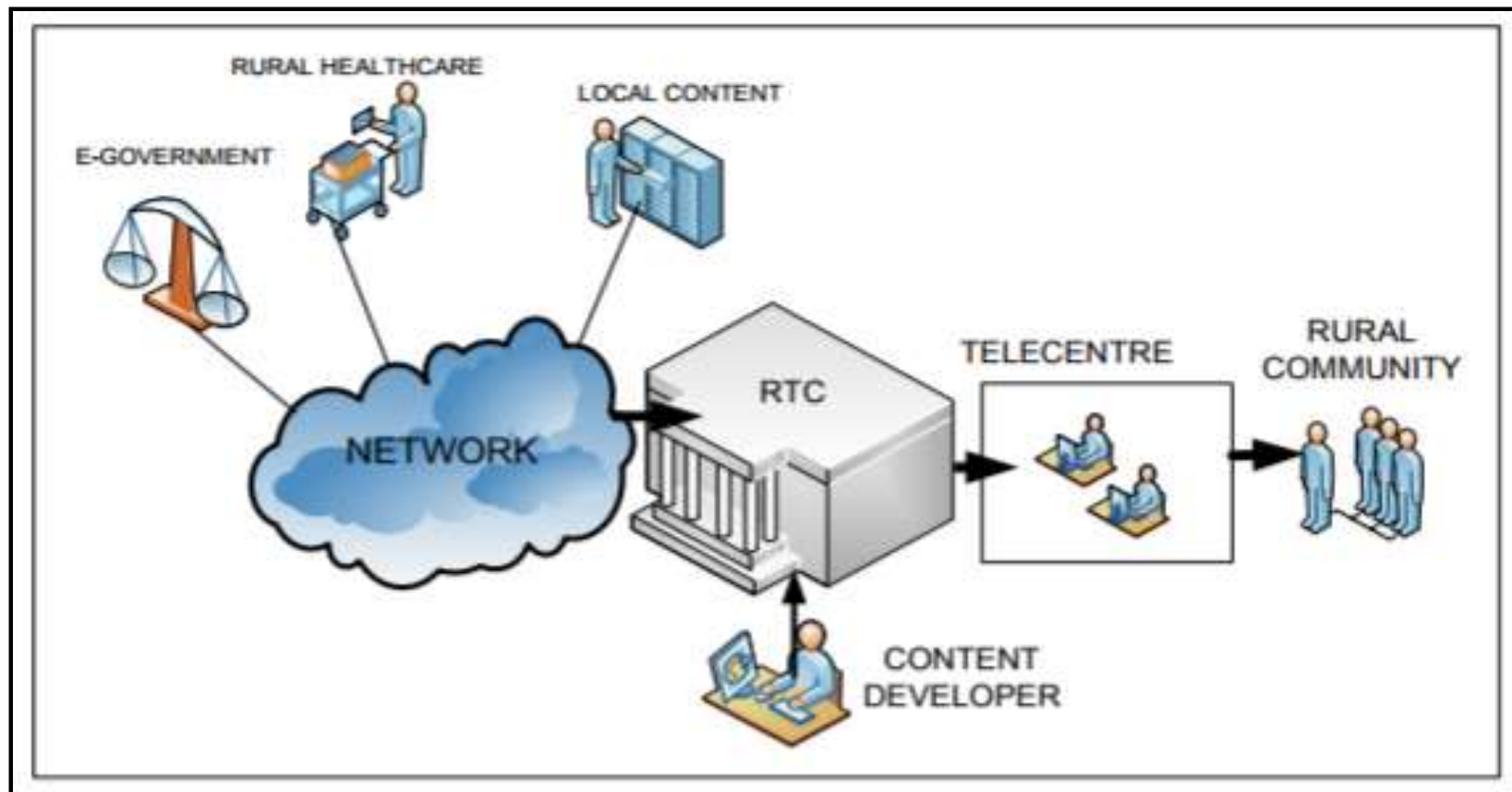
SASEC Information Highway(SASEC IH) Project

- Four of the SASEC countries, namely, **India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan** have been selected for this project. Border towns have been selected to provide high speed cross –country connectivity.

- Conceptualized in 2007. Implementation started in India 2012. The project is being implemented through four implementation agencies with delegated powers of controlling Ministries in all four countries.

- Kathmandu, Dhaka, Thimpu and Siliguri are the regional hubs in participating countries.

Components of SASEC IH

- **Village Network** - permits high speed access to rural communities through the CeCs or Community eCenters.

- **Regional Network-** are IT infrastructure improvement projects that have provided Optical Fiber(OF) based networks in four countries.

- **Research and Training Network-**it achieves the utility of VN and RN by sharing content and resources between participating countries.

SASEC Research &Training Network

Research and Training Network

Network of Research and Training Centers(RTCs) in four countries that connected through a direct peering network. This enables sharing of resources and better collaboration. DL courses have been developed by member countries and shared with remaining members.

1. Distance Learning Courses(31 in no.) in local language, at low cost
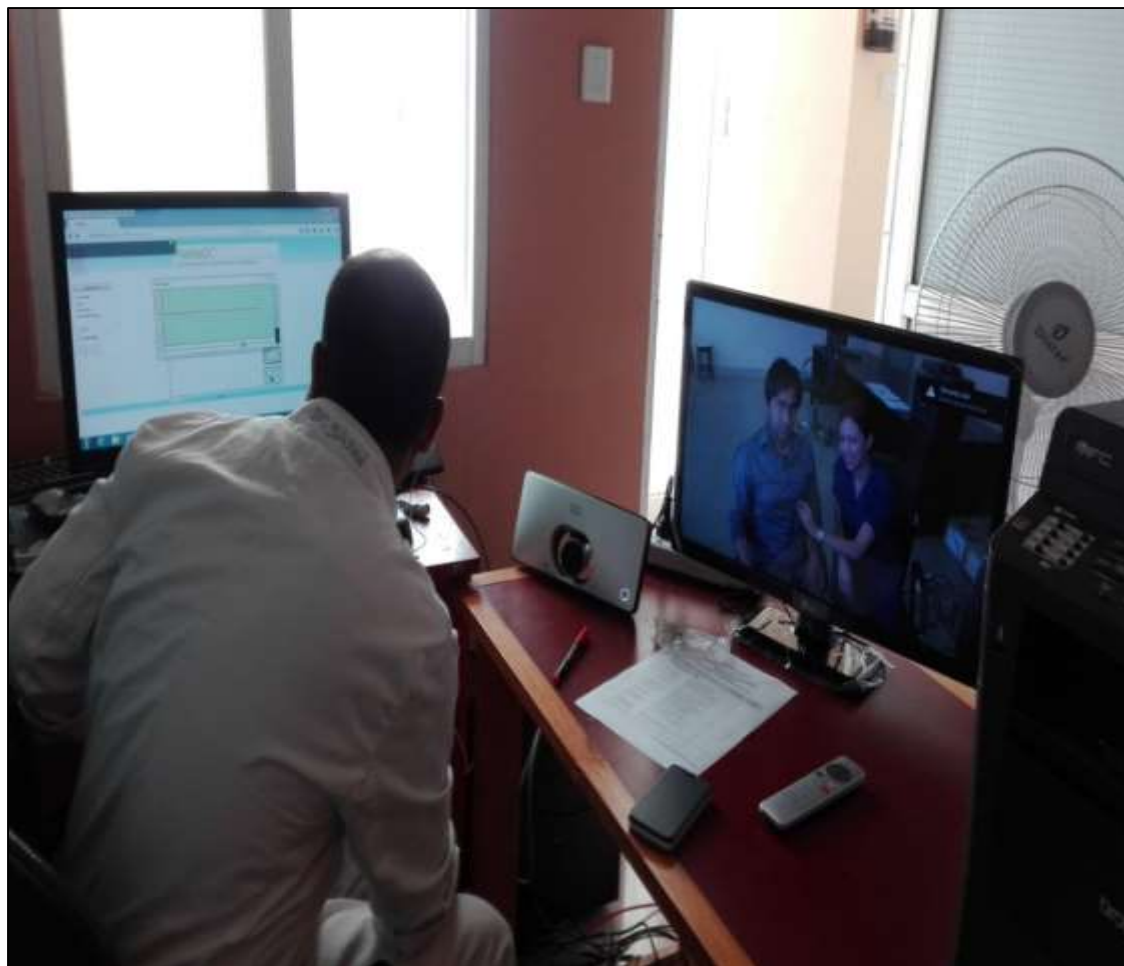2. E-commerce portal- Village Bazaar
3. Telemedicine

Regional Training Centers under SASEC

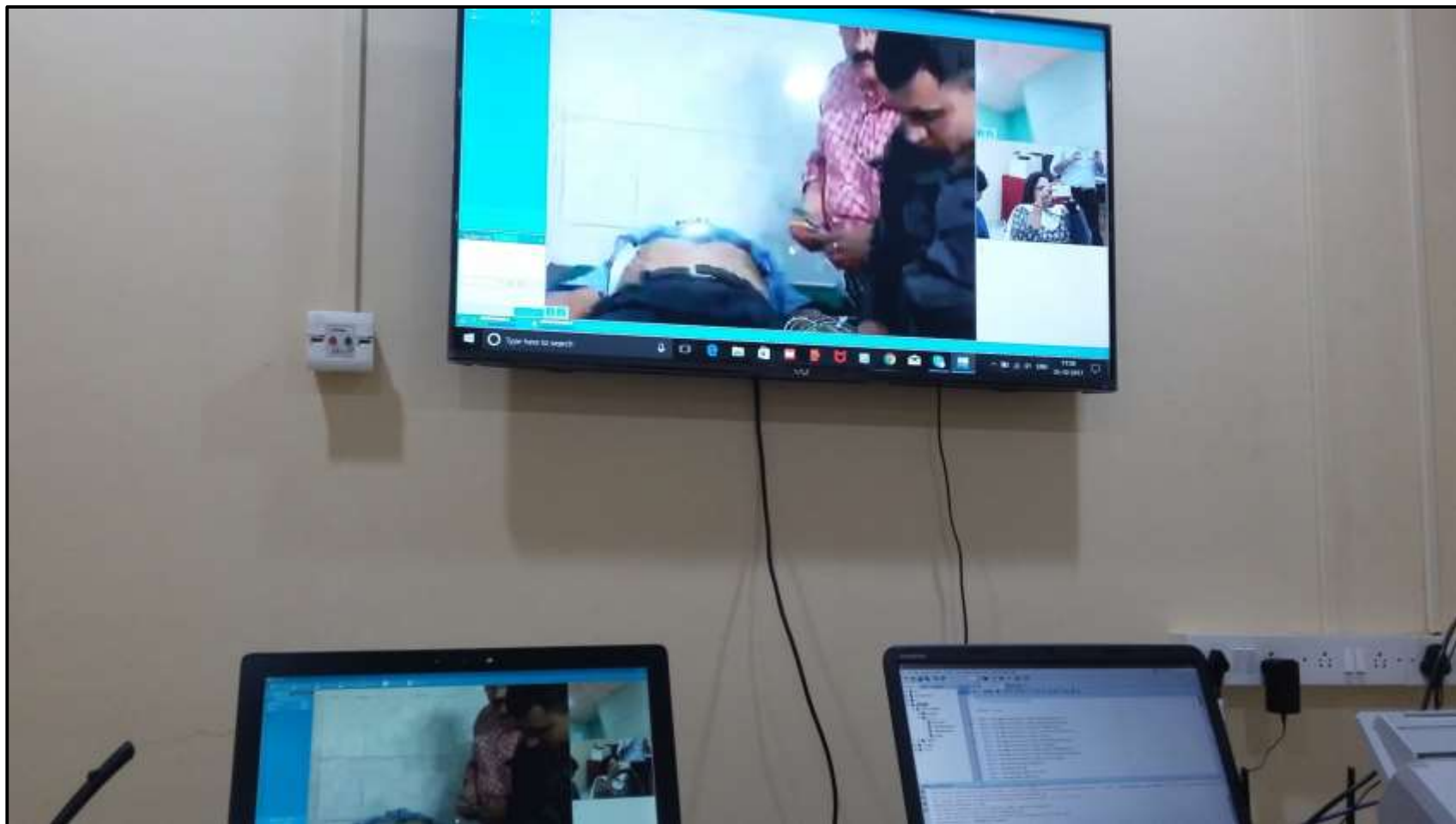| Country	RTC
India	CDAC Noida
Bhutan	Bhutan Telecom, Thimpu
Nepal	Kathmandu University, Kathmandu
Bangladesh	BTCL, Dhaka

Telemedicine under SASEC

Telemedicine under ADB's RTN

Telemedicine under SASEC

Future ADB Projects in SASEC Region

- In July 2017, ADB's loan assistance project for up gradation and widening of 65 kms of Imphal-Moreh Section of NH-39 in Manipur has been approved by CCEA.

- A large Solar Energy project, funded through ADB and being implemented in collaboration with USIEF in Rajasthan has also been approved this month.

Future ADB Projects in SASEC Region

- Overall **19 Transport projects** in SASEC region are in the pipeline between 2016-18.

- Projects are in the area **of road, rail, sea port, Air port** and **multimodal cross-border transport projects** in SASEC countries. Most of these projects have a **component of ICT or Management Information Systems** to manage such large scale and high impact.

Conclusion

- SASEC region and member countries are on the path to a smart regional growth.

Thank You!

harshita.moia@gmail.com