Launch of the ADB Sustainable Development Working Paper

DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY AND LOW EARTH ORBIT SATELLITE CONSTELLATIONS

Opportunities for Asia and the Pacific

28 APRIL • 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. (GMT+8)

PROGRAM

Opening and Introduction
Arndt Husar, Co-Author
and Senior Public Management Specialist (Digital Transformation), ADB

Digital Connectivity and Low Earth Orbit Satellite Constellations - Opportunities for Asia and the Pacific
John Garrity, Co-Author
and Consultant (Digital Connectivity), ADB

Opportunities for investment, technical assistance and partnerships
Thomas Abell, Chief, Digital Technology for Development Unit, ADB

Perspectives
Atsuko Okuda, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Jun Murai, Distinguished Professor, Keio University (Japan)
and Founder, WIDE Project

Audience Q&A

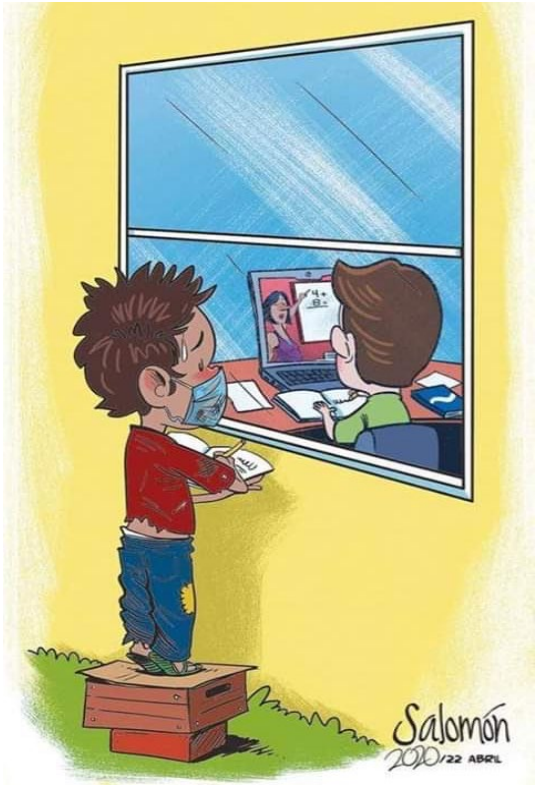
WHY FOCUS ON INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

Connectivity is essential for economic growth and social development. It is also critical to resilience and recovery.

The digital divide directly impacts **economic opportunities** and raises **income inequality**.

Telecom infrastructure has been mostly privately funded, but **role of public policy and finance** is crucial for further expansion.

Now comes the hard part... *Closing the remaining connectivity gaps! Policies, business models, technologies, and partnerships.*



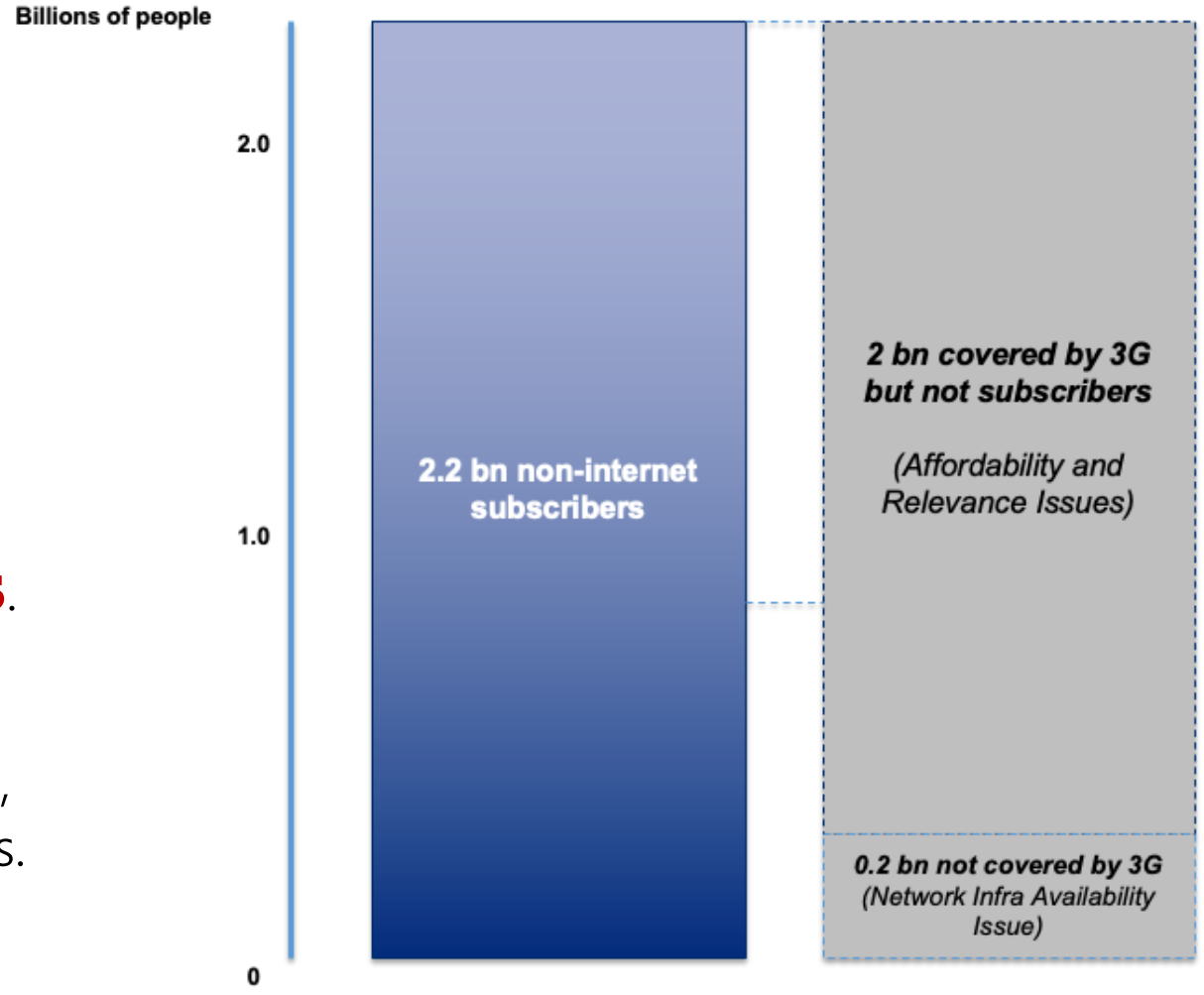
ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY AND ADOPTION GAPS

In Asia and the Pacific, among
2.2 billion non-internet subscribers,

the majority is covered by 3G, but

the remaining 2 billion people have
affordability and relevance issues.

Asia has made significant gains with affordability,
but struggles with **equal access** (gender, age, literacy, rural, unemployment) and relevance issues.



Source: GSMA, State of Mobile Internet Connectivity Report 2020 https://www.gsma.com/r/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/GSMA-State-of-Mobile-Internet-Connectivity-Report-2020.pdf
East Asia and Pacific data: https://www.gsma.com/r/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Mobile-Internet-Connectivity-EAP-Fact-Sheet.pdf;
South Asia data: https://www.gsma.com/mobilefordevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Mobile-Internet-Connectivity-South-Asia-Fact-Sheet.pdf

ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY AND ADOPTION GAPS

Even when targets (<2%) of affordability are reached,

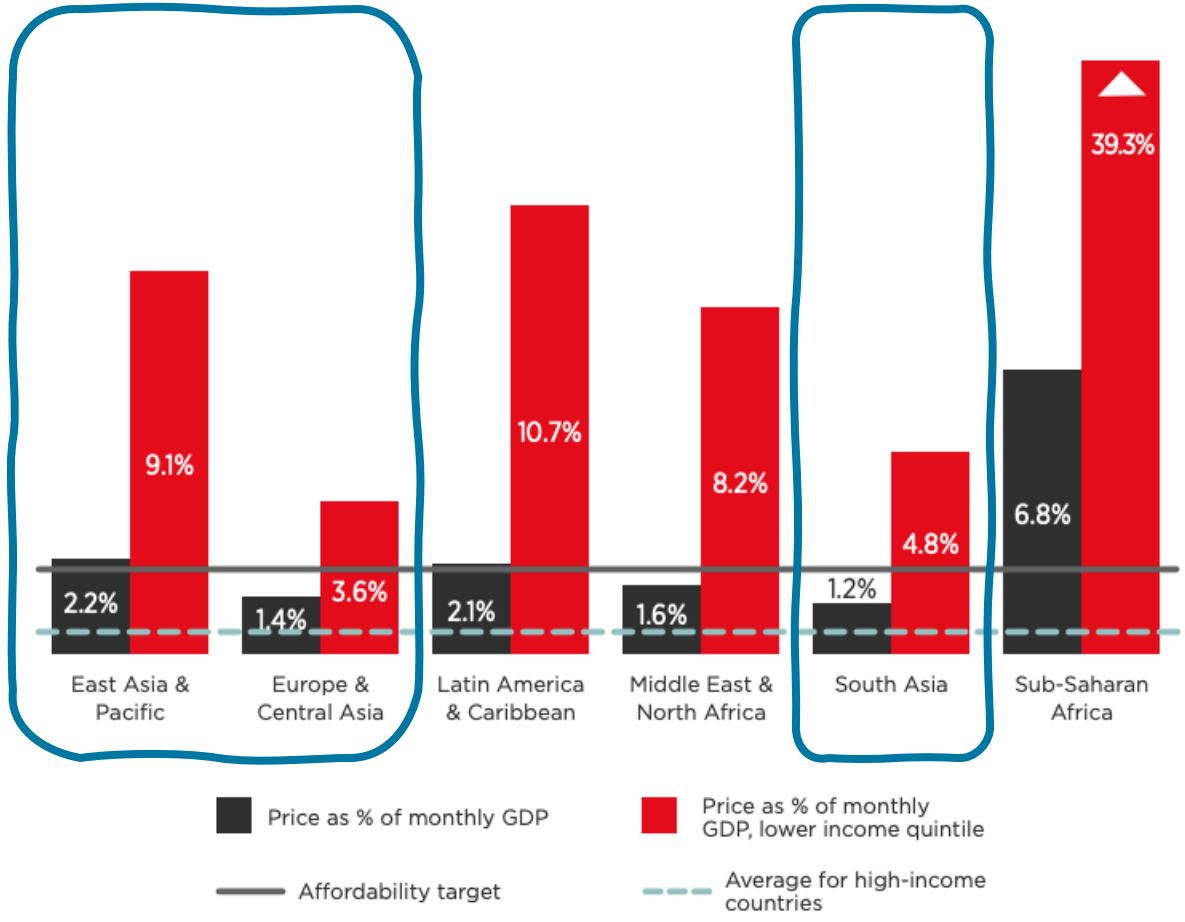
Lower income populations

still find prices unaffordable.

55%

(2.37bn people) in Asia-Pacific

are not using the internet



Source: GSMA Intelligence calculations based on pricing data from Tarifica. For each region, the mean average is taken based on the countries for which we have available data. Data on income distribution is sourced from the World Bank.

Sources: GSMA, State of Mobile Internet Connectivity Report 2019 https://www.gsma.com/mobilefordevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/GSMA-State-of-Mobile-Internet-Connectivity-Report-2019.pdf
ITU: https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/stat/default.aspx; https://www.itu.int/itu-d/tnd-map-public/

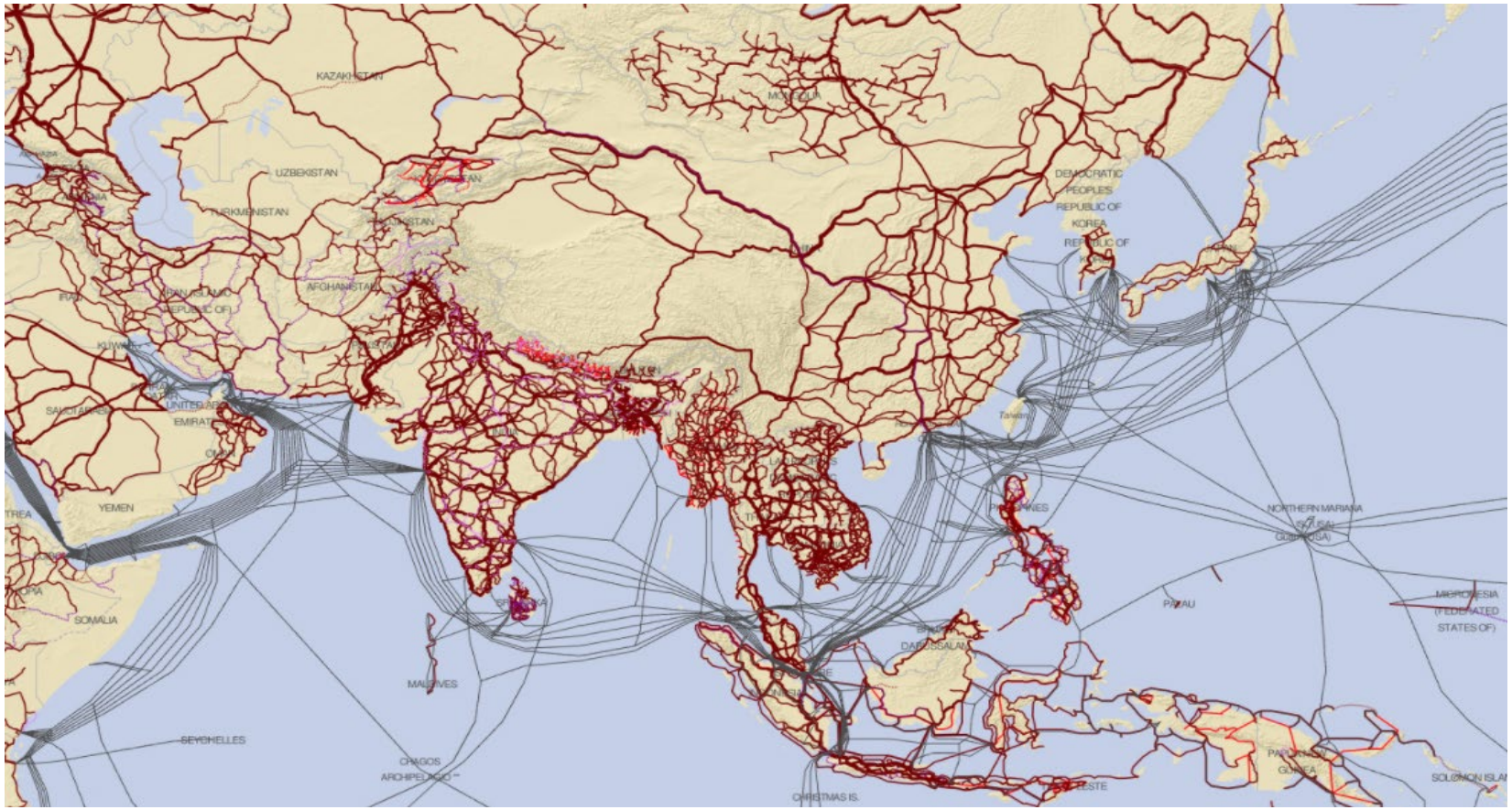
ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY AND ADOPTION GAPS

3 billion

reside greater than 10km from high-capacity, high-speed fiber optic infrastructure, and out of those **1.5 billion** more than 50km away

200 million

not covered by 3G



ITU: https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/stat/default.aspx; https://www.itu.int/itu-d/tnd-map-public/

LEO SATELLITES CONSTELLATIONS
HIGH SPEED, LOW LATENCY BROADBAND

ADB

Bringing connectivity from 560km to 2m…