**Information Access Center Project**

**◈ Background**

Although the development of ICT accelerates, the socially marginalized stay out of access, and the global digital divide is widening. Greater efforts have been made to address the issue, especially since the outbreak of COVID-19, but the gap is still enormous. As part of the efforts to contribute to narrowing the global digital divide, the Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT) and the National Information Society Agency (NIA) of the Republic of Korea are implementing the “IAC Project” to make ICT more accessible globally, IAC serve as crucial hubs for advancing digital transformation efforts at both national and regional levels.

**◈ Project Overview and Scope**

**1. Establishment of IACs**

The IAC Project aims to help any beneficiary country establish an IAC, which consists of an ICT training room, an ICT lounge, a video conference room, and an administrative office. The IAC Project is a matching-fund project where NIA makes all preparation for the operation of an IAC and bears all relevant expenses, such as expenses for interior decoration and ICT equipment, while the beneficiary country operates the center and affords all relevant expenses, such as expenses for the hiring of staff and maintenance, and Internet fees. It should be noted that the construction of a space that will accommodate an IAC is NOT included in the project. The beneficiary country has to prepare a space for an IAC.

**2. Improvement of IACs**

To facilitate the operation of IACs and promote the sustainability of the IAC Project, NIA carries out a maintenance project for IACs. The maintenance project covers the expenses for purchasing or upgrading ICT equipment, EXCLUDING the expenses for maintaining the building or the interior. Once the improvement is over, beneficiary countries should operate the center on their own and bear all relevant expenses. The countries should operate their IACs for at least four years. Once the improvement project is completed, the operation should continue for another four years at least.

**◈ Application Process**

**Submit the Project Concept Paper and an official letter with an authorized signature and seal to the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in your country, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Science and ICT of the Republic of Korea, and the National Information Society** **Agency** **by the 23rd, August 2024**. The MSIT and NIA will review the submitted proposals and conduct feasibility studies in potential partner countries. Based on the results of the feasibility studies, the MSIT and NIA will inform the final partner country via an official letter. NIA will determine the candidate organization and applicable model for an IAC based on the feasibility studies and reviews conducted by an expert group.

For additional information, visit the portal(https://eng.nia.or.kr) or e-mail iac@nia.or.kr.

**Project Concept Paper**

**for the Improvement of an Information Access Center**

**Section I. Overview***※ Read the instructions and examples written in blue carefully and complete the form in detail. Before submitting the form, please delete the instructions and examples. Handwriting is not acceptable.*



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| **Basic Information** | | |
| **Name of country** |  | |
| **Ministry**  **in charge of ODA** | *Write the name of the ministry*  *(e.g., Ministry of Finance)* | |
| **Ministry**  **in charge of IAC** | **Ministry** | *Write the name of the ministry*  *(e.g., Ministry of Digitalization)* |
| **Name** | *Write the name of the person in charge of IAC project implementation in the ministry* |
| **Department/division** |  |
| **Telephone number** | *Write a reachable number for communication.* |
| **Mobile number** |  |
| **E-mail address** | *Write a reachable address for communication.* |
| **Position** |  |
| **Organization**  **in charge of IAC** | **Organization** | *Write the name of the organization*  *(e.g., Seoul National University)* |
| **Name** | *Write the name of the person in charge of IAC in the organization* |
| **Department/division** |  |
| **Telephone number** | *Write a reachable number for communication.* |
| **Mobile number** |  |
| **E-mail address** | *Write a reachable address for communication.* |
| **Position** |  |

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| **Organization Information** | | | |
| **Name of**  **Organization** |  | | |
| **Date of IAC establishment** | *MM/DD/YYYY* | | |
| **Introduction** | *Briefly explain the organization.* | | |
| **IAC Information** | | | |
| **Location** | *Write the full address of the IAC.* | | |
| **Population of the region** | *○ Write the population of the region based on the official announcement. Please provide the name of the administrative region and the approximate population within a 50-60 km radius, which represents the area where students can reasonably commute for in-person education. Since administrative boundaries vary by country, please determine this based on your local context.* | | |
| **Power supply (Electricity)***.* | *Ex) Over 30,000 watts* | | |
| **Network (Internet) capacity** | *Ex) 50 Mbps* | | |
| **International R&D Network Connection**  *☞ It is preferable for the IAC building to connect to the international R&D network such as TEIN (for Asian counties), Internet2 (for American countrie, and European counties), directly or indirectly.* | *Ex1) The building to which the IAC belong is now using the National R&D network of (county name) with 250 Mbps network capacity and the National R&D network is connected to the TEIN.*  *Ex2) The candidate organization is not using the National R&D network of (county name) but it is connected to the TEIN.*  *Ex3) There is no National R&D network in (county name) and the organization cannot connect to the international R&D network.* | | |
| **Operating hours** | *E.g. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day or 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday to Friday* | | |
| **Main users /**  **avg. users per year** | *E.g. University students majoring in computer science / 20,000* | | |
| **Operator**  **Information** | **Name / position** | **Tel. / mobile** | **E-mail** |
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**Section II. Environment Analysis**

**1. Describe your country’s policy priorities in the ICT field.**

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| *○ Specify the official titles of the officially announced ICT strategies, policies, roadmaps including the details and the roles of your organizations.* |

**2.** **Describe the digital divide and digital transformation status in your country and the relevant ICT policies to address the issue.**

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| *○ Provide an overview of the issue using disaggregated data and statistics from existing report (refer to ITU Digital Development Dashboard or UN E-Government Survey, etc.) including specific issues and data in the region.*  *○ Describe how the operation of the IAC has contributed to addressing the issue.* |

**Section III. Operations of the IAC**

**1. Describe any difficulties or issues regarding the operation of the IAC.**

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| *○ Describe in detail any problems or difficulties you may have while operating the IAC. Explain how the improvement project can help resolve the issues for your center, if possible.* |

**2. Describe the condition of the facilities at your IAC.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Devices** | **Brand/model** | **Quantity** | **Condition** |
| **ICT**  **Lounge** | *○ List all the ICT equipment and devices.* |  |  | *○ Specify the condition of the equipment in detail*  *(Not working, etc.).* |
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| **ICT training room** |  |  |  |  |
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| **Video conference room** |  |  |  |  |
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| **Admin office** |  |  |  |  |
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\* Facilities may vary in each country, so the form may be modified according to the facility.

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| --- | --- |
| **ICT Lounge** | **ICT training room** |
| *○ Attach a photo here.* | *○ Attach a photo here.* |
| **Video conference room** | **Admin. office** |
| *○ Attach a photo here.* | *○ Attach a photo here.* |

**Section IV. Achievements of the IAC**

**1. Describe the major ICT projects, ICT training courses, and seminars in the last three years.**

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| *○ The achievements of the center are considered the most important factor when selecting the partner organization for the IAC improvement project. Describe quantitative figures such as the number of users, and the number of employment or entrepreneurship support cases through the center.* |

**2. Describe the representative outstanding achievements through the IAC.**

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| *○ The achievements of the center are considered the most important factor when selecting the partner organization for the IAC improvement project. Describe representative outstanding achievements through ICT education or projects within the center with reference such as YouTube link, press releases, and SNS, etc.* |

**Section V. Improvement Concept of the IAC**

**1. Yearly plan for the operation of the IAC**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *○ Write a detailed yearly plan for the IAC’s first-year of operation.*   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Training course** | **Date** | **Description** | **Beneficiary**  **Social group** | **Number of the**  **Beneficiaries** | |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  | |

**2. Required Needed Equipment**

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| *○ Describe why the equipment is needed and the utilization purpose of each piece of equipment (e.g., 3D Printer, drone, IoT equipment, etc.*  *○ Equipment list may be subject to change during the actual implementation of the project.*   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Product** | **Need** | **Quantity** | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |

**3. Educational demand**

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| *☞ The NIA might offer cooperative educational support with Korean ICT experts before and/or after the establishment of an IAC. Please, describe your specific educational demands in detail.*   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Subjects** | **Target trainees** | **Description** | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |

**4. Describe the specific area of industry that your organization is interested in.**

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| *○ State* ***one*** *industry priority that your organization wants to improve through ICT. (Transportation, Manufacturing, Health, Education, Tourism, Agriculture, Finance, etc.)* |

**5. Describe the technologies in the ICT field that you are interested in.**

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| *○ State* ***one*** *technology priority that your organization hopes to utilize or introduce. (AI, Bigdata, IoT, Cloud computing, 5G, Blockchain, Cybersecurity, Smart city, etc.)* |

**5. Do you have the intention to reduce the number of supported PCs and enhance existing facilities within the limited budget? If so, specify the enhancement plan.**

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| *○ ex) No. We do want to get more PCs rather than facility enhancement.*  *○ ex) Yes. We do want to get facility enhancement.*  *○ State the enhancement plan with the purpose of the facilities and equipment like education or R&D or supporting start-ups, etc.* |

**Section VI. Expected Results**



**1. Expected beneficiaries and benefits**

**1.1.** Expected outcomes for your country

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| *○ Please describe the expected outcomes, and describe the quantitative numerical value if the expected outcomes can be estimated. (e.g., 10% increase in economic effect due to ICT development)* |

**1.2.** Expected outcomes to IAC center

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| *○ Please describe the expected outcomes, and describe the quantitative numerical value if the expected outcomes can be estimated. (e.g., 10% increase in income of IAC due to growth in users)* |

**1.3.** Expected outcomes for each direct/indirect beneficiary

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| *○ Describe the project’s anticipated target groups and beneficiaries. Specify who are the main users and their approximate number.* |

**2. Expected contribution to the sustainable development goals (SDGs)**

**2.1. Check the expected contribution to the SDGs below**([*https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030.html*](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030.html)*)*

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| --- | --- |
| No poverty  Zero hunger  Good health and well-being  Quality education  Gender equality  Clean water and sanitation  Affordable and clean energy  Decent work and economic growth  Industry, innovation, and infrastructure | Reduced inequality  Sustainable cities and communities  Responsible consumption and production  Climate action  Life below water  Life on land  Peace, justice and strong institution  Partnerships to achieve the goal |

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| *○ Describe how the project will contribute to achieving the SDGs in terms of the indicators marked above. Explain how the project will bring the anticipated change.* |

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| **This report is prepared by**   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Name** |  | **Position** |  | | **Ministry or organization** |  | **Telephone number** |  | | **Department/division** |  | **Mobile number** |  | | **Fax number** |  | **E-mail** |  |   **I confirm that I thoroughly read and understand the project overview, and the information given in this concept paper is true, complete, and accurate.**  *(Signature)*  *(Name of the signee)*  *DD/MM/YYYY* |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *(Signature)*  *(Name of the person representing the ministry)*  *(Position)*  *(Name of the* ***ministry*** *in charge of IAC)*  *DD/MM/YYYY* | *(Signature)*  *(Name of the person representing the organization)*  *(Position)*  *(Name of the* ***organization*** *in charge of IAC)*  *DD/MM/YYYY* |