



# Connecting Indigenous & Mountain Communities

November 24-25, 2023 @ Guwahati | Assam | India



# About

Community Network Xchange (CNX) enters its seventh year in 2023. CNX Asia Pacific was first organized in 2017, with a focus on bringing together community network practitioners and enthusiasts of community-driven Internet connectivity to exchange ideas and serve as catalysts for the grassroots connectivity movement. This year's CNX is a collaborative effort by Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF), the Internet Society (ISOC), and the Council for Social & Digital Development in partnership with the Global Digital Inclusion Partnership (GDIP) and the Art and Collective for Digital Empowerment (A-CODE), along with several communities of practice.

The theme for the 7th CNX in 2023, centered on the Asia Pacific region, revolves around "Connecting Indigenous and Mountain Communities." This two-day event will take place in the Northeast Region of India and will spotlight the stories of dedicated network builders on the ground. It will emphasize how their unwavering commitment and passion play a pivotal role in extending Internet access to their respective communities.

## Vision

To constantly empower communities, especially marginalised and information dark communities throughout Asia Pacific Region, with the power of information and know-how of community networks.

## Objectives

### Knowledge & Network Building

To organise annual CNX Summits to engage community network providers and stakeholders across different global societies to share their learnings, experiences and technological innovations on one platform; to create a consortium of community network providers and social funders for the purpose of sustainability in Asia-Pacific; to provide support to community network gatherings and hands-on work meetings at regional level for advocating and addressing regional policy issues and challenges; to share recommendations from the summit at other international forums such as Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), among others.

### Policy & Advocacy

To discuss sustainable business models around community networks with sound understanding of social and economic challenges; to identify various issues such as spectrum, technological, regulatory, content and localisation, among others, that need to be addressed in the national and international framework of policies; to develop a series of policy briefing papers that focus on regulatory issues that need to be addressed; to make community networks visible to policy makers so that they can be considered as an actor within the telecommunications ecosystem.

### Training & Exchange

To develop a comprehensive and self-contained guide to strengthen grassroots expertise by training community members in basic wireless technology; to enable individuals (barefoot engineers) to not only to run and manage these networks but to also further transfer their skills to others creating a multiplier effect; to organise country-level exchange programmes for learners and barefoot wireless network engineers who can visit and engage in other country networks and learn from their experiences.

# 7<sup>th</sup> CNX 2023 – Asia Pacific

## Connecting Indigenous and Mountain Communities

**Focus Areas: Last Mile Access, Connectivity, Services for the Indigenous, Tribal, and Hilly & Mountain Communities**

### Thematic Areas

- Addressing the Networking Divide in Hilly, Tribal, Indigenous and Mountain Communities
- Repositioning and Reinventing Community Networks in Theory & Practice
- Understanding Community Networks for Networking Unconnected Communities
- Promoting CN Variants - Community Network Cooperatives, Community Network Entrepreneurs, Community Network Building Organisations
- Enabling Community Networks in Emerging Connectivity Infrastructure Space
- Spacing CNs within Telecom Policy, Regulations and Schemes
- Integrating Community Networks in Emerging Technology Sectors
- Understanding Gender and its Intersections for Creating Inclusive Community Networks
- Last Mile Connectivity

### Activities

**Showcasing:** The Internet Society BOLT Project in India, The Ziro Valley Network Project, The AmraPari Riverine Project, The Brahmaputra Community Radio, Community Network cases from Africa, Pacific and Latin America Network Project among others

## Case Studies & Presentations

Showcasing examples of tea gardens, and its indigenous communities, Apatani tribes and other indigenous communities from Africa, Latin America and Pacific region.

## Discussions & Deliberations

- Showcasing how Rural Women Entrepreneurs (RWEs) are using PM-WANI Scheme as means to become last mile internet providers
- Sharing research findings on how Community Networks can be a possible solution that can best serve the digitally excluded North Eastern Himalayan region

### Country Participation

- Bhutan
- Bangladesh
- Nepal
- Malaysia
- Indonesia
- Sri Lanka
- India
- Latin America
- Africa
- Pacific Region

### States Participation (India)

- Maharashtra
- Telangana
- Arunachal Pradesh
- Assam
- Meghalaya
- Rajasthan
- Madhya Pradesh
- West Bengal

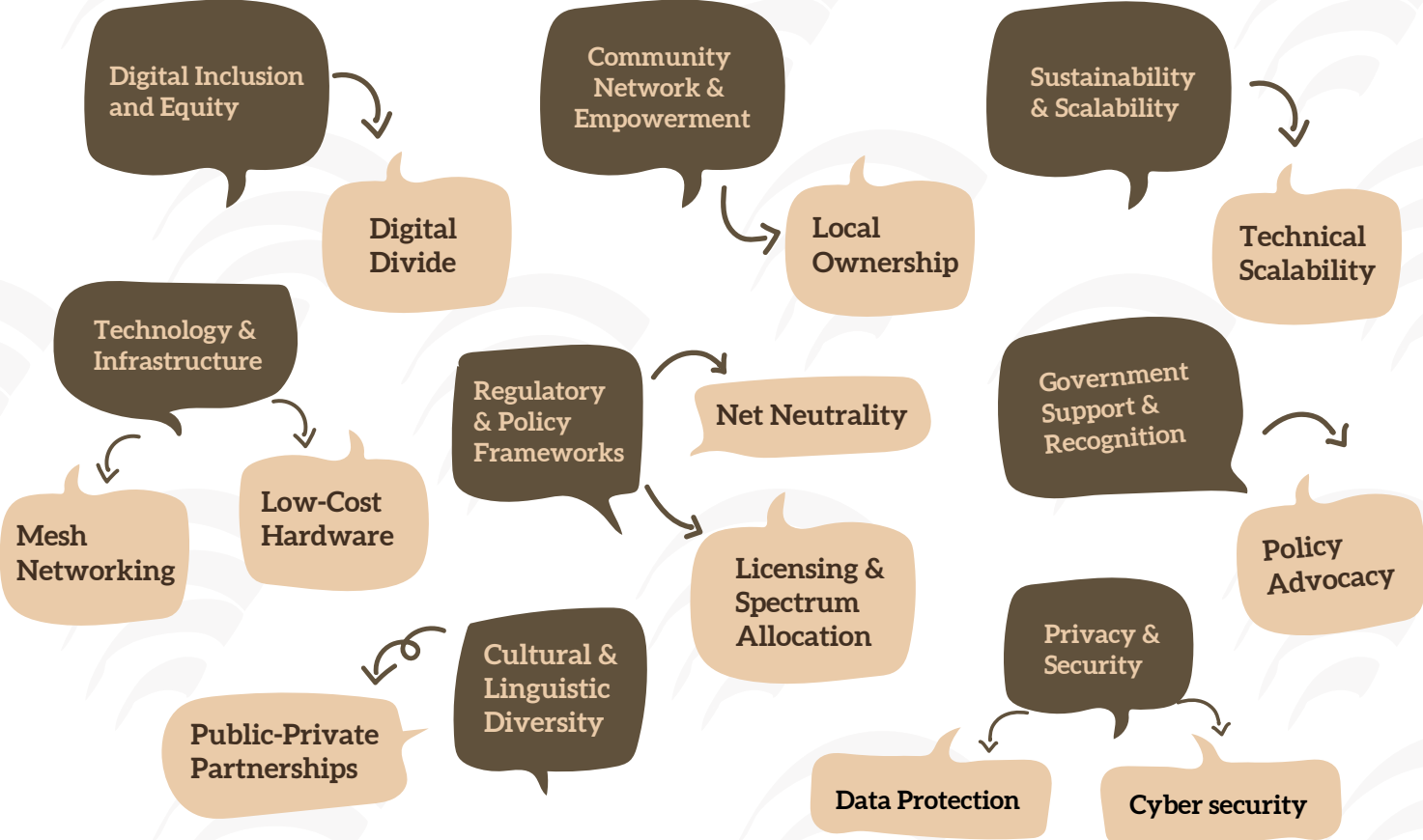
### Organisation Participation

- Internet Society (ISO)
- Association for Progressive Communication (APC)
- Broadband India Forum (BIF)
- Asia-Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC)
- Internet Society, Kolkata
- Internet Society, Delhi
- The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
- Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio & Communication (BNNRC)
- BRAC



# Interaction Elements of CNX 2023

November 24-25, 2023 | Guwahati



Case Studies



Presentations



Discussions



Experience Sharing

7th Community Network Xchange (CNX) 2023 will be hosted alongside the 8th eNorth East 2023 in Royal Global University, Guwahati, Assam, India

[www.cnxapac.org](http://www.cnxapac.org) [www.enortheast.in](http://www.enortheast.in)

## Organised by



## Associate Partners



Scan to Know More

### Delhi

House 44, Kalu Sarai,  
New Delhi - 110016, India

### Guwahati

Babylon Palace, 5 A/B  
Sarumotoria, Near Bagheswari Than,  
Girijananda Lane Dispur,  
Guwahati-781005