Concept Note

The Prime Minister of India inaugurated DAKSHIN – The Global South Centre of Excellence (GSCE) during the 2nd Voice of Global South Summit held virtually on 17th November 2023. DAKSHIN aims to identify development solutions or best practices of any of the developing countries, which can be scaled and implemented in other members of the Global South. DAKSHIN's initial focus is on three sectors namely, Agriculture, Health and Digital Solutions (including digital payment systems).

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) hosts DAKSHIN and has been engaging with several think tanks across the Global South countries and formalising DAKSHIN's relationship with them through signing of Letters of Association (LoAs). The Prime Minister also announced that DAKSHIN will convene an annual international conference of research partners and think tanks.[1] It is proposed to have such a conference in the near future. To initiate collective engagements of think tanks of the Global South in the run up to this conference, DAKSHIN has organised virtual workshops on Agriculture and Health sectors on 17th January 2024 and 2nd February 2024 respectively. Now, a **virtual workshop** on **Digital Solutions** is planned on **28th February 2024**.

Digital Solutions are not limited to a particular vertical or sector, but the offerings are cross-cutting in nature. In the last couple of decades, India has seen significant digital transformation with implementation of innovative digital projects seeking to provide affordable access to digital services to all its citizens.

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[1] The PM stated: From next year, we propose to start an Annual International Conference in India, which will focus on the development priorities of the Global South. The "Dakshin" Centre will coordinate this conference with the partner research centres and think tanks of the Global South, whose main goal will be to identify practical solutions for the development related challenges in the Global South that will strengthen our future.

Under the umbrella of India Stack[2], a set of open APIs and digital public goods have been developed by different govt bodies/govt affiliated entities in India. Prominent digital public goods like Aadhaar (Unique Identity), Unified Payment Interface (UPI), DigiLocker, Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG), Open API (Application Programming Interface) Platform (API Setu), Co-Win vaccination platform, Government e-Market Place (GeM), Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA), Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission (ABDM), National Telemedicine Service (eSanjeevani), e-Courts, etc are bringing digital transformation in the Indian landscape. New offerings be it Digital India Land Record Modernization Programme or National Language Translation Mission (*Bhashini)* are getting added on a regular basis in the bouquet of digital solutions available to Indians.

These digital public goods offerings have seen a swift acceptance by individuals and businesses, which has led to improvement of financial and social inclusion in India. The concept behind India Stack is universal in nature, wherein offered open APIs and digital public goods can be adopted by individuals/businesses/nations, as per their requirements. The technical frameworks offered under India Stack can be adopted by any country, which desires to implement the digital offerings. The offerings do not require any proprietary technology which would rule out its adoption in other desiring countries.

Along with an exposition of some of the Indian offerings, the workshop aims to explore digital offerings being developed in other countries of the Global South, with the aim of simplifying the lives of citizens of the Global South.

The workshop aims to:
1. Discuss innovative digital solutions, technology interventions of India & other countries of the Global South.
2. Reach out to relevant stakeholders for providing technology support in order to develop needed infrastructure and conducive environment for R&D and innovation in Global South countries.
3. Explore the possibility of technology standardization and technology sharing among developing countries.
4. Work towards skill enhancement and capacity building of relevant agencies involved in technology landscape.
5. Promote development solutions advocated by these countries for their possible replication and adoption among peer countries of the developing world.
6. Involve think tanks/universities/research institutions in promoting mutual learning, exchange of experiences and good practices among Global South countries.
7. Identify areas of common interests and institutional collaboration.

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[2] https://indiastack.org/