

The Internet Society's 25th anniversary timeline & history of the Internet in Asia and the Pacific

1992-2017

When countries first had Internet connection (based on establishment date of first commercial Internet service provider)

Asia-Pacific milestones

Internet Society milestones

Global milestones

Australia (1989)
New Zealand (1989)

1st IETF meeting in San Diego, USA (1986)
World Wide Web opened to the public (1991)
Linux source code released (1991)

Internet Society Established

Hong Kong
Japan
Malaysia

1992

INET '92 Kobe in Japan

APNIC, the regional Internet address registry for the Asia-Pacific, established

1993

National Center for Supercomputing Applications released Mosaic Web Browser

Bangladesh
Indonesia
Republic of Korea
Philippines
Singapore

1994

1st Internet Society Chapter founded in Japan

Brunei Darussalam
China
Fiji
India

Nepal
Pakistan
Sri Lanka
Taiwan
Thailand

1995

Windows 95 launched

Yahoo! launched

Maldives
Mongolia
Viet Nam

1st Asia Pacific Regional Internet Conference on Operational Technologies (APRICOT) in Singapore

1996

Nokia 9000 Communicator released, the 1st mobile phone with Internet capabilities
Hotmail and Rocketmail launched

Cambodia
Lao PDR
Solomon Islands

1997

Nauru
Samoa

Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Name Association (APTLD) established

1998

Google launched

ICANN established

IPv6 specification released by IETF

Bhutan
Papua New Guinea

Alibaba established

1999

BlackBerry 1st BlackBerry device launched

Myanmar
Tuvalu

SEA-ME-WE3 submarine cable completed

2000

1st IETF meeting in the Asia-Pacific region in Adelaide, Australia
Trek 2000 International in Singapore created the ThumbDrive

Southern Cross Cable linking the Pacific to US completed

2001

Wikipedia launched

1st commercial 3G launched in Japan

Internet Society successfully bids for .ORG registry

2002

Friendster launched

Afghanistan
Timor-Leste

1st Phase of WSIS

MySpace launched

Skype launched

2003

1st Meeting of the South Asian Network Operators Group (SANOG) in Kathmandu, Nepal

Facebook launched

2004

Orkut launched

1 billion Internet users

Nokia E series (with embedded keyboard) launched

YouTube launched

2nd Phase of WSIS

2005

1st Meeting of the Pacific Network Operators Group (PacNOG) in Nadi, Fiji

Winner of Jonathan B. Postel Service Award - Jun Murai

Twitter launched

2006

1st Global IGF

Flipkart, leading e-commerce website in India, launched

2007

iPhone launched

Internet Society established the Asia-Pacific Bureau

2008

1st commercial Android device, T-Mobile G1, launched

1st Regional INET in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2009

Creation of internationalized domain names for country code top-level (ccTLDs) approved by ICANN

WhatsApp launched

1st commercial 4G/LTE deployed in Stockholm and Oslo

Wireless for Communities Programme launched in Chanderi, India

Kakao Talk, Korean messaging app, launched

1st Asia-Pacific IGF in Hong Kong

2010

Winner of Jonathan B. Postel Service Award - Jianping Wu

iPad launched

2 billion Internet users

LINE, Japanese messaging app, launched

WeChat, Chinese messaging app, launched

2011

Winner of Jonathan B. Postel Service Award - Kilnam Chon

Internet Society Singapore entity established

Grab, taxi booking app in South-East Asia, launched

Lazada, leading ecommerce website in South-East Asia, launched

1st billion Internet users in the Asia-Pacific

2012

1st Asia Internet Symposium (AIS) in Manila, Philippines

2012 Internet Hall of Fame Inductees (Asia)
Tan Tin Wee, Singapore
Kilnam Chon, Republic of Korea
Toru Takahashi, Japan

China created Tianhe-2 a 33.86 petaflop computer

2013

2013 Internet Hall of Fame Inductees (Asia)
Gihan Dias, Sri Lanka
Haruhisa Ishida, Japan
Jun Murai, Japan
Kanchana Kanchanasut, Thailand
Qiheng Hu, China

Winner of Jonathan B. Postel Service Award - Mahabir Pun

1st Asia-Pacific Regional Policy Survey

3 billion Internet users

2014

2014 Internet Hall of Fame Inductees (Asia)
Abhaya Induruwa, Sri Lanka
Hualin Qian, China
Mahabir Pun, Nepal
Masaki Hirabaru, Japan
Srinivasan Ramani, India

Winner of Jonathan B. Postel Service Award - Kanchana Kanchanasut

2016

1st Regional Internet & Development Dialogue (RIDDD) in Bangkok, Thailand

25th Anniversary of the Internet Society

2017

100th IETF meeting in Singapore