

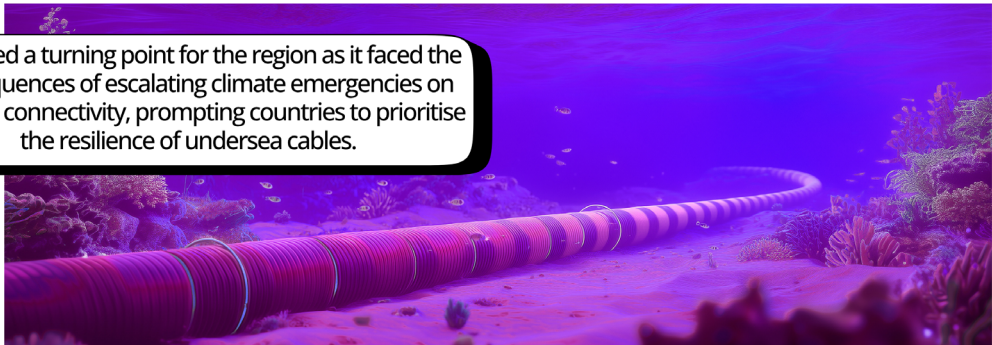


REGIONAL RESILIENCE

2030 is known as the “year of disasters” across the Indo-Pacific.



It marked a turning point for the region as it faced the consequences of escalating climate emergencies on regional connectivity, prompting countries to prioritise the resilience of undersea cables.



By 2045, countries across Asia and the Pacific adopted “Regional Resilience” as their motto for connectivity, resulting in flourishing international cooperation.



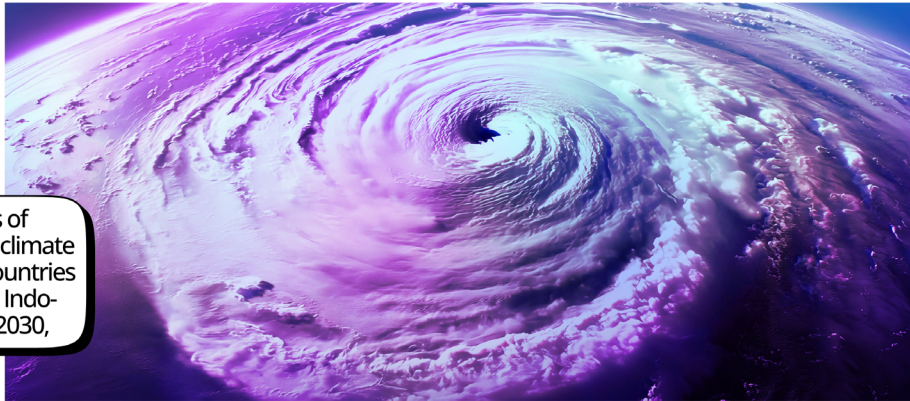
However, some influential governments have begun to use the increased international trust to strengthen their power.

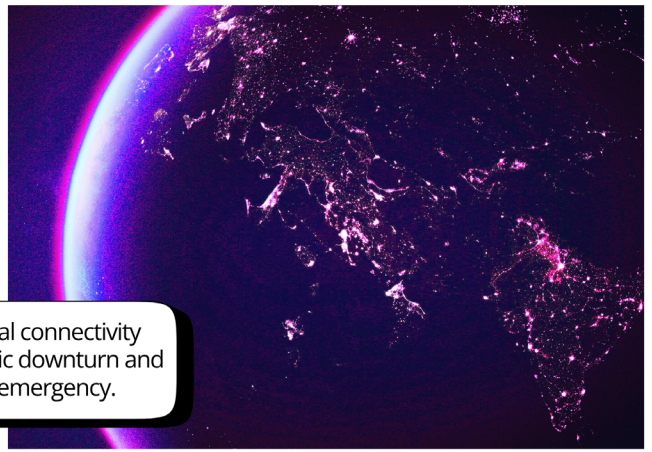
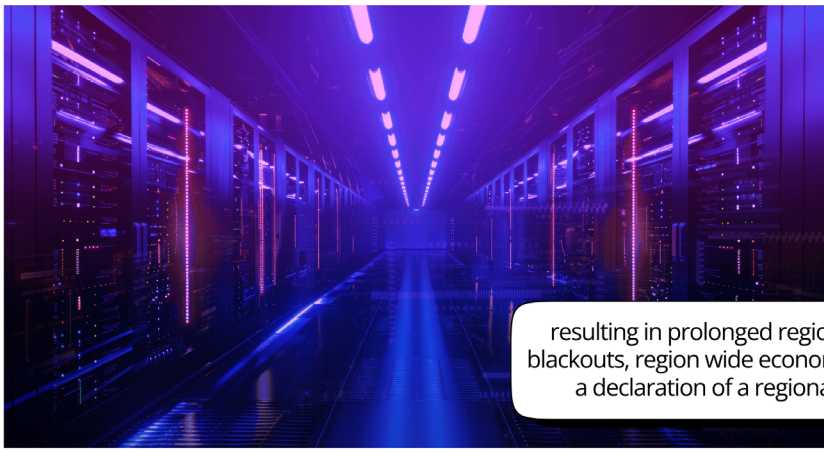


Citizens in some countries are becoming increasingly concerned about potential government overreach into their daily lives.



A series of devastating climate events hit countries across the Indo-Pacific in 2030,





resulting in prolonged regional connectivity blackouts, region wide economic downturn and a declaration of a regional emergency.



As part of a cooperative international response to the emergency, governments across the region agreed to expand the International Cable Protection Committee's (ICPC) role to spearhead cable connectivity recovery efforts through the next two decades.



Dubbed the 'year of disasters', 2030 brought a new devastating climate event affecting the region nearly every month.



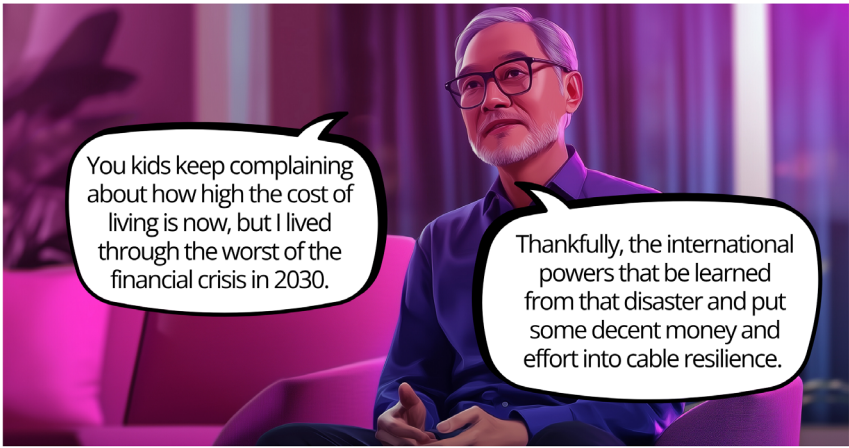
Digitally advanced countries with more cable connections only suffered brief connectivity blackouts,



whereas countries with fewer cable connections lost almost a year of connectivity.



Leaders of most countries in the region came together in 2031 to discuss how to navigate the way out of the disaster and pledged that they would prioritise regional connectivity resilience.



You kids keep complaining about how high the cost of living is now, but I lived through the worst of the financial crisis in 2030.

Thankfully, the international powers that be learned from that disaster and put some decent money and effort into cable resilience.



In 2045, the ICPC is now the regional regulator that enforces stringent standards for cable installation, maintenance and disaster response.



CCAP

Cable Consortium of Asia and the Pacific

Governments across the region established a new body, the Cable Consortium of Asia and the Pacific (CCAP) to coordinate international collaborative efforts to improve the resilience of undersea cable networks.



EMERGENCY PLAN



The CCAP now mandates that cable operators have comprehensive disaster preparedness plans and use of environmentally friendly materials and technologies.



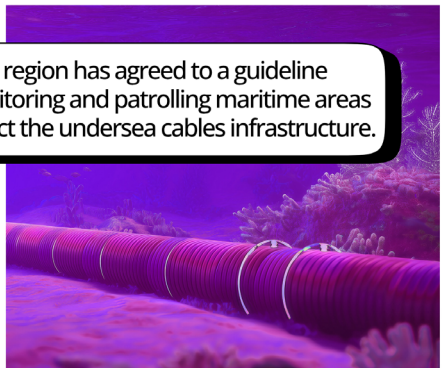
ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY MATERIALS & TECHNOLOGY



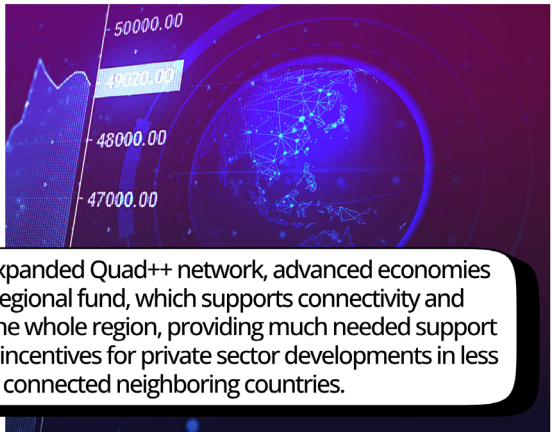
Permit processing for installation of new cable connections and landings has now been streamlined into regional agreements.



The region has agreed to a guideline for monitoring and patrolling maritime areas that affect the undersea cables infrastructure.



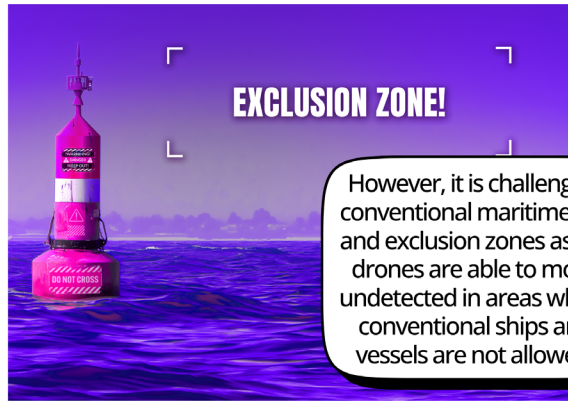
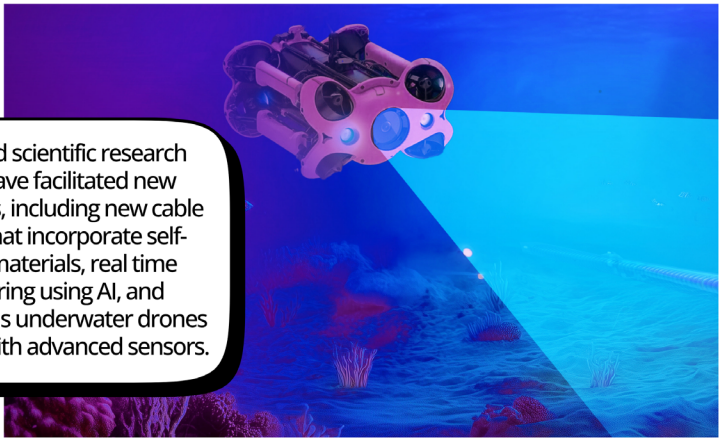
However, worsening food shortages are leading to an increase in national fishing vessels illegally operating in restricted zones.



Through an expanded Quad++ network, advanced economies invest in a regional fund, which supports connectivity and resilience for the whole region, providing much needed support and economic incentives for private sector developments in less connected neighboring countries.

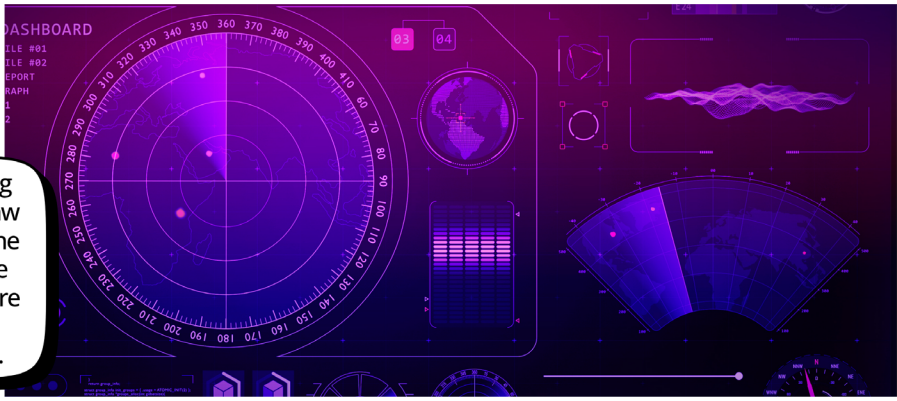


Supported scientific research grants have facilitated new innovations, including new cable designs that incorporate self-healing materials, real time monitoring using AI, and autonomous underwater drones equipped with advanced sensors.

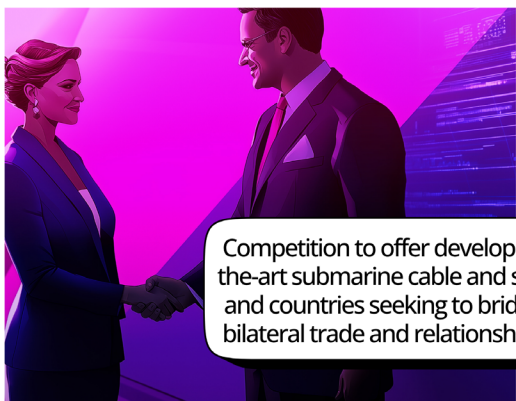


EXCLUSION ZONE!

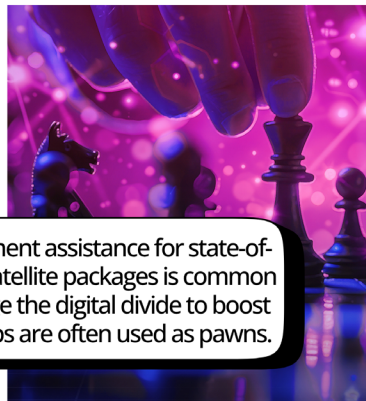
However, it is challenging conventional maritime law and exclusion zones as the drones are able to move undetected in areas where conventional ships and vessels are not allowed.



Yet, digitally advanced governments still throw their weight around through the ICPC.



Competition to offer development assistance for state-of-the-art submarine cable and satellite packages is common and countries seeking to bridge the digital divide to boost bilateral trade and relationships are often used as pawns.



There is also growing concerns among civil rights groups about the consolidation of power and data by governments.



The way the undersea network has developed means that your government can control your data flow and what you do and don't see online.



We haven't seen the full potential of this new multi-government power structure and it would be wise to keep our decision maker accountable for what they now control.