

An in-depth study on the broadband infrastructure in South and West Asia

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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

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Acronyms

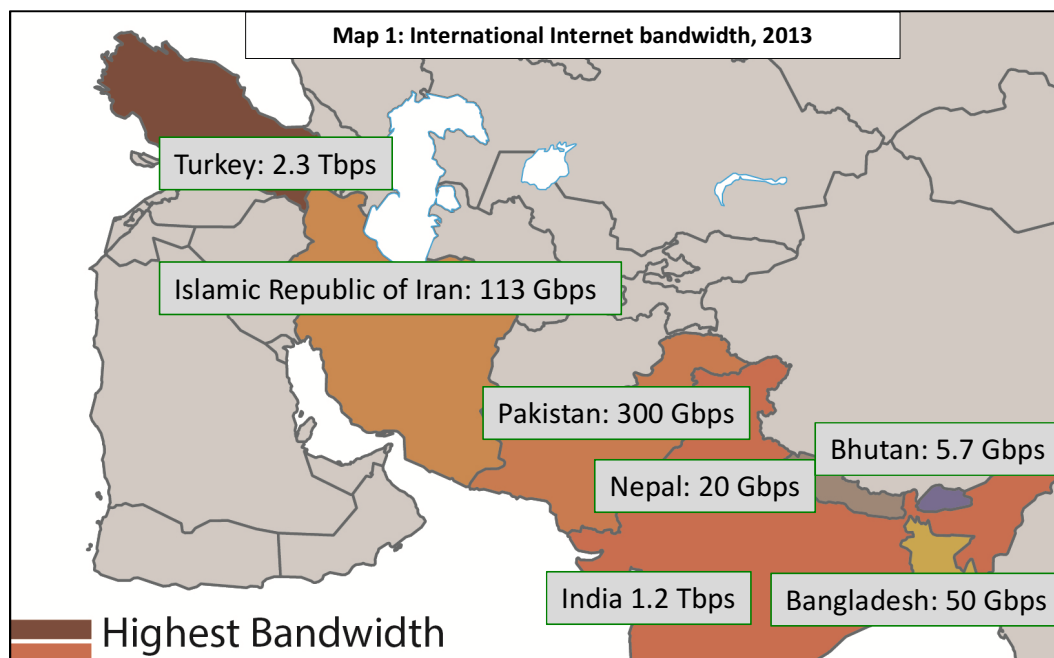
Asymmetric digital subscriber line	ADSL
Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company, Ltd.	BSCCL
Bangladesh Telecommunications Company, Ltd.	BTCL
Bharat Sanchar Nigam, Ltd.	BSNL
Compound annual growth rate	CAGR
Code division multiple access	CDMA
Enhanced data rates for GSM evolution	EDGE
Europe-India Gateway	EIG
Europe-Persia Express Gateway	EPEG
Evolution-data optimized	EvDO
Fiber-Optic Link Around the Globe	FLAG
Fibre-to-the-building	FTTB
Fibre-to-the-home	FTTH
Gulf Bridge International	GBI
Gross Domestic Product	GDP
General packet radio service	GPRS
Global system for mobile communications / Groupe spécial mobile	GSM
High speed packet access	HSPA+
Information and communications technology	ICT
Internet protocol	IP
Internet service provider	ISP
Jeddah-Amman-Damascus-Istanbul Link	JADI Link
Kilobytes per second	Kbps
Megabytes per second	Mbps
Mahanagar Telephone Nigam, Ltd.	MTNL
Long-term evolution	LTE
Optical ground wire	OPGW
Point of presence	POP
Public switched telephone network	PSTN
Pakistan Telecommunications Company, Ltd.	PTCL
Ready for service	RFS
South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation	SASEC
Special purpose vehicle	SPV
Sri Lanka Telecom	SLT
Telecommunications Company of Iran	TCI
Telecommunications Infrastructure Company of Iran	TIC
Terabytes per second	Tbps
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	UNESCAP
Voice over Internet protocol	VoIP
Very small aperture transmission	VSAT
Wireless local loop	WLL

I. Executive summary

Between April and November 2014, Terabit Consulting performed a detailed analysis of telecommunications and Internet markets and broadband infrastructure in nine countries in South and West Asia: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Turkey.

The analysis followed two previous studies carried out between 2012 and 2014 covering North, Central, and South-East Asia, for a total of 25 countries across the continent.

The analyses of South and West Asian countries, as well as the ongoing analyses of markets across the entire continent, revealed an acute disparity between those countries with sufficiently developed markets and infrastructure, and those without. An examination of the “fuel” of the region’s information and communications technology (ICT) sector—international bandwidth—reveals that Asia’s regional bandwidth inequality is the most pronounced of any continent.



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