



ICT as a Transformational Tool & the Information / Knowledge Society

A Sri Lankan Perspective

**21st November 2012
CICT Meeting of UNESCAP,
Bangkok, Thailand**

**Reshan Dewapura
CEO, ICT Agency of Sri Lanka**

Information & Communication Technology



THEME:

- ☐ **The transformational power of ICT and it's ever-increasing influence on the society**
- ☐ **The development of the Information / Knowledge Society**
- ☐ **How to sustain it while bridging (not widening) the Digital Divide**



ICT as a Transformational Tool

2 Concepts:

- ❑ ICT as a Catalyst / Enabler for Socio-Economic Development in the country.
- ❑ ICT as growth industry, providing a boost and becoming a critical pillar in country's economy.

The development & growth and sustainability of the information/ knowledge society is important for both these areas of ICT

Sri Lanka



Land Area: 65,610 Sq. Km

Population: 20,300,000

GDP/capita: US\$ 2000 +

Currency: Sri Lankan Rupee

Time Zone: GMT +5:30

Languages: Sinhala, Tamil, English

Capital: Colombo (Commercial)
Sri Jayawardenepura (Admin)

Exports: Garments, Tea, Gems,
Rubber, Tourism, IT/BPO

Administration: 9 Provinces, 25 Districts,
325 Divisional Secretariats

Telephone: 114% penetration

Internet : 5 million users

Broadband: 1.25 million connections



Information / Knowledge Society

Key Requirements for the Development of the Information Society & Bridging the Digital Divide:

❑ ACCESS: *To e-Content*

❑ e-CONTENT: *Information, Services & Applications*



Information / Knowledge Society

Key Requirements for the Development of the Information Society & Bridging the Digital Divide:

❑ **ACCESS:** *To e-Content*

❑ **e-CONTENT:** *Information, Services & Applications*

Access to e-Content

Key Enablers for the provision of Access:

- ❑ NETWORK: *Broadband, Wireless, Mobile*
- ❑ ACCESS DEVICES / POINTS: *PCs, Tablets, Mobile phones, Internet Kiosks, Tele-Centers*
- ❑ ICT LITERACY: *Ability to use Computing / Mobile device*
- ❑ LOCAL LANGUAGE COMPUTING: *Availability to use Computing devices in Local Languages*



e-Content: Sri Lanka's Case

ers for the provision of Access:

=: *National Broadband Network (NBN), 3G ++*

VICES / POINTS: *Nenasalas (local Tele-centres),
mobile penetration*

ACY: *From 4% - 40% in the last decade, target of
ext 5 years. Very High Mobile Device Literacy*

NGUGAE COMPUTING: *Sinhala & Tamil Unicode
s, Computing in Sinhala & Tamil*

