Building regional connectivity: Insights from research for policy

Rohan Samarajiva

United Nations ESCAP Committee on ICT 3rd Session 20-22 November 2012



This work was carried out with the aid of a grant from the International Development Research Centre, Canada and UKaid from the Department for International Development, UK.





Agenda

- What is broadband?
- Broadband is different
- International segment
- Access network
- Demand side



What is broadband?

• The Broadband Commission sought to focus on considering some of the core concepts of broadband as an always-on service (not needing to make a new connection to a server each time a user wants to go online), and high-capacity: able to carry lots of data per second, rather than the particular arrival speed of the data. The practical result is that broadband enables the combined provision of voice, data and video at the same time.

ITU-UNESCO Broadband Commission



Broadband is different

PSTN v mobile voice v broadband

- In old style Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), most calls local, few national, fewer international
 - Local switching possible
- In mobile voice networks, need to interrogate databases
 - More signaling traffic going longer distances, but actual calls still mostly local
- With broadband
 - Most traffic is international, though not necessarily to US
 - Even local websites hosted abroad
 - Even email intended for local persons requires international traffic





A chain is as strong as its weakest link

Broadband performance is defined by performance over the weakest link

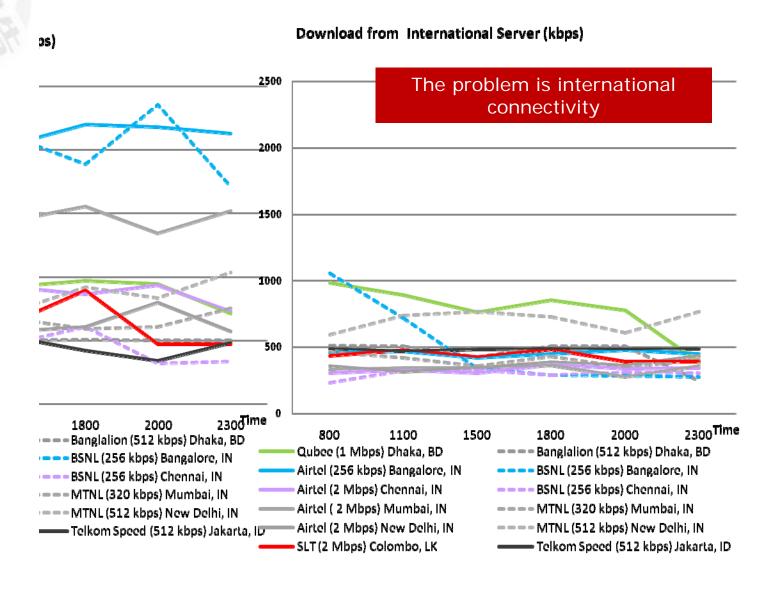


One cannot focus on local access alone . . .

Is the international segment the weakest link? What does the research show?



in cities: Identifying the weak link (Fixed



Source: LIRNEasia, 2011