

# Strengthening ICT policies and applications to achieve MDGs and WSIS goals in Central Asia and South Asia

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## **I. Consensus on ICTs**

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- **ICTs are one of the most powerful engines of growth and critical development enablers**
  - **It is a global issue to address digital divide by enhancing universal access and utilization of ICT**
- \* WSIS and UN MDGs**

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## **II. Recent development in global ICT sector**

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- **ICTs continue to spread throughout the world**
- **More and more people have access to the Internet as well as mobile cellular networks**
- **By the end of 2008, the world had reached over 4 billion mobile cellular subscriptions, 1.3 billion fixed telephone lines, and close to a quarter of the world's population using the Internet.**

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## **II. Recent development in global ICT sector (continue)**

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- **Mobile phones have revolutionized telecommunication in the developing countries: an average 49.5% penetration rate at the end of 2008 from close to zero only ten years ago**
- **The number of Internet users has grown at a much slower rate, especially in developing countries; 13 internet users per 100 inhabitants at the end of 2007**

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## **II. Recent development in global ICT sector (continue)**

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- **Fixed Internet access in developing countries is still limited, often slow and/or expensive**
- **Broadband connections are rare and mobile broadband is still insignificant in most developing countries**

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### **III. ICT access, use and skills**

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**\* ITU (2009), Measuring the Information Society- the ICT Development Index (IDI)**

**three aspects: network infrastructure and access to ICT, use of ICTs in the society, efficient and effective ICT use (skills)**

**compare progress in over 150 countries between 2002 and 2007**

- **Overall, developed countries in Europe and Korea have primarily gained on the sub-index ICT use with having already fairly good ICT access and top ICT skills in 2002.**
  - **Countries with low ICT levels are primarily from the developing world, especially LDCs.**
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### **III. ICT access, use and skills (continue)**

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- **Close relationship between ICT level and income (GDP): a correlation coefficient of 0.91 in 2007.**

- **Over the five-year period, relative change in IDI was similar between developed (36%) and developing countries (38 % increase on average)**

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### **III. ICT access, use and skills (continue)**

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#### **For sub-indices**

- **Huge improvements in the access and use of ICTs worldwide but large disparities remain among countries**

**Developed countries gained highest value on the ICT use sub-index, whereas developing countries made most IDI gains on the access sub-index.**

- **ICT skills: reflecting the nature of the underlying indicators (adult literacy and school enrollment), developing countries have made slightly higher improvements starting from lower levels in 2002.**

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### **III. ICT access, use and skills (continue)**

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#### **Cost of ICT services**

**\* Based on ICT Price Basket relative to GNI per capita: considering fixed telephone prices, mobile cellular prices, and fixed broadband internet prices**

- **High tariffs are practically a major barrier to ICT diffusion and use**
- **The 2008 ICT Price Basket (ITU) value corresponds to from 1.6% in developed countries to 20% in developing countries**

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### **III. ICT access, use and skills (continue)**

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- **Fixed telephone tariffs are relatively cheap in most countries, but fixed broadband tariffs are often prohibitive and a major impediment for countries embracing ICTs**
- **Fixed and mobile telephony is becoming more and more affordable worldwide**

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### **IV. ICT for all in Korea**

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- **u-Korea: a national information strategy in Korea**
- **Background of introducing u-Korea**

**relocation of government offices to rural areas  
concerns over low growth potential  
need for differentiation and increased diversity  
acceleration of low birthrate and aging population  
to address natural disasters**

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#### **IV. ICT for all in Korea (continue)**

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**- u-Korea's vision and goals: transform Korea into an advanced country based on the u-infrastructure and the green growth in the ICT sector**

**- Five areas:**

- 1. friendly government: to provide customized administrative services**
  - 2. intelligent land: to improve the efficiency of the entire country by bringing intelligence into the national infrastructure facilities**
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#### **IV. ICT for all in Korea (continue)**

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- 3. regenerative economy: to restore the economy from global economic crisis and create new industries for convergence**

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