# Status of
# Information Society in SAARC

## Expert Group Meeting

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# Status of
# Information Society in SAARC

Progress in and requirements for building an inclusive and people-oriented Information Society in SAARC Sub-region

## Expert Group Meeting

On Regional Cooperation towards Building
an Information Society in Asia and the Pacific

**Bangkok, 20-22 July 2009**

# The Regional Action Plan

- Adopted by the Asia Pacific Regional Conference on WSIS, held in Tehran in 2005.

- Covers specific programs/ projects with specific objectives, expected outputs, activities, indicative time frame for implementation and indicators for evaluating progress.

# Objectives of the Study

## Overall Objective:

To review the progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS including WSIS goals/targets as contained in section B of the Plan of Action of the WSIS in Geneva.

## This Study:

Examines the progress made after the Tunis summit 2005,

• Reports on the Current challenges faced in the development of ICTs,

• Reports on the Current issue of quality, speed and cost of access to ICTs-broadband and NGN, gender divide, in the access to Internet and ICTs enabling policy environment, and

• Makes practical recommendations to take up actions in future.

# Methodology Adopted

- Simplification of the RAP
- Meetings/ discussions and questionnaire administration
- Information search through website

# Role of Government and Stakeholders in the promotion of ICT for development

- Developed ICT policies and e-strategies (in early 2000)
- Regional meetings were held
- SAARC Second Working Group meeting on Communication Technology

  - NTA : South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council in Kathmandu.
  - India : Universal Access and experience on Rolling out of Broadband Services
  - SAARC Third Working Group on ICT (2009)
  - Next Generation Network  workshop at Colombo (2009)

# Information Communication Infrastructure

Built ICT infrastructure to cover rural and remote areas

- India: ahead (with Tele-density of 23.89 %),

    - developed world's cheapest mobile handset.

- Developing optical fiber networks within the sub-region,
- Afghanistan working on laying optical fiber links with Pakistan.

## Information and Knowledge

...tegrated system & convert in digital format,

...cess to public hosting various websites and ...ectronic mailing system,

... system for communication access,

...study by India on establishing

...nal high bandwidth hub for leased lines,

...e concept paper to the SAARC Secretariat for further ...ion.