Information Society in China: A Prospective

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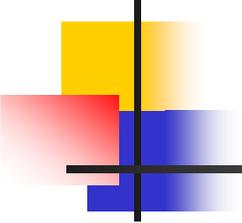
1. The Concept of Information Society

An information society is a society in which the creation, distribution, diffusion, use, integration and manipulation of information is a significant economic, political, and cultural activity.
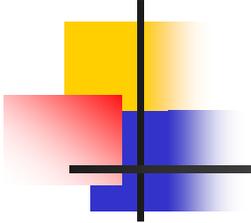
2. World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

- First WSIS in 2003
  - Outcome: *Plan of Actions*
  - Necessity: *Plan should be integrated with national ICT development plans*

- Second WSIS in 2005: China's Pledge to join hands with the other countries in building a global information society
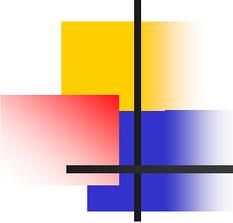
3. China's follow-up activities

- **In May 2006, Chinese Government released a comprehensive document titled:**

 "*The Development Strategies for the National Information Society 2006—2020*"

  Aim: To lay a solid foundation for an information society by 2020

4. Purpose and results of the "Development Strategies"
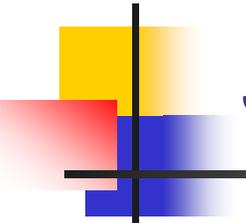
- **Purpose**
  - Boost the development of ICTs;
  - Promote the building of an Information Society
- **Results** (in 2007)
  - The added value from information industries reached 1,300 billion yuan (about 186 billion US dollars), taking up 5.27% in the GDP;
  - Rapid increase of the number of internet users;
  - The ratio of national ICT investment has reached nearly 10% of the investment on urban infrastructure.

5. Building an Information society
## in China – the process
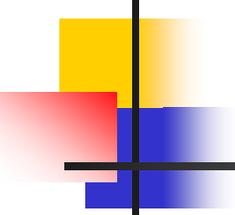
- **Five Phases**
  - The preparatory phase (from 1982);
  - "Three-Gold Project" in 1993;
  - National Conferences on Information Society (1997-2000);
  - National Policy of taking the track of a new type industrialization in 2000;
  - In 2007, it was further stressed by the central government that the industrialization and the development of ICTs should be integrated.

6. Building an information society in China - current status
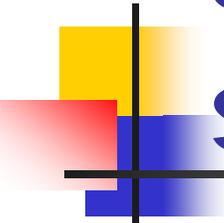
1. The increasing number of computer users in China

2. Increase of the number of internet users

3. Fixed and mobile phone users

4. The quality, speed and cost of access to ICTs: broadband and NGN

5. Communication technology

omputer users per 100 lies in Beijing, a

computer users per 100 families: Beijing

1999	23.5
2000	32.1
2001	45.3
2002	55.54
2003	68.31
2004	79.44
2005	89.16
2006	95.7
2007	91.62

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