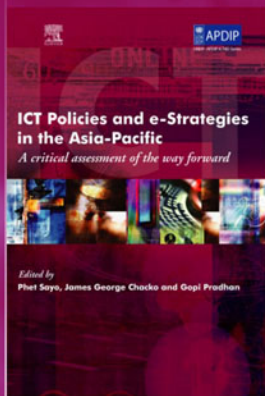




ICT Policies and e-Strategies in the Asia-Pacific

A critical assessment of the way forward



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This book reviews and analyses the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) policies and e-strategies presently implemented by countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Uniquely, this book provides the reader with an overview of the role that ICT can play in alleviating poverty and enhancing sustainable human development. The topics presented emphasize the critical need for strategic national level policies that are long-term in their vision and comprehensive in nature, targeting both the immediate needs of the populace and long-term needs of nation-states being integrated in an ever-increasingly interconnected digital economy.

As nations in the Asia-Pacific region continue to conceptualize, implement and monitor their respective information and communication technology policies and e-strategies, it is imperative that a critical assessment is undertaken on the way forward, that is an analysis of strategies, modalities and best practices while weighing their impact, effectiveness and efficiency. Nations need to step back and evaluate where they stand. They need to ensure that national ICT policies and e-strategies address the core aspect of development - *human development*. In the final analysis, ICT policies and e-strategies should be the means to an end. The end here brings sustainable *human development*.

This book focuses on the fundamentals of policy formulation, including the thematic priority areas to be addressed in the conceptualization and development of policies. It also provides an analytical overview of ICT policies and e-strategies in the region.

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This book is aimed at providing a foundation for further discussions among policy makers, private sector, and civil society representatives and development donor agencies, on the role and importance of ICT policies & e-strategies in ensuring that human development continues to occupy a central role in national development plans.