

ICTs are playing an ever-increasing role in allowing nations to deliver public services more effectively and efficiently. They have been used successfully in assisting poverty eradication, health services, agriculture, long-distance education, business, content and knowledge management, and a host of other civic services. ICT's vital contribution in bridging the digital divide, in ensuring that marginalized communities and cultures benefit from development, or in the movement towards an equitable and just society, is being increasingly recognized by governments.

As countries in the Asia-Pacific conceptualize, implement and monitor their ICT policies and strategies, there is need for analysis of strategies, modalities and best practices, as well as their impact and effectiveness. This three-volume series on ICT Policies and e-Strategies from United Nations Development Programme's Asia-Pacific Development Information Programme (UNDP-APDIP) is focused on three areas: an analytical overview of the ICT policies and e-strategies in the region; fundamentals of policy formulation and the development process; and the thematic priority areas to be addressed in the conceptualization and development of policies.

This three-volume set of publications is meant to provide policy-makers and other stakeholders in the development process valuable information on using ICTs effectively to achieve their goals. Hopefully, this set of publications may be a catalyst for further discussion among policy-makers, private sector and civil society representatives and development and donor agencies on the role and importance of ICT policies and e-strategies in ensuring that human development continues to occupy a central place in national development agendas.



UNDP-APDIP ICT4D Series on ICT Policies and e-Strategies in the Asia-Pacific

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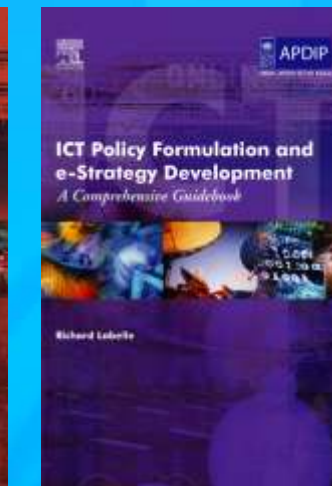


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**ICT Policies and e-Strategies in the Asia-Pacific:
A Critical Assessment of the Way Forward**

**An Overview of ICT Policies and e-Strategies
of Select Asian Economies**

**ICT Policy Formulation and e-Strategy Development:
A Comprehensive Guidebook**



ICT Policies and e-Strategies in the Asia-Pacific: A Critical Assessment of the Way Forward

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.

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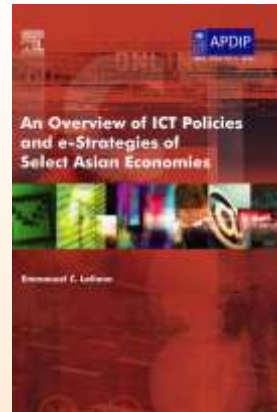
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Public- Private Partnerships and Financing ICT Developments

ISBN : 81-8147-513-5; Pages : 219; Year of publication : 2004



An Overview of ICT Policies and e-Strategies of Select Asian Economies

This comparative study of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) policies and e-strategies of nine Asian countries (Japan, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal and Vietnam) provides an overview of an analysis of ICT legislations, policies, and strategies across the region. It also identifies strengths, weaknesses, similarities, and gaps in ICT policy formulation in Asia. The overall objective of the study is to serve as a guide for planning by policy-makers in order to help them harmonize policy development processes in the region.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Emmanuel C. Lallana, PhD, is Commissioner, Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT), Office of the President, Republic of the Philippines. The CICT is the primary policy, planning, coordinating, implementing, regulating entity of the Philippine government that promotes, develops, and regulates integrated and strategic ICT systems and enables reliable and cost-efficient communication facilities and services in the country.

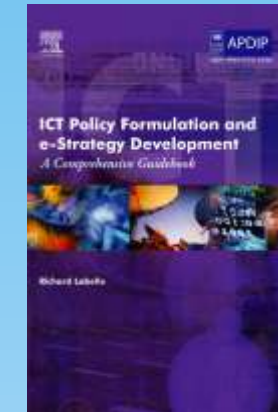
Before he joined the Philippine government in September 2004, Dr. Lallana was actively engaged in research, training and consulting on ICT policy. From 2000-2002, he was the Executive Director of the e-ASEAN Task Force (eATF) – an advisory body to the South East Asian inter-governmental organization on developing ICT competencies among its 10 member countries. He also worked with the Philippine legislature in developing a legal framework for e-commerce (Republic Act 8792).

Dr. Lallana's recent publications include *SMS in Business and Government* (2004), *State of eGovernment in the Philippines 2003-2004* (2004); *mGovernment: Mobile/Wireless Applications in Government* (available at www.egov4dev.org.topic4.htm). He was the Series Editor of *e-Primers on Information Economy, Society and Polity* vol 1-7 and author of the *Information Age* – the first volume in the series (online version: www.eprimers.org). Dr. Lallana also wrote the chapter on the Philippines in the *Digital Review of the Asia Pacific 2003-2004* (www.digital-review.org).

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Education and ICTs

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ICT Policy Formulation and e-Strategy Development: A Comprehensive Guidebook

The Guidebook is intended to help policy makers and planners of Asia-Pacific countries and beyond in the preparation of national policies and strategies on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) development. It discusses the place of ICT policy-making in development, and focuses on steps taken in developing ICT policies, including appropriate e-readiness assessment and participatory methodologies; the sectors that ICT policy-making need to deal with; the approaches to ICT action planning and the questions that need to be considered in developing ICT strategies. The Guidebook approaches ICT policy and strategy development from various perspectives and should provide an ideal instrument for policy-makers in their work.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Richard Labelle is an independent consultant based in Gatineau, Quebec, Canada. He has over 23 years experience in institutional strengthening and on issues related to the management of information and knowledge in developing countries. Since 1992, he has undertaken missions to over 57 developing countries on behalf of UNDP. In his consulting practice, he has advised governments, international development agencies and other development actors on using appropriate information technologies and management practices for meeting national development goals while dealing with a variety of human, social and economic development issues at the same time. Among these issues, those related to poverty alleviation, local and community development, gender equality, the digital divide and the role of ICTs in dealing with HIV/AIDS are noteworthy. This has included advising on appropriate policies as well as designing, developing, presenting, discussing and negotiating projects that build capacities for sustainable development. He is presently involved in many countries in Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia.

Mr. Labelle has undertaken a number of evaluations of Internet connectivity and ICT capacity. He has developed ICT strategies and action plans in several countries of Asia and Africa including most recently in Djibouti, Mauritania, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Mongolia. He is part of a team developing the national ICT strategy for Botswana. In 2001 he was involved in assessing ICT based solutions for addressing poverty in 20 villages in five different provinces of rural China. In the 1980s, he developed a world-class computerized information and documentation centre on agroforestry (IDRC & ICRAF Nairobi, Kenya).

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