

## Results and Analysis

Although the report highlights various innovative uses of ICTs for accelerating progress towards the MDGs across Asia, it also clearly identifies the numerous obstacles and challenges that lie ahead. The digital divide, in all its manifestations, must be urgently addressed if the stark deprivations that characterize Asian nations are to be overcome.

Indeed, ICTs offer new and innovative means to accelerate human progress and development in critical areas such as economic growth and opportunity, education, healthcare, environmental sustainability, and the empowerment of women. In the end, ICTs themselves are mere tools.

The successful use and exploitation of ICTs in accelerating human progress rests above all on the will and unwavering commitment of nations, businesses, and institutions to dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to the cause of human development and to achieve the clear goals and targets set by the Millennium Development Goals.



# Millennium Development Goals

- Goal 1:  
Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
- Goal 2:  
Achieve Universal Primary Education
- Goal 3:  
Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
- Goal 4:  
Reduce Child Mortality
- Goal 5:  
Improve Maternal Health
- Goal 6:  
Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases
- Goal 7:  
Ensure Environmental Sustainability
- Goal 8:  
Develop a Global Partnership for Development

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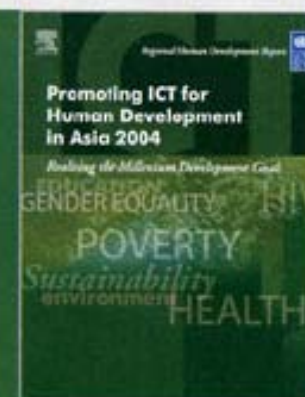
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# APDIP

## Regional Human Development Report

Promoting ICT for Human Development  
in Asia:  
Realizing the Millennium Development  
Goals



An Initiative of UNDP's  
Asia-Pacific Development Information  
Programme (APDIP)  
and the  
Asia Pacific RHDR Initiative (APRI),  
Human Development Resource Centre

## Promoting ICT for Human Development in Asia: Realizing the Millennium Development Goals

The Regional Human Development Report entitled *Promoting ICT for Human Development in Asia: Realizing the Millennium Development Goals* is a product of a partnership between UNDP's two regional programmes, the Asia-Pacific Development Information Programme (APDIP) and the Asia Pacific RHDR Initiative (APRI) located at the Human Development Resource Centre (HDRC). It examines the highly pertinent questions on the relationship between the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) while attempting to reinstate human development at the heart of ICT deployment and initiatives.

The key contribution of this report lies in its pioneering attempt to map and document ICT uses across the range of MDGs in nine Asian countries. This comprehensive analysis of best practices in ICT use targeted at each of the specific MDGs, reveals a rich and diverse Asian landscape where many countries have succeeded in harnessing ICTs to spur economic growth, improve delivery of healthcare services, fight disease and deprivation, and promote education. ICTs have also shown genuine potential for contributing to the empowerment of women, ensuring environmental sustainability, and promoting global partnerships for development.

The report is based on research conducted in nine countries in Asia, namely, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.



### Methodology and Rationale

The report provides a critical review and assessment on the progress made by countries in the Asian region, in drafting and implementing their national policies and e-strategies for harnessing the potential of ICTs to reduce poverty and enhance human development. It also identifies gaps and constraints to the implementation of ICT strategies, documents best practices, and in general, provides a practical knowledge-sharing instrument for encouraging and facilitating greater South-South and North-South cooperation in ICT for Development.

### ICT and MDGs: Key Findings

Although ICTs constitute relatively recent phenomena in the Asian landscape, this study reveals a wide variety of uses and initiatives that have been developed in all nine Asian countries. In some specific MDG areas, there has been very successful strategic deployment and use of ICTs while in others, there are only sporadic and isolated attempts at harnessing ICT tools to address developmental concerns.

While governments in Asia continue to be a major player in ICT initiatives both in their capacity as policy makers as well as in their role as purveyors of ICT infrastructure and services, Non-Government Organizations are fast emerging as the most innovative and effective users of ICT in the developmental arena. The trend towards deregulation and liberalization of ICT industries is also increasing the role and importance of the private sector in the provision of infrastructure and services.

As many of the experiences highlighted by this report clearly indicate, the successful harnessing of ICTs for human development purposes depends, to a great extent, on the creation of effective partnerships among all these stakeholders.

