



Asian Forum on Information and Communication Technology Policies and Strategies

**Kuala Lumpur
20-22 October, 2003**

Organized by

**Bureau for Development Policy, Asia Pacific Development Information
Programme of UNDP and UN ICT Task Force (WG-2)**

with support from

**Ministry of Energy, Communications and Multimedia
(Malaysia)**

and

Government of Japan

1. Introduction

In relation to Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), the greatest concern now is not how countries will be able to adapt to new emerging technologies but how wide the rural-urban digital divide would be in the next decade within and among countries. The fear is based on the growing rural-urban disparity in terms of inadequate policy support; comparatively lower access, lack of affordability and absence and relevance of practical content. As infrastructures are built, applications are developed and new services are introduced, the urban population seems to be benefiting more than their rural colleagues. Rural masses are getting sidelined because of their mere geographic locations, lower literacy and lack of knowledge and awareness. This rift is going to hurt and cost countries dearly if appropriate measures are not taken at the earliest possible moment.

Policies on information and communication technologies are not standalone. They have to take into account other policy areas where ICT plays an important and complimentary role, such as in telecom, education, health, trade and investment, agriculture, and environment, as well as culture and tradition. ICT Policies should develop over time and appropriate e-strategies and action plans complement such developments. They are also best addressed by a set of e-strategies that are conducive to developed policies that are achievable, and above all practical.

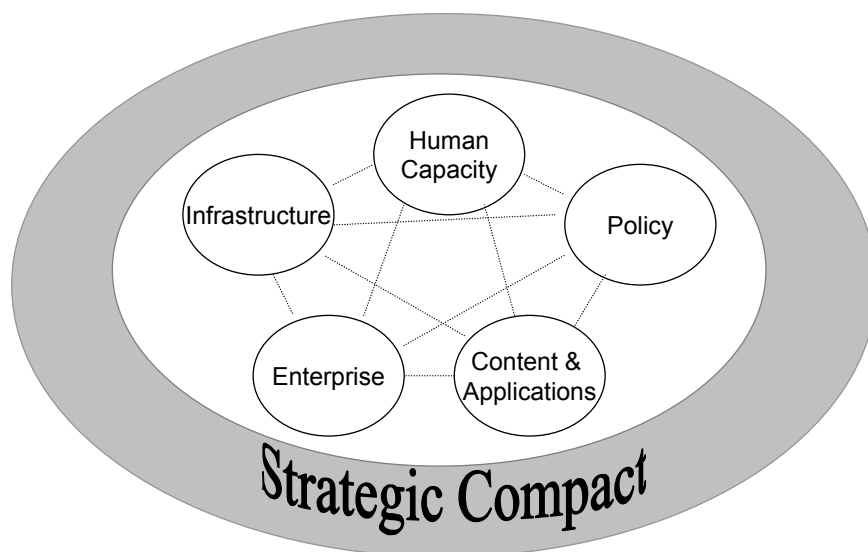
A comprehensive e-strategy must therefore consist of a holistic framework that identifies actions, priorities, and implementation, resources and capacities on a cross-sectoral basis. Perhaps one of the biggest challenges of ICT policies and e-strategies has been or will be to mould the various sector policies into one single national agenda, whereby each and every sector plays its role in its own right.

Besides these cross-sectoral issues, there is also a set of important parameters that address e-Strategies. The final report of the Digital Opportunity Initiative¹ summarizes these. They are:

- Infrastructure
- Human capacity
- Policy
- Enterprise
- Content and Applications

A conceptual framework of these can be seen in the following illustration:

¹ The Digital Opportunity Initiative is a partnership between Accenture, the Markle Foundation and the United Nations Development Programme. The group's final report, *Creating a Development Dynamic*, was tabled in July 2001.



Development Dynamics and the Strategic Compact

ICT Policies and e-Strategies are closely related. e-Strategies have to adjust to evolving socio-economic conditions and changes while policies may remain constant for a considerable period of time. The nature of technological evolution and the extent to which technologies can be or are being used in countries, are very important in influencing ICT policies and e-Strategies.

Because of the tremendous resources required, a holistic approach will result in cost-effective and efficient methods of implementing ICT activities. Sharing of knowledge and experience will help countries to learn from each other. The need for a regional approach to ICT policies and e-strategies is based on the common geography of countries within a region. In this process, a platform where policy-makers can sit down and discuss together would not only be enlightening but progressive for the region

With the above in mind, UNDP-APDIP (<http://www.apdip.net>), in collaboration with the UN ICT Task Force (<http://www.unicttaskforce.org>) and the Ministry of Energy, Communications and Multimedia, Malaysia (<http://www.ktm.gov.my>) is organizing an Asian Forum on ICT Policies and Strategies to provide Asian countries an opportunity to share information on what works and what does not work, and to benefit from each others knowledge and experiences.

2. Objective

The objectives of the Asian Forum are to:

- Foster collaboration and information sharing on ICT policies and e-Strategies between participating countries of the region;
- Provide a platform for a discussion on institutional frameworks for successful Information and Communication Technology policy development processes;
- Engage other more developed countries of the region to share experiences in the formulation of ICT policies and strategies;

- Help countries focus on areas that are, in the broad sense, common to all and are necessary in the design of a comprehensive national ICT policy frameworks
- Bring together Asian ICT champions, particularly from the highest levels of national Governments, to share knowledge and experiences;
- Provide a platform to review national e-policies and e-strategies in the participating countries of region;
- Provide feedback and recommendations on national e-strategies to national Governments;
- Provide a platform for the ICT policy and e-Strategy concerns of Asian countries to be tabled at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Geneva;
- Foster collaboration and coordination among various stakeholders;
- Share good practices and catalyze initiatives and partnerships, and
- Focus on ICT in overseas development assistance and partnership for development of sustainable e-strategies.

3. DOI Framework: A Learning Platform

In broad terms, the framework found in the final report of Digital Opportunity Initiative (DOI) guides the substance of the Forum. Indeed, the structure and content for the Forum greatly reflect the issues inherent in the DOI framework.

4. Final Report and Feedback to the World Summit on the Information Society

The final report of the Forum will include a set of recommendations as input to the UN ICT Task Force on various issues relating to national ICT policy and strategy formulation. The report will be submitted to the UN ICT Task Force via its Working Group 2 (WG2) on e-strategies. UN ICT Task Force will, in turn, feed the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Asian Forum on ICT Policies and e-Strategies in to WSIS. In addition, the Forum will also come up with the “Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ICT Policies and e-Strategies” that will also be tabled at the WSIS.

5. Proposed Sessions

Ministers’ Roundtable

A Roundtable involving Ministers and heads of country delegations will kickoff the Forum, immediately after the Opening Session. The Roundtable will commence with a facilitator briefly tabling a number of crosscutting issues and concerns as regards to ICT policy and strategy formulation in the region. This should help to kick-start discussion and debate in the roundtable.

Sessions

The Ministers’ Roundtable will be followed by a session each on:

- I. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), Poverty Reduction Strategies Programmes (PRSPs), and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- II. WTO and Globalization: ICT, Trade and Competitiveness
- III. Role of Government: as an enabler, regulator, and provider of ICT-based services
- IV. Regulatory Issues and Privatization
- V. Infrastructure, Access, and the Potential of Wireless

- VI. Creating Capacity and Jobs
- VII. Legal Issues - Security, Privacy, and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)
- VIII. Public-Private Partnerships and Financing ICT Developments.

6. Keynote Addresses

Keynote addresses will be organized during the luncheon on each day of the three-day Forum.

7. Participants

Each country delegation will be made up primarily of:

- **Minister/Deputy Minister** of ministries/agencies/authorities responsible for developing national ICT policies and strategies or a high-level government official leading the delegation;
- **Heads** of telecommunication or ICT regulatory authorities/agencies;
- **Secretary General/Secretary/Permanent Secretaries/Director General** (-or equivalent) of ministries/agencies/authorities responsible for developing and implementing national ICT policies/strategies, and
- **Heads** of key national interest groups (e.g. national association of software/hard producers; national Computer Society; national association of Internet Service Providers (ISPs); national Internet User Groups).

Some 20 countries from Asia Pacific region will be participating in the Forum. Representatives of APEC, ASEAN, UNESCAP, WTO, UN ICT TF, UNCTAD, Pacific Forum Secretariat, and other relevant bilateral and multilateral agencies will be invited to participate.

8. Implementation

The UN ICT Task Force, and UNDP's Bureau for Development Policy (BDP) and its Asia-Pacific Development Information Programme (APDIP) with support of the Ministry of Energy, Communications, and Multimedia (MECM), Malaysia, will jointly organize the Asian Forum on ICT Policies and e-Strategies.

9. Resource Persons and Background Documentation

Resource Persons

Prominent resource persons will facilitate discussions and provide substantial input to the Forum. Resource persons from government, academia, and the private sector have been identified to assist in the various sessions of the Forum.

Session Paper

Each resource person shall prepare a paper on the specific session topic to which they are assigned. These papers will include (i) an overview of the issues surrounding the topic itself, and (ii) highlight developments in the Asian region as they relate to the topic.

Presentations

Based on their preparatory work and the session papers noted above, resource persons are expected to prepare and make a twenty-minute (20) presentation in the session to which they are assigned. Resource persons will also be expected to field questions during the plenary discussions that follow their respective presentations.

10. Panel Discussions

Each session panel will have a Chairperson selected on the basis of their expertise. Besides the Chairperson, there will be four panel members or panelists representing the various countries and the various organizations and agencies represented in the Forum.

The panelists are expected to provide commentary based on their own experience, as well as raise any further issues/arguments from their own perspective. The panelists, together with the Chairperson of the Session and the resource person, will also serve as discussants for each session. After the presentations, a plenary discussion will take place on each topic. Each of the five Panelists are expected to speak on the topic for five (5) minutes.

11. Parallel Research Initiatives

a) Comparative Analysis of ICT Policies and e-Strategies

A comparative study of ICT policies and e-Strategies of some Asian countries selected from among those that have ICT legislations, policies, and strategies is being undertaken. The report of the study will be made available at the Asian Forum. The study will provide concrete research and analysis on the strengths and weaknesses that are evident in policies across the region. It will produce a meaningful and qualitative comparison of policy development across Asia. The analysis, which will involve high-, middle- and low-income countries, will look at various socio-economic parameters and ICT issues and concerns, with a view to identifying strengths, weaknesses, similarities, and gaps in 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.

b) e-Primer on ICT Policy Formulation and e-Strategy Development

To achieve a homogenous ICT policy and strategy formulation at the national level, there is need for a very basic, 'how to' type of guiding tool. Such a step-by-step tool that is adaptable to various country situations can help to harmonize strategies and action plans at the national level and this is also been prepared. With the basic information on ICT policy development and dialogue processes that the e-Primer will provide, policy-makers should be able to take appropriate decisions. Such knowledge would also enable them to play an active part in the actual policy formulation processes in their respective countries and at the regional level, with more productive policy outcomes. In countries with already established policies, the e-Primer will serve as a reference manual on basic ICT policy issues and topics. The ICT policy and strategy primer will be in two parts: ICT policy development and development of an e-strategy framework. UNDP-APDIP has been supporting the development of e-primers on a number of subjects (see <http://www.apdip.net>).

Asian Forum on Information and Communication Technology Policies and e-Strategies

Renaissance Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, 20-22 October 2003

Tentative Agenda as at 17 October 2003

Day One:

Monday, 20 October, 2003

8:30 – 9:00

Registration

Foyer, Grand Ballroom A, Mezzanine Floor, Renaissance Wing

9:00 – 10:00

Opening/Welcome Remarks

- **Mr. Richard Leete**, UNDP Resident Representative and Resident Coordinator of UN Systems, Malaysia
- **Mr. Stephen Browne**, Chairman, UN ICT Task Force Working Group 2
- **Mr. Jose Maria Figueres Olsen**, Chairman UN ICT Task Force (Video message)

Keynote Address

Y.B. Datuk Amar Leo Moggie, Minister, Ministry of Energy, Communications and Multimedia, Malaysia

Group Photo

10:00 – 10:30

Break

10:30 – 12:30

Ministers' Roundtable on ICT for Development

Chair:

Y.B. Datuk Amar Leo Moggie, Minister, Ministry of Energy, Communications and Multimedia, Malaysia

Facilitator:

Dr. Rohan Samarajiva, Team Leader, Public Interest Program Unit of the Ministry of Economic Reform, Sri Lanka

12:30 – 13:30

Lunch

Arcade 3 & 4, Lower Ground Floor, Renaissance Wing

3:30 – 14:45

Session I - Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Poverty Reduction and Strategic Programmes (PRSPs), and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Chair:

H.E. Dr. Abdul Moyeen Khan, Minister for Science and Information Communication Technology, Bangladesh

Resource Person: *(20 minutes)*

Dr. Tariq Banuri, Chairman, ePoor.org, Pakistan

Panel/Discussants: *(5 minutes each)*

1. **Mr. Sukhbaatar Enkhjargal**, Executive Director, Mongolian Communication Development Association, MIDAS, Mongolia
2. **Mr. Leewood Phu**, Secretary-General, National ICT Development Authority
3. **Mr. Ichiro Tambo**, Adviser on Science & Technology, Development Co-operation Directorate, DCD (OECD)

Discussion

14:45 – 16:00

Session II - Globalization and WTO: ICT, Trade and Competitiveness

Chair:

H.E. Dr. Mai Liem Truc, Standing Vice-Minister, Ministry of Posts and Telematics of Viet Nam, Vietnam

Resource Person: *(20 minutes)*

Dr. Susan Teltscher, Economics Affairs Officer, UNCTAD, Geneva

Panel/Discussants: *(5 minutes each)*

1. **H.E. Sharad Chandra Shah**, Vice-Chairman, Information Technology High-Level Commission, Nepal
2. **Mr. Xuan Zengpei**, Chief, Information, Communication and Space Technology (ICSTD), UNESCAP, Thailand
3. **Mr. Khalid Saeed**, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology *(To be confirmed)*

Discussion

16:00 – 16:30

Break

16:30 – 18:00

Session III - Role of Government: as an enabler, regulator, and provider of ICT-based services

Chair:

Dr. Halim Shafie, Secretary General, Ministry of Energy, Communications and Multimedia, Malaysia

Resource Person: (20 minutes)

Professor Subhash Bhatnagar, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, India

Panel/Discussants: (5 minutes each)

1. **Mr. Tashi Phuntsog**, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communications, Bhutan
2. **Dr. Tran Minh Tien**, President of National Institute of Post & Telematic Strategy, Ministry of Posts & Telematics, Vietnam
3. **Mr. Manju Hathotuwa**, Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Information & Communication Agency of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka
4. **Mr. Tua'imalo Asamu Ah Sam**, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Samoa

Discussion

19:30

Welcome Dinner

Grand Ballroom B, Mezzanine Floor, Renaissance Wing

Day Two:

Tuesday, 21 October, 2003

9:00 – 10:30

Session IV - Regulatory Issues and Privatization

Chair:

Hon Palusalue Faapo II, Minister for Communication and Technology, Samoa

Resource Person: (20 minutes)

Dr. John Ure, Professor, Hong Kong University, Hong Kong

Panel/Discussants: (5 minutes each)

1. **Mr. Md. Rustom Ali**, Director, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, Bangladesh
2. **Atty. Kathleen G Heceta**, Deputy Commissioner, National Telecommunications Commission, Philippines
3. **Mr. Fred Tipson**, Executive Director, GDOI, Markle Foundation, New York, USA

Discussion

10:30 – 11:00

Break

11:00 – 12:30 **Session V - Infrastructure, Access, and the Potential of Wireless**

Chair:

H.E. Arthur T. Somare, Minister of State Enterprises and Communications (to be confirmed)

Resource Person: (20 minutes)

Hon. Virgilio L Pena, ICT Advisor to the President and Under Secretary for ICT, Philippines

Panel/Discussants: (5 minutes each)

1. **Dr. William T Torres**, Co-Chair, Information Infrastructure Committee (ITECC), Philippines
2. **Eng. Hassam Baryalai**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Communications, Afghanistan
3. **Prof. Mohsen Tawfik**, Director and UNESCO (Representative to Bhutan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka) UNESCO, India

Discussion

12:30 – 14:00

Lunch and Keynote Address

Professor Datuk Dr. Sharifah Hapsah Shahabudin, President, National Council of Women's Organization, C/O Ministry of Education, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Marché Restaurant, 2nd Floor, Renaissance Wing

14:00 – 15:30

Session VI - Creating Capacity and Jobs

Chair:

H.E. Sharad Chandra Shah, Vice-Chairman, Information Technology High-Level Commission, Nepal

Resource Person: (20 minutes)

Dr. Salman Ansari, Advisor, ICT, Ministry of Information and Communication, Pakistan

Panel/Discussants: (5 minutes each)

1. **Mr. Xavier Tan**, Chairman, PIKOM, Malaysia
2. **Eng. Fernando Carvalho da Cruz**, Director-General for Transport and Communications, Timor Leste
3. **Pengiran Mashor Pengiran Ahmad**, Deputy Secretary-General ASEAN Secretariat, Philippines (To be confirmed)

Discussion

15:30 – 16:00

Break

16:00 – 17:30

Session VII - Legal Issues – Security, Privacy, and IPR

Chair:

To be Confirmed

Resource Person:

Prof. Harry SK Tan, Director, Centre for Asia Pacific Technology Law and Policy, Nanyang Business School, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (20 minutes)

Panel/Discussants: (5 minutes each)

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1. **Ms. Maria Lourdes A Yaptinchay**, Assistant Secretary, IT/E-Commerce, Policy and Communications, Department of Trade and Industry Philippines
 2. **Ms. Pushpa Rene Amarasiri**, Director of Economic Affairs, Telecommunications Regulatory Commission, Sri Lanka
 3. **Mr. William Hioe** Senior Director (International and Strategic Planning) Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore

Discussion

**Day 3:
Wednesday, 22 October, 2003**

9:00 – 10:30 **Session VIII - Public-Private Partnerships and Financing of ICT Developments**

Chair:

H.E. Mr. Keheliya Dissanayake Bandana Rambukwella, Minister of Science & Technology, Sri Lanka

Resource Person:

1. **Mr. Paul Ulrich**, Consultant, Hong Kong (20 minutes)

Panel/Discussants: (5 minutes each)

1. **Dr. Tan Chin Nam**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts, Singapore
2. **Mr. Silvio Cattonar**, Director, Special Projects, Mekong Department, ADB, Manila, Philippines
3. **Mr. Thanongsinh Kanlagna**, Chief Executive Officer, Data Com, Lao PDR (*to be confirmed*)

Discussion

10:30 – 11:00 **Break**

11:00 – 12:30 **The Plenary**

Chair: Stephen Brown, UNDP/UN ICT Task Force (WG2)

Co-Chair: Shahid Akhtar, UNDP-APDIP

- Forum findings and recommendations
- Adoption of Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ICT Policies and e-Strategies

12:30 – 12:45 **Closing**

12:45 – 14:00 **Lunch**
Marché Restaurant, 2nd Floor, Renaissance Wing

14:00 – 18:00 **Field trip to Cyberjaya** (optional)
