



11 December 2003
WSIS, Geneva

**A PIONEERING REGIONAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT ON
PROMOTING ICT FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA 2004: REALISING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**

ICTforHD Index: The Indicators

A complementary quantitative study was undertaken to explore the empirical linkages between ICTs and MDGs for human development towards the preparation of UNDP's Regional Human Development Report on *Promoting ICT for Human Development in Asia 2004: Realising the Millennium Development Goals*. Selected indicators were used to construct a set of thematic **component indices** covering five distinct dimensions of ICT availability and use. The component indices were then aggregated into a composite aggregate index capturing ICT-HD relationship.

These **component indices** are based on five categories of indicators: i) availability or supply linked -- skill-independent ii) availability or supply linked -- skill dependent iii) efficiency and speed iv) targeting social sectors, and v) targeting vulnerable groups.

The **indicators** within each of these categories are:

I. Skill-independent ICT reflecting availability

- i. Telephone mainlines (per 1,000 people)
- ii. Cellular subscribers (per 1,000 people)
- iii. Television sets (per 1,000 people)
- iv. Radios (per 1000 people)

II. Skill-dependent ICT reflecting availability

- i. Internet users (per 100 people)
- ii. Personal computers in use (per 100 people)
- iii. ICT expenditure per capita (\$)

III. Efficiency and speed

- i. Internet service provider charges (\$)
- ii. Telephone usage charge for internet service (\$)
- iii. Cost of local call (\$ per 3 min)
- iv. Cost of call to US (\$ per 3 min)
- v. Internet speed and access
- vi. IT training and education

IV. Targeting social sectors

- i. Internet access in schools
- ii. Computers installed in education ('000s)
- iii. Government prioritisation in ICT
- iv. Government online services availability

V. Targeting vulnerable groups

- i. Female professional and technical workers (as % of total)
- ii. Public access to internet
- iii. Government success in ICT promotion
- iv. Competition among service providers (ISPs)
- v. Laws relating to ICT use

The study was limited by the unavailability of comparable data on important aspects such as affordability, access and utilisation of ICT. The research findings point out that there is a need to bring in the demand side more strongly and reflect the spread of technology, not only across economic and social classes but also regions, sectors and gender categories. Data on indicators such as the percentage of households in certain relatively disadvantaged social, economic and regional groups who are able to make use of ICT, can help in assessing the impact and reach of ICT for specific sections of the population and provide a more disaggregated picture.