

## Direct Excerpts of ICT Related Content from Country PRSPs in the Asia Pacific Region

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<a href="#">Bangladesh</a>	<p><b>Cause of poverty in multiple places</b>– “Another problem is that the region has a very weak <u>communication</u> system within and with other parts of the country.” p.7</p> <p><b>Prioritization of proposed programs</b> – “Developing adequate physical infrastructure including <u>communication</u>” p.12</p> <p><b>Reducing poverty in the Chittagong Division:</b> “<u>Expansion of information technology</u>” p.20</p> <p><b>Physical Infrastructure</b> 3.23 The consultations strongly emphasized the role of physical infrastructure in accelerating the rate of poverty reduction, especially in rural areas. The package includes eleven important elements: road, bridge, railway, waterway, safe water supply and sanitation, electricity, gas, storage, port, telecommunication, and information. The consultations p.21 PRSP</p> <p><b>Accelerating Pro-Poor Economic Growth</b> success of the Strategy. The sources of increased growth would involve several areas: (i) higher private investment in all sectors and increased inflow of foreign direct investments (FDIs) through ensuring good governance and installing measures to reduce transaction costs and promote investment-friendly environment; (ii) increased efficiency and technological progress across the economy including promotion of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and biotechnology; (iii) expanded growth of industry (particularly small outcomes. The development of ICTs would be used as an expanding source of growth of the economy. For the purpose, appropriate strategies would be adopted to harness the employment generation and welfare-enhancement potential of ICTs by creating an enabling environment for comprehensive technology acquisition and its diffusion through developing required infrastructure, creating legislative and policy framework, supporting entrepreneurial activities, facilitating and fostering community initiatives, and developing partnerships among public-private institutions. In all these efforts, the private sector would play a key p.28</p> <p><b>ICT Sector Growth</b> <i>ICT and Export Oriented Industries:</i> The ICT sector is yet to take-off in Bangladesh and its growth is painfully slow mainly due to poor informatics infrastructure. The Government would emphasize three areas for developing the ICT sector: (i) improvements of telecommunication infrastructure; (ii) rationalization of BITB’s monopoly and regulatory roles; and (iii) human resource development in the ICT sector. p.94</p>	<p><b>Recommendations for development of resources and opportunities in Chitagong Division:</b> “Development of <u>communication</u> system;” p.22</p> <p><b>Recommended actions for Health and Family Planning service for poor people:</b> “<u>Ensure improved information system</u>... Ensure proper utilization of <u>information technology</u>; More incorporation of <u>radio</u> and <u>television</u> and private sector;” p.29</p> <p><b>Recommended activities for massive awareness on Health, Family planning and Sanitation:</b> “Provide big signboards in the sandy lands (<i>Char area</i>) and ensure essential <u>communication</u> facilities;” p.34</p> <p><b>Actions for reducing mother’s morbidity:</b> “Improving transport and <u>communication</u> system” p.39</p> <p><b>Land Record Administration – “Introduction of modern information and communication technology (ICT) for the simplification of land management system;”</b> p.51</p> <p><b>Education</b> providing support to non-rice crops, livestock and fishery sub-sectors. The quality of primary education, enrollment at secondary level and expansion and qualitative improvement of technical and vocational education including ICT will constitute the central focus within the education sector. The health sector development strategy will be re-designed to focus on new p.9, PRSP</p> <p><b>Employment, Market Access, Governance</b> highlighted. The need for developing employment-generating sectors such as agro-processing and information-technology (IT) related industry for both domestic economy and export markets was emphasized. The role of information technology was viewed as important for generating employment for the graduates in both rural and urban areas.</p> <p>headquarters. The consultations strongly emphasized the need for extending telephone networks to rural areas and advocated greater competition and privatization in this area. Telecommunication would help in regional market integration and increase the effectiveness of the early-warning system for preventing disasters. Availability of information technology at the local level was advocated from the perspective of improving the overall system of governance as well. The post-draft consultations especially drew attention to the need for</p>	<p><a href="#">Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper Status Report, August 25, 2004</a></p>

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		<p>p.21 PRSP</p> <p><b>Promoting Good Governance</b></p> <p>The mass media and information channels will be used in moulding public opinion and creating awareness on issues of good governance and poverty reduction including population control, women's development and empowerment, reproductive health and gender, nutrition, literacy, arsenic mitigation, environment and pro-poor development issues.</p> <p>5.30 The use of modern information and communication technologies (e.g. e-governance) has a significant scope in addressing weaknesses in governance. The Government's aim is to use informatics to improve governance in multiple ways e.g. as a tool to enhance productivity and improve service quality, institutionalize management systems to reduce the scope of rent-seeking opportunities, and strengthen information flows both across government agencies and with the private sector and the civil society, including the poor and women. Recognizing that good governance requires time to ensure, the Government would initiate time-bound action plans with clearly defined objectives, responsibilities and performance evaluation systems to measure progress.</p> <p>p.34-35</p> <p><b>Social Impact of Telecommunications</b></p> <p>5.49 Telecommunication is the third critical element in the infrastructural package for pro-poor growth. The relative importance of telecommunication has increased manifold following the revolution in information technology. Telecommunication will help in regional market integration, increase the effectiveness of the early-warning system for prevention and preparedness for disasters, improve the system of governance and, serve as a useful means for public service delivery to the poor and poor areas (e.g. satellite learning, tele-medicine etc.). The policies will also support the development of ICT at all levels of education, including development of institutions on vocational and technical education and technology transfer.</p>	

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		<p>5.52 A comprehensive technology policy (especially ICT and biotechnology) would be adopted for purposes of eradicating poverty in the country. New technology is critical in developing seeds of new varieties for agriculture and in their adoption in adverse agro-ecological environments. A Task Force, formed to recommend policies and steps needed to promote biotechnologies suitable to the climate and socio-economic conditions of the country, has submitted its report which will be implemented following the guidelines of the National Agricultural Policy. Development of information technology will be an important source of future economic growth and play a critical role in employment generation, fostering productivity enhancing human development (impacting on both knowledge as well as service delivery dimensions) and improved governance. It will also help linking hitherto disintegrated national and local markets with global markets.</p> <p>5.53 The present institutional infrastructure for delivery and adoption of new technology, however, is inadequate. Enhancing technological capability in the public sector and removing barriers in the private sector remains the strategic challenge. Innovation and adoption of technology requires skills that depend on vocational and technical education, transfer of appropriate technology and more reliance on "learning by doing" in the globalized supply chains of production. It is also important to ensure that women benefit equally from the technological advancement in agriculture and from ICTs.</p> <p>5.54 The scope of employment creation through ICTs, particularly for the young women and men, will be harnessed through providing them with opportunities to develop ICT literacy through the education system and ICT training facilities and providing affordable access to computers and the internet. The government would also provide credit and support services for exploiting opportunities of paid and self-employment and entrepreneurial activities offered by international and domestic-oriented ICT industries and deployment of ICT across different industry groups; promote greater use of ICT as tool for development and for ensuring greater voice and empowerment for all groups in collaboration with employer's organizations, ICT service vendors, NGOs, youth and other organizations; take actions to bridge the ICT gender divide and maximize the potential of internet to women as a means of access to knowledge and information; create an enabling environment for ICT diffusion through infrastructure development and appropriate trade and fiscal policies and legislative framework; use ICT to improve the quality and efficiency of public service delivery systems by strengthening internal information flows, increasing accountability and transparency, and enhancing efficiency of procurement systems; and foster community initiatives and partnerships between public and private institutions to bridge the digital divide between the rich and the poor. In addition to supporting training facilities on hardware maintenance and troubleshooting, several areas will be emphasized like electronic book/library, including cyber-cafe, cyber kiosks, call centres, telemedicine and other internet-based activities; electronic mail and web-site design; electronic journalism; on-line education; medical transcription; ICT in banking and health sectors; multimedia and web technology; and telework for self-employment. The long term vision of the technology policy would be to leap frog the development divide and transform the society from being the receiver of technology to one of producer of technology.</p>	
<p><a href="#">Bhutan</a></p>	<p><b>Bhutan Poverty Assessment Analysis</b> - "The results of the <i>PAA 2000</i> indicated the priority needs of all <i>Dzongkhags</i> in descending order as follows: education, economic activities, household income, health, <u>communication</u>, physical facilities, transport, environment, women's position and non-material needs...Pemagatshel and Samdrup Jongkhar districts (located in east southern) ranked transport and communication as the highest priorities (ranks 1 and 2) while Thimphu and Paro (located in western) ranked them at the lower end (ranks 8 and 9)."</p>	<p><b>One of the ways to improve health status in Bhutan:</b> "strengthening the <u>health management information system</u> and research." P.26</p> <p><b>Establishment of Poverty Information Network (PIN):</b> This component consists of the <u>IT-backbone of the Poverty Monitoring System</u>, which will be, used a tool for Poverty Monitoring and Assessment System (PMAS). The system will be built within the overall system of PIN system which is tailor-made to meet the</p>	<p><a href="#">Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, August 10, 2004</a></p>

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	P.32	specific needs of key decision-makers at central and local levels in Bhutan.” p. 43	
<a href="#">Cambodia</a>	<p><b>Part of strategic growth strategy</b> - Continued Rehabilitation and Construction of Physical Infrastructure, involving: “(1) continued restoration and construction transport infrastructure (inland, marine and air transport); (2) management of water resources and irrigation; (3) development of energy and power grids, and (4) <u>development of Information and Communication Technology;</u>” p.3 progress report</p> <p><b>Promoting market infrastructure and deregulation</b> – “Improve infrastructure, expand the coverage of electricity, <u>telephone and communications network</u>, water supply and sewerage system, increase the efficiency of ports, and reduce the costs of electricity, port handling, transportation and communications charges;” p.65 progress report</p> <p><b>Expenditure Poverty Estimates</b> – “At the other extreme, items that are the least important in the budgets of the poor, but occupy a large share in non-poor budgets are house rent and repairs (including imputed rent for owner-occupiers), medical care, transport, and <u>communication.</u>” p. 34</p> <p><b>Economic Growth</b> – “Thus, the RGC has set out a comprehensive policy to increase Cambodia’s international competitiveness by focusing on development and improvement in physical infrastructure to effectively respond to the increasing needs for basic services, such as low-cost water and power supply, financial, <u>information and telecommunications services.</u>” p.45</p> <p><b>Post and Telecommunications</b> – “<u>Post and telecommunication services</u> have been available only in populous and large township areas. It has been so because of issues of security, infrastructures, and costs as well as</p>	<p><b>Key features of a Public Financial Management System</b> – “There is a computerized, comprehensive and integrated financial and budget <u>management information and accounting system</u> which consolidates financial transaction planning and execution reporting by all finance ministry departments and all line ministries and other budget sector spending agencies.” p.23 progress report</p> <p><b>Food Insecurity</b> – “Furthermore, access to food is also hindered by poor marketing/distribution systems, price variations, poor transportation and <u>communication</u> infrastructure, very limited off-farm employment opportunities, and low investment in agriculture.” p.25 PRSP</p> <p><b>Tax reform program</b> – “...establishing a solid management information system with appropriate data to meet the needs of the MEF, head office, and the field or district offices;... establishing formal audit manuals and procedures and a modern <u>management information system</u> within the audit operation; ” p.29 progress report</p> <p><b>Promoting market infrastructure and deregulation</b> – “Establish an information system to facilitate firms to have access to bank credits and to help commercial banks evaluate investment proposals;” p.65 progress report</p> <p><b>Enhance market access/information</b> - Develop a directory of enterprises, to be combined with the <u>computerized registration system</u>; Develop <u>website</u> to promote local products; p.66 progress report</p>	<p><a href="#">Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper Progress Report, October 22, 2004</a></p> <p><a href="#">Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, December 20, 2002</a></p>

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	<p>the knowledge of Cambodians for the importance and usefulness of the services. If well operated and established, and low-cost the sector would be able to contribute a lot to reducing poverty. would mean that the sector could help engage and promote the rural subsistence economy in producing to supply the growing demand of urban and international markets. The RGC's goals and objectives are to establish an efficient commercial low cost telecommunications network of adequate capacity and coverage in line with the Master Plan together with an efficient public postal service and a public broadcast network. For the medium term the objectives are to: (1) provide telecommunications network that can adequately cover Phnom Penh, Sihanoukville and Siem Reap and to expand services to the urban cores of provincial towns; (2) establish national standards for the design, construction and operation of all telecommunications services; (3) strengthen postal organizational structure and institutional capacity to improve service delivery; and (4) expand the television and radio network. Sector development hinges on improvement of the telecommunications regulatory and legal framework and more efficient use of resources in the postal and information services. Strengthened regulatory framework will encourage additional private investment and alternate financing and technical shortages. Over the next five years, the RGC is committed to establish the Cambodia Telecom (CT), rehabilitate and extend customer telephone networks of Phnom Penh, and construction of a transmission link between: (1) Kampong Cham - Phnom Penh – Takeo - Kampot –Sihanoukville; (2) Kampong Cham - Kampong Thom - Siem Reap – Sisophon; Kampong Cham – Kratie - Stung Treng; and (3) Monduliri, Pailin, Preah Vihear, Udom Mean Chey. The goals are to provide adequate network capacity and coverage to at least one line per 100 people to fully cover Phnom Penh, Sihanoukville and Siem Reap and to expand services to the urban cores of the other provincial towns. Other activities include: preparation and enactment of a Telecommunications Act to provide the legal framework for</p>	<p><b>Alignment among development partners</b> – “GTZ has directly supported GSCSD financially, providing funds for the translation into Khmer of the National Poverty Reduction Strategy (NPRS), <u>e-mail</u>, <u>internet</u>, and communication costs, printing of a grassroots manual of the NPRS in Khmer and English for commune level and for a mobile show for to take the NPRS (through <u>video and theatre</u>) to 13 provinces of the country. In addition, initial funding for TV spots and posters has been provided.” P.98 progress report</p> <p><b>Roles and responsibilities of the National Institute of Statistics</b> – “The establishment of the Cambodia <u>Statistics Information System</u>, which links the national NIS data warehouse to the database of the MOEYS, MOH and other line ministries, will allow policy makers to make informed decision.” P.103 progress report</p> <p><b>Private Sector Development</b> – “A number investment studies identified the following issues as impediments to private sector growth: poor physical infrastructure, high costs of transportation, electricity and <u>telecommunications</u>, safety and respect of signed contracts, limited human resources, increasing labour cost, high transaction costs, and the lack of proper legal and judicial system.”p.70 PRSP</p> <p><b>Trade Development</b>– “Civil service salaries are low, physical support facilities are inadequate, and <u>management information systems</u> are poor.” p.72</p> <p><b>Labor and Vocational Training</b> – “<u>Information Technology</u> has much to offer in enabling all these sectors to move to more productive systems. Already some of Cambodia’s many young people are embracing IT based activities. In some cases IT systems are being used to convey market information and expedite transactions of handicrafts produced in villages far from urban centres. In other cases</p>	

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	<p>the industry; maintaining the existing MPTC database and incorporating all relevant information related to the existing networks to allow for monitoring of demand; execution of studies needed for the development of a long-range comprehensive plan for networks extension in provincial towns; development of this plan to incorporate priorities for development of the provincial system; execution of studies by CT to identify and elaborate on project sites in coordination with town planning authorities; development by CT of administrative units for procurement of equipment, supplies and materials, and establishment of proper accounting and monitoring systems for rehabilitation and new local area networks; establish national standards and practices for the design, construction and operation of all telecommunication systems, and for customer services. ” P.77</p>	<p>Cambodians are processing data from other countries and thereby effectively exporting data processing services... The weakness in public sector Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system have encouraged a robust private sector response with an increasing number of private sector institutions providing training, on a fee basis, in information technology and foreign languages. However, most private sector TVET activities are confined to Phnom Penh and TVET capacity in rural areas remains dependent on external assistance through non-formal TVET delivery. ” p.80</p> <p><b>Civil Service</b> – “ An <u>Information Technology (IT) programme</u> to streamline service delivery and administrative (regulatory) processes and procedures, to enhance communications and to build capacity is an essential complement to the Operational Review which, in turn, is critical to accelerating pay and employment, for instances. Key applications of Human Resources Management Information System (HRMIS) to control and pay the workforce are in place.” p.103</p> <p><b>Food Utilization</b> – “Establishing <u>Food Insecurity Vulnerability Information Mapping System (FIVIMS)</u> to enhance food security for all, especially women. FIVIMS will be able to provide the RGC with necessary information about areas that are vulnerable to food insecurity.” p.116</p> <p><b>Revenue Mobilization</b> – “The use of Information Technology to improve business systems, operating efficiency and service to client. The long-term goal is fully automated systems for all customs business processes.” p.130</p> <p><b>Budget Management</b> – “To address this problem, it is</p>	

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		<p>important to improve cash management and the financial <u>management information system.</u>" p.138</p> <p><b>Agricultural Statistics</b> - "Establish Agricultural Statistics and Market Information System." p.173</p> <p><b>Health</b> – "Capacity building and establishment of Nutrition Information System at a suitable institution under the overall coordination and support of the National Nutrition Council and Ministry of Planning." P.209</p> <p><b>Disaster Management</b> – "Establish a meteorological and hydrological data acquisition and forecasting system that meets national needs for real-time information on flood and drought hazard." P.223</p>	
<p><a href="#">Laos</a></p>	<p><b>Resource allocation and investment requirements:</b> "In recent years and for most of the past decade some 65 per cent of the public investment programme has been allocated to "growth and development" investments, contributing to the building up of the country. These investments include the major part of transport and <u>communication</u>, irrigation and other investments linked to infrastructure. The balance of public investment, approximately 35 per cent, can be considered as "social development" investments, including for health, education, rural development, and social welfare. These investments relate directly and indirectly to poverty reduction.</p> <p><b>Investment priorities for short and medium term:</b> "Extension of <u>telecommunications</u> services to the poorest districts is needed to improve <u>information exchanges</u>, technology transfer, and access to markets." P.148</p>	<p><b>One of the public service improvement priorities to strengthen the overall environment for sustainable growth and development:</b> "ICT to facilitate, streamline and create <u>communication</u> networks across the Government." P.47</p> <p><b>Strategic responses to poverty-focused agriculture development</b> - "Develop market research and <u>information systems</u> and regional market links between producers and wholesale and retail buyers throughout the region...Open community market access by upgrading and expanding feeder roads and <u>market information</u> ... <u>strengthen information networks</u> on productivity, disease, and markets." P.55</p> <p><b>Part of the poverty-focused application of the strategic framework of developing the education sector:</b> "<u>Information-Based Policy Development</u>. Related to consistency in policy, the Government will strengthen the capacity of MOE, the PESSs, the DEBs, the communities, and institutions to develop policy,</p>	<p><a href="#">Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, December 8, 2004</a></p>

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	<p>gather resources, develop strategic priorities, and implement change. In support of improved, information-based policy analysis and decision making, a Policy Analysis Division will be created within MOE. This unit will be responsible for providing policy support, management of the policy analysis program, and staff development in policy analysis. Financial resources will also be provided for a series of policy studies, including education sector financing and language policy and practice concerning teaching non-Lao speaking primary grade students. Management will be further strengthened by enhancing the capacity of the Ministry to use tools such as <u>education management information system (EMIS), geographic information system (GIS) and information and communication technology (ITC) within the local area network. (LAN).</u>" p.76</p> <p><b>Part of the emerging and cross-sector issues of the poverty-focused education development action plan:</b> "<u>Information and Communications Technology (ICT): The Government will encourage investment in computer technology and facilitate use of the internet, particularly in remote and poor areas.</u> Education and training in ICT will be promoted. • <u>Distance Education:</u> The Government is planning to create a distance education centre at the National University of the Lao PDR." p.77</p> <p><b>One of the strategic programs of responses for poverty-focused health development</b> "Strategic Program 1: Information, Education, and <u>Communication (IEC).</u> The IEC campaign is an important programme for communicating policy directives on health to the Lao multiethnic people, particularly to people in remote, hard to reach areas. Information about hygiene and proper lifestyle (the '3 cleans' principle: boiled water drinking, cooked food, and hands washing before eating and after using latrine) is a major element of</p>		

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	<p>preventative health care. It will contribute dramatically to reduced morbidity and mortality and significantly to poverty reduction, as poor health is one of the causes of poverty. By 2005, the IEC campaign will reach out to at least 85 per cent of total villages. To achieve this target, the IEC campaign will include the following activities:• Re-organise and improve IEC activities at all levels, focusing on high-risk areas. • <u>Initiate health broadcasts for local radio stations</u> in Lao and ethnic languages in selected provinces (Oudomxay, Xiengkhouang, Borikhamxay, Khammouane, Xekong, Attapeu).• Initiate health programmes and <u>material for TV channels</u> and newspapers; also, initiate videos and other material for public distribution. • Co-ordinate with the Ministry of Education to integrate health education and health promotion into the primary and secondary school curriculum. • Expand the primary school sanitation programme. • Mobilise the LWU, Youth Union, Trade Union, National Front, and Buddhist monks to conduct the IEC campaign with the people." p.83</p> <p><b>Enabling poverty focused trade development:</b> "Providing information on investment opportunities and facilities to domestic and foreign investors using a variety of mass media as well as <u>ICT networking</u>. This will mainly be done by the information service of the Lao Trade Promotion Centre." p.110</p> <p><b>Part of the measures under the policy of facilitating economic growth through increased completion of appropriate schooling:</b> "Develop basic skill/vocational training including development of the model <u>community learning centers through ICT programmes</u> for poor areas."</p> <p><b>Measure for revenue collection strategy:</b> - "Develop <u>information system</u>; use advanced technology to ensure effective collection of budget revenue and</p>		

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		<p>create transparency in budgeting sector in order to determine direction/policy and fiscal plan in accordance with reality in each period.”</p>	
<p><a href="#">Mongolia</a></p>	<p><b>Executive summary – private sector-led growth</b> - While <u>ICT sector</u> will focus on (i) establishing the appropriate policy, legal and regulatory framework; (ii) developing the key telecommunications and information infrastructure necessary for providing access to reliable and affordable connectivity; (iii) establishing an economic and business framework for the utilization of ICTs in governance and other applications; and (iv) developing human resources to effectively utilize ICTs.” p.iii</p> <p><b>Acceleration of economic growth</b> – “2.34 <u>Within the framework of IT sector development, priority is given to IT sectors through expansion of internet services, establishment of a unified e-information network,</u> thereby improve software and conditions for quality training of personnel, design and sale of software, development and export of e-information processing services.” p.32</p> <p><b>Infrastructure to improve access to markets</b> – “<i>Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)</i> The Government of Mongolia recognizes that ICTs have an important role to play in its development. They offer a</p>	<p><b>Acceleration of economic growth</b> - 2.36 Regarding regions and infrastructure; a legal environment for regional development is to be established; priority is given to development of SME’s in the countryside – for this purpose infrastructure such as transportation, <u>communication</u>, road, and energy will be <u>developed to improve the business environment</u>. Gradually shift to regional economic planning to narrow the development gap between cities and countryside. This will enable active participation of rural areas in market relations and establishment of favorable conditions for market and business development in the countryside.” p.32</p> <p><b>Budget and finances</b> – “3.60 The Ministry of Finance and Economy is taking measures to improve the technical and personnel capacity of subscribers, <u>attaching more importance to developing a transparent and efficient information database</u>. The database is directed towards implementing projects of subscribers, especially upgrading the organization and monitoring of procurement, data processing, and autoimmunization of and making exchange systems more reliable. Within this task, the following software has been developed in</p>	<p><a href="#">Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper September 3, 2003</a></p>

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	<p>platform for building and applying knowledge; facilitate participation in trade for isolated communities and SMEs as well as corporations; are critically important for national competitiveness; and allow for improved delivery of public services. As a result these technologies offer the opportunity for accelerated economic growth and poverty alleviation. The input of ICT in the Mongolian economy is increasing. In particular, the share of ICT sector in GDP was 1.44 in 1995 reaching 5.3 in 2000. In 2001-2002 ICT sector paid over 10 percent of tax income of the budget and 7.0 percent of VAT collections.</p> <p>4.93 The Government of Mongolia approved the Medium Term Strategy for the Development of the ICT sector and an Action Plan for its implementation in January 2002. Further, the Government also approved the Communications Law of 2001 and has established the Communications Regulatory Commission to regulate the telecom sector. The ICT Department has also been established within the Ministry of Infrastructure. The Government of Mongolia implemented policy and regulatory framework for building the appropriate regulatory and management structure, and renovation of the backbone telecommunications network.</p> <p>4.94 The first law on Communications was passed in 1995; in line with developments and market situation in ICT the law updated in 2001 and provided for establishment of an independent regulatory institution and a fund for universal service obligation. This was an important step towards supporting private investment and fair competition and is appreciated by international ICT organizations. The Parliament of Mongolia passed a policy document called "Vision until 2010 for ICT sector of Mongolia" in February 2000. The main objective of this document is to ".build a community based on knowledge and mental capacity and improve the living standards o the people."</p> <p>4.95 The Government of Mongolia's mid -term ICT strategy</p>	<p>collaboration with ADB project.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Launched a website of government procurement</li> <li>2. Developed a registry software of suppliers and contractors</li> <li>3. Developed a monitoring system for procurement, initial version of project management database software." p.51</li> </ol> <p><b>Accounting, auditing, and inspection</b> - Specialized supervision at national level necessitates a cohesive inspection information at the system-wide level. Besides, it involves communication with public organizations, which necessitates establishment of a unified computer network. The financial resources to resolve this issue represent a problem.... In the process of supervision and enforcement of legislation, there occur many incidents, which reveal the need to improve and streamline legal provisions. It is necessary to establish an information and research center where the inspectors could study cases and do research. This is a legitimate and timely requirement for regular up gradation of the professional qualifications of specialized supervisors." p.82-83</p> <p><b>Civil service reforms</b> - <u>A new information system on the civil service human resources management (with the appropriate criteria) will be established.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To renovate and utilize the civil service human resources information indicators that would comply with contemporary international standards;</li> <li>- To develop with involvement of the World Bank experts a program software on the civil service human resources information management that meets the international standards and could be utilized in both Mongolian and English languages;</li> <li>- To create an integrated countrywide information network on the civil service human resources.</li> <li>- To establish an integrated system of collecting and</li> </ul>	

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	<p>identifies harnessing the potential of ICTs as a key driver of development and is supported by four pillars which include (i) establishing the appropriate policy, legal and regulatory framework; (ii) developing the key telecommunications and information infrastructure necessary for providing access to reliable and affordable connectivity; (iii) establishing an economic and business framework for the utilization of ICTs in governance and other applications; and (iv) developing human resources to effectively utilize ICTs.</p> <p>4.96 In order to develop the information infrastructure in Mongolia, the Government places priority on: (i) developing government capacity to lead and implement a national ICT program; (ii) establishing a policy and regulatory framework that encourages the competitive provision of affordable and reliable telecommunications infrastructure and services; (iii) establishing an appropriate legal and regulatory framework for the development of e-services; (iv) further privatizing Mongolia Telecom (v) digitizing the transmission network between aimags and soums, to enable internet connectivity; (vi) establishing appropriate institutional and regulatory frameworks for public-private partnerships in the provision of rural access to ICTs; and (vii) to increasingly utilize ICTs, especially the Internet in the social services sector, with a focus on education and health.</p> <p>4.100 Mongolia will ensure that the policy and regulatory environment allows for fair and competitive provision of infrastructure and services. The challenge Mongolia faces is to increase rural access to ICT infrastructure and services. 4.101 As the broadcast media has an important role to play in the development of Mongolia by providing information to its citizens, and the poor in particular, the equipment of radio and TV studios will be improved and transmission systems and stations for TV broadcasting will be upgraded. Within this framework, we will start broadcasting of the 4 domestic digital TV (including the National TV) and 4 FM radio channels in all of whole Mongolia in the end of 2003.</p>	<p>synthesizing realistic data from all level public institutions through installing a new information technology network on human resources information covering all public institutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A system on selection of all-level civil servants based on the principles of openness, transparency and merit encouragement will be put in place.</li> <li>- To establish according to the relevant laws a Commission on selection of civil service managers;</li> <li>- To create properly a pool of candidates, who passed the civil service manager selection exams, and to organize in a fair manner a process of nomination to these positions that would meet the legal requirements;</li> <li>- To renovate the procedures on professional examination given to the candidates to the civil service positions based on the principles of openness and transparency, and to get the procedures adopted and implemented by the Civil Service Council;</li> <li>- To develop and approve a standardized and integrated procedure on assessment and evaluation of the job performance and professional qualification of all level civil service managers that have concluded performance contracts." p.86</li> </ul> <p><b>Infrastructure to improve access to markets –4.97</b> As part of the objective to develop human resources, the Government intends to (i) <u>mainstream IT into the education curriculum</u>; (ii) <u>organize schemes to provide basic knowledge of IT to the population</u>, to support primary, intermediary and advanced IT courses and centers using economic policies, tax policies and other policies, and to enable broad enrollment/involvement of the population in such training; and (iii) develop <u>distance learning</u> based on ICT, to create a system of acquiring formal education through open training programs, to support training centers that conduct training in the use of electronic text books.</p> <p>4.98 As part of the objective to support the</p>	

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	<p>4.103 Implementation of short and medium term strategy on ICT and infrastructure development will create one of the prerequisite for establishment of knowledge based society, introduction of new types of services and applications, ensuring sustainable and rural development, improvement of access to education and public/social services, and ensuring balanced level of regional development, and poverty reduction.</p> <p>4.104 The Government of Mongolia's short to medium term priorities for the ICT sector are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Develop and implement a Universal Service Fund to provide access in rural and periurban areas of Mongolia.</li> <li>□ Implement policies (economic/fiscal/tax) and design incentives to encourage adoption and use of ICTs in businesses, the social sectors, civil society.</li> <li>□ Strengthen CRC's capacity to adequately regulate the telecommunications sector and create a pro-competitive environment for the private sector led development of Mongolia's information and communications infrastructure.</li> <li>□ Improve regulatory framework for the introduction and widespread use of new services/IP enabled services, transit data transfer, call-back, and its interconnection &amp; tariff issues.</li> <li>□ Create the enabling environment in order to improve availability of IT services including E-learning, Tele-medicine, and national information databases.</li> <li>□ Increase usage of ICT for the economic growth /industry, financial sector, Agriculture/such as introduce ICT applications in social-economic sector</li> <li>□ Increase the potential and results of basic and complementary research studies in the ICT sector</li> <li>□ Broaden and deepen regulatory reform /cyber laws, and others/</li> <li>□ Implement e-commerce and e-services/applications for all sectors,</li> <li>□ Develop and implement the Concept on DTH (Digital-To-Home) Distance-learning and education, distance-medicine</li> </ul>	<p>development of business and the private sector, the Government intends to create a favorable policy and regulatory environment for ICT related private sector led development." p.101</p> <p><b>Improving access to markets</b> - Information access is one of important criteria for improving the market access and business profitability. Therefore, the core area of industrial policy is better information supply to rural areas with active participation of private sector facilities, including e-commerce dissemination facilities. Using the scope of the wholesale trade network and other channels, dissemination of information about foreign and domestic markets and basic business knowledge is a priority area of the policy to increase production and poor people will be involved to great extent in this Program and conditions for delivering business information shall be created." p.106</p> <p><b>Tourism</b> - In order to increase the types of tourism products and create new routes, tourism representative offices are being created in main client markets in Japan, Korea and other countries and study being undertaken with respect to offering offices in PRC, Germany, UK and Russia. To supply with necessary information those who want to travel to Mongolia, English and Japanese websites were created and works commenced to set up tourism information database." p.109</p> <p><b>Regional and rural development</b> - <u>Risk prevention information system</u>, capacity to react, and disaster management." p.119</p> <p><b>Health</b> - Health sector has limited financial capacities. Health sector does not yield sufficient efficiency. There is a <u>need to organize information dissemination and training activities using radio and information and communication technology for rural residents,</u></p>	

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	<p>and national registry.” p. 100-103</p> <p><b>Expanding ICT Services</b> - Within the objective to expand and renovate the main information and communication line, to establish an air fiber-optic network between the centers of Govi-Altai and Zavhan, and Hovd and Uvs respectively</p> <p>-To undertake measures to introduce new internet and cellular phone services in routes Uvorhangai-Bayan-Ulgii, Ulaanbaatar-Dornod, Dundgovi-Umnogovi</p> <p>-To rehabilitate high-power radiostation for radio broadcasting systems for Ulaanbaatar, Govi-Altai and Huvsgul aimags</p> <p>-To increase the frequency of post delivery in soums and bags, and improve the quality of services</p> <p>-To implement the measures to establish an “Information Technology Park”</p> <p>-To expand and rehabilitate communication between soums of Tuv and Selenge aimags.” p.217</p>	<p>particularly housewives.” p.140</p> <p><b>Implementing and monitoring the strategy - Good governance</b> – “To create a management information system for public services, ensuring its reliability using modern technologies, and to improve decision-making and implementation mechanisms of the executive governance.” p.159</p> <p><b>No. 1 Priority in employment</b> – “Establish conditions for <u>sustainable job creation</u> in the fields of infrastructure development and <u>information and communication technology introduction</u>, support small and medium sized enterprises with consideration of specifics of economic development, resources, and advantages of regions.” p.145</p> <p><b>Mitigating natural disasters:</b> “To undertake measures to increase the participation of the aimags’ and local governments and the community in the prevention of forest and steppe fires, and <u>improve the system of prompt communication and information.</u>” p.198</p> <p><b>Improving efficiency and outcome of research work:</b> “Continue to create science and information technology incubator, unified network and database.” p.207</p> <p><b>Improving information system on labor market</b> – “Creation of information network on labor market.” p.212</p>	
<p><a href="#">Nepal</a></p>	<p><b>Progress in policy reforms - Telecommunications</b> progress has been made in opening up the sector for <u>private investment</u>. A new Telecommunications Act was enacted to introduce competition in basic, cellular and value added services and the private sector is now involved in their provision. A private operator was also selected to provide basic telecommunications services to 534 rural</p>	<p><b>Major objectives in land reform and management:</b> Develop a national geographic information system, carry out plot surveys, and <u>establish a computerized land information system</u>; (this would also help eliminate dual land ownership and prepare the basis for progressive taxation of land). p.45</p>	<p><a href="#">Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, October 1, 2003</a></p>

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	<p>communities i.e. roughly one-fourth of the rural communities which are under-served. Thus the monopoly which the public sector agency—Nepal Telecommunication Corporation (NTC)—enjoyed has been broken; and a Telecommunications Authority has been set up to oversee the sector. p.20</p> <p><b>Structure reform agenda:</b> “The government will also promote opportunities for growth through coordinated efforts in key sectors, such as agriculture, irrigation, tourism and infrastructure development. Rural infrastructure—such as roads, electricity, telecommunication facilities—not only will help in improving access to markets and inputs, but also help increase accessibility and the quality of living and service delivery in the remote areas of the country.” p.44</p> <p><b>Sectors under broad-based development</b> - “In the information and communications sector, the Tenth Plan’s main objective is to improve the access of people to information and telecommunication facilities, facilitating their participation in economic activities, as well as personal development. The major sector strategies are to enhance private sector participation in the expansion of information and communication network and facilities, and clarify the roles and responsibilities of private and public operators and to give them (as well as the postal service) functional autonomy. Regarding policies and activities, necessary steps for the promotion of private sector involvement in telecommunications will be taken. NTC will be converted into a public company under the Company Act, and general and rural telecom services will be opened up to the private sector. A policy of expanding broadcasting services will be adopted. A legal framework for functional autonomy of postal services will be finalized by FY 2004. With the effective implementation of these policies and activities, it is expected that the telecom market will be liberal and competitive. All VDCs will have access to telecom services with penetration rising to 40 lines per 1000 inhabitants. Broadcasting services will be available to all. Likewise, ICT</p>	<p><b>Trade, tourism, and industrial regime:</b> “In this regard, a strong promotional package especially for export-oriented industries, measures to increase incentives for investment, and <u>an appropriate technology and information program will be introduced to enhance competitiveness.</u>” p.48</p> <p><b>Core objective of industrial sector:</b> “Up-gradation process of SMEs through technological improvements and policy of sub-contracting will be further accelerated. Incentives to improve backward linkages of industries will be continued; and <u>information technology development will be given emphasis.</u> The effective implementation of these policies and activities during the Tenth Plan will help improve industrial competitiveness, expand industrial production and employment generation, and raise the contribution of the industrial sector to GDP.” p.51</p> <p><b>Social sector development:</b> In addition, basic infrastructure such as access to (even low-quality) roads, electricity and <u>telephone communications (particularly in remote areas) can help improve living conditions for the poor in rural areas.</u>” p.52</p> <p><b>Monitoring and evaluation arrangements:</b> <u>There is a need for strengthening management information system,</u> and define an integrated frame for monitoring progress of development programs, link them with resources spent, and evaluating them for their effectiveness in reducing income poverty and promoting human development.” P.80</p>	

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	<p>services will be available in various urban areas...Despite significant progress in the expansion of road density, penetration of telephone and electricity is still low. <u>The government will give priority to strategic road network, maintenance of major roads and highways and expansion of electricity and national communication infrastructure.</u> ” P.50</p>		
<p><a href="#">Pakistan</a></p>	<p>5.55 <b>Telecommunication:</b> The Government of Pakistan has launched comprehensive reforms to overcome Pakistan's low teledensity level, increase usage of Information Technology and to support the needs of a modern, fast growing economy. The main issues in the sector can be classified under two broad categories: (a) performance, and (b) competition and private investment environment. Recognizing that the availability of quality telecommunication infrastructure is limited, the Government has undertaken several initiatives to reform this sector. Some of the key policy initiatives include: (i) announcement of the National Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) Policy and Action Plan in August 2000 aiming at accelerated deregulation and private participation in the telecommunication sector; (ii) strengthening of regulator Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA); (iii) approval of telecommunication deregulation policy in July 2003 that allows free entry of new private operators to compete with PTCL, increases service choices for customers at competitive and affordable rates, and increases rural access; finalizing mobile policy and review of license terms and conditions of existing mobile operators consistent with the government's deregulation policy and extending licenses to two new mobile operators to increase competition. The key initiatives undertaken by the government for expansion of information Technology include (a) gross reduction in PTCL bandwidth charges (b) launching of Software Technology Park in Islamabad, Lahore, and Peshawar (c) free Internet connections to public sector universities.</p> <p>p.46</p>	<p><b>Accelerating economic growth - capital markets -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Electronic Communication Networks (ECN) and Alternate Trading Systems (ATSs) for more efficient and less costly trade execution;</li> </ul> <p>p.37</p> <p><b>Disseminating information on government programs</b></p> <p>"The promulgation of Freedom of Information Ordinance 2002 is GOP's recognition of the role that a free media can play in informing the public thereby encouraging accountability of public actions. Today all economic decision-making is disclosed to the public. The Letters of Development Policy, loan agreements with the donors (PRGF, SACs), quarterly budgetary reports, quarterly pro-poor expenditures, economic policies and performance, privatization program, gas pricing framework, Public Sector Development Program, to cite few, are available on the web and open to scrutiny. ...." p.65</p> <p><b>Investing in human capital - health</b></p> <p>5.163 The development and implementation of <b>Health Management Information System (HMIS)</b> initiated 10 years back is limited to primary health care facilities. The GOP has made a beginning towards making the HMIS comprehensive, improving quality of data and using it for monitoring outcomes of various health services. The development of <b>disease surveillance system</b> is a priority in the future. Towards this end, surveillance system for polio is already in place and for HIV/AIDS is on the anvil.</p> <p>p.77</p> <p><b>Employment strategy to reduce poverty</b></p> <p>absorption. The present Government considers agriculture, energy, small and medium enterprises, information technology and telecommunications, and housing and construction as the main engines of growth, which will generate employment opportunities.</p>	<p><a href="#">Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, February 9, 2004</a></p>

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		<p>p.98  <b>Development and monitoring of intermediate indicators</b>  <small>National Education Management Information System (NEMIS) to provide reliable and authentic data. In this regard, both the Ministries are holding regular inter-provincia meetings to address issues relating to effective monitoring and evaluation of policy interventions and programs.</small></p> <p>p.109</p>	
<a href="#">Viet Nam</a>	<p><b>Socio-Economic Setting:</b> “Post and <u>telecommunication services</u> also have expanded rapidly and the domestic telecommunications network has been modernized. Many modern modes of communication that meet international standards have been established to meet growing domestic demand for information and trading services.” P.10</p> <p><b>Encourage foreign investment:</b> “Continue to upgrade infrastructure (roads, bridges, seaports, airports, <u>telecommunication</u> systems, power stations, etc) to attract FDI.” p.38</p> <p><b>The role of large-scale infrastructure for growth and poverty reduction</b> - Large-scale infrastructure includes projects that direct serve production activities, such as those in electricity, transport, post and <u>tele-communication</u>, irrigation, etc. This can create the necessary support for a fast, stable and sustainable economic growth. p.49</p> <p><b>Achievements, problems, and direction of large-scale infrastructure</b> - The post and <u>telecommunication</u> service has also been modernized with a system of electronic switchboards and digital transmission from cities to provinces and districts, which guarantees smooth communication between central and local authorities in any weather conditions and complicated situations. In 2003, there have been 8.5 telephones for every 100 inhabitants. International <u>telecommunication</u> network has been expanded with more than 5000 channels directly connecting to nearly 40 countries. Internet service is strongly growing, helping to boost international exchanges... [However] large-scale infrastructure system</p>	<p><b>Accelerate the reform of public administration in four areas:</b> administrative institutions, organization of the administrative apparatus, developing the contingent of civil servants; and public finance reform with the aim of enhancing the efficiency and transparency of state policies and service delivery instruments; <u>promote the application of information technology to improve services</u>, and ensure an open, transparent and stable relationship between the State, citizens, and enterprises.” p.27</p> <p><b>Social and poverty reduction strategies:</b> “<u>Continue to improve the system to broadcast radio and television nationwide</u>, ensuring that 95% of all households can hear the Voice of Vietnam and over 90% can see Vietnam Television programs by 2005, and universalize basic mass communication equipment to reach each household by 2010.” p.30</p> <p><b>Improve Fiscal Policy</b> - “construct an information system to analyze, forecast and evaluate safety level of ODA borrowings and the Government’s debt management.” p.41</p> <p><b>Enhance Grassroots Democracy and Strengthen Dialogue between Local Governments and Poor Communities:</b> “Enhance the two-way information supply and exchange between the State and people through application of measures such as <u>mass media, door-to-door communication, direct approach, community radios and videos</u>. Carry out mechanisms to enable communication officers to deliver information in</p>	<p><a href="#">Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, February 13, 2004</a></p>

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	<p>fails to meet demands from a more modern way of life, particularly with regard to electricity, post and telecommunication, transport, etc.... for transport, investments will be continued for main transport network connecting key econ zones, for the protection of borders, post and telecommunication infrastructure.... To create a healthy legal environment, encouraging and facilitating Vietnam's Post and Telecommunication service to reach the regional standard; expand telecommunication business with a view to preventing monopolies; apply high technologies and manufacture international standard telecommunication products for future export. To reach, by 2005, the target of 100% coverage of fibre cable and for all communes to have access to telephone services; develop internet service. To enhance the capability to integrate in international telecommunication network with competitive costs; increase the quality and time duraion of broadcasting programmes; modernize technical facilities and technologies for broadcasting and step by step transform to digital technology. " p.51</p> <p><b>Guarantee a fair and effective distribution of resources for infrastructure development</b> – “ODA loans should be used for projects in agricultural and rural development; transport; <u>communication</u>; energy; social infrastructure, etc.” p.59</p> <p><b>Stabilize and raise the living standards of ethnic minorities</b> – “Simultaneously, infrastructure conditions, such as transport facilities, water and electricity supply, <u>communications</u>, markets and so on, should be taken into careful consideration.” p.81</p> <p><b>Mobilizing resources for poverty reduction</b> - For the successful realization of the CPRGS's objectives, our preliminary funding estimates of the investment requirements for the Five Year Development Plan 2001 – 2005 for the industries and sectors: agriculture, forestry, fishery; industry and construction; transportation, post and</p>	<p>education, technological training, marketing, state policies and regulations, and administrative procedures in order to empower local people politically and economically, taking into account the roles of tribal heads in remote areas.” p.46</p> <p><b>Continue to encourage agricultural diversification and the development of rural professions</b> – “With respect to regions that experience production difficulties and have many poor households, the Government will increase investments complemented by investments by the local community to build essential infrastructures such as roads, power supply, water supply, <u>communications</u>, schools, village clinics, and to support the establishment of small and medium sized rural enterprises in rural areas.” p.67</p> <p><b>Develop an advanced culture, strong national identity; improve the dissemination of information to help people expand their options</b> – “Upgrade the quality and expand the information system at the grassroots level in many forms (in both concentrated and dispersed form, through direct meetings) utilizing various means of <u>communication (broadcasting, television, books, newspapers, documents, pamphlets...)</u>. Disseminate information in both national and ethnic languages.” p.77</p>	

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	<p>communications; education; culture; health; science and technology; services; public sector; and various national target programs on poverty reduction is about VND 840 – 980 thousand billion (US\$ 60 – 70 billion), equal to 1.5-1.75 times compared to total investment implemented during the 1996-2000 period.... Selectively build heavy industry facilities (oil and gas, metallurgy, manufactures, basic chemicals, fertilizer, construction material...), <u>information technology and telecommunication industries....</u></p> <p><i>Transport, post, communications:</i> the investment requirement is VND 126 – 147 thousand billion, of which, funding needs for transport infrastructure is VND 94 – 110 thousand billion; post and communications is VND 30 thousand billion... Build a broad, integrated, modern and high quality communications system. Focus on implementing large information projects such as the information satellites VINASAT, VISAT; attach special importance to investing in frontier, island, remote and isolated areas.” p.85-86</p> <p><b>Priority direction</b> – “<i>Science and technology:</i> attach special importance to the development of infrastructure, information technology, software technology, and information industry.” p.89</p>		