



SUBREGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION MINISTERIAL FORUM for CAMBODIA, LAO PDR, MYANMAR AND VIET NAM (CLMV)

“Towards an ICT-strengthened and connected CLMV Sub-region”

11-12 December 2009
Hanoi, Viet Nam

DRAFT BACKGROUND PAPER & AGENDA

1 BACKGROUND

It is a generally accepted fact that the value and importance of ICTs cut across all other sectors of the economy. ICTs are therefore increasingly recognized as an enabler of the information society such that no other sector seems to work efficiently without them. Also, no country, irrespective of its level of income, can ignore this trend; benefits of such diverse activities as governance, tourism and finance are critically dependent upon information and communications.

According to the ITU report on “The Asia Pacific Telecommunication/ICT Indicators”, the Asia Pacific region is world leader in telecommunications as well as in information and communication technologies. The report highlights the fact that Asia Pacific has the largest fixed telephone market with almost half of the world’s total fixed telephone lines and has the largest mobile market share globally. One area in which some economies in the region really stand out according to the report is advanced internet technology, including broadband access and mobile data communications. Asia Pacific region has 42 percent of the world’s internet users, and their number continues to grow, reaching more than 500 million in 2007. Growth in low and lower middle income economies in Asia Pacific doubled in 2007, with China alone adding 73 million users. The report also mentioned that there is clearly a demand for high speed

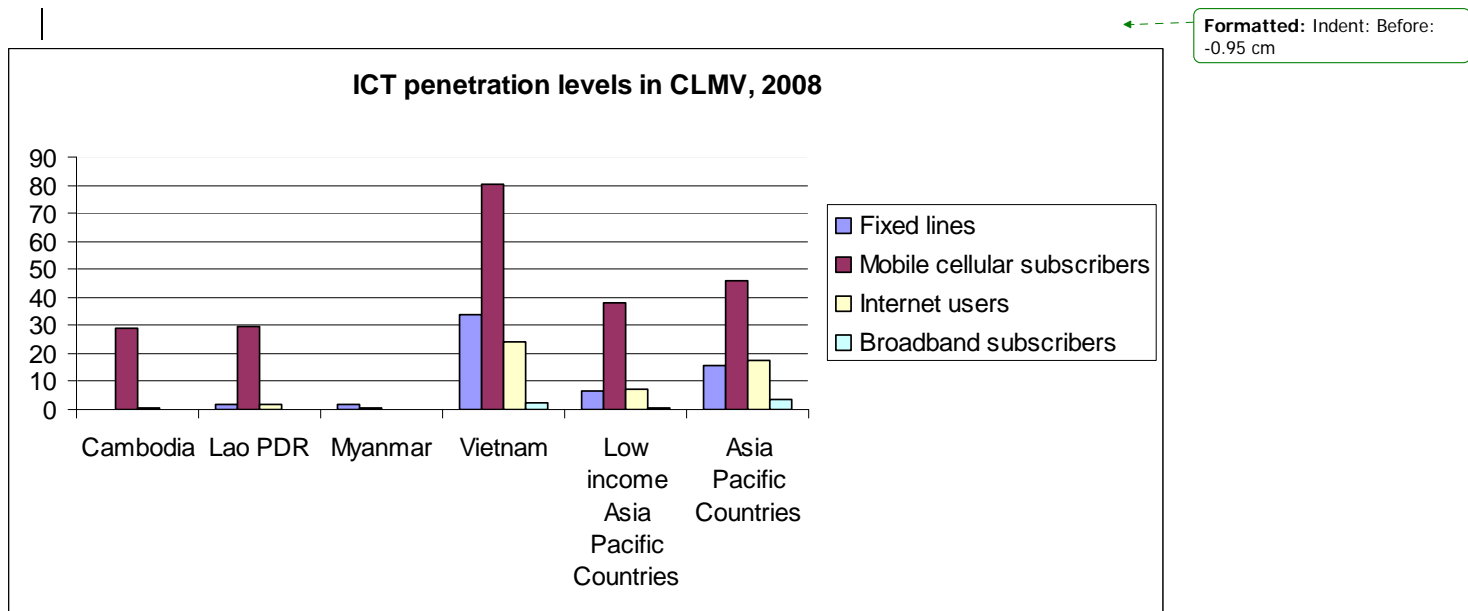
internet access and the services it can deliver given that the region is the world's largest broadband market with a 39 percent share at the end of 2008.

This is the big picture but how about the smaller components that make up the big picture?

The same ITU report also presented the significant divide between the region's high-income economies where people are living the ultimate high-speed internet experience and the low and lower-income economies where progress towards fixed broadband is slow and internet access is often limited and comes at a high cost.

Looking at some basic ICT indicators, it is important to point out that there is much work and a lot of catching up to do by all stakeholders in the CLMV subregion to bridge the divide and at least get closer to the average Asia Pacific figures.

As shown in the figure below, we can note the following:



Source: ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database

- Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar are still below both the low income Asia Pacific economies' average and Asia Pacific average in terms of main telephone line density while Viet Nam is doing very well in both fronts;
- Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar are below the low income Asia Pacific economies' average mobile cellular subscriber penetration and average Asia Pacific economies' mobile cellular subscriber penetration. Viet Nam has significantly surpassed by more than double the average Asia Pacific mobile cellular subscriber penetration.

- Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar are below both the low income Asia Pacific economies' average and Asia Pacific average in terms of internet subscriber density while Viet Nam fares higher than the average low income Asia Pacific economies' average and the Asia Pacific average for the same indicator;
- Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar are still below the average low income Asia Pacific economies' average and all CLMV countries are below the Asia Pacific average in terms of fixed broadband subscriber density.

In the CLMV subregion, the task of closing the gap is challenging given the geographic, demographic and economic challenges. Nevertheless, during the last few years, a number of initiatives have been taken up by national governments in the subregion, including: greater competition, enhancement of bandwidth, creation of the Ministry of Information and Communications (Vietnam), establishment of a separate regulator (National Authority of Posts and Telecommunications, Lao PDR), increased awareness in the area of ICT applications and security as well as improved focus on human capacity building programs.

Countries have been particularly paying attention in accelerating rural communication development and enhancing international bandwidth and national infrastructure to deliver affordable ICT services. Such initiatives require facilitation through regulatory enablers, availability of appropriate skill sets and human resources, a secure environment and relevant content.

The challenge is to lay down enabling frameworks that would connect the unconnected in the four countries of the subregion while providing affordable, reliable and secure ICT connectivity for all.

2 OBJECTIVES

The CLMV Telecommunication Ministerial Forum has been organized with the following key objectives:

- 2.1) To lay down the enabling frameworks that would facilitate the achievement of an ICT-strengthened and connected CLMV
- 2.2) To provide multiple stakeholders and partners with a platform to stimulate ICT investments in the CLMV subregion through various projects, initiatives and commitments.

3 ORGANIZERS AND PARTNERS

The Forum is organized by the International Telecommunication Union in close partnership with various organizations and industries. The Ministry of Information and Communication of Vietnam has kindly agreed to host the event.

The partners may include governments, industries, UN bodies, international and regional organizations who are involved in telecommunication/ICT development initiatives and willing to contribute through projects or investment commitments in the subregion.

DRAFT AGENDA

11 DECEMBER 2009	
09:00 – 10:00	OPENING SESION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and Opening Remarks, MIC Minister, Viet Nam • Opening Remarks, ITU BDT Director • Statements from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ MPT Minister, Cambodia (TBC) ➤ ANPT Minister, Lao PDR (TBC) ➤ MCPT Minister, Myanmar (TBC)
10:00 – 10:30	Tea/Coffee Break
10:30 – 12:30	MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE 1: ICT and SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
	<p>Objective: <i>To discuss issues, challenges and various concrete proposals related to ICT for Sustainable Development in the CLMV Sub-region.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation 1: Report on Enabling Frameworks for ICT Development in CLMV • Presentation 2 on Green ICT • Presentation 3 on Online Protection • Round Table Discussion
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:30	MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE 2: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT: POLICY, REGULATORY AND FINANCIAL FRAMEWORKS
	<p>Objective: <i>To discuss the policy, regulatory and financial issues and requirements to achieve the connectivity goals and to lay out related concrete proposals</i></p>

- Presentation 1 on Financial Issues
- Presentation 2 on Enabling Legal and Institutional Framework
- Round Table Discussion

15:30 – 16:00 Tea/Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30 MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE 3: INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND HUMAN CAPACITY BUILDING

Objective: *To discuss institutional strengthening and human capacity building issues, requirements and opportunities*

- Institutional Strengthening Challenges (by CLMV countries)
- Human Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening: Issues, Challenges, and Opportunities
- Round Table Discussion

12 DECEMBER 2009

09:00 – 10:00 MINISTERIAL-BUSINESS and DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS TRIPARTITE DISCUSSIONS

Objective: *To discuss ways to move forward through Public Private Partnerships (PPP)*

- Presentation 1 on Public Private Partnerships
- Presentation 2 on Recommendations from the Sub-regional Telecommunication Business Forum for CLMV
- Round Table Discussion: “Future PPP Projects for CLMV Countries”

10:00 – 10:30 Tea/Coffee Break

10:30 – 12:30 PROJECT LAUNCHING & CLOSING SESSION

Objective: *To launch Projects/Initiatives for CLMV and to present the CLMV Ministerial Communique on the Outcomes of the Ministerial Forum)*

- Launching of Concrete Projects/Initiatives for CLMV
- Presentation, Adoption and Issuance of the CLMV Ministerial

Communique

- Closing Ceremonies