

## **ICT policy and statistics in the Republic of Kazakhstan**

One of the indicators of civilization and openness of the state system of the country is the simplicity of reception by the citizens of the country of necessary, interesting and generally significant for them information as a tool for maintenance of the transparency of government and participation of citizens in democratic process. The information is not simply necessary for the citizens, but it is also the major characteristic of a democratic government.

Today in the development of Kazakhstan the basic place is given to the decision of problems connected with the information policy of the country, mass media and communications, use of the large-scale information control systems. The government of the Republic of Kazakhstan undertakes effective steps on the way of achievement of the transparency of information for the access of population.

Being on the way to an information-oriented society, Kazakhstan continuously follows the leading countries and advanced information technologies; economic increase observed in the last period in the country is a good help to this process.

The President of the republic signed a decree "About formation of uniform information space in the Republic of Kazakhstan" on December 9, 1997. For development of the information and communication technologies in Kazakhstan a "State program of formation and development of the national information infrastructure of the Republic of Kazakhstan" was accepted in 2001. Its basic purposes and tasks are as follows:

- Formation of the national information infrastructure of the Republic of Kazakhstan.
- Formation in the economy, state management, culture and social sphere of new technological structures, based on perspective information technologies, means of computer engineering and telecommunications.
- Creation of the market of information and knowledge.
- Maintenance of the information safety of a person, society, state.
- Increase of the role of information infrastructure in the system of social production.

The implementation of these purposes assumes the complex decision of social, ecological and economic problems. For the decision of so scale problems, in which it is necessary to take into account complex interrelations in a society and environment as well as various restrictions in general conditions and management and casual external impacts, it is impossible to manage without use of information technologies based on the scientific approach with deep researches.

Now it is urgent to study statistical indicators allowing to estimate a level of readiness of Kazakhstan for introduction of new technologies, observation of progress in this process, measurement of consequences of influence of electronic technologies for the development of enterprises and population.

Having studied experience of the advanced countries that achieved the greatest success in formation of statistics of Information and Communication technologies, the Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan has developed and coordinated with the interested ministries and departments the following nation-wide statistical report for 2005:

- The form "Report on use of information technologies and manufacture of products (works and services)", which takes into account availability and use of

information technologies, factors constraining use of information technologies, purposes of use of the Internet and other global information networks, expenses for information technologies, information on activity of organizations producing computer machinery, software and rendering services in the field of information technologies, number of employees at the organization;

For maintenance of deeper understanding of influence of access to information and communication technologies and their uses on socio-economic behavior of the population, it is planned to conduct a specialized survey allowing to describe the position of selected persons in households.

The Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan also plans a national statistical survey "Single survey of the Internet users" in households. The given survey will be carried out with the purposes of study of development of the Internet in Kazakhstan, number of users, age structure, marital status, educational level, main features of the access to Internet, charges on access, basic purposes of use of the Internet, required information, degree of satisfaction of users by the current characteristics of the Internet as well as opinion on some issues.

The obtained data will allow to trace measures directed to realization of the State program of industrial and innovation development of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which accents the basic directions of strategic development of the republic focused on high-technology, effective and economically favorable projects.

The creation of electronic Government in Kazakhstan once again confirms the necessity of attraction of high technologies at the level of formation of new information facilities. The information technologies became a national resource along with high industrial technologies and human resources.

With development of socio-economic revolution caused by information technologies, the ability of an effective utilization of technology and access to the Internet becomes important for participation in socio-economic development of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The number of users of the Internet is already equal to 200 mln. worldwide. At a regional level there are 85 mln. users in USA, 18.3 mln. in Japan, 45 mln. in Asia and 63 mln. in other areas, while in Kazakhstan the total number of users is about 185 thousand.

In the future, the strong position in sector of information technologies will become a key factor for the country, provoking strong economic growth and high employment.

The information produced by the Agency of Statistics is given to a wide circle of users (according to requests of management authorities of districts, mass media, separate natural persons and etc.) in various forms such as: official publications of databases on paper carriers, official publications of databases on diskettes and compact discs, presentation of the information in the Internet etc.