
Measuring ICT for Development: Activities and Challenges Ahead

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The ITU - Helping the world to communicate

- The UN-specialized agency for telecommunications: where governments and the private sector coordinate global telecom networks and services
- Founded in 1865
- 189 Member States and over 700 private sector members
Information sharing: tracking the global diffusion of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
- Telecom/ICT Data collection and dissemination
- Analysis
- International cooperation

The ITU, through its ICT indicators, is the only source of internationally comparable data on ICT/telecommunications
Data collection

**HOW?**
- Two Telecommunication Indicator Questionnaires per year addressed to government agencies responsible from ICT/telecom or operators
- Online research
- Annual reports

**WHAT?**
- Telephone network
- Mobile services
- Traffic
- Staff
- Quality of Service
- Tariffs
- Revenues & Investment
- Broadcasting
- Information Technology
  - Internet Users, subscribers, bandwidth, number of computers, household with PC, HH with Internet, etc.

Data is entered into the World Telecommunication Indicators Database
Data dissemination

- Yearbook of Statistics
  - Published annually for almost 3 decades
  - Covers 80 ICT/telecom indicators for almost 200 economies
- World Telecommunication Indicators Database
  - Covers 80 ICT/telecom indicators for almost 200 economies
- Online, at www.itu.int/ict/statistics
Analysis

- World Telecommunication Development Report
- Regional Reports on ICT/telecom developments
- Case Studies (www.itu.int/ict/cs)
The DAI ranks 178 economies according to their ability to access ICTs.

Based on 5 categories and 8 indicators.

Classifies economies into: high, upper, medium, low.
## DAI Top 20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Economy</th>
<th>Infrastructure</th>
<th>Affordability</th>
<th>Knowledge</th>
<th>Quality</th>
<th>Usage</th>
<th>DAI</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>0.67</td>
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<td>0.99</td>
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<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.55</td>
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<td>Netherlands</td>
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<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>0.792</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Hong Kong, China</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.51</td>
<td>0.790</td>
</tr>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Finland</td>
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<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>0.786</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Taiwan, China</td>
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<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>0.779</td>
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<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.42</td>
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<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.63</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Internet Case Study Rankings, 2000-03
International cooperation and coordination

- The Millennium Development Goals: ITU tracks target 18 of the MDGs
- World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)
- Partnerships: “Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development” (ITU, UNCTAD, OECD, World Bank etc.)
- Conferences/workshops/meetings
The digital divide and the statistical divide

Challenges

- Not so many countries conduct surveys to measure ICT usage (individual, households, business, government)

- When survey is available:
  - Often not comparable between countries
  - Lacking proper indicators to measure actual usage
  - Not widely available or/and disseminated
  - Not properly used or analyzed

- Countries have the intention to conduct the survey but:
  - Budget/funding is lacking
  - Statistical capacity is lacking
  - Both
To overcome these challenges

- Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development
  - (ITU, UNCTAD, World Bank, UNESCO, OECD, UN ICT Task Force, UN regional economic commissions, national statistical agencies)

- Formed early this year, launched in Sao Paolo, Brazil last 17 June 2004
Objectives of the partnership

1. Common set of ICT indicators
2. Statistical capacity building in developing countries
3. International database on ICT indicators
1. Common set of indicators

- Metadata collection
  - Under leadership of UN regional commissions, NSOs will fill out questionnaire
  - Result of metadata collection to be analyzed and presented at regional workshops
  - Common set of ICT indicators to be identified
2. Statistical Capacity Building

- Regional workshops with NSOs and producers of ICT data
  - To discuss results of metadata collection
  - Train producers of data
  - Pilot surveys in countries, subject to availability of funding
  - 1st Regional workshop to be held in Botswana, 26-29 October 2004, [http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/conferences/](http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/conferences/)

- A guiding manual on information society indicators for dissemination among practitioners in developing countries to be presented at WSIS Tunis

- Global ICT meeting in February 2005 to discuss results of regional workshops, [http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/conferences/](http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/conferences/)
3. International database on ICT indicators

- Inventory of available ICT statistics
- Each partner organization will be responsible for sectoral statistics
  - ITU - Individual and Household ICT indicators
  - UNCTAD - Business ICT indicators
  - UNESCO/UIS - Education and Government ICT indicators
What to include in national surveys: Case Studies on ICT Usage Data collection

- To be carried out in Australia, Korea (Rep.), and Hong Kong, China
- To analyze best practices of governments in measuring the availability and use of ICT in different sectors of the economy
  - How (surveys, questionnaires) and how often is ICT data collected?
  - What policies and administrative processes are guiding the selection of ICT indicators and surveys?
  - Who is responsible for carrying out the data collection and how are different parties involved cooperating?
  - How are results used to impact/change policies?
- Results of case studies will be presented at www.itu.int/digitalbridges
Conclusion

"Statistical Divide is as wide as Digital Divide"

- Challenges can be overcome by partnerships (national, regional, international)
- Coordination among national agencies in the collection and dissemination of data is important
- Model surveys exist and should be followed to enhance international comparability
- Developed nations and multi-lateral agencies should assist developing nations by providing technical assistance
- ICT policy makers should work with national statistics offices to ensure required data are collected through official surveys
- Timely and transparent data should be made available
Welcome to the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Home Page

ICT Indicators

The ITU's Telecommunication Indicator Reports present an analysis of trends and developments in the global telecommunications sector, backed by official statistics from the world's leading source of telecommunication information. These reports and databases are available online.

- Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development
- UN Millennium Development Goals
  - UN MDG Database
  - ICT and MDG Storyline
  - ICT and MDG (Chapter 4 of the WTDR 2003)
- Register for notification of new publications
- Information sharing: a synopsis of our work

Telecommunication Indicators Handbook

- HTML: (English, français, español)
- Draft v1.1 March 2003
  - Word: (English; French; Spanish)
- Draft Proposed additional indicators

Publications

- African Telecommunication Indicators 2004 - Press Release
- Digital Access Index (DAI)
- World Telecommunication Indicators Database
- Last update 30 June 2004

Event

- Monitoring the Information Society: Data, Measurement and Methods (Geneva, 8-9 December, 2002)
Thank you for your attention.

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