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*Critical Aspects of ICT Policy and
Regulatory Framework Design*

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Project Goal

The project is expected to assist national policy formulation that would encourage government policy-makers to use the knowledge gained to initiate and promote policies, strategies and regulatory frameworks for ICT development in the economy and wider society

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Project Activities



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- Survey Questionnaire
- Study Visits
- Consultative Expert Group Meeting
- Regional Training Workshop on ICT Policy Development

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Participating Countries



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- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- China
- India
- Kazakhstan
- Malaysia
- Nepal
- Philippines
- Sri Lanka
- Thailand
- Viet Nam

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Despite the wide range of benefits that can be brought about by ICT, the development and adoption of ICT by developing countries have so far been limited. Reasons for this have been amply documented. They include:

- lack of awareness of what ICT could offer,
- insufficient telecommunications infrastructure and Internet connectivity,
- expensive Internet access,
- Low income levels
- absence of adequate legal and regulatory frameworks,
- shortage of requisite human capacity,
- Low literacy rates
- failure to use local language and content, and

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- lack of entrepreneurship and a business culture open to change,
- Transparency and democracy;
- Lack of payment systems that can support online transactions
- Cultural resistance to online trade

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Expected Benefits



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- Promote awareness among government policy makers of the need for action to develop systematic, comprehensive and articulated ICT policy and regulatory frameworks
- Focus attention on where technical assistance is needed most
- Identify regional best practices on ICT policy development
- Encourage participating countries to improve the climate and institutional mechanisms for the enactment of ICT policy and regulatory frameworks
- Highlight priority areas that apply across nations

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Policy Components



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- ICT Infrastructure
- Access for All
- Human Resource Development
- E-Legal Environment
- E-Business
- E-Finance
- Enhancing ICT Innovation
- Multilateral co-operation
- Government projects
- Priority Programs

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National ICT Policies



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- History of ICT Policy Formulation
- What needs were you trying to address?
- What are your main policy components? Framework?
- What was your ICT policy based on?
- Did you try to synergize these policies and make efforts to make these policies consistent with global and regional ICT policy initiatives?
- Do you have policies specifically to help in developing ICT Industries?
- Do you have policies tackling convergence issues?
- Who is the primary government ICT body? What is its organizational structure? How does it coordinate with other government agencies?
- How do you ensure coordination between different government agencies?
- Do you have an identified Government CIO? What are his/her roles and responsibilities? Who does the government CIO report to?

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National ICT Policies



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- Does private sector play a role in policy formulation? How active are they in policy development?
- Decision making process for ICT policies, consultative, who are involved?
- What is your e-Government strategy?Your strategic ICT planning methodology?
- Who monitors the implementation of your ICT plan?
- What are your means for evaluating national ICT policies?
- What indicators or metrics do you use to track your ICT development?
- What policies have worked smoothly?
- Which policies are more challenging in terms of implementation, monitoring and regulation?
- Are there any shortcomings in your current ICT policy? Actions to correct/improve on them?

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ICT Infrastructure



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- Is your telecommunications industry deregulated? Fully privatized? How many telcos, ISPs do you have?
- What is your strategy for ICT infrastructure development?
- Status of National and Regional Internet Exchange Points.
- Regulatory initiatives to enhance network competition, both locally and from foreign suppliers and vendors
- Strategies to reducing costs of connectivity to the whole population
- Wireless Communications and Spectrum Licensing Issues
- Financing Issues
- Do you have a policy identifying critical information infrastructure and if yes, how do you protect these infrastructure?

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Access for All



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- How successful have governments and telecommunication service providers been in ensuring universal access to ICT and the Internet in the region?
- What are effective strategies to address the urban-rural and gender digital divides? Access in schools? Access in other public institutions? Access in rural communities?
- Do you have a Universal access program? If yes, could you please give more details.
- Do you have any models for sustainability and success of rural communications?
- What is the role of the government and the private sector in the above initiatives, if any?
- Which implementation model works best: through local government, schools, local cooperatives, private telcos, or through ISPs?

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Human Resource Development



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- **What is your strategy for ICT human resource development?**
- **Do you have programs on:**
 - Training through the Public Education System
 - Training in Higher Education
 - Vocational and Specialized training
 - Training to Government Employees
 - Training for SMEs and Micro-enterprises
 - Training in Rural Areas
 - Training by the Private Sector to Employees and Clients

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E-Legal Environment



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- What has been your experience of in terms of adapting your legal environments to the demands posed by the digital economy? To what extent have they succeeded in meeting the demands by businesses, consumers and your citizenry?
- Do your ICT policies cover the following:
 - UNCITRAL Model Law on E-Commerce
 - Convergence between telecommunications, ISPs, broadcasting, media
 - Spectrum Licensing

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E-Legal Environment



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- E-Transactions (PKI, trust mark systems)
 - E-business contracts
 - E-signatures
 - Freedom of Expression
 - Privacy
 - Security
 - Consumer Protection and the Public Good
 - Cybercrimes
 - Dispute Resolution
 - Management of Internet Addresses and Domain Names
 - Transparency Issues
 - Monitoring, Regulatory and Enforcement

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E-Business



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- **How do you encourage ICT businesses to flourish? Do you have policies and efforts on:**
 - Incentives for Businesses, Encouraging Private Sector Investment
 - Promoting Fair Competition
 - Enhancing Entrepreneurship
 - Trade Policies
 - Taxation
 - Building Trust and Confidence
 - E-Payment Schemes
 - Financing Schemes for Rural Connectivity, Entrepreneurship, SMEs and micro-enterprises

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Enhancing ICT Innovation



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Do you have policies to encourage ICT innovation to flourish? Do you have policies and efforts on:

- Technology Transfer Mechanisms
- Local R&D Efforts for Indigenization of Technologies
- Role of SMEs and the government
- Intellectual Property Rights Issues
- Use of Open Standards and Open Source Software

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Multi-lateral Cooperation



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- How do you ensure coordination between different government agencies?
- How do you encourage partnerships between government, industry, private sector, academe, NGOs, civil society for ICT development?
- Do you have any regional and international partnerships for ICT development?

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E-Government



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- What are your primary government ICT projects? Do you have projects on:
 - Government services on line
 - Governments as model users of ICT
 - Government E-Procurement System

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Priority Programs



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- Do you have efforts on the following:
 - E-business
 - E-Learning
 - Local Content Generation
 - Protection of Cultural and Linguistic Diversity
 - Digital Library
 - Knowledge Management
 - E-Health
 - Community Information and Communication Centers, Multipurpose Community Telecenters

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ICT Trends



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- Do you have efforts on the following:
 - Overview of Open Standards
 - Free and Open Source Software
 - Web Services
 - Mobile Access
 - Improving Internet Access Efficiency
 - ICT Services
 - e-Tourism
 - Do you have a stand or policy regarding voice over IP (VoIP)? Is it a viable solution for rural connectivity, for example?
 - Mobile phones versus computers? Is this an issue? Is this hindering the growth of IP, affecting e-commerce strategies?

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Objectives of the Training Workshop



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- To promote awareness among government policy-makers of the need to develop systematic, comprehensive and articulated ICT policies and regulatory frameworks.
- To provide an overview of the different ICT policy components.

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Training Workshop Format



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- Introductory Presentations
- Country presentations
 - National ICT Plan
 - E-Government Plan and Priority Projects - *Volunteers Needed*
- Class discussions
- Workshop
 - SWOT and Gap Analysis of your National ICT Plan
 - Human Resource Development Strategies
- Individual action plans

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Thank you!



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Jay Sabido

ICT Consultant for
Information, Communication and Space Technology Division,
UNESCAP

jayix@stanfordalumni.org

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