

# WORLD TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ICT INDICATORS (WTI) MEETING GENEVA, SWITZERLAND 10-11 FEBRUARY 2005

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THIMPHU : BHUTAN

## INTRODUCTION

- BHUTAN: KINGDOM
- Climate : Humid and subtropical in the south; temperate in the central; cold in the north.
- Forest Cover : 72.5%
- 20 Dzongkhags (Districts)
- 202 Gewogs (Blocks)
- BHUTAN COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY
- MoIC : created in 2003
- ICT development emphasized

## COUNTRY OVERVIEW

- Capital : Thimphu
- Area : 38,394 sq km
- Population: 734,340
- No. Of House Holds: 66,994
- GDP: US\$ 646 Million (Nu. 29,086 Million)
- GDP per Capita: US\$ 835
- Currency: Ngultrum (Nu.)

## TELECOM/ ICT SECTOR

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Information and Communications (MoIC)
- **Regulator:** Bhutan Communications Authority (BCA)
- **Operator:** Bhutan Telecom, DrukNet, Drukcom, Samden Tech Pvt. Ltd.

## TELECOM SECTOR CONTD.

### TELEPHONE NETWORK

- Main telephone lines in operation: 29,598
- Total Capacity of Local public switching exchange: 34,120
- Percent of main lines connected to digital exchanges: 100

## TELECOM SECTOR CONTD.

- Percent of main lines which are residential: 65%
- Number of localities (gewogs) with telephone service: 79
- International telephone circuits: 273
- Telephone Density (overall): 4.03%
- Urban Telephone Density: 15%
- Rural Telephone Density: <1%

## MOBILE SERVICE

- Licence issued : 12/07/2002
- Service Started : 11/11/2003
- Cellular mobile telephone subscribers: 17,800
- Digital cellular mobile subscribers: 17,800
- Number of mobile telephone internet subscribers: No Service

## TEXT/DATA NETWORK

- Telex Subscriber lines: 6
- Internet subscribers: 3,036
- Dial-up Internet subscribers: 3,000
- Cable modem Internet subscribers: Nil
- DSL Internet subscribers: Nil
- Other broadband Internet subscribers: Nil
- Internet users: 15,000
- % Female Internet users: 30%

## TEXT/DATA NETWORK

contd.

- International Internet bandwidth (Mbps): 9.28
- International outgoing Internet bandwidth (Mbps): 3.64
- International incoming Internet bandwidth (Mbps): 5.64
- Total number of ISDN subscribers: Nil
- BROADBAND SERVICES : VSAT

## TRAFFIC

- Local telephone traffic (minutes): 143,324,534
- Fixed to mobile traffic (minutes): Data not available
- National trunk telephone traffic (minutes): 34,210,284
- International outgoing telephone traffic (minutes): 7,000,000
- International incoming telephone traffic (minutes): 23,480,543

## LATEST TELECOM STATISTICS

- GIVEN UNDER TELECOM/ICT SECTOR
- MORE IN THE WRITEUP

## DATA COLLECTION INCHARGE

- NATIONAL STATISTICAL BUREAU
  - Former CSO, under Ministry of Home Affairs
  - Autonomous agency
  - National data collection, management and publication
- BHUTAN COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY
  - Under Ministry of Information and Communications
  - Telecom/ICT data collection
  - Source for ITU data

## DATA COLLECTION METHODS

- SURVEY
  - Capital intensive
  - Labour intensive
  - Data not accurate
- QUESTIONNAIRE
  - Time
- INTERVIEW (INTERVIEWER – ADMINISTERED QUESTIONNAIRE)
  - Rarely used

## CHALLENGES

- DATA NOT AVAILABLE ON TIME
- LABOUR INTENSIVE
- CAPITAL INTENSIVE
- NO STANDARD METHOD
- NO STANDARD TIME FOR DATA COLLECTION
- LARGE TIME GAP BETWEEN COLLECTION AND PUBLICATION

## DATA USERS

- INSIDE COUNTRY
  - Researchers
  - Planners
- OUTSIDE COUNTRY
  - International Organizations (ITU, WHO, UNDP etc)
  - Researchers

## CONCLUSION

- BCA FOLLOW ITU STANDARD FORMAT FOR DATA COLLECTION
- STANDARD TIME AND FORMAT TO BE CIRCULATED
- LEARN FROM THIS MEETING





THANK YOU

TASHI DELEKH