INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

**TELECOMMUNICATION
DEVELOPMENT BUREAU**

**Document INF/005-E
20 November 2007
Original: English**

FOR INFORMATION

SOURCE: Ministry of Communication, Transport, Post, and Construction, Lao PDR

TITLE: Country Paper ICT Statistics (Lao PDR)

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ITU World Telecommunication / ICT Indicators (WTI) Meeting
Geneva, 13-15 December 2007

Country Paper ICT Statistics
(Lao PDR)

Country Background

Lao People's Democratic Republic, borders with Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand and China. Lao PDR has a population of around 6,3 million and a land area of 236800 square km. The country is reach in natural resources, natural beauty and biodiversity with an estimated 10,000 species of animals, plants, insects and fish and a large resource of natural forests. The majority of population (82,9%) lives in rural and remote areas. Agriculture is the main economic sector contributing 51 percent to the GDP and employing about 80 percent of the labor force. The industry and services contribute 23 percent and 26 percent respectively to the GDP

Telecommunication and Internet

The Government has been able to acquire the interest of many foreign investors in this sector. Foreign joint venture investment in this sector has played an important role since 1993-94 and now with more than 5 players in the telecommunication sector : some offers mobile service, some offers fix telephone and mobile service , some offers fix telephone , mobile with total capacity lines and total subscriber lines in used : fix lines with 147,137 capacity lines and 93,241 using lines, mobile with 1,637,854 capacity lines and 1,216,431 using lines, CDMA/WLL with 50,000 capacity lines and 22,040 using lines; more than one million mobile users from just 300,000 a few years ago , ADSL is available in major cities. The real bandwith of ADSL is still questionable. 3G and WIMAX is soon to be tested, some licenses has been offered for operators. there are more than six ISP : Laotel

(LTC) with 51% Government ownership, with speed of connection 11-54 Mbps(Wireless LAN) , Internet Access Gateway : Satellite, Thaicom Intelsat; STEA with 100% Government ownership, with speed of connection 2 Mbps, Internet Access Gateway : Satellite, Thaicom; Sky Telecom (SKY) with 30% Government ownership, with speed of connection 2 Mbps, Internet Access Gateway : Satellite, Mubuhay; Planet Online with 100% private ownership, with speed of connection 2 Mbps, Internet Access Gateway : Optic Fiber, CSC; Lanxang with 100% Private ownership, with speed of connection 2 Mbps, Internet Access Gateway : Satellite, Asiasat; ETLLao (ETL) with 100% Government ownership, with speed of connection 35 Mbps, Internet Access Gateway : CSC Satellite, Optic Fiber, Intelsat; For internet service : dial up with 2900 capacity lines 1,075 using lines; ADSL with 3,520capacity lines 1,363 using lines; IP Star with 800 capacity lines, 136 using lines; HIL with 140 capacity lines, 41 using lines. Internet infrastructure is still developing and quite basic and internet access cost is still expensive. An ADSL account of 512 K will be 130USD per month. Fiber optic link the country from the north to the south (link each province).

ICT Statistic in 2006

The fixed telephone density is 1.62, cell phone subscriber density 12.8%, computer ownership per 100 habitant 0.88, internet users per 100 inhabitants 0.40, internet hosts per 100 inhabitants 0.21, internet cafes per 100 inhabitants 0.53, national transmission backbone network : via microwave 155 Mbps, via optic fiber 2.5 Gbps, via satellite (wireless LAN) 11-55 Mbps; international bandwidth via optic fiber 310 Mbps; TV density 13.7%, cable TV service providers 2 private companies

Challenges

The ICT data collection is not centralised yet, some institutions collect some part of ICT statistic, we are lack of resource : human resource , funding; lack of expertise, best practice

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