Towards a High Bandwidth low carbon future

Kyoto, 16th April, 2008 Nigel Hickson Department of Business UK Government

Why I am here

To give you our view of the issues from London
To tell you why high bandwidth is critical (you know)

What we do not need from ITU (or anyone else)

The Real Issues

Where it all began

- Plenipotentiary Conference, ITU, Kyoto 1994;
- "..that telecommunication and information technologies respect the environment;
- World Telecommunications Development Conference; Istanbul, 2002
- "that special awareness be created...so that policy makers gain a better understanding of telecommunications and the environment...
- Geneva 1st April, 2008, ITU, Dr Toure
- 2...it is estimated that ICTs contribute 2-2.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions;

But is it all talking....

- No real; as we have heard;
- 3% gap could be crucial;
- But worried about broadcasting
- In addition "service" economies (OECD) 7-8 less energy intensive than industry;
- Will be unless action is taken;
- Has to be taken on global level; thus importance of ITU/UN
- But what about Europe?

European Union

- European Union working on number of fronts;
- EU product directive; looks at energy consumption on particular products:
- Water heaters, personal computers; and monitors;
- Imaging equipment (copiers); consumer electronics;
- Office and street lighting domestic water heaters;
- Dishwashers; battery chargers;
- Forthcoming Communication on "ICT and Energy Efficiency"

Now to High Bandwidth Economy

Why it is so important; would be anyway; Profound affect on economy Recognise "Rebound Effect" Could effect that 2%; though if we use fibre; And spectrum rather than wires? More than teleworking; Issue for public sector as well So if such a good thing..... not simple Has significant lifestyle implications But first we have to get there;

What would be a mistake

 Regulation that constrains the roll out of Next Generation Networks;

It is competition that spurs investment

- Concern here for US regulatory policy constraining growth;
- Real test will be China and India
- ITU Regulation in this area;

But the real issues are still there

 We must be more than the ICT Sector; thus feed-through to G8 important;

Whether we are 2% or 4% we still have a voice;

- We must get our act together; let us be flotilla heading in the same direction;
- Important questions ahead that we may make possible (lifestyle choices)

Are we ready for difficult decisions:

"We can make it possible; but others must decide".....(Al Gore)

Questions and Discussion

nigel.hickson@berr.gsi.gov.uk