#2. *The nature of the information society: A developing world perspective*

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The Information Society: Visions and Realities in Developing Countries

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Visions of the
Information Society

Agenda

- ICTs: early anecdotes, frameworks for analysis
- Spectrum of information societies
- Information society and knowledge society
- Recommendations for developing nations

ICTs in Developing Countries: Early Anecdotes

- FarmNet, PeopLink, MahilaWeb,Tortas, Bankilare, Across Borders, MarketWatch, Nairobits, e-Bario, Kothmale, Sagarmata, Gyandoot, VirtualSouk, PAN-Asia, VillageLeap, Metrocomia, MountainForum, ………

"8 Cs" of the Information Society

- Connectivity
- Content
- Community
- Commerce
- Capacity
- Culture
- Cooperation
- Capital

Dimensions of ICT

- ICT as an Instrument
  - Providing affordable access to ICTs, local language content/tools, sectoral benefits (education, healthcare, environment, business, government)

- ICT as an Industry
  - Boosting hardware/software/datacom industries, venture capital, stockmarkets, technical skills, regulation, global alliances

ICT and Society

- National cultures and technology
- Organisational culture and technology
- Sectoral culture and technology
- Professional/vocational culture and technology

Frameworks for Analysis

- Infrastructural
- Market-oriented
- Political
- Cultural
- Policy-oriented
- Comparative
- Regional
- Strategic

ICTs in Developing Countries: Key Impact Areas

- Healthcare
- Agriculture
- Education
- Business
- Media/culture
- Urban/rural development

Applications, benefits, costs, organisations

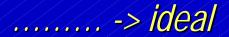# ICTs in Developing Countries: Pressing Concerns

- Digital divide
- Regulation/privatisation
- Cultural diversity
- Political challenges
- Capacity building
- Sustainability
- Tapping diaspora populations

The "8 Cs" Framework

- Analysis, classification
- Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats
- Recommendations
- Categorisation, evolution of information societies

Categories of Information Societies

- Restrictive
- Embryonic
- Emerging
- Negotiating
- Intermediate
- Mature
- Advanced
- Agenda-setting

……… -> ideal

Other classifications

- Leaders
- Potential leaders
- Dynamic adopters
- Marginalised

The Knowledge Movement

- Digital economy, network economy, information economy, knowledge economy

- Thinktanks, corporate bodies, international fora, global networks, standards bodies

- Organisational roles: chief knowledge officer, chief learning officer, knowledge editor, knowledge analyst, knowledge broker, knowledge steward, knowledge facilitator

Recommendations for Developing Nations

- Connectivity
  - Tariffs, devices, telecentres; wireless; regulation
- Content
  - Local content, local languages; e-government
- Community
  - Online/offline fora, diaspora links
- Commerce
  - Legal infrastructure, government support

Recommendations for Developing Nations

- Culture
  - Efficiency, innovation, change; knowledge, learning
- Capacity
  - ICT literacy: tech, management, creativity
- Cooperation
  - Domestic (private/private); international
- Capital
  - Private/public funds, grants, corporate foundations