

Country paper on ICT Status in Nepal

Capacity Building Workshop on Information Society Statistics
:Infrastructure and Household Indicators

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Nepal @ Geography



Country Profile in General

- Area : 140,800 sq km
- Geography : landlocked
- Population: 25.2 million
- Poverty (No. of people living below \$1 a day): 7.75 million (31%)
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita: \$260
- Life expectancy: 60.2 years
- Literacy rates: 56% (of population age 15+), 70.5% (of net primary enrolment)
- Malnutrition: 48% (of children under five)
- Population growth rate: 2.17% (2006 est.)
- Electricity – production : 2.565 billion kWh
- Exports – commodities: carpets, clothing, leather goods, jute goods, grain, software's
- Exports - partners: India 47.4%, US 22.7%, Germany 8.4%
- Currency (code): Nepalese rupee (NPR)

Telecom History

- A line between Kathmandu and the Indian border was opened in 1914
- Major growth in telecom sector in Nepal has occurred after 1995 with World Bank Assistance.
- An important milestone was reached in 1999 when tele-density reached one line per 100 inhabitants
- Nepal's pioneer telecommunications operator Nepal Telecom has made significant progress in the growth and development of the national public switched telecommunications network (PSTN) during Nepal's Fifth Phase Telecom Project (1992-97).
- Until few years back monopoly of state owned Nepal Telecom (NTC) in all types of telecom service

History Cont..

- NTC also started providing GSM mobile service from May 1999
- United Telecom Ltd. (UTL) is providing Wireless Local Loop based telecom service inside Kathmandu Valley and other few cities
- Spice Nepal (P) Ltd. is providing cellular mobile telephone connections based on GSM from Mid September 2005 inside Kathmandu Valley and other major cities.

History of Internet

- The Internet was first introduced into Nepal in 1993 in a venture of the erstwhile Royal Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (RONAST) and Mercantile Office Systems (MOS).
- Now almost all big cities have Internet facilities with local ISP

Telecom Network

- The fully digital network offers full national and international direct dialing services
- The national trunk network equipped with 9202 Mbps with 8434 Mbps for Kathmandu Valley and outside and 768 bps within Kathmandu
- Nepal Telecom, the only wireline operator in Nepal has 231 Telephone exchanges in operation at 221 different locations in 72 districts of Nepal.
- Total of 3423 International telephone circuits in operation including Microwave circuits
- Total capacity of E1 links installed is 4,601

Telecom Statistics

- Fixed line telephone 5,13,352
- Mobile Telephone 15,71,021
- Post-paid mobile 1,21,977
- Pre-paid mobile 14,49,044
- Wireless in Local Loop 2,51,011
- Internet (with E-mail) 62,586 (Subscriber)
- VSAT user 110

Service Penetration (in %)

- Fixed + Mobile 8.84
- Fixed Telephone 2.89
- Mobile Service 5.95
- Internet (subscribers only) 0.24

Institutional Arrangement

- Under IT Policy 2000, National Information Technology Center was established as ICT Implementation Body
- Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA) has been established on March 4, 1998 as an autonomous regulatory body under Ministry of Information and Communication

National Information Technology Center

Function and Duties

- To implement information communication technology related plans and policies.
- To assist Nepal Government in all forms of computer related tasks.
- To design and launch websites for all Government organizations, and assist in timely manner in maintaining and operating of the same
- To administer the development of required coding and standards to engender uniformity in information technology, abide by the same and put it into operation.
- To assist in research and development of information communication technology in the country.

NITC Cont...

- To pass all policies, annual and periodic plans, programs, and budgets for the committee and manage the required funds for the implementation of the same.
- To do other provisional work for the development of information communication technology as required by Nepal Government.
- For the development of information communication technology at a national level, collecting all types of statistics and also work as data depository and information bank.
- To help Nepal Government organizations in improvement of computer data keeping and development and expansion of the same

Nepal Telecommunication Authority

Functions and Duties

- To provide suggestions to Government of Nepal on the policy, plan and program to be adopted by Government of Nepal for the development of the Telecommunications Service.
- To make the Telecommunications Service reliable and easily available to the public.
- To make necessary arrangement to avail basic Telecommunications Service and facilities in all rural and urban areas throughout Nepal.
- To regularize and systematize Telecommunications Service
- To grant License to operate the Telecommunications service.
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NTA Cont..

- To approve and regularize the fees to be collected by a person having obtained License for providing the Telecommunications Service.
- To perform the functions relating to the frequency in accordance with the policy determined by the Radio Frequency Policy Determination Committee.
- To carry out or cause to carry out the research about the development and use of new technology in the field of Telecommunications.
- To carry out necessary and appropriate functions for the development and promotion of the Telecommunications Service

Policy, legal and regulatory framework

IT Policy 2000 (Under revision)

- To make information technology accessible to the general public and increase employment through this means
- To establish knowledge-based industries
- To establish knowledge-based society

Electronic Transaction and Digital Signature Act 2006

- IT Tribunal Procedures, Electronic Transactions Regulation
- Controller of Certification Authority &
- Certification Authorities for Digital Certificates

Policy Cont...

- Telecommunication Policy 2004
 - The telecommunication service shall be made available to meet the demand in the urban areas
 - Using information and communication technology for poverty alleviation and development of the rural areas.
 - Use of Telecom service on demand in urban as well as rural areas.

Challenges for ICT Data Collection

- Lack of proper guidelines for ICT data collection
- Roles overlapping between Key Institution
- Lack of research on area of ICT

Thank you for your attention!!!

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