Country paper on ICT
Status in Nepal

Capacity Building Workshop on Information Society Statistics
:Infrastructure and Household Indicators
November 6-8, 2007
Bangkok, Thailand

BY
Dr. Subarna Shakya
Executive Director
National Information Technology Center,
Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology
Government of Nepal
Nepal @ Geography

Map of Nepal showing its location between China and India, with Kathmandu highlighted.
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.
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.
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 2063
- 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!!!

sshakya@nitc.gov.np