

# **THE WORLD IN 2009:** ICT FACTS AND FIGURES

#### A decade of ICT growth driven by mobile technologies



Source: ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database. \* Estimates.

- Mobile cellular has been the most rapidly adopted technology in history. Today it is the most popular and widespread personal technology on the planet, with an estimated 4.6 billion subscriptions globally by the end of 2009
- Mobile broadband subscriptions overtook fixed broadband subscribers in 2008, highlighting the huge potential for the mobile Internet
- ► In 2009, more than a quarter of the world's population are using the Internet





# **ICTs at home**



Source: ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database. Note: Estimates.  In 2009, over a quarter of the world's population – or 1.9 billion people – have access to a computer at home

Whereas three quarters of households globally have a TV, one third has a computer. With prices in continuous decline, and ongoing convergence of devices, the gap is likely to narrow quickly



Source: ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database. Note: Estimates.



# The rise of mobile broadband... ...but not everywhere



Source: ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database. Note: The regions refer to the 191 ITU Member States. \* Estimates.

- Asia and the Pacific and Europe have the greatest numbers of mobile broadband subscriptions
- There is a dramatic broadband divide, with very few fixed broadband subscribers or mobile broadband subscriptions in Africa
- There are substantial differences within regions. The US accounts for 82.6% of mobile broadband in the Americas. In Asia and the Pacific, Japan and the Republic of Korea account for 70%

### ITU-D



# **Catching up**

**Developing countries only 10 years behind Sweden\*** 



Source: ITU and SICENTER, based on ITU and UNICEF data.

Note: The time distance model measures the number of years a country (or region) lags behind other countries (or regions) in terms of development benchmarks, such as mobile cellular penetration and infant mortality.

\* Sweden was chosen as a benchmark as it ranked first in ITU's ICT Development Index.

- In 2008, mobile phone penetration in developing countries had reached that of Sweden under ten years earlier; for infant mortality, the rate in developing countries in 2007 was at the level where Sweden was 72 years earlier
- Even the country furthest behind (Myanmar) in terms of mobile cellular penetration is where Sweden was just 24 years earlier. By comparison, the GDP per capita lag for most of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), compared to Sweden, is over 160 years

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## The global broadband divide

Fixed broadband subscribers per 100 inhabitants, 2008



- Over the past 5 years, the total number of fixed broadband subscribers has grown more than threefold, from about 150 million in 2004, to almost 500 million by the end of 2009
- ► In Africa, there is only one fixed broadband subscriber for every 1'000 people, while in Europe there are 200 subscribers for 1'000 people
- In 2008, China overtook the US as the largest fixed broadband market in the world. At the end of 2008, China's fixed broadband penetration was 6.2 subscribers per 100 inhabitants, the highest of any low or lower-middle-income economy in Asia and the Pacific





Source: ITU, www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/idi/2009/index.html

Note: The ITU's ICT Price Basket shows how much countries are paying for telecommunication services, relative to income levels. It is composed of three sub-baskets: fixed telephone, mobile cellular and fixed broadband Internet tariffs. The ICT Price Basket is computed as the sum of these three tariffs, as a percentage of monthly Gross National Income per capita.

25

PPP \$

20.5

Fixed

line

17.8

16.8 17.1

Mobile

cellular

Fixed broadband

 The price for fixed broadband access remains prohibitively high in most developing countries, effectively limiting access to the Information Society





#### Better business conditions facilitate telecoms investment



Source: ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicator Database and World Bank Doing Business (www.doingbusiness.org). Note: Telecom investment data for 2007 or 2006, as available.

 A relatively better performance in the "Ease of doing business" country rankings is associated with higher levels of telecom investment per capita

#### Who ranks where in ITU's latest ICT Development Index (IDI)? Top five economies within each region

Regional IDI Rank	Europe	Global IDI Rank	Asia&Pacific	Global IDI Rank	Americas	Global IDI Rank	Arab States	Global IDI Rank	CIS	Global IDI Rank	Africa	Global IDI Rank
1	Sweden	1	Korea (Rep.)	2	United States	17	UAE	32	Russia		Seychelles	57
2	Denmark	3	Hong Kong, China	11	Canada	19	Bahrain	42	Ukraine	51	Mauritius	62
3	Netherlands	4	Japan	12	Argentina	47	Qatar	44	Belarus	54	South Africa	87
4	Iceland	5	Australia	14	Chile	48	Saudi Arabia	55	Moldova	68	Cape Verde	105
5	Norway	6	Singapore	15	Uruguay	49	Kuwait	57	Kazakhstan	69	Gabon	107
	Region with the highest IDI scores											the lowest

Source: The ITU IDI is a composite index based on 11 indicators. The Index, which captures the level of advancement of ICTs in more than 150 countries worldwide and compares progress made between 2002 and 2007, was published in the 2009 Measuring the Information Society Report.

While Russia ranks 50<sup>th</sup>, globally, it is first within the CIS region





# For more information:

#### Market Information and Statistics Division Telecommunication Development Bureau International Telecommunication Union

indicators@itu.int www.itu.int/ict













