

## Overlooked Dimensions in Regulatory Approaches in Developing Countries

The trend was to go for privatization of the telecom sector. Most nations opted for privatization for its obvious benefits. Developing countries received multinationals who invested their capital and are dominating the market. We agree that these investors have invested their money, and the telecommunication sector as a result has developed. But now we see that Countries, which were not prepared to utilize and benefit from Telecommunication development in sensitizing development in key sectors in their economy, are suffering to offset the effect of siphoning out of large amounts of hard currency by these companies. The situation got worse as they no longer employ and train native engineers apart from in certain peripheral jobs. Under the umbrella of efficiency and cost reduction, the major technical support operations are outsourced to foreign companies; mainly multinational companies. As a result professional telecom engineering and technologies are now starting to become alien to the developing countries. The net result will be there will be no trained telecom engineers in developing countries, and their Telecommunication engineering colleges will produce telecommunication engineers for export. Both Equipment, and now, technical support are imported.

There seems to be a problem related to regulation in the developing countries, which is an issue that must be addressed at the level of the GSR.

Undoubtedly the developed countries are very ripe for Broadband Services(BBSs), for since a very long time they have developed a strong base of different types of content production and distribution. To them BB is simply a new means of doing the same job.

Things are different when the BB issues are raised in connection with developing countries. True the ultimate goal is amicable. However, developing countries need to develop and prepare content to accelerate the development in key areas by utilizing BB and priority should be clearly identified. Alternatively, developing countries should be allowed the chance for normal logical development; and no need for pressing the issue too far, as consequences are of cultural dimension. It will now be not only alienation from the technology, but also and more seriously alienation from one's own culture.

So in the immediate time horizon developing countries would like to see progress in their human resources development and capacity build-up. To achieve such goals the assisting role of the BDT is eagerly sought and it needs real support from the developed countries.