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**Korean ICT Market Overview**

* The 2013 edition of ITU’s flagship global statistics report *Measuring the Information Society* confirmed that the Republic of Korea has the highest ICT Development Index (IDI)\* value in the world. The country ranked number one for the third consecutive year, and leads the world in terms of overall ICT development.
* Fixed-telephone subscriptions in the Republic of Korea reached 30.3 million at end 2013, with a penetration of **61.6 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants - second highest penetration rate in the world** –far above the world average of 16.2%, the Asia &Pacific average 12.9% , and the East Asia average 23.7%
* **Mobile-cellular subscriptions reached almost 54.7 million at end 2013**, with a penetration of 111 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants – well above the average global penetration (93.1%), the Asia & Pacific average of 86.4%, and the East Asia average of 91.6%
* **Korea has the world’s highest household Internet penetration at over 98%** at end of 2013, and 80.6% of Korean households have computers.
* By end 2013, **fixed (wired) broadband subscriptions in Korea reached 18.7 million**, with a penetration of 38 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants – far above the world average of 9.4%, the Asia & Pacific average of 7.4%, and the East Asia average of 15.6%. All of these subscriptions benefit from an advertised speed of equal to or above 10 Mbit/s.
* Korea’s mobile-broadband market reached 51.9 million active mobile-broadband subscriptions by end 2013, a penetration of 105.3% – far above the world average (26.7%), the Asia & Pacific average of 18.8% , and the East Asia average of 32.8%.
* By end 2013, t**he percentage of individuals using the Internet in Korea reached 84.8 % of the total population**, making Korea among the top twenty countries in terms of Internet usage – far above the world average of 37.9%, and the Asia &Pacific average 30.1%, and the East Asia average 50%.
* Korea is **one of the most affordable countries in the world in terms of ICT services**: ranking 16th in the ICT Price Basket (IPB) with a value of 0.8 in 2012. Prices for all the three services included in the IPB are relatively affordable in Korea, with fixed-telephone prices and mobile cellular prices both at 0.4 % of GNI per capita, followed by fixed-broadband prices at 1.6% of GNI per capita.
* Korea is among the top five countries in the world in terms of population of ‘digital natives’, ranking third highest worldwide, with the number of digital natives at 13.5% of the total population; it also has the **highest percentage of digital natives to total youth population, at 99.6%**.

\*ITU’s ICT Development Index (IDI) ranks 157 countries according to their level of ICT access, use and skills, and compares 2011 and 2012 scores. It is widely recognized by government, UN agencies and industry as the most accurate and impartial measure of overall national ICT development.

The ICT Development Index (IDI) ranking cited above is based on the report *Measuring the Information Society*. Based on the rankings produced every year, Korea ranked the top for four consecutive years.

According to the report published in 2010, Korea ranked at the third place. However, as ITU’s standards for statistical index changed when the 2011 report was published, Korea’s ranking of the previous year (2010) was revised from the third place to the first place.

**Note:** All figures are ITU statistics from 2013, which are used in order to ensure that meaningful regional and global comparisons can be made. More recent figures for Korea may be available at: <http://english.msip.go.kr/index.do>