communications convergence
and the new global village

lara srivastava
strategy & policy unit, ITU

IMC Conference on Communications Convergence
mumbai, india
16-17 March 2007

the views expressed in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ITU or its membership.
lara srivastava can be contacted at lara.srivastava(at)itu.int
transitions & transformations

distance ↔ proximity
slow ↔ fast
sporadic ↔ perpetual
fixed ↔ mobile
single ↔ multiple
stability ↔ uncertainty
user ↔ producer
real ↔ virtual
local ↔ global
trends and tendencies

• growth of mobile wireless: more than 1 mobile phone for every 3 humans on the planet
• growth of high-speed broadband access infrastructure
• promotion of “always-on” access, e.g. blackberry, mobile internet
• advances in computing to render information even more “ubiquitous”
• continued expansion of the internet as a platform of information, communication, entertainment, and creativity

**convergence at many levels is a key enabler of these trends**
considering convergence
defining convergence

- the action or fact of converging; movement directed toward or **terminating in the same point** *(OED)*

- the approach toward a definite value, as time goes on, or to a definite point, **a common view or opinion** *(wikipedia)*

- the process by which **originally distinct technologies** may become **more compatible or integrated** as they develop *(OED, draft additions 2003)*

- convergence (converged environments/networks) defines a **multimedia environment** and/or network where signals **regardless of type** (i.e. voice, quality audio, video, data, etc.) and encoding methodology may be **seamlessly exchanged** between independent endpoints with similar characteristics *(wikipedia)*
its many flavours

- **devices/terminals**
  TV, gaming console, PC, mobile, PDA, MP3 player, RFID

- **network/transport**
  fixed, wireless, broadcast, satellite, IP (towards all-IP and NGN)

- **content/services (media)**
  voice, data, audio, video, e/m commerce, education, software, portals…

- **industrial**
  media, software/computing, consumer electronics, telecommunications

- **corporate**
  business models, mergers, consolidation

- **policy and regulatory (institutional)**
  broadcast regulation, content regulation, utilities regulation, competition regulation, telecommunication regulation, consumer protection

- **social**
  disparate groups, interests, collective welfare, collective thinking
a multiplicity of devices
making global communications cheaper and more accessible

Source: Telegeography
it means communications takes on entirely new dimensions

ITU Internet Report 2006: digital.life
the driving force of peer to peer, person to person, user to user
even entertainment turns over a new leaf
convergence...
divergence...
urban-rural convergence
urban-rural divergence
convergence of generations,
divergence of generations
real-virtual convergence, real-virtual divergence
transition and evolution...
the converging web: 1.0, 2.0, 3.0?

- web 1.0 characterized by one-way interaction between businesses and users

- web 2.0 characterized by user-driven platforms and content (e.g. creation, re-use, sharing).
  - also a social phenomenon in its own right

- what might the 3rd generation of the web bring? web 3.0 may combine web 2.0 with the fruits of convergence at many levels, leading to the creation of a truly ubiquitous and intelligent global web
rising to the challenge
a sampling of the challenges ahead

- technical
  - interoperability
  - interconnection
  - naming, addressing, numbering
  - network security
  - ...
- regulatory
  - coherent enabling framework
  - forward-looking (neutral…?) regulation
  - bridging the gap
  - ...
- public policy
  - consumer protection
  - content regulation
  - ...
- social
  - education
  - quality of life
  - individual empowerment
  - social responsibility
  - ...

Lara Srivaslava, Mumbai, March 2007
educating the child in us
managing complexity
understanding identity
capitalizing on the local
ITU Internet Reports 2006

digital.life

I. going digital
II. lifestyles.digital
III. business.digital
IV. identity.digital
V. living the digital world

free download at:
www.itu.int/digitallife

Lara Srivaslava, Mumbai, March 2007
World Telecommunication Policy Forum 2009
on Convergence and Emerging Policy Issues

WTPF – Geneva, March 2009
preparatory process begins now!

BE A PART OF THE FUTURE

www.itu.int/wtpf
nothing ever exists entirely alone
everything is in relation to everything else - buddha

thank you!
lara.srivastava(at)itu.int

the views expressed in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ITU or its membership.
lara srivastava can be contacted at lara.srivastava(at)itu.int