

II. COUNTRY PROFILES

Representatives of each country gave a 10-minute review of their country's educational status and the challenges, initiatives, and strategies in the education system. Table 1 lists these factors for each participating country. After each report, a 5-minute discussion was allotted for clarification, suggestions, and comments. Many countries found that they shared similar issues, including poor teacher training and content development, lack of funds, lack of support from the government, and low computer literacy.

During the discussion, participants exchanged suggestions and recommendations for their country's challenges on information and communications technology (ICT) in education, such as public-private partnerships, determining needs analysis, continued research and development, and enabling community support for education in ICT.

Table 1: Major ICT Issues by Country

Country	Challenges	Initiatives	Strategies
Afghanistan	Extensive damage from war	Initiate needs assessment	Provide opportunities for men and women
Bangladesh	Enhancing education in ICT	Provide access in rural communities	Utilize machine translation to remove language barrier
Bhutan	Teachers and teachers' training	Train teachers who are poor	Initiate distance learning/education
Cambodia	Basic education infrastructure	Provide basic needs	Provide ICT infrastructure
PRC	Teachers' training	Conduct training on holidays	Develop education information resources
India	Low personal computer penetration	Enhance public-private partnership	Provide budgetary requirements
Indonesia	National vision using ICT for education	Acquire ICT education resources	Enhance ICT infrastructure
Kyrgyz Republic	ICT integration in the process of learning	Revise curriculum	Promote more knowledge on ICT
Lao PDR	Basic educational infrastructure	Provide children with education opportunities	Establish IT training centers
Maldives	Planning for e-learning development	Political reorientation	Provide opportunities for students
Myanmar	Raise education to international standard	Improve level of education	Prioritize education institutions to promote education opportunities
Nepal	Poor teaching-learning environment	Create interest to learn	Strengthen design of materials and programs
Pakistan	Limited resources in public- private sectors	Regulate activities	Facilitate opportunities for private sector
Philippines	Technological dependence	Avoid becoming prisoners of technology	Increase skilled faculty

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Table 1: Major ICT Issues by Country (cont'd.)

Country	Challenges	Initiatives	Strategies
Sri Lanka	Urban-rural gaps	Experience in modern development	Improve facilities and other services
Tajikistan	Curriculum development	Re-equip schools with materials	Allot funds
Thailand	Teachers' learning material	Conduct content development training	Ensure network connections
Turkmenistan	ICT in education process	Train and retrain staff	Support teachers at all levels
Viet Nam	Technology and telecommunications infrastructure	Improve low Internet access speeds	Establish networks in rural areas

ICT = information and communications technology, IT = information technology, PDR = People's Democratic Republic, PRC = People's Republic of China.

Source: Country reports.