

***South Asia Subregional
Economic Cooperation (SASEC)
ICT Working Group Meeting
15-16 March 2004, New Delhi***

***Presentation by
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COVERAGE

Outcome of WSIS (1st Phase)
In Follow-up, What We Can Do ?
New Proposals Focusing on South Asia

Outcome of WSIS (1st Phase)

Declaration of Principles

Building the Information Society: a global challenge in the new Millennium

Our common desire and commitment: build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, enabling individuals, communities and peoples to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life

Outcome of WSIS (1st Phase)

(continue)

Plan of Action

The common vision and guiding principles of the Declaration are translated in this Plan of Action into concrete action lines to advance the achievement of the internationally-agreed development goals, by promoting the use of ICT-based products, networks, services and applications, and to help countries overcome the digital divide. The Information Society envisaged in the Declaration of Principles will be realized in cooperation and solidarity by governments and all other stakeholders.

Declaration and Plan of Action: Focus

- 1. The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development;*
- 2. Information and communication infrastructure: an essential foundation for the Information Society;*
- 3. Access to information and knowledge;*
- 4. Capacity building;*
- 5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;*

Declaration and Plan of Action: Focus

(continue)

- 6. Enabling environment;***
- 7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life;***
- 8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content;***
- 9. Media;***
- 10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society;***
- 11. International and regional cooperation.***

Plan of Action: Objectives, Goals and Targets:

Build *an inclusive Information Society; to put the potential of knowledge and ICTs at the service of development;*

Promote *the use of information and knowledge for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals;*

Address *new challenges of the Information Society, at the national, regional and international levels.*

***Plan of Action: Objectives, Goals and Targets:
(continue)***

Opportunity shall be taken in phase two of the WSIS to evaluate and assess progress made towards bridging the digital divide.

Based on internationally agreed development goals, indicative targets may serve as global references for improving connectivity and access in the use of ICTs in promoting the objectives of the Plan of Action.

Plan of Action:

Objectives, Goals and Targets To Be Achieved By 2015:

- a) To connect villages with ICTs and establish community access points;***
- b) To connect universities, colleges, secondary schools and primary schools with ICTs;***
- c) To connect scientific and research centres with ICTs;***
- d) To connect public libraries, cultural centres, museums, post offices and archives with ICTs;***
- e) To connect health centres and hospitals with ICTs;***
- f) To connect all local and central government departments and establish websites and email addresses;***

Plan of Action:

Objectives, Goals and Targets To Be Achieved By 2015:

(continue)

- g) To adapt all primary and secondary school curricula to meet the challenges of the Information Society, taking into account national circumstances;***
- h) To ensure that all of the world's population have access to television and radio services;***
- i) To encourage the development of content and to put in place technical conditions in order to facilitate the presence and use of all world languages on the Internet;***
- j) To ensure that more than half the world's inhabitants have access to ICTs within their reach.***

In Follow-Up, What We Can Do?

Objectives, Goals and Targets: Asia-Pacific Region

Specific targets for the Information Society will be established as appropriate, at the regional and national level, taking into account the different regional and national circumstances. Such targets can serve as useful benchmarks for actions and for the evaluation of the progress made towards the attainment of the overall objectives of the Information Society.

What is the Action Focus for Asia-Pacific?

In our view, it should be: Bridging the Digital Divide

Compared with other regions, such as Europe and America, and to some extent Africa, the digital divide is perhaps the most obvious in the Asia-Pacific region.

We have some of the world's technology innovators and most advanced users such as Japan, Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore;

We have fast-moving runners up such as Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei and India;

What is the Action Focus for Asia-Pacific?

(continue)

After the runners up we have a group of developing countries such as Indonesia, the Philippines, China, and Mongolia;

In addition, we still have a fairly large number of what we called marginalized countries such as the least developed countries, the landlocked and island developing countries; many of the countries with economies in transition also face severe difficulties.

What is UNESCAP planning to do?

UNESCAP strength:

- *The largest international organization in the Asia-Pacific region with the longest history: established in 1947, now with 62 members and associate members; perhaps almost the same as ADB*
- *Extensive linkage with the governments of member countries, -- with virtually all the ministries in each country in addition to the ICT ministry, covering all the areas related to economic and social development;*
- *Very reform-minded with ICST as one priority areas to focus, and very experienced in regional cooperation.*

A multi-dimensional, cross-sectoral, 600-strong secretariat with 10 divisions/office, 1 outreach operation center and 4 regional centers

that cover:

Information, communication and space technology; Trade and investment; Transport and tourism; Environment and sustainable development; Poverty and development; Emerging social issues (population, health, etc); Statistics; Program management; Administrative services;

Pacific Operations Center (Port Vila, Vanuatu);

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT, New Delhi); Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (APCAEM, Beijing);

A multi-dimensional, cross-sectoral, 600-strong secretariat with 10 divisions/office, 1 outreach operation center and 4 regional centers

that cover:

(continue)

Regional Co-ordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Topics of Asia and the Pacific (CGPRT, Indonesia); Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP, Chiba).

In the ICST Division, there are 4 work areas: ICT Policy, ICT Applications, and Space Technology, and regional advisory service.

One new UNESCAP Center to be established in Seoul as follow-up action of WSIS:

The Asian and Pacific Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development as a follow-up action of WSIS (APCICT)

UNESCAP's Role

Role of Cooperator with ADB to enhance regional development:

- *New MOU to be signed in May 2004;*
- *Priority areas overlapping with each other;*
- *Extensive cooperation in poverty reduction, especially with the South Asia Department;*

Role of Coordinator in preparing Regional Plan of Action:

- *1 Inter-Regional Project: Indicators on the Information Society*
- *4 subregional meetings:*
 - ✓ *Central Asia*
 - ✓ *South Asia (location to be determined)*
 - ✓ *Southeast and East Asia*
 - ✓ *Pacific Island*
- *2 regional meetings*

UNESCAP's Role

(continue)

Role of Main Partner in National Initiatives for Regional Cooperation:

- *Asia Broadband Programme (Japan)*
- *IT Training (Republic of Korea)*
- *Telemedicine (India)*
- *Space Technology coop (China)*
- *Disaster Management (Iran, Bangladesh, etc.)*
- *Others*

Role of Promoter of Public-Private Partnership and among Stakeholders:

- *Shin Satellite*
- *SinoStar*
- *Samsung*
- *India Space Research Organization (INSRO)*

Role of Catalyst in ICST-related national programmes

UNESCAP ongoing and future projects related to ICST:

Community e-Centers:

- 1. Community e-centres for socio-economic development and improved quality of life in Asia and the Pacific; (one pilot project in South Asia)***
- 2. Regional cooperation for development of community e-centers in Asia-Pacific region;***

Disaster Management:

- 1. Enhanced national capacity in policy-making on natural disaster management using information, communication and space technology;***
- 2. Towards improved disaster management through space information products and services in the Asia-Pacific region;***
- 3. Establishment of regional cooperative mechanisms on space information for disaster management;***

UNESCAP ongoing and future projects related to ICST: ***(continue)***

e-Business:

- 1. Institutional capacity building for facilitation of international trade and transport in the land-locked and transit countries***

e-Government:

- 1. Capacity building of local governments in promoting pro-poor ICT strategies through knowledge networking and the establishment of a regional resource facility;***

e-Learning & Networking of Centers of Excellence:

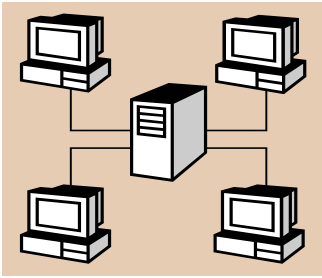
- 1. Promotion of distance learning and service networks for development in China and other countries;***
- 2. Strengthening rural family planning programme through satellite-based e-learning tools;***

New Proposals

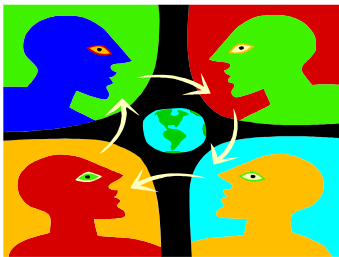
Focusing on South Asia

- ✓ *Community e-Centre*
- ✓ *e-Government*
- ✓ *Knowledge Networking*

Community e-Centre (CeC):



*A concept to describe
Community operated
communication and information facility
Flexible, multi-purpose services
Shared resources for reduced per capita
cost*



*To provide the basics for
Access to information and knowledge
Sharing education and health-care
resources
Development opportunities*

CeC: Regional Needs and Approach

Common Needs:

Affordable CeC operation

Policy framework on

Sustainability

Coordinating multi services

National capacity building

Information/local contents provision



Leap-frog opportunity : broadband

Bandwidth should be ensured

Massive production based affordability

Supporting development oriented applications

One window for almost all expectable functions by now

Main stream technology for longer technical life

Commercial broadband programmes

Rapid expanding

Applications and services in fast growth

Development oriented applications & programmes initiated

Investment to broadband is recovering

Satellites added features

Suitable for geographically under-serviced areas

Not relying on terrestrial networks

Fill gaps left by terrestrial infrastructure

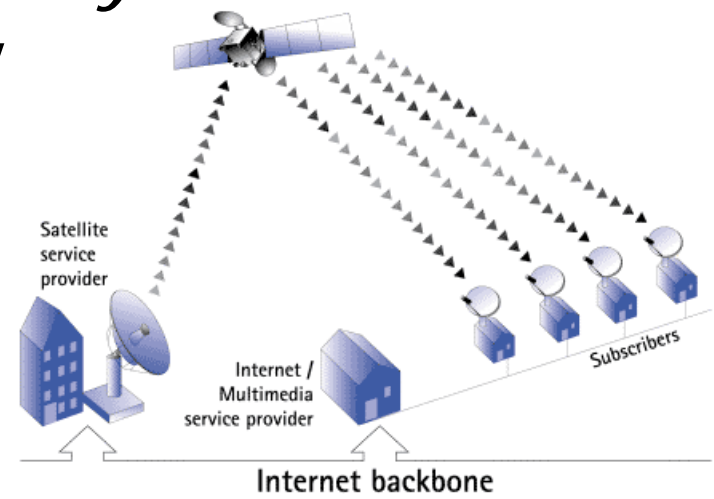
Scalable services and networking

Re-deployable connectivity

Supporting individual, community connectivity and group VPN

Promised by satellite operators:

Competitive with terrestrial broadband ISPs



e-Government: Background

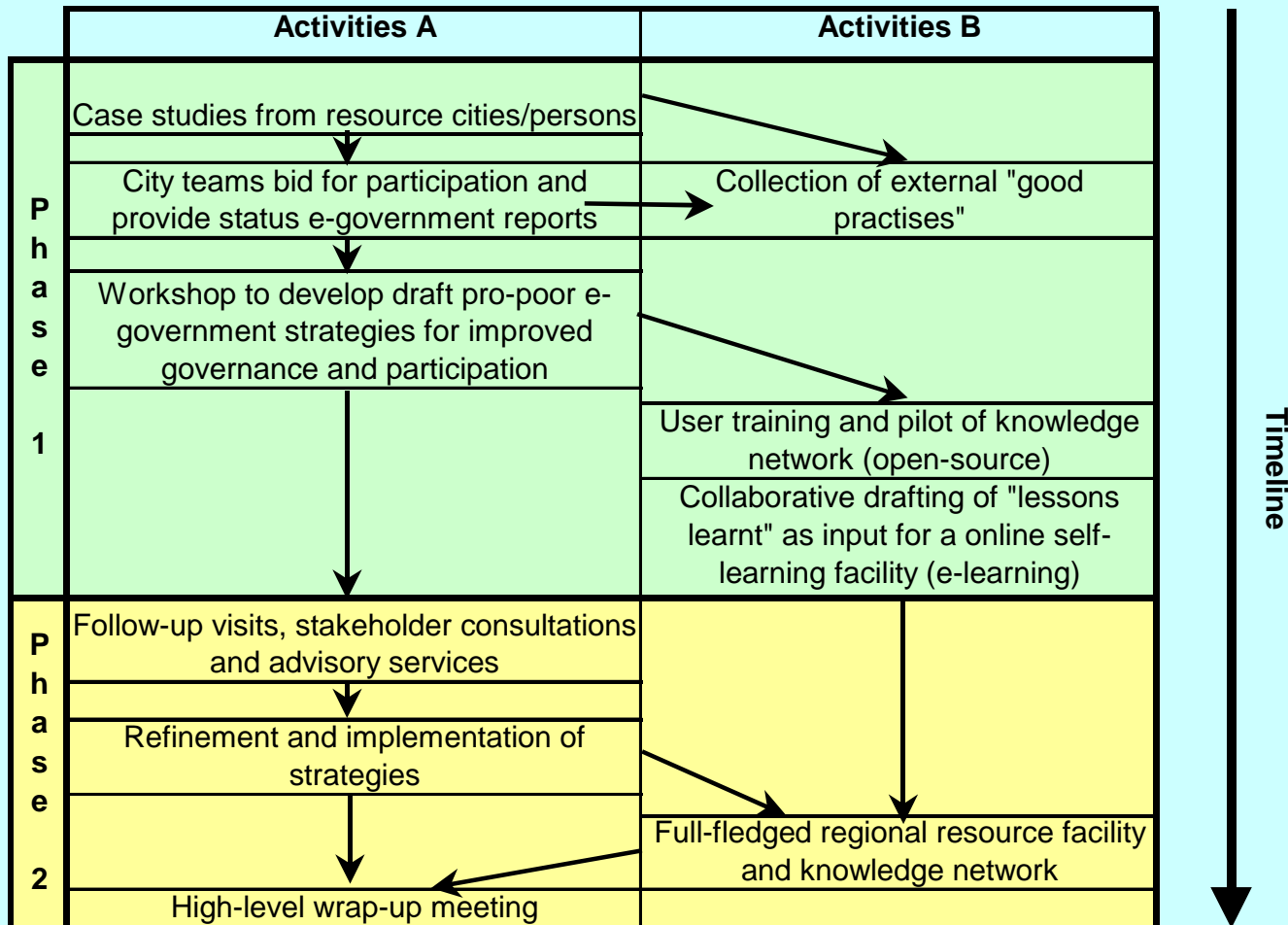
- *Definition and benefits: The use of ICT to promote more efficient and cost-effective government, facilitate more convenient government services, allow greater public access to information, and make government more accountable to citizens.*
- *Indicative Stages of e-Government*
 - *Internal information management*
 - *Provision of information first “one-way”, then “two-way”*
 - *Participation of citizens in decision-making process*
- *e-Government applications in Asia and the Pacific*
 - *Many successful local government initiatives*
 - *Little attention to G2G*
- *Focus of ESCAP activities on e-government*
 - *Build capacity through good practises and their replication*
 - *Promote e-government for poverty alleviation*
 - *Establish knowledge network to share expertise/experience*
 - *Develop strategies for coherent e-government development*

e-Government

- *Good practices and their replication in the area of e-government applications on the national and local levels. Intended outputs:*
 - *Online compendium of good practises in e-government implementation is available.*
 - *Replicate at least three successful good practices in e-government, including examples of G2G.*
- *Pro-poor, local e-government strategies for improved governance and participation: Outputs:*
 - *City teams have prepared their own e-government strategies for improved governance and participation*
 - *A knowledge network cum on-line resource, self-learning and advisory facility is operational and accessible on the Internet.*

e-Government: Planned activities of the project on local pro-poor e-government strategies

Phasing of Project Implementation



Knowledge Networking: Background

- *Knowledge Management in organizations, ministries etc.*
 - *Human, not technology-centered online workflows*
 - *“communities of practise”*
- *Knowledge Networking between institutions*
 - *Low-key infrastructure requirements*
 - *Open-source applications*
- *Knowledge-based Economy, Knowledge Society Concepts*
 - *No “re-inventing the wheel”, coherent policy for long-run growth*
- *Knowledge Management in Asia and the Pacific*
 - *Mainly private sector; technology-centric approach; still mainly information management (particularly governments)*
- *Focus of ESCAP activities on knowledge networking. Apply to:*
 - *all capacity building activities (e-government, e-business, etc.)*
 - *all collaborative activities (e.g., collecting and sharing of best practises, joint research)*
 - *management*
 - *Use of Open-source applications for knowledge networking*

Knowledge Networking

- *Establishment of the Asia-Pacific Network of Centres of Excellence in Research and Training on Knowledge Society Issues. Intended outputs:*
 - *A network of centres of excellence in the Asia and Pacific region has been set-up and is operational.*
 - *A knowledge network cum on-line resource, self-learning and advisory facility is operational and accessible on the Internet.*
- *Pro-poor, local e-government strategies for improved governance and participation (as mentioned earlier)*

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