

# WSIS, IDI and Implications for Regional Cooperation

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July 20-22, 2009

EGM, UNESCAP

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## I. ICTs and general consensus

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- **ICTs are one of the most powerful engines of growth**
- **ICTs will continue to spread and serve as critical development enablers**
- **to address digital divide by enhancing universal access and utilization of ICT is a current global issue**

## II. The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

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- **world leaders recognize the importance of ICTs as valuable assets for economic growth**
- **and express strong political commitment towards building an inclusive, people-centered and development-oriented information society**
- **held in two phase, in Geneva 2003 and Tunis 2005**
- **an important landmark in global effort to eradicate poverty and achieve the UN MDGs by 2015**

## II. The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

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- \* **The MDGs, adopted by all the UN member states in 2000, have become a universal framework for development and a means for developing countries and their development partners to work together in pursuit of a shared future for all. They represent commitments for resolving the eight issues by 2015.**

*(MDG 8) Develop a global partnership for development: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies- especially ICTs.*

## II. The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

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**- set out a vision to harness the potential of ICTs to achieve the development aspirations of the world**

**\* more specifically, to ensure access and utilization of ICTs including content**

**\* related action lines include**

*role of public authorities and stakeholders*

*infrastructure*

*access to information and knowledge*

*capacity building*

*building confidence and security*

*enabling environment*

*applications (e-something)*

*cultural diversity*

*media*

*ethical dimension*

*international and regional cooperation*

## II. The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

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- **emphasize the need to develop an ICT index for a realistic international performance evaluation and benchmarking through comparable statistical indicators and a composite index (*Geneva Plan of Action*)**
- **call for periodic evaluation through indicators and benchmarking, and an assessment of the magnitude of the digital divide (*Tunis Agenda*)**

### III. Recent development in global ICT sector

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- **ICTs continue to spread through the world**
- **more and more people have access to the Internet, including via mobile cellular networks, and its wealth of information and applications**
- **by the end of 2008, the world had reached over 4 billion mobile cellular subscriptions, 1.3 billion fixed telephone lines, and close to a quarter of the world's population using the Internet.**
- **over the past few years, strong and uninterrupted growth in most ICT services, and high demand for ICTs from large developing countries**

### III. Recent development in global ICT sector

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- **mobile phones have revolutionized telecommunication in the developing countries: an average 49.5% penetration rate at the end of 2008 from close to zero only ten years ago**
- **the number of Internet users has grown at a much slower rate, especially in developing countries; 13 internet users per 100 inhabitants at the end of 2007**
- **fixed Internet access in developing countries is still limited, often slow and/or expensive**
- **(high-speed) broadband connections are rare and mobile broadband is still insignificant in most developing countries**

## IV. Efforts to measure progress toward information society: IDI

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*\* ITU (2009), Measuring the Information Society- the ICT Development Index (IDI)*

**- need to develop a single index to track the digital divide and to measure countries' progress towards information societies**

**- guided by earlier ITU composite indices:**

*the Digital Access Index (DAI developed in 2003)*

*the Digital Opportunity Index (DOI in 2005)*

*the ICT Opportunity Index (ICT-OI in 2005)*

#### IV. Efforts to measure progress toward information society: IDI

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- ***ICT Development Index (IDI)***: to capture the level of advancement of ICTs in over 150 countries, compare progress made between 2002 and 2007

- based on three stages

*ICT readiness- network infrastructure and access to ICT*

*ICT intensity- use of ICTs in the society*

*ICT impact- efficient and effective ICT use (skills)*

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## IV-1. Global and Korea's ICT development between 2002 and 2007

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- **five years is a relatively long period in terms of information society developments, ICTs are very dynamic by nature**

### *Overall index*

- **all top ten countries of IDI in 2007 are from Europe, Korea is the only exception. They have primarily gained on the sub-index ICT use with having already fairly good ICT access and top ICT skills in 2002.**

**countries with low ICT levels are primarily from the developing world, especially LLDCs.**

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## IV-1. Global and Korea's ICT development between 2002 and 2007

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- over the five-year period, relative change in IDI was similar between developed (36%) and developing countries (38 % increase on average)
- close relationship between ICT level and income (GDP): ICI levels are highly correlated with GNI (or GDP) per capita, a correlation coefficient of 0.91 in 2007.
- \* Among those that have higher than expected ICT levels are several of the top ranking IDI countries: Sweden, the Netherlands, Denmark, Iceland, and Korea. In particular, Korea has much higher-than-expected ICT levels relative to its income level in PPP terms. This illustrates how *a strong and targeted government policy towards ICT development can drive the development of the information society with relatively low income levels.*

## IV-1. Global and Korea's ICT development between 2002 and 2007

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### *For sub-indices*

- **huge improvements in the access and use of ICTs worldwide but large disparities remain among countries**
- **for example, fast growth of mobile telephony in many countries but the digital divide is slightly closing between countries with very high and low ICT levels**

## IV-1. Global and Korea's ICT development between 2002 and 2007

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***(ICT access):* while developed countries score much higher on ICT access, developing countries have made large relative improvements (59.4% change relative to 31.5% change for DC's).**

**This suggests that developing countries are slowly catching up on ICT access.**

## IV-1. Global and Korea's ICT development between 2002 and 2007

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***(ICT use):* Relative gains were highest on the use sub-index for both developed and developing country groups, largely due to low initial value in 2002. Developing countries still have very low values on ICT use.**

**Developed countries gained highest value on the ICT use sub-index, whereas developing countries made most IDI gains on the access sub-index.**

## IV-1. Global and Korea's ICT development between 2002 and 2007

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***(ICT skills):*** reflecting the nature of the underlying indicators (adult literacy and school enrollment) related to countries' policy agendas for decades.

**Developing countries have made slightly higher improvements during the five-year period than developed countries, starting from lower levels in 2002.**

## IV-1. Global and Korea's ICT development between 2002 and 2007

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- **Korea comes second in the IDI 2007, up two places from 2002. Korea has gained 1.43 points in the index value and has the highest ICT use sub-index value (5.85) of all countries.**

**Korea has increased its broadband penetration significantly during the past few years and come second globally, after Japan, in mobile broadband penetration.**

## IV-2. Cost of ICT services

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- **high tariffs are practically a major barrier to ICT diffusion and use**
- **the new ICT price basket of ITU combines fixed telephone, mobile cellular and fixed broadband tariffs into one measure, absolute value (PPP) and relative to country's national income (GNI)**
- **provide a measurement tool for assessing ICT affordability globally**

## IV-2. Cost of ICT services

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- on average, the 2008 ICT Price Basket value corresponds to 15% of countries' average GNI per capita with variations from 1.6% in developed countries to 20% in developing countries.**

**Countries with higher income levels pay relatively little for ICT services, while low-income countries pay relatively more.**

**In addition, the high value of the ICT Price Basket in several developing countries is partly explained by very high fixed Internet broadband prices.**

**In general, countries with high prices have lower access and usage level.**

## IV-2. Cost of ICT services

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- **fixed telephone tariffs are relatively cheap in most countries, but fixed broadband tariffs are often prohibitive and a major impediment for countries embracing ICTs**
- **fixed and mobile telephony is becoming more and more affordable worldwide**
- **fixed broadband Internet is still unaffordable for the majority of people, which is one of the main policy challenges to be addressed**

## V. Global cooperation and governments' role

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- **ICTs as general purpose technologies or social infrastructure, guiding role of government policy is crucial**
- **global cooperation to share development experiences and to address global divide**

**\* ICT policy consultation program by Korea (2003-2009)**

**-2003**

**Myanmar: National Informatization and e-Government Strategy**

**Congo, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco: e-Government Project**

**- 2004**

**Vietnam: e-Government Project of Hanoi City Government**

**Indonesia: Policy and Strategy for Achieving Telecommunication Reforms**

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## V. Global cooperation and governments' role

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**- 2005**

**Cambodia: EDIS/EDMS Strategy**

**Laos: e-Procurement**

**- 2006**

**The Philippines: Construction of National Computer Emergency Response Team**

**Indonesia: Grand Design of Cyber Law**

**- 2007**

**Myanmar: Consultation on e-Government**

**Cambodia: Consultation on Competition Policy and Radio Law**

**Uzbekistan: Consultation on Cyber Security**

**Indonesia: Telecommunications Policy (\*)**

**Vietnam: National Informatization Policy (\*)**

## V. Global cooperation and governments' role

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### **- 2008**

**Lao DPR: Consultation on Interconnection Policy**

**Kazakhstan: Consultation on Spectrum Management Policy**

**South Africa: Competition Assessment of Mobile Telecommunications Markets**

**Cambodia: Telecommunications Infrastructure Construction Policy (\*)**

**Ethiopia: Informatization and e-Government (\*)**

### **- 2009**

**Vietnam: Consultation on Information Protection Policy**

**Peru: Policies for Introducing Digital Convergence Services**

**Tunis: TBD**

**The Philippines: Digital Contents, IPR & NGN (\*)**

**Colombia: Digital Contents, Information Protection Technology (\*)**

**(\*) Dispatch of Experts and on-site consultation**

## VI. Implications and recommendations

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- ***enhance awareness: ICTs are general purpose technologies and digital divide is a global issue***
- ***build human capacity to better utilize ICTs along with physical infrastructure***
- ***recognize guiding role of government policy and public-private partnership (business-friendly environment)***
- ***identify and prioritize regional needs for and affordability of cooperation***

## VI. Implications and recommendations

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- ***more balanced interests*** between global targets and region specific needs, e.g. address digital divide vs. disaster risk reduction
- **utilize current *global economic crisis as an opportunity for structural reform***: e.g., Korea accelerated its investment in ICT sector after experiencing the first and the second oil shock.

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**Thank you for your attention!**

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