



# Affordable Broadband

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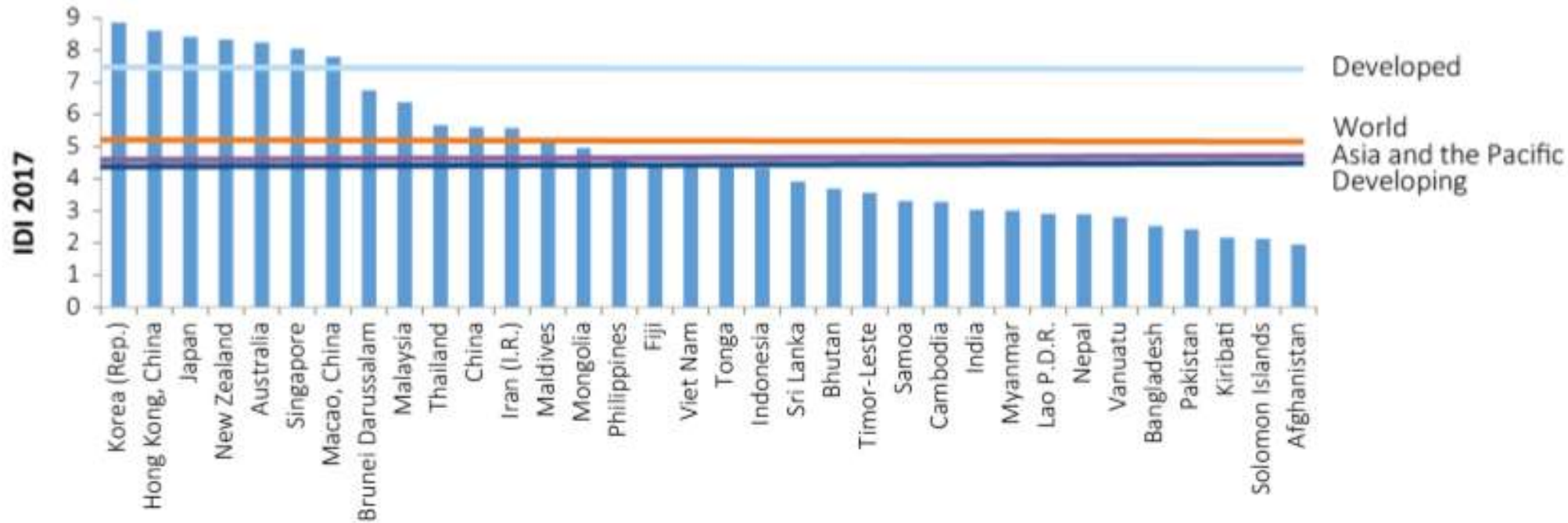
## Introduction- Global Trend

- ▶ Continued progress in connectivity and use of ICTs
- ▶ Mobile-cellular networks are increasingly pervasive and now dominate the provision of basic telecommunication service
- ▶ There has been rapid growth in mobile-broadband services. The number of mobile-broadband subscriptions worldwide now exceeds 50 per 100 inhabitants
- ▶ There are substantial digital divides between countries and regions, and between developed and developing countries (twice likely), particularly LDCs(5 times).
- ▶ There is a significant gender digital divide. Women 1 in every 7. Men 1 every 5.
- ▶ Young people are more likely to be online than their elders. 15-24 years old use 70% whereas overall average is 48%

# Global Trend



Chart 3.7: IDI values, Asia and the Pacific, IDI 2017



Source: ITU.

## ICT and SDGs

- ▶ Goals 4, 5, 9, and 17. (The organisation indicated in brackets tracks the indicator at the international level).
  - ▶ Target 4a: Proportion of schools with access to the Internet for pedagogical purposes (UIS)
  - ▶ Target 4a: Proportion of schools with access to computers for pedagogical purposes (UIS)
  - ▶ Target 4.4: Proportion of youth/adults with ICT skills, by type of skills (ITU)
  - ▶ Target 5b: Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex (ITU)
  - ▶ Target 9c: Percentage of the population covered by a mobile network, broken down by technology (ITU)
  - ▶ Target 17.6: Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions, broken down by speed (ITU)
  - ▶ Target 17.8: Proportion of individuals using the Internet (ITU)

## ICT in Pacific

- ▶ Follows the global trend
- ▶ International connectivity - Fiber optic cables
  - ▶ 10 years ago: Fiji, PNG
  - ▶ Next 10 years...all PICs will be connected via Submarine Cables
- ▶ Affordable communication costs
- ▶ Local Connectivity - average less than 40%. Some over 90%
- ▶ More resilient to natural disasters
- ▶ Need robust competition -> independent regulators
- ▶ 3G/4G mainly in CBD. 2G prevalent in rural and remote communities

## Broadband...Challenges

- ▶ Poor Domestic Connectivity
- ▶ Lack of Competition
- ▶ Independent regulators
- ▶ Cybersecurity
- ▶ Cybersafety
- ▶ Cybercrime
- ▶ Outdated legislation - Telecoms as well as cybercrime legislations

## Broadband...Challenges

- ▶ Lack of capacity/Literacy
- ▶ Access costs - devices as well as data
- ▶ Poor Power/Electricity coverage esp in rural areas
- ▶ Natural disasters...vulnerability
- ▶ Lack of leadership



## Way forward?

- ▶ Find out where we are...census/survey/indicators
- ▶ Enabling Policies/Legislation - Educate policy makers and legislators - cant effectively govern what you don't understand
- ▶ Computer crimes legislation
- ▶ Updated telecom legislation
- ▶ Universal Access Funds

# Communication Act 2015

- ▶ Section 65 Universal service regime
- ▶ (1) The Minister may direct the Ministry to develop a system, to be known as the universal service regime, to promote the widespread availability of communications services throughout the Kingdom.
- ▶ (2) The universal service regime developed by the Ministry shall be subject to the approval by declaration of the Minister

# Communication Act

- ▶ 66 Matters to be considered in a universal service regime
- ▶ (1) The matters which may be addressed in a universal service regime developed under section 65, may include but shall not be limited to:
  - ▶ (a) the needs of underserved areas within the Kingdom;
  - ▶ (b) the needs of underserved groups within the community;
  - ▶ (c) measures to encourage the installation of communications facilities and the provision of communications services to serve such underserved areas and underserved groups;
  - ▶ (d) affordability of such services;
  - ▶ (e) costs of providing such services

## Comm Act cont

- ▶ 67 Universal service rules
- ▶ (1) After the Minister has approved the universal service regime under section 65, the Regulator shall make rules about the universal service regime that may include:
  - ▶ (a) provisions governing the operation of any universal service fund;
  - ▶ (b) how any universal service funds may be applied;
  - ▶ (c) the provision of services under universal service agreements;
  - ▶ (d) a requirement on licensees to pay a universal service levy and details on how that levy will be calculated; (

## Way forward?

- ▶ Increase Demand
  - ▶ Promote use of ICT as an enabler for key sectors;
  - ▶ E-Government
  - ▶ Raise awareness about use ICT
- ▶ Tax/duty free ICT equipment e.g computers/laptops/ph

## Way forward?

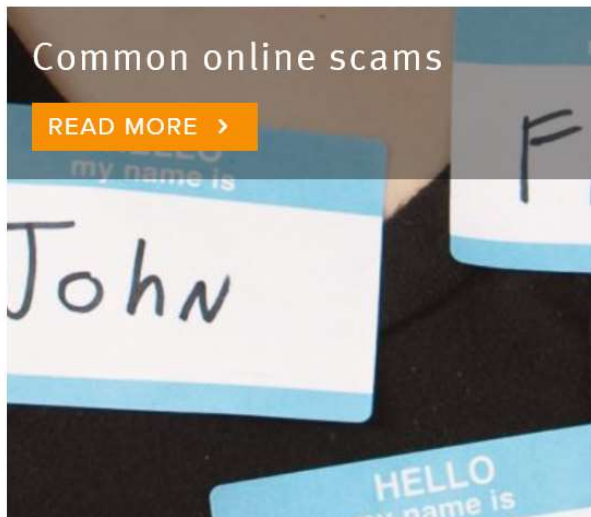
## Cont.

- ▶ Integrated approach - working with other key sectors (e.g Health and Education) to provide access to information for rural and remote communities
- ▶ Cyber security - Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- ▶ Cyber Safety - Educate and keep online communities safer

# Netsafe.org.nz - cyber safety



## Scam info & advice



## What might happen...

- ▶ Well Informed communities - weather, better practices, crops
- ▶ Better services
- ▶ Better productivity
- ▶ Improved livelihood thru better access to banking services, markets
- ▶ More efficient Value Chain



## What might happen... cont.

- ▶ Safer online experience
- ▶ ICT literate communities
  - ▶ better communication with relatives and friends, entertainment - happier communities
  - ▶ better educated with elearning, youtube etc
  - ▶ Better access to finance
  - ▶ healthier communities with better access to eHealth

ICT is only a tool...

You build it..make it safer, make it affordable,  
accessible...then they will come 😊



# Malo 'aupito / Vinaka

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