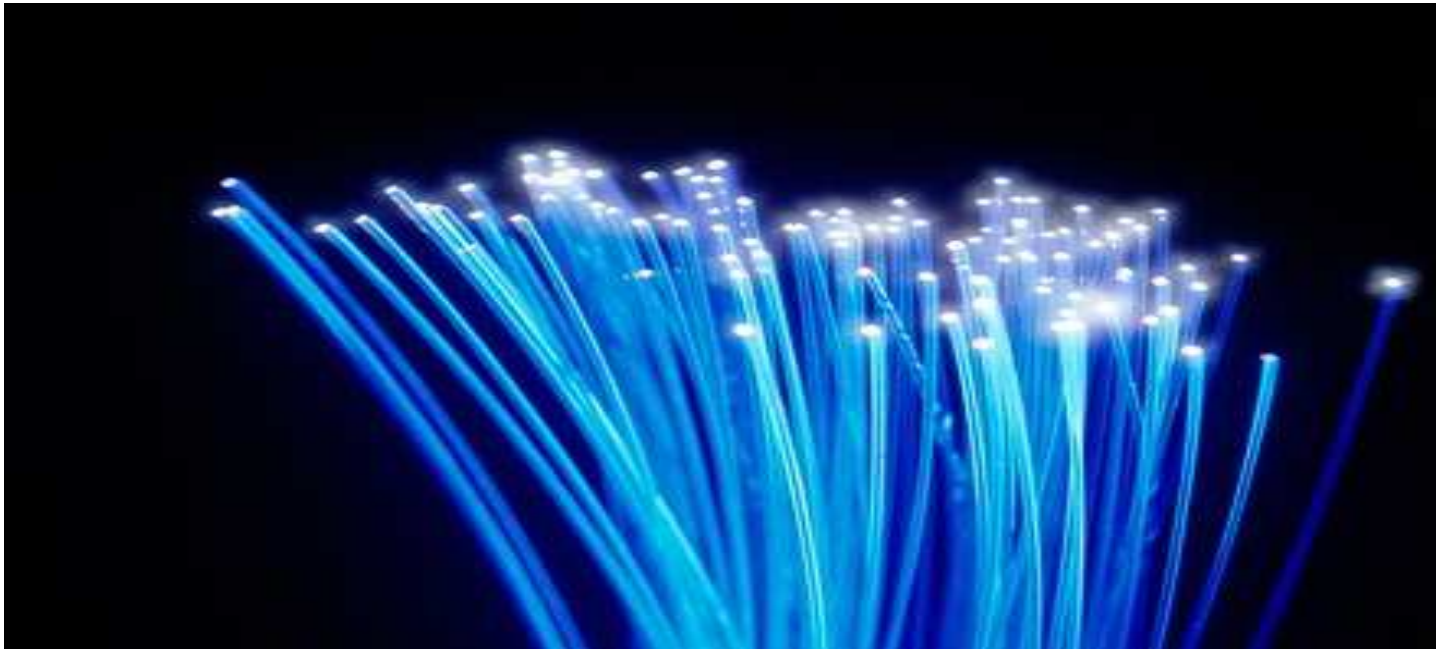


Information and Communication Technology Infrastructure



Outline

- Importance of the Information and Communication Technology Infrastructure in Afghanistan;
- Projects;
 1. Digital Silk Road
 2. Digital CASA



The importance of Information and Communication Technology Infrastructure in Afghanistan

- Communication is one of the important sectors under the national infrastructure plan and it has been reflected as one of the priority sectors under RECCA as well;

Digital Silk Road

- Afghan Fiber Optic Ring (also known as the Afghan National Civil Optical Fiber Cable-OFC ring network) is 4218km long and its connected in 7 points to five countries(Tajikistan , Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran and Pakistan)
- Survey on 9 provinces which are yet to connect to Afghan Fiber Optic Ring in progress and the connection of Afghan-China through Wakhan is in progress.

The broader regional “Digital Silk Road” aims

- To improve regional connectivity and expand the regional knowledge economy in Central, South, and Southwest Asia.
- A short-term goal (toward further extending the Digital Silk Road) of the Government of Afghanistan is to connect Badakhshan and Bamyan Provinces with the national backbone / OFC ring network.

Continued

- A medium-Term goal is to connect another two provinces to the OFC ring network (Kapisa, and Kunar with onward connections to Pakistan).
- At present, Information and Communication Technologies-ICT generate USD \$167 million per annum in public revenue in Afghanistan.
- The continued inter-continental demand from commercial bandwidth providers is driving interest in new and diverse routes that will generate: i) lower-cost access; ii) increase revenue; and iii) expand domestic penetration.

- 15 Universities and some governmental institutions are also connected with Afghan Fiber Optic Ring and 32000 Digital wired phones are being surveyed .
- 4 Customs Offices and some other organizations are also connected to Afghan Fiber Optic Ring
- Telecommunication Companies provide 3G & 4G via GSM Services all around the country.
- GSM services were first introduced in Afghanistan After 2001.
- There are five GSM service providers, Afghan Wireless, Roshan, Etisalat, MTN and Salam
- As per March , 2017 there were 23.93 million mobile users and about 2.5 million internet users in Afghanistan.

Digital Silk Road

Budget & Funding Status:

- USD \$50 million (over five years) to support new 480km OFC connecting Afghanistan to China.

Institutional Partners:

- Afghanistan, Central Asian Republics, Pakistan, Iran, China, the United States, the World Bank (Digital CASA project)

Recommended Actions by RECCA-VII and Beyond:

- Complete the Afghan Fiber Optic Ring and its 480km connection with China.
- Accelerate the work on Digital CASA and Digital TAP.
- Ensure that the duct requirements are met when laying optical fiber cables in all new roads through sharing the ten-year strategic plan for roads, as well as the establishment of an Optical Fiber Department within Da Afghanistan Breshna Shirkat.

Digital CASA

- The objective of the Digital Central Asia South Asia Project for Afghanistan is to increase access to more affordable Internet, crowd-in private investment in the ICT sector and improve the participating governments' capacity to deliver digital government services in Central Asia and parts of South Asia, through the development of a regionally integrated digital infrastructure and enabling environment.
- **The objectives of this component are to:**
- (a) Establish critical e-Government foundations that comprise the government cloud, common e-service enablers.
- (b) Deliver socioeconomic benefits to the citizens and businesses by enhancing the national portal and developing prioritized e-services to enable citizens and businesses to gain access to information and e-services through their mobile devices.
- **This component includes two subcomponents:**
- Establishment of a shared E-Government infrastructure and common e-service enablers, enhancing the national portal and prioritized e-services. The third component is the enabling environment.

Digital CASA

- Approval Date : March 28,2018
- Closing Date: March 31, 2023
- Total project Cost: USD 51 Million
- Funded by The World Bank

THANK YOU