

Regional Meeting for the Asia-Pacific LDCs Towards Graduation: A Focus on Broadband and Connectivity

Session IV: Broadband Applications and
Services for National Development

Presentation on ICT Development and
Broadband Policy: A case of Nepal

27 October 2017

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Legal, regulatory and institutional framework

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Key areas of the problem

(Picture extracted from the State of Broadband 2017)



Policy Guidance Instruments

- The 14th Periodic Development Plan (2016/017 to 2018/019)
- Graduation from LDC category by 2022
- Set the country-specific SDGs related targets to be achieved by 2030 to become a middle income country
- The 17 SDGs have been mapped into the five strategies:
 - I. Infrastructure Development
 - II. Economic Prosperity
 - III. Social Development
 - IV. Governance, and
 - V. Cross-cutting issues

Information and Communication Sector

- Constitutional guarantee of the Right to Information
- Maximum use of modern technologies to diversify services
- Emphasis on quality, accessibility of services
- Extension of telecom services to rural areas
- In line with the Universal Access Policy (UAP) and “to leave no one behind”
- Access through broadband connectivity
- Target to increase tele and internet density

The Ten Year Master Plan

- Making telecommunication services available within a “shouting distance”
- Providing on demand telecommunication services in urban areas and for manufacturing and commercial enterprises
- Services from different service providers and extension of such services to rural areas also
- Enhancement of capability to efficient utilization of ICT to improve the quality of life of Nepali people

Highlights of National Broadband Policy

- Vision for affordable, secure, reliable and ubiquitous high speed internet
- The targets for 2018 -2020 include:
- Broadband penetration rate of 30% at minimum of 512 Kbps and at least 10 Mbps download speed on demand in urban areas
- Broadband access and coverage to 45% household by 2018
- Option to chose service through multiple service providers to urban people by 2018
- Broadband services by 2020 to all rural municipalities, Govt. hospitals, health centres and district level government offices.

Targets of the ICT Policy, 2015

- Vision to convert Nepal into information and knowledge based society by utilizing ICT
- Targets for 2020 include:
 - Digital literacy of 75% of population
 - Broadband services to 90% of the population
 - E-governance through online govt. services to 80% of the citizens
 - Internet services to all citizens

Current state of Mobile, fixed phone services

<p>Mobile Operators (4) Nepal Telecom NCELL Smart Telecom United Telecom</p>	<p>Mobile Phone Access 90% households 97% Urban Areas 90% Rural Areas (CBS Survey 2014)</p>	<p>Subscription to Mobile Services: 35.45 million (NTA, MIS 2017)</p>	<p>3G Launch 2010 4G/LTE launched early 2017 by NT and NCELL SmartTel and Utel in the process to launch 4G</p>
<p>Fixed telephone penetration low Nepal Telecom dominates</p>	<p>.86 million subscribers= 3.25% density</p>	<p>Internet Services 16.4 million (61.9%) Subscriptions with fixed or wireless</p>	<p>Use GSM, CDMA, WiMAX, VSAT to spread internet services</p>
<p>Data Services</p>	<p>4 major voice operators & 71 ISPs</p>	<p>Use wired or wireless broadband</p>	<p>Internet through ADSL, Cable Modem, Fiber/LAN</p>
<p>Mobile Broadband Technology</p>	<p>About 60% internet subscription density</p>	<p>71 ISPs provide wired or wireless fixed broadband -Only 2-3% subs.</p>	<p>-TelcomInfrastructure damaged by the earthquakes</p>

Highlights of the Project

- National fiber optic backbone network alongside East West highways (over 1000 kms)
- National Telecom Authority (NTA), regulator provides funds to ISPs
- Rs. 5.4 billion (About US \$ 54 million) from the Rural Telecommunication Development Fund (RTDF) approved
- Will connect the entire nation through the enhanced broadband connectivity in two years
- Bridge the rural –urban digital divide

Highlights..

- All the district Hqs., municipalities and rural municipalities will be connected, including ward level
- Implementation of the project in public-private partnership (PPP)
- Nepal Telcom is designated to work in Provinces 1, 2 & 3, the United Telcom in Provinces 4 & 5 and the Smart Telcom in Provinces 6 & 7
- Will broaden internet highway in the shape of “Fishbone” connecting East West crossing North and South points.
- Ensure high speed connectivity, and even people in remote areas can access voice, video and data services cutting off sole dependency on satellite based network

Earthquake hit areas

- High priority of connecting 14 districts badly hit by the 2015 earthquakes with broadband internet
- Places which do not have telecom tower will be provided with microwave link based network

Way Forward

- Promote e-governance and e-services
- <https://nepal.gov.np/> and various applications
- Synergy and integration local, provincial and central level governance through technologies
- Need to strengthen international/regional connectivity (Chinese and Indian bandwidth)
- Technology Bank for LDCs established in September 2017 should strengthen national capacity of LDCs for science and technological development
- Technical and financial support to LDCs
- Special circumstances faced by LDCs on the way to graduation

Thank You for your kind attention!