



Information Policies in Asia

A Review of Information and Communication
Policies in the Asian Region

Nick Moore

Disclaimer

The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNESCO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The author is responsible for the choice and the presentation of the facts contained in this book and for the opinions expressed therein, which are not necessarily those of UNESCO and do not commit the Organisation.

ISBN 92-9223-076-X

© UNESCO 2005

Published by
Communication and Information (CI) in Asia
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNESCO Bangkok
920 Sukhumvit Rd., Prakanong
Bangkok 10110, Thailand

Printed in India

Design and Production: Silverline Communications
Email: silverlinecom2003@yahoo.com

Information Policies in Asia

A review of information and communication
policies in the Asian Region

Nick Moore

December 2005

Contents

● Summary.....	9
Session-1	
● Introduction.....	14
Session-2	
● The Scope of Information Policy.....	16
Session-3	
● Overall Policy and Vision.....	22
Session-4	
● Telecommunications Infrastructure.....	26
Session-5	
● The Information Sector.....	30
Session-6	
● Information and Organisations.....	34
Session-7	
● Information in Society.....	38
Session-8	
● Legal and Regulatory Framework.....	42
Session-9	
● Skills and Competencies.....	46
● Conclusions.....	50
● Appendix 1: The Research Approach.....	53
● Appendix 2: Country Information Sheets.....	55

Foreword

In the new era of Knowledge Societies, it is knowledge and information that are the most important factors of production and wealth creation. How well an individual, an organisation, and an entire society can harness, access, share, and make use of available knowledge and information will ultimately decide their ability to generate economic growth and to enhance the quality of life for all. It might also be useful to note that the Asia region contains some of the world's most advanced knowledge and information societies – Japan and South Korea - but also some that are at the very early stages of the process of transition to knowledge - and information-based societies. This is why UNESCO commissioned this survey on Information Policy – to highlight what needs to be done and to provide an opportunity for countries to learn from each other.

An Information Policy will depend on the ability to integrate and apply such technologies as computers, telephones, television, electronic mail, on-line retrieval, and other multimedia. They make up what is collectively called information technology or information and communication technology - ICT.

There is a need for proper co-ordination of initiatives and the avoidance of duplication. Nowhere is this approach more likely to produce returns than with Information Policy, since it cuts across so many different departmental responsibilities. However, the job cannot be left to the market alone, because the market will be unable to guarantee that its investment in information for citizens will meet all of society's needs.

UNESCO has been in the forefront of Information Policy development, from the late 1960s with UNISIST (United Nations International Scientific and Information System) and

NATIS (National Technical Information System). That early focus on scientific information has broadened to the current concern with the wider question of the social and economic impact of information and communication services.

Three main areas of concern can be identified for an Information Policy: connectivity, content and competencies. Each needs to be dealt within a context. In addition the aspects that are highlighted in the report are:

- The role of multilateral agencies and donor countries in helping less developed countries to build basic telecommunications infrastructure.
- The need for policies to support the development of the information sector in the economy.
- The need to support the education and training of information specialists, as distinct from ICT-specialists.
- The need to move from ICT literacy to information literacy.

The challenge to governments, therefore, is the re-thinking of their role, their laws, their rules, their regulations, and their national policies in the cyberspace era, so that they maximise the driving forces propelling them to exploit to the fullest potential the positive benefits of the Knowledge Society, while at the same time minimising the negative, constraining forces that act as barriers to frustrate this exploitation.



Sheldon Shaeffer
Director, UNESCO Bangkok
January 2006

Summary

The overall aim of the study is to review critically the pattern of information policies that have developed within Asian countries.

Within this broad aim, the study has three specific objectives:

- To identify the information policies and initiatives that exist in each of the Asian countries
- To identify points of similarity, gaps and examples of innovative practice from which others might learn
- To provide an overall assessment of the state of information policy in the Region.

The scope of information policy

The scope of information policy is broad. For the purposes of this study information policy can be defined as the collection of policies and strategies that are designed to promote the development of an information-based society. These policies include, but extend beyond, those that are concerned with the promotion and use of information and communication technology.

Overall policy and vision

The countries that have made most progress in the transition to information societies are those that have produced overall policy documents

that provide a vision, set out the scope of the framework of policies and specify the measures that will be employed to achieve the policy goals.

The critical issue is the extent to which information and communication technology is seen as an end in itself or as an *enabler of economic and social development*. Most of the overall policies tend to focus on information and communication technologies; overall information society policies are rare.

Telecommunications infrastructure

The telecommunications infrastructure is the most important component of an information-based society. It must be possible to communicate large amounts of digital information and data quickly and securely. Further, everyone in the society should have ready and affordable access to the telecommunications network.

The sophistication of national telecommunications infrastructures varies widely across the region: from the two small, relatively wealthy states of Brunei and Singapore, where the networks are technologically sophisticated and are universally accessible, to the geographically large, predominantly rural, low income countries, such as Kazakhstan or Mongolia where the telecommunications network is much more limited in terms of its reach and capacity.

Most countries have policies or strategies that are designed to support the development of the telecommunications infrastructure. Activity in some of the less developed countries is supported by multi-lateral agencies which have helped to shape the strategy.

The information sector

The information sector is an important part of a country's economy. It is usually considered to have three broad sub-sectors: content, delivery and processing.

Most of the countries aim to support the provision of local information content, often in local languages. Some countries are beginning to position themselves so that they can take advantage of the trend among high-cost countries towards out-sourcing information processing to countries with lower costs.

Information and organisations

Most countries that want to make the transition to information-based societies try to encourage organisations in the public and private sectors to develop information-intensive ways of working. The policies cover the use of information as a resource to increase productivity, efficiency and competitiveness and, in due course, to move up the value chain. The policies often focus specifically on the use of digital technology.

Most countries in the Region have active plans to make more extensive use of information and communication technology in the public sector. Many have also established e-government strategies of one kind or another. The picture in the private sector is similar. About half of the countries in the Region have policies designed to encourage private companies to make greater use of information and communication technology to improve productivity. Many also try to encourage the development of e-commerce.

Information in society

The social use of information covers the policies and measures that are concerned with the provision and use of information by individuals in their roles as citizens and as consumers. It also includes the measures that are designed to support the provision, and the use, of information by marginalised groups within society – something that is often known as overcoming the digital divide.

Given the importance of information within society, and the role that it can play in the development process, it is surprising that only a third of the countries have stated policies or strategies to promote the social use of information. Five countries have explicit policies designed to overcome the digital divide problem.

Legal and regulatory framework

Legal and regulatory issues are important and they form a key part of any framework of information policy. They should enable the information sector to prosper; the information-intensive organisations to function effectively and the social dimension of the information society to operate smoothly.

Most countries have established basic copyright legislation. Legislation to protect personal data is less common. About a third of the countries have laws governing the citizens' rights of access to official information. The rights are not always, however, unrestricted.

Skills and competencies

An information-based society demands a range of skills from the people who live within it. Everyone needs a basic level of information literacy. In addition, many people within society will need more advanced, but still general, information-handling skills.

Finally, there are the skills that are required by information specialists.

Many countries have policies to raise the level of information and communication technology skills for students within the school system. All the policies, however, take a narrow view of ICT literacy, aiming only to equip people with the skills required to make effective use of the technology.

Over a third of the countries in the Region have developed policies to support the development of general information-handling skills. In many cases, this is achieved through improved provision of information technology facilities in the higher education sector.

Most of the countries in the Region have policies that are designed to train ICT specialists. Few, however, go beyond this to include specialists in the creation, manipulation, processing and use of information itself.

Conclusions

There is a wide disparity across the Region. A small number of countries can be thought of as fully operational information societies. A rather larger group seem to be at a very early stage in the process of transforming themselves into information societies. Between these two groups are countries that are at various different stages of development.

It seems likely that the international digital divide will continue to grow in the future. International organisations have an important role to play in helping to overcome this problem.

Across the Region, there is a lack of policy to support the information sector. This sector of the economy will grow in importance and countries should be working now to avoid a position where they become dependant on imports.

There is a substantial body of policy concerned with the development of skills and competencies. Much of this, however, is concerned quite narrowly with the development of skills in the use of information and communications

technology. There is a general need to emphasise the I in ICT. Information technology literacy needs to be broadened into information literacy. The development of information literacy should be universal. This implies provision of education and training within and outside the school system.

Education and training policies are needed to produce skilled information professionals as well as information technology and telecommunications experts. Unesco has a particular role to play here.



Session-1

Introduction

The convergence of computing and telecommunications can have a profound effect on a country. The greatest impact is in the economic sphere: digital technology can improve productivity; create new employment opportunities; accelerate the rate of economic growth; stimulate innovation and change the economic relationships between countries.

It is not just the economy that can be affected: societies and the social relationships that hold them together can undergo change. People can increasingly use information to exert their rights as citizens and to make decisions as consumers. The technology can, therefore, change the relationship between citizens and the state and between consumers and the marketplace. As a result, individuals can become more aware of their rights of access to official information and the need to protect their

privacy and personal information.

Digital technology can also have an impact on cultural and political life, although in these areas the most significant changes are yet to come.

This process of economic, social, cultural and political transformation will almost certainly be the defining characteristic of the early 21st century.

The policy response

Faced with the challenges presented by digital technology, countries all over the world have begun to evolve frameworks of policy that will enable them to maximise the advantages offered by the technology while minimising the potential disadvantages.

The process began in the mid-1990s in the USA when the Clinton-Gore

administration began to develop their plans for what they called a 'National Information Infrastructure'. This triggered a reaction in the European Union and other advanced economies as they sought to protect their economic competitiveness.

Since then countries all over the world - large and small; capitalist and communist; advanced and developing - have started to produce their own policy frameworks in response to the opportunities and threats presented by digital technology and the resulting competitive global economy.

The essential question that this study tries to answer is 'How are the countries of Asia responding?'

Aim and objectives

The overall aim of the study is to review critically the pattern of information policies that have developed within Asian countries.

Within this broad aim, the study has three specific objectives:

- To identify the information policies and initiatives that exist in each of the Asian countries
- To identify points of similarity, gaps and examples of innovative practice from which others might learn
- To provide an overall assessment of the state of information policy in the Region.

Limitations

From the outset, it is necessary to bear in mind the limitations of the work. The study was desk-based, that is to say, the information was collected from published sources and

from information that is freely available on the internet. It was not possible to visit the countries concerned, nor to interview any of the key players. (*The research approach is described more fully in Appendix 1*).

The information presented here, therefore, is confined to what was available on the internet. While it was possible to gather considerable amounts of information, the searches were constrained by language skills: the searches were conducted in English and therefore missed all the material that appears only in languages used in the Region.

The results also present the position as it stood at the time of the survey: a snapshot in time. This is a significant limitation as the position is constantly changing and, in many countries, the pace of change is rapid.

Resource constraints meant that it was only possible to record whether or not a policy existed and to note its key features. It was not possible to assess the scope, content and nature of each policy recorded. This obviously constrains the conclusions that can be drawn from the material.

Even when policies are identified, it is important to recognise that the existence of a policy does not necessarily imply that anything is actually happening. The world is full of unrealised policies and failed initiatives. Equally, the lack of a formal policy does not necessarily mean that nothing is happening: for example, in the early 1990s the British government's information society policy was to have no policy but simply to rely on market forces

Readers of this report should bear these limitations in mind.



Session-2

The Scope of Information Policy

The scope of information policy is broad. It consists of the collection of policies and strategies that are designed to promote the development of an information-based society. They include statements of policy, legislation and regulations as well as programmes and initiatives designed to achieve policy goals.

These policies include, but extend beyond, those that are concerned with the promotion and use of information and communication technology. The information policies are concerned primarily with the economic and social use of information. In some countries the policies also extend to the use of information in the cultural and political spheres.

Overall policy and vision

The countries that have made most

progress in the transition to information societies are those that have produced overall policy documents that provide a vision, set out the scope of the framework of policies and specify the measures that will be employed to achieve the policy goals.

Telecommunications infrastructure

The telecommunications infrastructure is the most important component of an information-based society. It must be possible to communicate large amounts of digital information and data quickly and securely. Further, everyone in the society should have ready and affordable access to the telecommunications network.

Network development

A starting point, therefore, is the policy towards the development of the

telecommunications network. In many countries it is necessary to construct the network from a very low base; extending its coverage and increasing its capacity. In other countries it is a question of maintaining the technological sophistication of an existing network so that it does not become obsolete.

Public and private sector roles

Developing the network usually involves policies to manage the respective roles of the public and private sectors. Most telecommunications infrastructures were created initially as state monopolies. Increasingly, however, the private sector has become involved in building and running telecommunication services. In part, this is a simple response on the part of government faced with the need to invest large amounts of capital in the networks. There is also, however, pressure from the World Trade Organisation, which many countries wish to join, and which has as one of its pre-conditions for membership, an open and de-regulated telecommunications system.

Pricing policy

The telecommunications pricing policy is also important. The cost of provision is usually lowest in urban centres and highest in rural areas. Market forces alone, therefore, will tend to encourage low prices in urban areas where costs are low and competition is fiercest, and high prices in rural areas. Most governments try, through policy, to ensure that the price of telecommunications services is broadly equal across the country.

Universal access

Closely related to this is the concept of universal access. Countries generally try to

ensure that everyone has access to the telecommunications network. Geographical conditions make the achievement of this goal difficult even for state monopolies. It is, however, much more difficult to achieve in a de-regulated system where market forces mean that providers are reluctant to invest in remote areas with dispersed populations. Policies on universal access are, therefore, important.

Regulation

Finally, there is the question of regulation. In a state monopoly there is seldom any provision for regulation by an independent body. In a de-regulated system where services are provided by competing private sector companies, there is a real need for some form of regulation.

The information sector

The information sector is an important part of a country's economy and many countries have developed policies to support its development. The overall sector is usually considered to have three broad sub-sectors: content, delivery and processing.

Information content

The information content sub-sector is concerned with the production and development of intellectual property. It includes the organisations that take the raw intellectual property and process it in different ways so that it can be distributed and sold to consumers. A key issue is the role of the public sector in content creation and the relationship between the public and private sector in making that content accessible.

Information delivery

The information delivery sub-sector is concerned with the delivery and distribution of information content in conventional and digital formats. It therefore includes booksellers, libraries, analogue broadcasting companies, cable television networks, terrestrial and satellite broadcasters, mobile telecommunications providers, radio and television broadcasters and the providers of value-added network services - services provided through the telecommunications networks, but which offer more than basic voice telephony: anything from information about the weather to traffic news; from information about health to guides to local events.

Informing processing

The third segment of the information industry is concerned with information processing. This includes the rapidly growing organisations that undertake the computing and information processing function for other organisations. This sub-sector also includes research and consultancy organisations.

Information and organisations

Most countries that want to make the transition to information-based societies try to encourage organisations in the public and private sectors to develop information-intensive ways of working. The policies cover the use of information as a resource to increase productivity, efficiency and competitiveness and, in due course, to move up the value chain. The policies often focus specifically on the use of digital technology.

The public sector and e-government

The public sector is, in most countries, one of the foremost producers and consumers of information. There is, therefore, much to be gained from using information and communication technology to improve the efficiency with which information is processed. Many countries have developed policies and strategies to encourage this.

Increasingly, governments are going further and encouraging the development of e-government. This goes beyond the simple use of technology to improve information processing. It is concerned with the use of digital technology and, specifically, telecommunications to enable individuals and organisations to interact and transact with government.

Private sector and e-commerce

Much the same applies in the private sector. Governments try to make the private sector more efficient, and therefore more competitive, by encouraging them to use information as a resource. Many governments also try to encourage organisations to use information better so that they can move up the value chain, moving, for example, from manufacturing into design and marketing. Within the context of an increasingly global economy, some countries see the improved use of digital technology as an opportunity to benefit from the trend towards out-sourcing, where countries in high-cost regions, export data processing and other activities to countries with lower costs.

Just as with e-government, it is possible to identify the development of e-commerce. This broad term is used to cover all the transactional activities that can take place between businesses and between businesses and their customers.

Enabling policy

For e-government and e-commerce to operate effectively, it is necessary to put in place specific laws, regulations and policies. These cover issues like the validity of digital signatures, the enforceability of electronic contracts and the jurisdiction of cross-border transactions.

Information in society

In the process of developing an information-based society, attention usually focuses first on the use of information within the economy: the development of the information sector and the promotion of information use within organisations. It is increasingly recognised, however, that the wider issue of information use in society is just as important.

The social use of information covers the policies and measures that are concerned with the provision and use of information by individuals in their roles as citizens and as consumers.

It also includes the measures that are designed to support the provision to, and the use of, information by marginalised groups within society – something that is often known as overcoming the digital divide.

Legal and regulatory framework

Legal and regulatory issues are important and they form a key part of any framework of information policy. They should enable the information sector to prosper; the information-intensive organisations to function effectively and the social dimension of the information society to operate smoothly.

Intellectual property rights

A robust system of laws to protect intellectual property rights is essential. As the world becomes more reliant on the intellectual property embodied in books, music, films, television programmes, software and databases, individuals and organisations that create the intellectual property must be reassured that they can prevent others from profiting from it.

The two basic elements in an intellectual property rights regime are first, copyright, which protects things like books, journals, films, music and, software. Secondly there are patents which protect inventions. In addition, many countries now have laws that make it possible to protect trade marks, brands, designs and even the geographical origin of products.

This study concentrates on copyright issues.

Data protection

Data protection legislation tries to ensure that personal information about individuals is protected and not communicated or used

irresponsibly. It provides every individual with a degree of privacy. It is a concept that first developed within the European Union in the 1970s and is now well-established in all of the member states.

Its global significance arises because the European Union legislation prevents organisations from communicating personal data to other organisations operating in countries that do not have a similar level of data protection. Any country wishing to benefit from the current trend within the European Union to out-source data processing, therefore, needs to develop some form of data protection law.

Access to information

As people and organisations make increased use of information, they expect to be able to have access to the information held by the government and other official bodies. In many countries, these rights of access are embodied in freedom of information legislation. In others the rights are defined in codes of practice and regulations.

Censorship

The right of a government to deny its citizens access to information was once unchallenged. These days, however, it is much more contentious and few governments freely admit to censoring information. The issue has, however, become more prominent with the spread of global communications and the resulting danger that local cultures can become distorted or overwhelmed by

information products – such as websites, films, news programmes and computer games - that are shaped by different cultural norms and values.

Skills and competencies

An information-based society demands a range of skills from the people who live within it.

Information literacy

Everyone needs a basic level of information literacy¹. This includes, but goes beyond, the more commonly-stated issue of information-technology literacy, which is essentially concerned with the skills that individuals need to make effective use of the technology. Information literacy implies much more than that: it implies the ability to identify information needs, to search for and to gather information, to assess and evaluate the information collected and to use it to achieve a specific goal.

Skills of this kind are required by everyone living in an information society. And, as the society becomes more information-intensive, the lack of information literacy becomes a severe disadvantage, leading to social exclusion. Many countries, therefore, have developed policies that try to ensure that there is a basic level of information literacy throughout society.

General information-handling skills

In addition to basic information literacy, many people within society will need more advanced, but still general information-

¹ For a discussion of information literacy, see: Ana Maria Ramalho Correia (2002) *Information literacy for an active and effective citizenship: a White paper prepared for Unesco and others*. The Information Literacy Meeting of Experts, Prague, The Czech Republic, 2002. (<http://www.nclis.gov/libinter/infolitconf&meet/papers/correia-fullpaper.pdf>).

handling skills. These are the kind of skills that are required by people like teachers, managers, doctors and lawyers – the kind of skills that enable them to make the best use of information in their daily work.

Information specialists

Finally, there are the skills that are required by information specialists. These are the people who will create information products and services, collect the information into databases and libraries, communicate the

information to others and work as information consolidators, processing information on behalf of other people.

The study

This study set out to collect information about the national policies in all of these areas that have been developed within the Asian Region. *The results are tabulated in Appendix 2* which lists all the policies that were identified and which provides website addresses so that they can be followed up.

A photograph showing two women in a professional setting. One woman is leaning over a computer monitor, looking at the screen. The other woman is sitting at the desk, also looking at the screen. They appear to be in a meeting or collaborative work environment.

Session-3

Overall Policy and Vision

The importance of an overall policy and vision cannot be over-stated. The transition to an information society involves far-reaching changes to a country's economic, social, cultural and political life. To support and accelerate this process of transition, therefore, it is first necessary to build a strong consensus around a clear vision of the society of the future. Secondly, it is necessary to develop a coordinated set of policies and strategies.

Nearly all of the most successful information societies have produced overall statements of this kind, built around a clear vision of the future. What is more, they have revised and reformulated the vision and policy periodically as circumstances change.

The starting point for this study,

therefore, was to establish which countries have produced overall information-society policies. The results are shown in Table 1.

The critical issue is the extent to which information and communication technology is seen as an *enabler of economic and social development*. In other words, when reviewing the policies it is important to consider the extent to which they look beyond the immediate need to develop and manage the technologies and go on to consider the ways in which they can be used to bring about social and economic change.

Table 1 shows that most of the overall policies tend to focus on information and communication technologies; overall information society policies are rare. The examples of these overall policies are those that have been developed

Table 1. Overall policy statements

Overall policy		
	Information society focus	Policies with an ICT focus
Afghanistan		
Bangladesh		
Bhutan		
Brunei		
Cambodia		
China		
India		
Indonesia		
Iran		
Japan		
Kazakhstan		
Korea (DPR)		
Korea (Rep)		
Kyrgyzstan		
Laos		
Malaysia		
Mongolia		
Myanmar		
Nepal		
Pakistan		

	Information society focus	Policies with an ICT focus
Philippines		
Singapore		
Sri Lanka		
Tajikistan		
Thailand		
Turkmenistan		
Uzbekistan		
Vietnam		

in: Bhutan, Brunei, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and, to a lesser extent, Sri Lanka.

Of these, the most sophisticated seem to be those produced in Korea and Singapore. In both cases, they are far-reaching, covering social and cultural issues as well as the economic. They are also the latest in a series of information society policies that have been used to guide national development. An important characteristic seems to be the fact that progress towards the vision set out in the policy has been monitored and new editions of the general policy have been produced as

circumstances change.

The Japanese policy is interesting because it is in the form of a basic law.

It is more common to have policies that cover much of the same ground but which focus directly on telecommunications or, more broadly, on information and communication technology. Examples here are: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Vietnam. Kazakhstan has a national information infrastructure policy but it is fairly limited

In **Singapore** the overall framework policy is *Singapore ONE* (One Network for Everyone), which is a national initiative that delivers a new level of interactive, multimedia applications and services to homes, businesses and schools throughout Singapore. (<http://www.ida.gov.sg/idaweb/broadband/infopage.jsp?infopagecategory=&infopageid=1880&versionid=7>).

in scope – it does not, for example, seem to have much to say about telecommunications.

In some countries - China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan - it was not possible to trace an overall policy. In Laos it seems that something is in preparation.



Session-4

Telecommunications Infrastructure

An efficient, high-capacity telecommunications network is an essential foundation for the development of a modern information society. It must be possible to communicate large amounts of data quickly, reliably and affordably around the system. Countries need: to establish how they will develop the existing network; to specify the roles of the public and private sectors; to set out a pricing policy; to have a view on universal access and to establish a robust regulatory regime. Table 2 shows how the Asian countries shaped up.

Network development plan

The sophistication of national telecommunications infrastructures varies widely across the region. In the two small, relatively wealthy states of Brunei and Singapore, the networks are technologically sophisticated and are universally accessible. The penetration rate of fixed line services is

almost 100 per cent, wireless telephony is commonplace and nearly everyone has access to high-capacity broadband services. The issue for these countries is to maintain the technological sophistication of the networks.

In marked contrast, there are some geographically large, predominantly rural, low income countries, such as Kazakhstan or Mongolia where the telecommunications network is much more limited in terms of its reach and capacity.

Most countries have policies or strategies that are designed to support the development of the telecommunications infrastructure.

Activity in some of the less developed countries is supported by multi-lateral agencies which have helped to shape the

Table 2: Telecommunications infrastructure policies

Telecommunications infrastructure					
	Development plan	Public-Private	Pricing	Universal Access	Regulation
Afghanistan					
Bangladesh					
Bhutan					
Brunei					
Cambodia					
China					
India					
Indonesia					
Iran					
Japan					
Kazakhstan					
Korea (DPR)					
Korea (Rep)					
Kyrgyzstan					
Laos					
Malaysia					
Mongolia					
Myanmar					
Nepal					

	Development plan	Public-Private	Pricing	Universal Access	Regulation
Pakistan					
Philippines					
Singapore					
Sri Lanka					
Tajikistan					
Thailand					
Turkmenistan					
Uzbekistan					
Vietnam					

strategy. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Bank are, for example, supporting the development of the infrastructure in Kyrgyzstan. Support of this kind is particularly important in countries where telecommunications networks need upgrading and/or extending to provide universal access.

The network development policy is often embodied in law. Afghanistan, for example, passed the *Telecommunications Services Establishment Act* in 2005. Other countries with a similar legal framework

include Bangladesh, Malaysia and The Philippines. In other cases, such as Tajikistan, the telecommunications law simply addresses the question of regulation.

Public and private sector roles

There seems to be a general trend towards de-regulation and the liberalisation of telecommunications providers. Most were originally state monopolies but they are now being opened up to the private sector. In part this is a means of attracting foreign investment to fund the considerable

In **Vietnam** the Directorate General of Post and Telecommunications continues to lower charges for Internet and tele-communications services to match those in the region. During 2003, 12 types of services fees were reduced by about 10 - 25 percent. (http://www.digital-review.org/05_Vietnam.htm).

capital investments that are required. It is also necessary to recognise the influence of the World Trade Organisation which requires countries to have a liberalised telecommunications sector as a pre-condition of membership. As a result of both these factors, most countries in the region have either opened the market to private sector providers or have plans to do so.

Pricing policy

Four countries - Bhutan, India, Japan and Vietnam - have specific pricing policies for telecommunications services. All are designed to make telecommunications as affordable as possible. In other countries, such as the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, The Philippines and Singapore, there is an expectation that competition will ensure that prices stay low.

Universal access

There are few countries where universal access to telecommunications is not an issue. Two of them – Brunei and Singapore – are in this Region. For most other countries, though, universal access is an important issue.

There are two ways of ensuring that everyone has access to telecommunications. First is to establish a development plan that will extend the network throughout the country. This is

appropriate in countries like Indonesia, Iran and Sri Lanka where telecommunications is still predominantly provided by the state.

The alternative is to impose on private sector providers and obligation to make their services universally accessible. Clearly, this approach is of limited application as it may well deter new entrants to the market, particularly in countries with low penetration rates and geographically difficult terrain. To overcome this potential barrier to development, Bhutan and China have taken steps to meet the extra costs incurred by providers.

Cambodia, India, Malaysia and Sri Lanka are trying to overcome the universal access problem by establishing community information centres that will provide access to the telecommunications network and, through it, to the internet.

Regulation

As the provision of telecommunications services is opened up to multiple providers, operating within a competitive market, it becomes necessary to establish some form of regulation. Nearly all the countries in the Region have, therefore, established a regulatory regime for the telecommunications sector. Most of the regulators are established by statute.

In **Bhutan** the draft *Information, Communications and Media Act* places a universal service obligation on providers but, given the inherent geographical difficulties, the government has established a Universal Service Fund that can be used to compensate providers for the extra costs involved in meeting their obligations.

(<http://www.dit.gov.bt/legislations/bicmact.pdf>).



Session-5

The Information Sector

The information sector is an important part of the economy in an information society. The sector should be capable of meeting much of the demand for information that is generated within the country, thus avoiding the need for imports. It may also be able to generate exportable information.

For some countries within the Asian Region, considerable economic opportunities are offered by the trend among high-cost countries towards outsourcing information processing to countries with lower costs. India has already benefited from this and there are signs that other countries are beginning to position themselves so that they can take advantage of the trend.

Content

Most of the policies aim to support the provision of local information content. The Singapore government, for

The **Pakistan** government has established the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Agency to:

- Improve standards of content creation
- Enlarge the range of available content
- Improve local and community access to digital content
- Promote the free flow of information

(<http://www.pemra.gov.pk/>)

Table 3: Policies for the information sector

	Information content	Information delivery	Information processing
Afghanistan			
Bangladesh			
Bhutan			
Brunei			
Cambodia			
China			
India			
Indonesia			
Iran			
Japan			
Kazakhstan			
Korea (DPR)			
Korea (Rep)			
Kyrgyzstan			
Laos			
Malaysia			
Mongolia			
Myanmar			
Nepal			

	Information content	Information delivery	Information processing
Pakistan			
Philippines			
Singapore			
Sri Lanka			
Tajikistan			
Thailand			
Turkmenistan			
Uzbekistan			
Vietnam			

example, is itself an active provider of content and applications which is aimed at Singaporeans and it supports private sector providers of this type of material.

Bhutan, India, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan and Thailand aim to support the local information content sector more generally, while in the Republic of Korea there is a specific focus on supporting the provision of content that helps to bridge the digital divide.

Four countries – Bhutan, Iran, Malaysia and Pakistan - have a specific focus on supporting the development of information content in local languages as well as content that supports the local culture.

Delivery

Most countries have general laws regulating and licensing radio and television broadcasting services. China has taken steps to regulate internet electronic bulletin services and Malaysia both regulates and supports the delivery sector under the *Communications and Multimedia Act (1998)*.

Processing

Malaysia has a major programme to support the development of the information processing sector of the economy. It has created the Multi-Media Super Corridor as a major capital investment programme. This will foster and support information society developments

generally and information processing industries in particular.

In The Philippines the Department of Trade and Industry is keen to develop the country as a centre for out-sourced

information work. It has designated the information technology and technology-enabled industries as one of the Department's 10 priority development sectors.



Session-6

Information and Organisations

Encouraging organisations in the public and private sector to make more intensive use of information has always been an issue for governments that are trying to develop as information societies. In recent years, this has been given added focus by the moves towards e-government and e-commerce.

Public sector and e-government

Most countries in the Region have active plans to make more extensive use of information and communication technology in the public sector. Many have also established e-government

strategies of one kind or another.

In the less developed countries, this does not go far beyond an attempt to make greater use of computers. Bangladesh, for example wants to computerise work that is currently performed manually.

In countries that already make intensive use of information and communication technology in the public sector, like Japan, Korea and Singapore, the emphasis is on the development of transactional services where the technology can be used by citizens and companies to interact with

In **Bangladesh** the *Information Technology Policy 2001-2005* envisages that 1 % of the GDP will be spent every year on migration of manual work to computerisation in government, semi-government, autonomous bodies and sector corporations (<http://www.bccbd.org/html/actplan.htm>).

Table 4: Policies to promote information use within organisations

	Public sector and e-Government	Private sector and e-Commerce	Enabling policies
Afghanistan			
Bangladesh			
Bhutan			
Brunei			
Cambodia			
China			
India			
Indonesia			
Iran			
Japan			
Kazakhstan			
Korea (DPR)			
Korea (Rep)			
Kyrgyzstan			
Laos			
Malaysia			
Mongolia			
Myanmar			

	Public sector and e-Government	Private sector and e-Commerce	Enabling policies
Nepal			
Pakistan			
Philippines			
Singapore			
Sri Lanka			
Tajikistan			
Thailand			
Turkmenistan			
Uzbekistan			
Vietnam			

the public sector, filing tax returns online, for example.

The Korean government developed KIPOnet, which promoted online applications for patents. Over 80 per cent of the patent applications are now submitted electronically and the examination time has been reduced by more than 6 months. (<http://www.apdip.net/projects/dig-rev/info/kr>).

Private sector and e-commerce

The picture in the private sector is similar. About half of the countries in the Region have policies designed to encourage private companies to make greater use of information and communication technology to improve productivity. Many also try to encourage the development of e-commerce so that transactions can be carried out electronically, either with customers,

The returns on investment in e-government can be great. In 2001, for example, the **Republic of Korea** invested more than US\$118 million over two years in informatisation promotion funds for 11 projects. The civil service eventually saved an estimated US\$4.7billion in operating expenses. (http://www.digital-review.org/05_Korea.htm).

Through its ICT Investment and Private Sector Development programme, **Sri Lanka** aims to create an environment that will support information-intensive organisations in the private sector and that will stimulate inward investment.

(http://www.icta.lk/Insidepages/programmes/ICT_Investment_and_Private_Sector_Development.asp).

known as B2C, or between companies, known in the jargon as B2B.

In The Philippines the Department of Trade and Industry is encouraging the use of information and communication technology in the private sector in the expectation that this will encourage companies in other countries to out-source some of their activities to The Philippines.

Enabling policy

For e-government and e-commerce to operate effectively, it is necessary to establish a legal framework covering specific issues like the legitimacy of electronic signatures. Many countries in the region have established, or are establishing these frameworks.



Session-7

Information in Society

In addition to promoting the economic dimension of an information society, countries need to address the more general question of the provision and use of information within society. Table 5 shows that many countries have yet to give this area the attention that it deserves.

The social use of information

Given the importance of information within society, and the role that it can play in the development process, it is surprising that only a third of the countries have stated policies or

strategies to promote the social use of information.

In Brunei, Japan, Mongolia, Sri Lanka and Thailand, promoting the social use of information is implicit in overall information or information and communication technology policies. In Singapore, it is explicit in Singapore ONE which is specifically designed to facilitate, support and promote the social use of information.

Closely related is Indonesia which aims to develop applications that will promote civil society.

In **Indonesia**, the Five Year Action Plan requires the Ministry of Home affairs to 'develop applications that promote civil society and community participation in democratic and public activities'.

(<http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/id.pdf>).

Table 5: Policies to promote information use in society

	Social use of information	Overcoming the digital divide
Afghanistan		
Bangladesh		
Bhutan		
Brunei		
Cambodia		
China		
India		
Indonesia		
Iran		
Japan		
Kazakhstan		
Korea (DPR)		
Korea (Rep)		
Kyrgyzstan		
Laos		
Malaysia		
Mongolia		
Myanmar		
Nepal		

	Social use of information	Overcoming the digital divide
Pakistan		
Philippines		
Singapore		
Sri Lanka		
Tajikistan		
Thailand		
Turkmenistan		
Uzbekistan		
Vietnam		

Overcoming the digital divide

As information becomes a more central element within society, so it becomes necessary to ensure that everyone has equal opportunity to gain access to, and to use, information to solve problems in their daily lives. This raises the issue of the digital divide: the social exclusion that arises when marginalised groups lack access to the social information that is delivered by digital technologies.

Five countries have explicit policies designed to overcome this problem.

Some, such as Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Vietnam propose to deliver social information through their community-based information centres (see the remarks on universal access above on page 29).

The most far-reaching initiative, however, is in Korea where the government has created an agency specifically designed to overcome the digital divide. It has seven programmes:

- To increase affordability and ease of access to information and communication
- To develop the skills and content

The Korea Agency for Digital Opportunity and Promotion has responsibility for closing the national and international digital divide. (<http://www.kado.or.kr/>).

that will bridge the digital divide

- To stimulate international cooperation to bridge the global digital divide
- To develop public education to increase IT literacy
- To promote public awareness of

the digital divide

- To encourage productive information use
- To carry out research and development into the digital divide and strategies for overcoming it.



Session-8

Legal and Regulatory Framework

All information societies need a robust framework of laws and regulations in order to protect intellectual property rights, personal data and to give rights of access to official and other information. Table 6 reveals that most countries have some form of copyright law but other areas are less well covered.

Intellectual property rights

Intellectual property is an increasingly important resource in an information-based society. Individuals and corporate bodies now consider intellectual property to be an asset that needs to be protected as well as a resource that can generate income. Countries have responded by legislating to provide individuals and companies with laws that will enable them to prevent others from profiting from the results of their intellectual endeavours.

This intellectual property rights legislation covers a wide range of issues from copyright and patents through to the protection of designs, trademarks and geographical designations. Even the basic copyright law needs to be extended to cover software, information in electronic form, databases and so on. For the purposes of this study, I have concentrated on copyright for printed and digital material—what is often known as copyright and analogous or neighbouring rights.

Most countries have established basic copyright legislation, although in Laos and Myanmar the legislation still appears to be in draft form and in Vietnam, copyright protection is set out in the *Civil Code*, although the *Digital Review for Asia Pacific 2005-06* (http://www.digital-review.org/05_Vietnam.htm) suggests that...“these regulations are not concrete enough to

Table 6: The legal and regulatory framework

	Intellectual property rights	Data protection	Access to official information	Censorship
Afghanistan				
Bangladesh				
Bhutan				
Brunei				
Cambodia				
China				
India				
Indonesia				
Iran				
Japan				
Kazakhstan				
Korea (DPR)				
Korea (Rep)				
Kyrgyzstan				
Laos				
Malaysia				
Mongolia				
Myanmar				
Nepal				
Pakistan				

	Intellectual property rights	Data protection	Access to official information	Censorship
Philippines				
Singapore				
Sri Lanka				
Tajikistan				
Thailand				
Turkmenistan				
Uzbekistan				
Vietnam				

implement. Furthermore, the enforcement system for copyright in Vietnam is unreliable." In Iran, the *Copyright Law* does not extend to foreign publications.

Most countries in the Region have become, or are seeking to become members of the World Trade Organisation. One of the pre-conditions of membership is a regime for the protection of intellectual property rights that conforms to international norms such as the Berne Convention and TRIPS (Trade-Related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights). This has undoubtedly been a major factor in establishing internationally-compatible intellectual property rights in the Region.

Data protection

Legislation to protect personal data is less common. Only five countries in the Region have full data protection legislation: Brunei, China, Iran, Japan and Korea. At the time of the survey draft legislation existed in Bhutan, Malaysia and Thailand and may now be operative.

Two countries have partial protection for personal data. In Singapore there is limited protection of personal data but the law does not fully conform to the requirements of the European Union. In Pakistan there is a data protection law but it only covers data concerning foreign individuals: the legislation has been passed

In **Kyrgyzstan**, intellectual property rights are dealt with by Kyrgyzpatent, the State Agency of Intellectual Property. There is a Copyright and Related Rights Law and other intellectual property rights legislation. The copyright law conforms to WIPO, TRIPS and the Berne Convention.

(<http://www.kyrgyzpatent.org/english/republic/iproperty.htm>).

In **Japan**, the Guideline For Protecting Personal Data In Electronic Network Management, 1997 'sets out to ensure that electronic networks develop in a well-structured way by providing ... a unified approach to managing and protecting personal data to safeguard the rights of the online user.'

(<http://www.nmda.or.jp/enc/privacy-rev-english.html>).

The Guideline has now been succeeded by legislation: Law on the Protection of Personal Information (Privacy Law) 2005.

(<http://www.freshfields.com/places/japan/publications/pdfs/12343.pdf>).

to enable European Union countries to export data to Pakistan for processing.

The influence of the European Union has clearly been a factor in encouraging countries to legislate in this area. The European Union led the way in protecting personal data. It placed an obligation on the member states not only to protect personal information about their citizens but to prevent companies sending such information to countries that did not offer equally stringent protection. As outsourcing and the globalisation of data processing has become more common, so it has been necessary for countries to pass their own data protection laws.

Access to official information

About a third of the countries have laws governing the citizens' rights of access to official information. The rights are not always, however, unrestricted. In Pakistan, for example the *Freedom of Information*

Ordinance, 2002 gives rights of access to information held by the federal government but it does not extend to provincial or local government agencies.

In Kazakhstan there is legislation of a sort but, far from granting rights of access, it prescribes the types of information that are considered to be state secrets.

Censorship

Only three countries own up to having laws on censorship: Bhutan, Malaysia and Tajikistan. These censorship laws are not necessarily repressive: In Bhutan, for example, the motive seems to be a desire to preserve the integrity of the local culture.

The power to declare books and films detrimental to **Bhutan** is contained in the draft Information, Communications and Media Act that was published in 2005. (<http://www.dit.gov.bt/legislations/bicmact.pdf>).

In **India**, there is a Freedom of Information Act 2002 (<http://www.mit.gov.in/itbillmain.asp>).

This is complemented by the Right to Information Act 2005 '... setting out the practical regime of right to information for citizens to secure access to information under the control of public authorities.' The government has also set up a Central Information Commission and State Information Commissions. [<http://righttoinformation.gov.in>]

It has also established a Right to Information Portal (<http://rti.gov.in/>) to provide access to government information.



Session-9

Skills and Competencies

An information society requires three levels of skill. Everyone needs to have a basic level of information literacy. Professionals, managers and others who work with their heads rather than their hands need a general level of information-handling skill. And information specialists need advanced information-handling skills. Most countries in the Region have policies designed to support the development of these skills.

Basic Information Literacy

Many countries have policies to raise the level of information and communication technology skills for students within the school system. In the case of the less developed countries, achievement of the policy often requires major investments in computers. In Kazakhstan, for example, the government, supported by Unesco, has set up a pilot

distance education programme, which involves the installation of 5-10 computers in each of 450 secondary schools.

Some other countries, notably Iran, Japan, Korea, Myanmar, and Nepal take a broader view and aim to raise the level of information technology literacy throughout the population. This requires

In Korea, the government has supported ICT education for 10 million people (over 20% of the population) since 2000.

(http://www.digital-review.org/05_Korea.htm)

The Korea Agency for Digital Opportunity and Promotion

(KADO) has a programme to raise levels of IT literacy through public education.

(<http://www.kado.or.kr/>).

Table 7: Policies to support the development of skills and competencies

	Basic information literacy	General information-handling skills	Trained information specialists
Afghanistan			
Bangladesh			
Bhutan			
Brunei			
Cambodia			
China			
India			
Indonesia			
Iran			
Japan			
Kazakhstan			
Korea (DPR)			
Korea (Rep)			
Kyrgyzstan			
Laos			
Malaysia			
Mongolia			
Myanmar			

	Basic information literacy	General information-handling skills	Trained information specialists
Nepal			
Pakistan			
Philippines			
Singapore			
Sri Lanka			
Tajikistan			
Thailand			
Turkmenistan			
Uzbekistan			
Vietnam			

provision of education and training beyond the school system.

All the policies, however, take a narrow view of ICT literacy, aiming to equip people with the skills required to make effective use of the technology. Increasingly, however, it is recognised that a wider view of *information literacy* is desirable. As well as the ICT skills, this involves skills in the identification, collection, manipulation, interpretation and use of information itself.

General information-handling skills

A successful information society requires many people to have a reasonable level of

general information-handling skills, over and above basic information literacy. Managers, for example need to be able to handle information, and its associated technologies, in productive and creative ways. So, too do teachers, lawyers, doctors and many others.

Over a third of the countries in the Region have developed policies to support the development of these general information-handling skills. In many cases, this is achieved through improved provision of information technology facilities in the higher education sector. In other cases, the incentive to acquire the necessary skills is provided by employment

requirements. In Iran, for example, all government employees are required to have basic levels of ICT-handling skills.

Information specialists

Information-based societies also rely on an adequate supply of appropriately-trained

information specialists. Most of the countries in the Region have policies that are designed to train ICT specialists. Few, however, go beyond this to include specialists in the creation, manipulation, processing and use of information itself².

In Singapore, the Infocomm Manpower Development Roadmap, will develop Infocomm professionals into globally-competitive players. The goal is the development of an 'innovative entrepreneurial, globally-competitive and infocomm-savvy workforce'.
(<http://www.ida.gov.sg/idaweb/marketing/infopage.jsp?infopagecategory=&infopageid=13680&versionid=3>).

² Unesco is one of the few bodies that have addressed this issue seriously. In 1998, it published *A curriculum for an information society: educating and training information professionals in the Asia-Pacific Region*. Unesco, Bangkok



Conclusions

Before drawing firm conclusions from the evidence presented here, it is important to restate briefly the limitations of the study. It was based on desk research and was largely confined to what was available on the internet. It was, therefore, constrained by language skills and provided a picture of what exists in the Autumn of 2005. Further, resource constraints meant that it was not possible to assess the scope, content and nature of each policy recorded. Finally, the existence of a policy does not necessarily imply that anything is happening; equally, the lack of a formal policy does not necessarily mean that nothing is happening.

With these limitations in mind, the study does seem to reveal certain things.

First, there is a wide disparity across

the Region. A small number of countries can be thought of as fully operational information societies. A rather larger group seem to be at a very early stage in the process of transforming themselves into information societies. Between these two groups the other countries are at various stages of development.

The development of information societies broadly reflects general level of social and economic development. Thus:

- Japan, the Republic of Korea and Singapore have highly developed, comprehensive frameworks of policy.
- The frameworks in Brunei, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan,

Sri Lanka, The Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam are rather less substantial.

- Bhutan and Mongolia have well-developed frameworks of policy despite their relatively low level of development.
- The countries that have the fewest policies are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Based on the nature of the policies and the context within which they have been formulated, it seems likely that the international digital divide will continue to grow in the future. International organisations have an important role to play. They establish norms and set requirements to which the nation states need to conform. They, therefore, make it easier for less well-developed states to enter the global arena.

The international organisations can also help by making strategic investments, particularly in the telecommunications infrastructure and in equipping the education system so that it can raise levels of basic information literacy as well as general information-handling skills.

Across the Region, there is a lack of policy to support the information sector. This sector of the economy will grow in importance and countries should be

working now to avoid a position where they become over-dependant on imports of information. The actions of the member states of the European Union in general, and the European Commission in particular, provide examples of how these industrial policies might be developed.

There is a substantial body of policy concerned with the development of skills and competencies. Much of this, however, is concerned quite narrowly with the development of skills in the use of information and communications technology. There is a general need to emphasise the I in ICT. Information technology literacy needs to be broadened into information literacy. The development of information literacy should be universal. This implies provision of education and training within and outside the school system.

Education and training policies are needed to produce skilled information professionals as well as information technology and telecommunications experts. Unesco has a particular role to play here.

There are some more general conclusions about information policy that can be drawn from the evidence collected in this study. First, policies need to be revised. The development of information-based societies is a dynamic process. A policy that was formulated to accommodate the conditions in 2000 will not be as relevant in 2005. There is a consequent need to monitor developments and to revise policies accordingly.

Secondly, coordination is crucial. The different aspects of an information society are inter-related: the development of e-government, for example, depends on the telecommunications network, the legislative framework and the skills and competencies of the general public as well as those of managers and information specialists. Effective progress, therefore, depends on a high level of coordination in the formulation and execution of policy.

Finally, it is evident that a high-capacity, universally accessible telecommunications network is an essential pre-requisite for the

development of an information society. This represents a major hurdle for many of the countries in the Region. They are faced with old and inadequate telecommunications networks that urgently need up-grading. Many are also faced with inhospitable, mountainous terrain and widely dispersed populations. Both of these factors significantly raise the cost of delivering effective, affordable, high capacity telecommunications services. Generating the investment capital that will be needed to overcome these problems is one of the major challenges facing the international community.



Appendix-1

The Research Approach

The first step was to establish clearly the scope of the study. The contract specified an analytical framework based on the three concepts of: connectivity, content and competencies. To test the validity of this framework as a means of collecting and analysing information I undertook a pilot run using information collected about India ³.

The test showed that the 'connectivity, content, competencies' formula, which had originally been derived as the basis for an advocacy document, required a degree of modification and the use of terminology that was in more common usage.

I adapted the analytical framework and formulated the one which is described on pages 16-21 of this report. It covers all of the ground originally envisaged but re-orders some of the issues. This was the framework that I used when collecting the information.

I collected the bulk of the material through searches of the internet. These searches were conducted in two stages. First, I used a number of portals to collect information on each country. These portals are listed in the table on the next page.

³ India was chosen as it is one of the two biggest countries in the region, it was known to have a diverse range of information-related policies and because most of the required information is available in English.

Internet portals used in the study	
Unesco Observatory	http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=7277&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html
Asian Forum on ICT	http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/country
Freedom of Information	http://www.freedominfo.org/
Unesco data on copyright	http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=14864&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html
AHRC report on copyright	http://www.law.ed.ac.uk/ahrb/script-ed/elaw/asia-pacific.asp
Asia Region Info Centre	http://aric.adb.org/index.asp
Asia Pacific Network Information Centre	http://www.apnic.net
ICT in education	http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=2070
e-Government	http://www.egov.vic.gov.au/International/AsiathePacific/Brunei/brunei.htm#brunei

Once I had obtained information from these portals, I carried out further searches of the internet for each country using Google and quite general keywords, such as the country name plus 'telecommunications', 'data protection', 'e-government', and so on. I deliberately kept the search terms quite general in order to avoid missing websites.

I recorded the results of these searches on individual country sheets. *These are presented in Appendix 2.* I sent the sheets to the country representatives of Unesco's Asia Pacific Information Network for verification and I am very grateful to the individuals who made the time to respond: each was able to add useful information to that which had already been collected.

I then used the information to build up the overall picture that is presented in this report.



Appendix-2

Country Information Sheets

■ Afghanistan.....	57
■ Bangladesh.....	60
■ Bhutan.....	63
■ Brunei.....	67
■ Cambodia.....	70
■ China.....	73
■ India.....	77
■ Indonesia	80
■ Iran.....	83
■ Japan.....	86
■ Kazakhstan.....	90
■ Korea, DPR.....	93
■ Korea, Republic.....	95
■ Kyrgystan.....	99
■ Laos.....	102

■ Malaysia.....	103
■ Mongolia.....	108
■ Myanmar.....	111
■ Nepal.....	114
■ Pakistan.....	117
■ Philippines.....	120
■ Singapore.....	123
■ Sri Lanka	126
■ Tajikistan.....	129
■ Thailand.....	131
■ Turkmenistan.....	134
■ Uzbekistan.....	136
■ Vietnam.....	139

Information Policies in Afghanistan

Overall policy and coordination

Main policies and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Policy is coordinated by the Ministry of Communications. It has published a <i>Telecommunications and Internet Policy</i> (November 2003) which aims to establish Afghan telecom as a state-owned corporation but one that is open to private investment. (http://www.digital-review.org/05_Afghanistan.htm) and (http://www.moc.gov.af/Documents/Policies%20and%20Laws-MoC/Telecommunication%20policy-English.pdf). ● The Ministry of Communication also recognises the critical importance of ICT and has formulated a <i>National ICT Policy</i> (November 2003) to pave the way for the rapid development of ICT, which in turn will act as a key driver of the socio-economic development of the nation. The following three objectives are central to the vision of the National ICT policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Universal access to networks ● Universal access to information and knowledge ● Government use of ICT (http://www.moc.gov.af/Documents/Policies%20and%20Laws-MoC/ICT%20Policy-english.pdf).
Other policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A useful policy framework is suggested by a UNDP document, published by the Ministry of Communication: <i>A draft ICT Policy Paper (2003)</i>. (http://www.export.gov/afghanistan/pdf/t_policypaper.pdf)
Telecommunications infrastructure	
Network development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The framework for the development of the telecommunications network is set out in the <i>Telecommunications Development Strategy</i> (October 2002), which followed on from the <i>National Telecommunications Policy</i>, issued in July 2002. (http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=1370). See also: (http://www.export.gov/afghanistan/pdf/telecom_market_overview.pdf). ● In 2005 the government passed the <i>Telecommunication Services Establishment Act</i> "to create a transparent legal and regulatory environment that will promote investments and free

TURKMENISTAN

	<p>competition to meet the requirements of all users for affordable telecommunications". http://www.moc.gov.af/Documents/Policies%20and%20Laws-MoC/Telecom%20Law.pdf.</p>
Private/public sector roles	
Pricing policy	
Universal access	
Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Telecom Regulatory Board has been established for the regulation of the sector in accordance with the provisions of the <i>Telecom Law</i>. http://www.digital-review.org/05_Afghanistan.htm. • The Ministry of Communications has established the Telecommunication Regulatory Board in order to regulate and supervise mobile companies' activities. The <i>Telecommunication Law</i> has already been drafted by Telecommunication Regulatory Board and has been referred to the Ministry of Justice for subsequent achievements. http://www.moc.gov.af/.
The information sector	
Content	
Delivery	
Processing	
Information and organisations	
Public sector	
Private sector	
Enabling policy	

Information in society	
Social use of information	
Overcoming the digital divide	
Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Afghanistan does not have any intellectual property right laws. In 2003, a group from the American Bar Association was working with the Afghan Embassy in Washington DC to draft a copyright law for Afghanistan. (http://www.goodwinprocter.com/publications/wick_klosek_11_22_03.pdf).
Data protection	
Access to official information	
Censorship	
Skills and competencies	
Basic information literacy	
General information-handling skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Education is making efforts to increase ICT-handling skills in schools, colleges and public sector bodies. (http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=1370).
Training information specialists	

Information Policies in Bangladesh	
Overall policy and coordination	
Main policies and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Information Technology was created to carry through the <i>Information Technology Policy 2001-2005</i>. The National Council for Information Technology was also created as an agency to carry through the Ministry's programmes. The Policy covers: human resource development; telecommunications; legislation and the IT industry. (http://www.bccbd.org/html/actplan.htm). The ICT Task Force was created to carry out the activities of the <i>Policy</i>. (http://www.sictgov.org/about.asp). • In 2002, the Ministry Science and ICT published the National ICT Policy which aims build an ICT-driven knowledge-based society by the year 2006. To achieve this, a country-wide ICT-infrastructure will be developed to ensure access to information by every citizen to empower people and enhance democratic values and norms for sustainable economic development by using the infrastructure for human resources development, governance, e-commerce, banking, public utility services and all sorts of on-line ICT-enabled services. (http://www.mosict.gov.bd/html/ministry_files/ICT_Policy_English19.9.doc).
Other policies	
Telecommunications infrastructure	
Network development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development takes place within the framework set by the <i>Bangladesh Telecommunications Act, 2001</i>.
Private/public sector roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Information Technology Policy 2001-2005</i> permits the private sector to create a broadband backbone and high-speed international access. (http://www.bccbd.org/html/actplan.htm)
Pricing policy	
Universal access	

Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The telecommunications sector is regulated by The Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission. (http://www.digital-review.org/05_Bangladesh.htm).
The information sector	
Content	
Delivery	
Processing	
Information and organisations	
Public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Information Technology Policy 2001-2005</i> envisages that 1% of the GDP will be spent every year on migration of manual work to computerisation in government, semi-government, autonomous bodies and sector corporations (http://www.bccbd.org/html/actplan.htm).
Private sector	
Enabling policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant rules and regulations of banking acts will be amended to accommodate payment through credit/debit cards, for both domestic and international e-Commerce. (http://www.bccbd.org/html/actplan.htm)
Information in society	
Social use of information	
Overcoming the digital divide	
Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Copyright Act of Bangladesh</i> went into effect in 2000 but the International Intellectual Property Alliance report that the provisions of the Act are not rigorously enforced. (http://www.iipa.com/rbc/2003/2003SPEC301BANGLADESH.pdf)

Data protection	
Access to official information	
Censorship	
Skills and competencies	
Information literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the <i>Information Technology Policy 2001-2005</i>, a 'computer literacy' course will be made a compulsory subject for Higher Secondary Certificate Examination. New recruitment in any government, semi-government, autonomous bodies and sector corporations will be restricted to computer literate candidates only. (http://www.bccbd.org/html/actplan.htm).
General information-handling skills	
Information specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Information Technology Policy 2001-2005</i> envisages the creation of an Institute of Information Technology and the expansion of IT departments in existing universities and institutes to meet the demand for IT specialists (http://www.bccbd.org/html/actplan.htm).

Information Policies in Bhutan

Overall policy and coordination

Main policies and initiatives

- The overall vision for information and the media is set by a vision document: *Towards a connected and knowledge-based society*. Responsibility for realising the vision rests with the Department of Information and Media. This sets out a number of principles:
 - Universal rights of citizens to information, freedom of opinion and expression and independence of the media.
 - Increased participation of the public and private sectors in information and the media.
 - Establishing a vibrant, responsible and responsive media that will respect and uphold national interests.
 - Encouraging and supporting an increased level of information sharing within government, between the government and the people and among people themselves.
 - Creating a well-informed society by providing timely, accurate and comprehensive information and data on all issues affecting people's lives. (http://www.dit.gov.bt/guidelines/Information_and_media_policy.pdf).
- ICT policy is set out in *Bhutan ICT Policy and strategies, 2004*. This covers five areas of development:
 - A policy and legislative framework.
 - A competitive yet coordinated infrastructure market to deliver a fast, secure, sustainable and universally accessible ICT network.
 - Enhanced human capacity, from basic information literacy through to the production of ICT specialists.
 - Content and applications from improved local cultural content to e-business and improved governance.
 - Enterprise support to stimulate the ICT sector and to encourage the take-up of ICT by business generally. (<http://www.dit.gov.bt/guidelines/IPS%20Final%20Report%20-%20v5.1.pdf>).
- A draft *Bhutan Information, Communications and Media Act* was published in 2005. (<http://www.dit.gov.bt/legislations/bicmact.pdf>).

Other policies

Telecommunications infrastructure	
Network development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A strategy for developing the network is set out in <i>Bhutan ICT Policy and Strategies, 2004</i>. (http://www.dit.gov.bt/guidelines/BIPS%20Final%20Report%20-%20v5.1.pdf)
Private/public sector roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A liberalised, competitive telecommunications market, which encourages foreign investment, is envisaged by <i>Bhutan ICT Policy and Strategies, 2004</i>. (http://www.dit.gov.bt/guidelines/BIPS%20Final%20Report%20-%20v5.1.pdf)
Pricing policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To reduce costs, a National Infrastructure Investment Fund and a Universal Service Fund are envisaged by <i>Bhutan ICT Policy and Strategies, 2004</i>. (http://www.dit.gov.bt/guidelines/BIPS%20Final%20Report%20-%20v5.1.pdf)
Universal access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A requirement to place a universal service obligation on ICT providers is contained in the draft <i>Bhutan Information, Communications and Media Act</i> that was published in 2005. The requirement is supported by a corresponding Universal Service Fund that can compensate providers for their extra costs involved in meeting the requirement. (http://www.dit.gov.bt/legislations/bicmact.pdf).
Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A new Regulatory Authority is envisaged in the draft <i>Bhutan Information, Communications and Media Act</i> that was published in 2005. (http://www.dit.gov.bt/legislations/bicmact.pdf).
The information sector	
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Department of Information and Media's <i>Policy and Institutional Plan</i> emphasises the public service obligations of the media and gives priority to meeting the information needs of marginalised groups. ● The Department provides support in terms of infrastructure, funding and professional expertise to local content providers. (http://www.dit.gov.bt/guidelines/Policy_&_Institutional_Plan.pdf). ● Strategies for using ICT to preserve cultural content and to

	<p>boost the creation of local content are set out in <i>Bhutan ICT Policy and Strategies, 2004</i>. (http://www.dit.gov.bt/guidelines/BIPS%20Final%20Report%20-%20v5.1.pdf)</p>
Delivery	
Processing	
Information and organisations	
Public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategies for improving the use of ICT in government are set out in <i>Bhutan ICT Policy and Strategies, 2004</i>. (http://www.dit.gov.bt/guidelines/BIPS%20Final%20Report%20-%20v5.1.pdf).
Private sector	
Enabling policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing the framework to support e-business is one of the goals of <i>Bhutan ICT Policy and Strategies, 2004</i>. (http://www.dit.gov.bt/guidelines/BIPS%20Final%20Report%20-%20v5.1.pdf)
Information in society	
Social use of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government is committed to providing access to information for all, with a particular emphasis on marginalised groups. (http://www.dit.gov.bt/guidelines/Policy_&_Institutional_Plan.pdf). Strategies for using ICT in the education and health sectors are set out in <i>Bhutan ICT Policy and Strategies, 2004</i>. (http://www.dit.gov.bt/guidelines/BIPS%20Final%20Report%20-%20v5.1.pdf).
Overcoming the digital divide	
Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A commitment to enforce intellectual property legislation is set out in <i>Bhutan ICT Policy and Strategies, 2004</i>. (http://www.dit.gov.bt/guidelines/BIPS%20Final%20Report%20-%20v5.1.pdf)

Data protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provisions to secure online privacy are proposed in the draft <i>Bhutan Information, Communications and Media Act</i> that was published in 2005. (http://www.dit.gov.bt/legislations/bicmact.pdf).
Access to official information	
Censorship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The power to declare books and films detrimental to Bhutan is contained in the draft <i>Bhutan Information, Communications and Media Act</i> that was published in 2005. (http://www.dit.gov.bt/legislations/bicmact.pdf).
Skills and competencies	
Information literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strategies for developing ICT literacy are set out in <i>Bhutan ICT Policy and Strategies, 2004</i>. (http://www.dit.gov.bt/guidelines/BIPS%20Final%20Report%20-%20v5.1.pdf)
General information-handling skills	
Information specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strategies for training ICT specialists are set out in <i>Bhutan ICT Policy and Strategies, 2004</i>. (http://www.dit.gov.bt/guidelines/BIPS%20Final%20Report%20-%20v5.1.pdf).

Information Policies in Brunei Darussalam	
Overall policy and coordination	
Main policies and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Policy advice is provided by the Brunei Information Technology Council. It plays a leading role in supporting the implementation of the goals set out in the <i>National IT Strategic Plan: IT 2000 and beyond</i>. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/bn.pdf). ● The most recent strategic vision is provided by <i>Brunei Darussalam Information Society: the Strategy Paper</i>, which was published in September 2005. The purpose of this document is to set the vision and strategy of Brunei Darussalam towards creating an Information Society. (http://www.brudirect.com/DailyInfo/News/Archive/Sept05/080905/nite05.htm).
Other policies	
Telecommunications infrastructure	
Network development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Responsibility for network development rests with the Authority for Info-communications Technology Industry, which was established in 2001 and became operational in 2003. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/bn.pdf). ● There are two telecoms providers: one for fixed lines and one for wireless. Telephone penetrations is very high and the network is 100% digital. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/bn.pdf).
Private/public sector roles	
Pricing policy	
Universal access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fixed telephone line penetration is almost 100% of all households.
Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The telecommunications sector is regulated by the <i>Telecommunications Order, 2001</i> and the <i>telecommunications Successor Company Order, 2001</i>.

	<p>(http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/bn.pdf).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsibility for telecommunications regulation rests with the Authority for Info-communications Technology Industry, which was established in 2001 and became operational in 2003. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/bn.pdf).
The information sector	
Content	
Delivery	
Processing	
Information and organisations	
Public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an <i>e-Government Strategic Framework</i> and funding for projects has been made available under the <i>Eighth National Development Plan, 2001-2005</i>. The <i>Framework</i> was developed by the Brunei Information Technology Council. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/bn.pdf).
Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an <i>e-Business Strategic Framework</i>, which was also developed by the Brunei Information Technology Council. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/bn.pdf).
Enabling policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An <i>Electronic Transactions Order</i> has been formulated to provide a framework for e-commerce. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/bn.pdf).
Information in society	
Social use of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an <i>e-Society Strategy</i>, which seeks to achieve the national adoption of e-culture by all citizens of Brunei. The <i>Strategy</i> was developed by the Brunei Information Technology Council. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/bn.pdf).

Overcoming the digital divide	
Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copyright protection is provided by the <i>Copyright Order</i>. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/bn.pdf). • Previously, protection was given by the <i>Emergency (Copyright) Order</i> of 1999. (http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/file_download.php/c85dcc0a40bd6639ab43635c3f2f8799EMERGENCY_(COPYRIGHT)_ORDER_1999.pdf).
Data protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A <i>Data Protection Order</i> was being formulated in 2003. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/bn.pdf).
Access to official information	
Censorship	
Skills and competencies	
Information literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The involvement and participation of all citizens, irrespective of gender or economic status is greatly encouraged in <i>Brunei Darussalam Information Society: The Strategy Paper (2005)</i>. (http://www.brudirect.com/DailyInfo/News/Archive/Sept05/080905/nite05.htm).
General information-handling skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy investment in the application of ICT at all educational levels. (http://www.egov.vic.gov.au/International/AsiathePacific/Brunei/brunei.htm#government).
Information specialists	

Information Policies in Cambodia	
Overall policy and coordination	
Main policies and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Since 2000, the Government of Cambodia has taken several steps towards the development of a national ICT policy. On 23 August 2000, the government established the National Information Communications Technology Development Authority with the Prime Minister as chairman. The main responsibilities of NIDA are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ to formulate policies on information technology (IT) promotion and development ■ to oversee implementation of IT policies to ensure economic growth, and ■ to monitor and evaluate all IT-related projects in the country. (http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=1372) See also (http://www.nida.gov.kh/). ● In 2002, the National Information Communications Technology Development Authority issued a draft <i>ICT Policy</i> and put it out for consultation. The consultation period ended in September 2004 but the final policy has yet to be issued. (http://www.nida.gov.kh/activities/ict_policy/).
Other policies	
Telecommunications infrastructure	
Network development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fixed line network is very patchy. However, there is high penetration of wireless telephony. (http://www.digital-review.org/03_Cambodia.htm).
Private/public sector roles	
Pricing policy	
Universal access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● "An ambitious new project has begun to link all of Cambodia to the internet. Using \$1.2m in aid money from the United States, the project's organisers are opening community information centres in 22 provincial capitals around the country. The centres will use wireless technology to allow Cambodians to go online..." (http://www.egov.vic.gov.au/International/AsiathePacific/Cambodia/cambodia.htm).

Regulation	
The information sector	
Content	
Delivery	
Processing	
Information and organisations	
Public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Government Administrative Information System</i> is a Programme designed to introduce ICT into the government machine. (http://www.nida.gov.kh/).
Private sector	
Enabling policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications has issued a draft <i>Sub-decree on Electronic Transactions</i>. (http://www.mptc.gov.kh/).
Information in society	
Social use of information	
Overcoming the digital divide	
Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The law applicable in Cambodia is the law on <i>Copyright and Related Rights</i>. It was adopted by the National Assembly on January 21, 2003, ratified by the Senate on February 13, 2003 and promulgated on March 5, 2003. (http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=15399&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html).
Data protection	

Access to official information	
Censorship	
Skills and competencies	
Information literacy	
General information-handling skills	
Information specialists	

Information Policies in China	
Overall policy and coordination	
Main policies and initiatives	
Other policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>China's Information Policy and Strategy to 2000</i> launched by the National Science Committee 1993 (http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla62/62-liuy3.htm).
Telecommunications infrastructure	
Network development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Since 2001, China has moved from provision by a state monopoly through to provision by independent, competitive operators, regulated by government through the Ministry of Information Industry and regulations such as the <i>Telecom Rules of the People's Republic of China, Administrative Measures on Internet Information Services, and Provisions on Foreign Investments in Telecom Enterprises</i>. Entry into the WTO has brought further requirements to regulate the telecoms industry in line with international norms. (http://www.cnii.com.cn/20030915/ca199816.htm).
Private/public sector roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In 2002, two major operators, China Telecom and China Netcom, were set up and, since then, market law has been introduced into the business which has long been a government monopoly. (http://www.cnii.com.cn/20050508/ca299306.htm) ● Up to now, there are six major carriers, China Telecom, China Netcom, China Mobile, China Unicom, China Satellite Group, China Railway Communications, and accompanied by thousands of smaller companies providing value-added services for telecom industry has been shaped. (http://www.cnii.com.cn/20021111/ca107408.htm).
Pricing policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Responsibility for setting prices handed over to operators in 2005 (http://www.cnii.com.cn/20050104/ca277341.htm).
Universal access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10th Five Year Plan specifies that 95% of villages are to be connected to the telecommunications network by the end of 2005 (http://www.cnii.com.cn/20050801/ca320124.htm).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All households to be connected by 2020, including those in rural areas (http://www.cnii.com.cn/20030915/ca199816.htm, http://www.cnii.com.cn/20050801/ca320124.htm). The Ministry of Information Industry operates a fund to subsidise operators who provide universal access in remote rural areas. (http://www.cnii.com.cn/20030915/ca199816.htm).
Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2000, China issued the <i>Regulations on the Operation of Telecommunications Business</i>. (http://www.cnii.com.cn/20050508/ca299306.htm). Current regulations include: the <i>Regulations on Telecommunications of PRC</i> (http://www.cnii.com.cn/20020808/ca91368.htm) <i>Regulatory Measures on Internet Information Service</i> and <i>Regulations on Telecom Companies with Foreign Investment</i>, etc (http://www.cnii.com.cn/20021111/ca107408.htm). <i>Telecommunications Industry Law</i> is being drafted in 2005 by the Ministry of Information Industry (http://www.cnii.com.cn/20050508/ca299306.htm).
The information sector	
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary administration regulation of internet culture, enacted by Ministry of culture, 2003, (http://www.china.org.cn/chinese/zhuanti/341135.htm).
Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulation of Internet electronic bulletin service, enacted by Ministry of Information industry, 2000 (http://www.cnnic.net.cn/html/Dir/2000/10/08/0653.htm).
Processing	
Information and organisations	
Public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Digital 21</i> programme in Hong Kong SAR designed to promote use of electronic government and commerce (http://www.info.gov.hk/digital21/).
Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Digital 21</i> programme in Hong Kong SAR designed to promote use of electronic government and commerce (http://www.info.gov.hk/digital21/).

Enabling policy	
Information in society	
Social use of information	
Overcoming the digital divide	
Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Patent Law, one of principal public laws for information in China, became effective on 1 April 1985 and was modified in 2001. (http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla62/62-liuy3.htm) ● Copyright Law enacted 1990 (http://www.unesco.org/culture/copy/copyright/china/sommaire.html). ● Self-discipline treaty of Chinese internet cyber copyright, proposed by Chinese Internet association, 2005, (http://www.china.org.cn/chinese/PI-c/959921.htm). ● Administrative Protection regulation of internet copyright, enacted by National copyright administration of China and Ministry of Information Industry, 2005 (http://www.china.org.cn/chinese/zhuanti/864792.htm).
Data protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Privacy and data protection ordinance</i> introduced in Hong Kong SAR Dec 1996 (http://www.pco.org.hk/english/ordinance/ordglance.html).
Access to official information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Code on access to information in Hong Kong SAR introduced in 1995 and extended in 1996 (http://www.info.gov.hk/access/code.htm). ● Regulations of open access to governmental information enacted in Guangdong provinces of China in 2002, in Hubei Province in 2004, etc.
Censorship	

Skills and competencies	
Information literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In 2000 elementary and secondary schools were required by Ministry of Education to teach information literacy (http://www.nclis.gov/libinter/infolitconf&meet/papers/ma-fullpaper.pdf). ● Information Age Education from 2000-2010 will consist of three elements: IT instruction in primary and secondary schools; instruction in the use of the internet, and greater use of distance education. (http://www.nclis.gov/libinter/infolitconf&meet/papers/ma-fullpaper.pdf).
General information-handling skills	
Information specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● International Information professional certification (http://www.citmc.org/) authorized by Ministry of Personnel; ● Implement guide for National Information technology personnel training, enacted in 2004, by Ministry of Information industry. (http://www.ceiaec.org/pygc_xgwj_1.htm).

Information Policies in India	
Overall policy and coordination	
Main policies and initiatives	
Other policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>National Taskforce on IT and Software Development</i>, established May 1998 (http://it-taskforce.nic.in/index.html). ● <i>National Taskforce on IT and Software Development</i>, Part I: Information Technology Action Plan, July 4, 1998 (http://it-taskforce.nic.in/infplan.htm) ● <i>National Taskforce on IT and Software Development</i>, Part II: Development, Manufacture and Export of Information Technology Hardware, October 26, 1998 (http://it-taskforce.nic.in/actplan/actplan2.htm)
Telecommunications infrastructure	
Network development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>National Telecom Policy 1994</i>, [http://www.dotindia.com/ntp/ntp1994.htm] revised by <i>New Telecom Policy 1999</i> (http://www.dotindia.com/ntp/ntp1999.htm). ● <i>Broadband Policy 2005</i>: designed to accelerate the growth of broadband services (http://www.dotindia.com/ntp/broadbandpolicy2004.htm).
Private/public sector roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Covered by <i>National Telecom Policy</i> (1994) and <i>New Telecom Policy</i> (1999) (http://www.dotindia.com/ntp/ntp1999.htm). ● <i>Scheme for support to public private partnerships in infrastructure, 2005</i> (http://policies.gov.in/pol_show_doc.asp?pid=delh216&dno=1)
Pricing policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Covered by <i>National Telecom Policy</i> (1994) and <i>New Telecom Policy</i> (1999) (http://www.dotindia.com/ntp/ntp1999.htm).
Universal access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Programme to establish Community Information Centres established in 2000. Covered by <i>New Telecom Policy</i> (1999) (http://www.dotindia.com/ntp/ntp1999.htm). ● <i>Working Group on Information Technology for the Masses</i> (2000) – made recommendations ‘... to achieve widespread application of IT in all possible areas in the shortest possible time.’ (http://itformasses.nic.in/).

Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telecom sector is regulated by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (http://www.trai.gov.in/).
The information sector	
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for the content industry set out in the <i>Information Technology Action Plan: Part III: Long-term national IT policy</i> (http://it-taskforce.nic.in/actplan3/).
Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990</i> Establishes a national broadcasting organisation (http://mib.nic.in/informationb/POLICY/frames.htm). The government has taken steps to regulate the provision of cable television services: <i>The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2002</i> (http://mib.nic.in/informationb/POLICY/frames.htm).
Processing	
Information and organisations	
Public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>IT Act 2000</i> recognises and codifies electronic government transactions. (http://www.tidco.com/india_policies/GOI_It_Policy/it_act_2000a.asp). <i>National e-Governance Action Plan</i> for implementation in 2003-2007 (http://www.mit.gov.in/plan/about.asp). The Centre for Electronic Governance (CEG) was set up at the Indian Institute of Management, in October 1999 to promote the electronic governance concept (http://www.iimahd.ernet.in/egov/).
Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>IT Act 2000</i> recognises and codifies electronic commerce transactions. (http://www.tidco.com/india_policies/GOI_It_Policy/it_act_2000a.asp).
Enabling policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Electronic Commerce Act</i> aims to facilitate the development of a secure regulatory environment for electronic commerce in India by providing a legal infrastructure governing electronic contracting, security and integrity of electronic transactions, the use of digital signatures and other issues related to electronic commerce. (http://commin.nic.in/doc/ecact.html).

Information in society	
Social use of information	
Overcoming the digital divide	
Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has ratified the TRIPS Agreement • The <i>Copyright (Amendment) Act 1999</i> fully reflects the Berne Convention • India is an active member of WIPO (http://dipp.nic.in/ipr.htm). • Full protection for designs, patents and trademarks.
Data protection	
Access to official information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Freedom of Information Act 2002</i> (http://www.mit.gov.in/itbillmain.asp). • <i>Right to Information Act 2005</i> '... setting out the practical regime of right to information for citizens to secure access to information under the control of public authorities.' Also set up Central Information Commission and State Information Commissions. (http://righttoinformation.gov.in) • Established <i>Right to Information Portal</i> (http://rti.gov.in/) to provide access to government information
Censorship	
Skills and competencies	
Information literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Literacy Mission was launched in 1988. The literacy rate is now approaching 60%. There is no particular focus on information literacy.
General information-handling skills	
Information specialists	

Information Policies in Indonesia	
Overall policy and coordination	
Main policies and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2001 the government launched an action plan designed to overcome the digital divide: <i>The Five-Year Action Plan for the Development and Implementation of Information and Communication Technologies in Indonesia</i>. This provides the overall policy framework. Responsibility for its implementation rests with the Ministry of Communication and Information and the Indonesian Telematics Coordinating Team (TKTI). (http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/apcity/unpan002101.pdf). The government has also formulated the <i>National ICTs Vision</i> (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/id.pdf).
Other policies	
Telecommunications infrastructure	
Network development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The information systems network (SISFONAS, or the National Information System) is being developed as part of the <i>Five Year Action Plan for the Development and Implementation of ICTs in Indonesia</i> (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/id.pdf).
Private/public sector roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A private-public sector partnership is envisaged.
Pricing policy	
Universal access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Five Year Action Plan</i> gives a high priority to the definition of a universal access policy and to the setting of targets for this. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/id.pdf).
Regulation	
The information sector	
Content	

Delivery Processing	
Information and organisations	
Public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The policy on e-government is set out in <i>Presidential Instruction 3/2003 concerning National Policy on e-Government Development</i>. (http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/APCITY/UNPAN017960.pdf).
Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The policy on e-commerce is set out in draft law: <i>Electronic Information and Transactions Law</i> (http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/APCITY/UNPAN017960.pdf). The e-Industry programme of the 5-year Action Plan aims to support the development of information-intensive organisations. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/id.pdf).
Enabling policy	
Information in society	
Social use of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Five Year Action Plan</i> requires the Ministry of Home affairs to 'develop applications that promote civil society and community participation in democratic and public activities. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/id.pdf).
Overcoming the digital divide	
Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intellectual Property Rights have been developed in conformity with TRIPS and are managed by the Directorate General of Intellectual Property Rights of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. (http://www.dgip.go.id/article/articleview/77/1/30/). Copyright is covered by <i>Law of The Republic of Indonesia Number 19 Year 2002 Regarding Copyrights</i>

Data protection	
Access to official information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A draft law on access to public information has been prepared under the <i>Five Year Action Plan for the Development and Implementation of ICTs in Indonesia</i> (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/id.pdf).
Censorship	
Skills and competencies	
Information literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A programme for the development of information literacy is set out in the <i>Presidential Instruction 3/2003 concerning National Policy on e-Government Development</i>. (http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/APCITY/UNPAN017960.pdf).
General information-handling skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The <i>e-Learning</i> programme of the 5-year Action Plan aims to support the development of information-handling skills. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/id.pdf).
Information specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The <i>e-Learning</i> programme of the 5-year Action Plan aims to support the development of information-specialists. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/id.pdf).

Information Policies in Iran	
Overall policy and coordination	
Main policies and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall policy framework is provided by Iran's <i>National ICT Agenda</i>, also known as <i>TAKFA – Extension of Application of ICT in Iran</i>. Established in 2002, the aim is to develop and maintain an advanced technological environment that will support and enhance education, learning and research, as well as service and administrative functions all over the country. Strategies and policies for using ICT are developed by the Supreme Council of ICT. The responsibility for carrying out the strategies rests with the National ICT Agency. (http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla70/papers/084e-Kousha_Abdoli.pdf).
Other policies	
Telecommunications infrastructure	
Network development	
Private/public sector roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsibility for developing the network rested with the state monopoly – the Telecommunications Company of Iran but in 2002 the Minister announced that 'we have opted for opening the market to private participation on national, regional and global basis and hence build up competition'. (http://www.itu.int/newsarchive/wtdc2002/iran.html). One of the aims of the deregulation policy is to attract foreign investment into the telecommunications sector. (http://www.biz-lib.com/ZBG69752.html).
Pricing policy	
Universal access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the end of 2004, the Ministry aimed to provide access to basic telecommunication facilities to all villages with more than 100 inhabitants. (http://www.itu.int/newsarchive/wtdc2002/iran.html).
Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of ICT is moving away from implementation and execution and taking on the role of regulator. (http://www.itu.int/newsarchive/wtdc2002/iran.html).

The information sector	
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support for the use of ICT in the local cultural sector, including the creation of content in Farsi, is provided for in the <i>National ICT Agenda</i>. (http://www.sanaray.com/english/?ParTree=AHC).
Delivery	
Processing	
Information and organisations	
Public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One of the goals of the <i>National ICT Agenda</i> is to increase the use of ICT in the government and public sector. (http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla70/papers/084e-Kousha_Abdoli.pdf).
Private sector	
Enabling policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The <i>Law on Electronic Commerce</i> came into effect in 2004. It provides the necessary legal and regulatory framework. (http://www.iccim.org/persian/legal/l1.HTM)
Information in society	
Social use of information	
Overcoming the digital divide	
Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Intellectual property rights, as they relate to electronic transactions are covered in the <i>Law on Electronic Commerce</i> (2004). (http://www.iccim.org/persian/legal/l1.HTM). ● A <i>Copyright Law</i> is in place but it does not yet cover foreign publications. (http://www.sanaray.com/english/?ParTree=AHC)
Data protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Data protection, as it relates to electronic transactions are covered in the <i>Law on Electronic Commerce</i> (2004). (http://www.iccim.org/persian/legal/l1.HTM).

Access to official information	
Censorship	
Skills and competencies	
Information literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the goals of the <i>National ICT Agenda</i> is to raise the general level of ICT skill. (http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla70/papers/084e-Kousha_Abdoli.pdf).
General information-handling skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All government employees will be expected to have a basic level of ICT-handling skill. (http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla70/papers/084e-Kousha_Abdoli.pdf).
Information specialists	

Information Policies in Japan	
Overall policy and coordination	
Main policies and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Basic Law on the Formation of an Advanced Information and Telecommunications Network Society</i> (2001) (http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/it/it_basiclaw/it_basiclaw.html). This law provides an overall framework within which all aspects of an information-based society can develop. It led to the formation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The <i>e-Japan Strategy</i> (http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/it/network/0122full_e.html) ● The <i>Strategy</i> was followed up in 2004 by the <i>e-Japan Strategy // Acceleration Package</i>. (http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/policy/it/940318senryaku-e.pdf). ● <i>e-Japan Priority Policy Program</i> (2004 Summary (Provisional translation). It highlights those areas as secure and reliable network, protection of intellectual property, encouragement of content development, increase use of e-government, private sector's leadership role in promoting IT usage. (http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/policy/it/040615summary/04061gaiyo-e.pdf).
Other policies	
Telecommunications infrastructure	
Network development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The creation of high-capacity telecommunications networks is the first priority of the <i>e-Japan Strategy</i>. (http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/it/network/0122full_e.html) which arises from the <i>Basic Law on the Formation of an Advanced Information and Telecommunications Network Society</i> (2001) (http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/it/it_basiclaw/it_basiclaw.html).
Private/public sector roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The <i>e-Japan Strategy</i> gives the private sector the main responsibility for network development but places on the government the responsibility for creating the conditions in which the private sector can thrive in a competitive manner (http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/it/network/0122full_e.html)
Pricing policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The <i>e-Japan Strategy</i> specifies that the telecommunications network must be 'affordable, high-speed and efficient' (http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/it/network/0122full_e.html)

Universal access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>e-Japan Strategy</i> specifies that the telecommunications network must be 'available at any time, anywhere and to anyone' (http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/it/network/0122full_e.html)
Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private sector telecommunications providers should be regulated by the government on the basis of two principles: 'maximizing the benefits of users' and 'promoting fair competition', according to the <i>e-Japan Strategy</i> (http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/it/network/0122full_e.html)
The information sector	
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>e-Japan Strategy</i> refers to the need to develop the content sector and suggests that 'in order to foster creators who can produce the world-best digital content and thus strengthen Japan's ability to transmit it to the world, the best environment for those creators should be realized by the facilitation of incubation schemes.' (http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/it/network/0122full_e.html) Chapter 3 of the <i>e-Japan Strategy II Acceleration Package</i> refers to measures to promote content development, including the digital archiving of government information. (http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/policy/it/940318senryaku-e.pdf).
Delivery	
Processing	
Information and organisations	
Public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The encouragement of electronic commerce and electronic government is strongly encouraged in the <i>e-Japan Strategy</i> and the government is required to create the legislative and regulatory framework that will support both developments (http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/it/network/0122full_e.html) Chapter 6 of the <i>e-Japan Strategy II Acceleration Package</i> refers to measures to promote e-government in national and local government. (http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/policy/it/940318senryaku-e.pdf).
Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The encouragement of electronic commerce is strongly encouraged in the <i>e-Japan Strategy</i> and the government is

	<p>required to create the legislative and regulatory framework that will support it. (http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/it/network/0122full_e.html)</p>
Enabling policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above.
Information in society	
Social use of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging the social use of information is implicit in the <i>e-Japan Strategy</i> (http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/it/network/0122full_e.html)
Overcoming the digital divide	
Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a full set of laws relating to intellectual property rights. These conform to WIPO, TRIPS and WTO norms. (http://www.jpo.go.jp/seido_e/index.htm) • The <i>Intellectual Property Strategic Program 2005</i> which came out in June 2005 includes Chapter 4, which sets out 'Efforts to create culture with the use of content'. (http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/policy/titeki/kettei/050610-e.pdf).
Data protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Guideline For Protecting Personal Data In Electronic Network Management, 1997</i> sets out 'to ensure that electronic networks develop in a well-structured way by providing ... a unified approach to managing and protecting personal data to safeguard the rights of the online user.' (http://www.nmda.or.jp/enc/privacy-rev-english.html). • The <i>Guideline</i> has now been succeeded by legislation: <i>Law on the Protection of Personal Information (Privacy Law) July 2005</i>. (http://www.freshfields.com/places/japan/publications/pdfs/12343.pdf).
Access to official information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Law Concerning Access to Information Held by Administrative Organs, 1999</i> (http://www.soumu.go.jp/gyoukan/kanri/translation3.htm).

Censorship	
Skills and competencies	
Information literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The education and the creation of an information-literate population is at the core of the <i>e-Japan Strategy</i> (http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/it/network/0122full_e.html)
General information-handling skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 'nurturing high-quality human resources' through education is a key feature of the <i>e-Japan Strategy</i> (http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/it/network/0122full_e.html)
Information specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>e-Japan Strategy</i> makes specific reference to 'technical experts, researchers and digital content creators should be fostered to explore the frontiers of IT.' (http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/it/network/0122full_e.html)

Information Policies in Kazakhstan	
Overall policy and coordination	
Main policies and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The overall policy framework is provided by <i>Government Program of National Information Infrastructure of Kazakhstan</i>, issued in 2001. The programme is aimed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the creation of an information and knowledge market ■ the protection of information about a person, society and state ■ the creation of an efficient system of obtaining, distributing and use of information ■ the efficient use of information resources by state structures. ● The independent Agency for Information Technology and Communications (AITC) was created in June 2003. The AITC took over many of the duties once handled by the now-abolished Communication and Informatisation Committee of the Ministry of Transport and Communication. The AITC is a central executive body and is not technically part of the Kazakhstani government. It is responsible for developing and carrying out government policy in the sphere of informatisation and communication. (http://www.bisnis.doc.gov/bisnis/bisdoc/030915KZTele.htm).
Other policies	
Telecommunications infrastructure	
Network development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The policies for the development of the telecommunications network are set out in the <i>Concept on Telecommunications Development in Kazakhstan for 2001-2005</i>, issued in 2001. (http://www.pavlodar.com/zakon/index.html?dok=01445&ogl=all).
Private/public sector roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kazakhstan's desire to join the World Trade Organisation has stimulated moves to liberalise the telecommunications sector. (http://www.bisnis.doc.gov/bisnis/bisdoc/030915KZTele.htm).
Pricing policy	
Universal access	

Regulation	
The information sector	
Content	
Delivery	
Processing	
Information and organisations	
Public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A draft document on e-government prepared by the Informatisation and Communications Agency titled <i>The e-Government Concept</i> was approved by central and local executive bodies and IT suppliers on 26 March 2004. (http://www.kablenet.com/kd.nsf/Frontpage/CDBFD21F744656C280256E6E005B12BE?OpenDocument).
Private sector	
Enabling policy	
Information in society	
Social use of information	
Overcoming the digital divide	
Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The law applicable in Kazakhstan is the <i>Law on Copyright and Neighbouring Rights</i>, 1996. (http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/file_download.php/a6945235a0c777a8a1dddcd_2d4e01c8aLaw_on_copyright.pdf).
Data protection	

Access to official information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rather than a freedom of information law, there is a <i>Law of Republic of Kazakhstan on Protection of State Secrets of Republic of Kazakhstan</i>, which determines legal principles and sets out a single system to protect state secrets in all types of activity by state executive and management agencies, enterprises, institutions, associations, organizations, military units and citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan. (http://www.ijnet.org/FE_Article/MediaLaw.asp?UILang=1&CID=25338).
Censorship	
Skills and competencies	
Information literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government, supported by Unesco has set up a pilot distance education programme, which involves the installation of 5-10 computers in each of 450 secondary schools. (http://www.unescobkk.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ict/Meta_survey/centralasia.pdf).
General information-handling skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy is set out in the <i>Concept of Informatisation of Educational System of Kazakhstan for 2002-2004</i>, which was published in 2001. (http://www.pavlodar.com/zakon/index.html?dok=01282&oraz=00&noraz=0
Information specialists	

Information Policies in DPR of Korea
Overall policy and coordination
Main policies and initiatives
Other policies
Telecommunications infrastructure
Network development
Private/public sector roles
Pricing policy
Universal access
Regulation
The information sector
Content
Delivery
Processing
Information and organisations
Public sector
Private sector
Enabling policy
Information in society
Social use of information
Overcoming the digital divide

Legal and regulatory framework
Intellectual property rights
Data protection
Access to official information
Censorship
Skills and competencies
Information literacy
General information-handling skills
Information specialists

Information Policies in the Republic of Korea	
Overall policy and coordination	
Main policies and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The overall framework is provided by the <i>Broadband IT Korea Vision 2007</i>. (http://www.mic.go.kr/index.jsp). ● Responsibility for developing Korea as an information society rests with the Ministry of Information and Communication. It has the following policy goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Accelerating Informatisation by establishing the Korea Information Infrastructure(KII); improving the environment, laws and regulations to facilitate informatisation; closing the digital divide within the society ■ Promotion of IT industry by developing the information technology; building favourable business environment for hi-tech start-ups; vitalising venture capital market; developing IT human resources ■ Deregulation and Market Liberalization by coping with the changing global market environment toward deregulation and liberalisation in the telecommunications service market; enhancing transparent corporate governance; ensuring fair competition in the market. (http://www.mic.go.kr/index.jsp).
Other policies	
Telecommunications infrastructure	
Network development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The <i>Korea Information Infrastructure</i> strategy, launched in 1995 stimulated the creation of a universally-accessible broadband network. (http://www.digital-review.org/05_Korea.htm). ● Korea has an advanced telecommunications network. IT839 is the latest development strategy. It will change the lifestyle of the citizens through IT. Under this strategy, the introduction and development of eight new IT services will, in turn, encourage investment into three key network infrastructures. Based on the infrastructures, nine promising sectors - equipment, terminal, software, contents, etc. – will enjoy a synergy as a result of concurrent growth through cooperation among the government, private sector, and research institutes. (http://www.mic.go.kr/index.jsp). ● South Korea is currently ranked highest in the world in terms of the development of information infrastructure. The country

	<p>also enjoys the highest penetration of broadband Internet. As of November 2003, 11 million households (or over 70 percent of total households) and all schools have broadband Internet connections. (http://www.digital-review.org/05_Korea.htm).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The <i>Broadband Convergence Network Project</i> was established in December 2003 to build super-high-speed networks that will integrate telecommunications, broadcasting services, and wired and wireless networks.
Private/public sector roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The telecommunications sector was liberalised in the 1980s, stimulating inward investment and improving efficiency. (http://www.digital-review.org/05_Korea.htm).
Pricing policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pricing is left to market forces.
Universal access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Broadband networks are now universally accessible, following the 1995 <i>Korea Information Infrastructure</i> strategy. (http://www.digital-review.org/05_Korea.htm).
Regulation	
The information sector	
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Korea Agency for Digital Opportunity and Promotion (KADO) has a programme to support the creation of content that will help to reduce the digital divide. (http://www.kado.or.kr/). ● The private sector has developed an extensive range of local content. (http://www.digital-review.org/05_Korea.htm).
Delivery	
Processing	
Information and organisations	
Public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● "In 2001 the government established the E-Government special committee, which reported directly to the President. It also invested over US\$118 million over two years in informatisation promotion funds for 11 projects. The civil service eventually saved an estimated US\$4.7billion in operating expenses after these e-government initiatives were

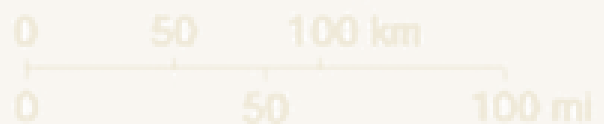
	<p>successfully implemented. The process continues with an E-Government sub-committee of the Presidential Committee for Government Innovation and Decentralisation (http://www.digital-review.org/05_Korea.htm).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the <i>Broadband IT Korea Vision 2007</i>, Korea hopes to revolutionise administrative management, delivery of civil services, and information resources management with a goal of building the world's best open e-government. This will be in accordance with the e-government roadmap. (http://www.mic.go.kr/index.jsp). • The government has developed a number of innovative e-government services, such as KIPOnet, which promoted online applications for patents - up to 81.4% of the total applications with reduced examination time by more than 6 months and The Customs Administration Information System, launched in 1994 to streamline customs administration and reduce logistic costs in import and export procedures, which is currently being used by all the trading companies and is connected to all the related institutions. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/dig-rev/info/kr).
Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The size of the e-commerce market in Korea had already surpassed \$90 billion in 2001. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/dig-rev/info/kr).
Enabling policy	
Information in society	
Social use of information	
Overcoming the digital divide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government has set up the Korea Agency for Digital Opportunity and Promotion with responsibility for closing the national and international digital divide. It has seven programmes: 1) to increase affordability and ease of access to information and communication 2) to develop the skills and content that will bridge the digital divide, 3) to stimulate international cooperation to bridge the global digital divide, 4) public education to increase IT literacy, 5) promote public awareness of the digital divide, 6) to encourage productive information use and 7) to carry out research and development into the digital divide and strategies for overcoming it. (http://www.kado.or.kr/).

Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The copyright Act conforms to WIPO. (http://www.law.ed.ac.uk/ahrb/script-ed/elaw/asia-pacific.asp#SouthKorea).
Data protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The <i>Promotion and Protection of the Information Infrastructure Act, 1999</i> provides for the protection of personal information in electronic communications. (http://www.isoc.org/inet2000/cdproceedings/8c/8c_3.htm#s12).
Access to official information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The <i>Disclosure of Information by Public Agencies Act, 1996</i>, allows citizens to demand information held by public agencies. (http://www.freedominfo.org/survey.htm).
Censorship	
Skills and competencies	
Information literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The government has supported ICT education for 10 million people (over 20% of the population) since 2000. (http://www.digital-review.org/05_Korea.htm). ● The Korea Agency for Digital Opportunity and Promotion (KADO) has a programme to raise levels of IT literacy through public education. (http://www.kado.or.kr/).
General information-handling skills	
Information specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One of the goals of the <i>Broadband IT Korea Vision 2007</i> is to develop competitive IT human resources. (http://www.mic.go.kr/index.jsp).

Information Policies in Kyrgyzstan	
Overall policy and coordination	
Main policies and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall plan for development in the period 2000-2010 is set out in the <i>Comprehensive Development Framework, 2000</i>. It does not make specific reference to the development of an information-based society. (http://eng.gateway.kg/cdf)
Other policies	
Telecommunications infrastructure	
Network development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After a long period of under-development, there is a State Policy to establish a telecommunications network based on modern technologies. This is supported by multi-lateral agencies, including the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. (http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/eur/WTDC02/Documents/03e.pdf). The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, along with the Canadian International Development Agency are currently funding a mission to help the Kyrgyz government to develop a legal and regulatory framework to support the development of the telecommunications sector. (http://www.ebrd.com/new/pressrel/2005/113aug22.htm).
Private/public sector roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telecommunications services are provided by state monopolies: Kyrgyz-Telecom and Saima-Telecom are the main providers of fixed-line telephone services. (http://eng.gateway.kg/communications). The monopoly licence for providing long-distance and international communication is to expire in 2003. (http://eng.gateway.kg/era_policy).
Pricing policy	
Universal access	
Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Transport and Communications is responsible for the management and regulation of the information sector. It is governed by the <i>Law on Communications</i>, the <i>Law on</i>

	<p><i>Licensing</i>, and the <i>Law on Informatisation</i>, all of which regulate the activities of companies in the field of communications. (http://eng.gateway.kg/era_policy).</p>
The information sector	
Content	
Delivery	
Processing	
Information and organisations	
Public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of e-government is at an early stage. The government has established the Public Administration Information System project within the framework of the UNDP's Public Administration Reform project. (http://eng.gateway.kg/era_economy).
Private sector	
Enabling policy	
Information in society	
Social use of information	
Overcoming the digital divide	
Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intellectual property rights are dealt with by Kyrgyzpatent, the State Agency of Intellectual Property. There is a <i>Copyright and Related Rights Law</i> and other IPR legislation. The copyright law conforms to WIPO, TRIPS and the Berne Convention. (http://www.kyrgyzpatent.org/english/republic/iproperty.htm).

Data protection	
Access to official information	
Censorship	
Skills and competencies	
Information literacy	
General information-handling skills	
Information specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some progress is being made in increasing the supply of ICT specialists through the Internet Access and Training Program that was established in 1995. (http://eng.gateway.kg/era_learning).



Information Policies in Laos	
Overall policy and coordination	
Main policies and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A Task Force has been established to formulate a <i>National ICT Policy and e-Strategy</i>. It is supported by the Laos Science, Technology and Environment Agency, APDIP (the Asia Pacific Development Information Programme) and UNDP. A national consultation was scheduled for November 2003. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/la.pdf). ● Currently, the Ministry of Communication, Transport, Post and Construction, with support from the Japanese International Cooperation Agency, is developing a <i>Telecommunications Master Plan</i> for the period 2003-2015. This plan will outline the responsibilities within the government regarding IT and clarify that MCTPC has authority over all ICT policies. (http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=1384).
Other policies	
Telecommunications infrastructure	
Network development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A <i>Master Plan for the Development of Telecommunications up to 2020</i> proposes the creation of a national fibre-optic backbone. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/la.pdf).
Private/public sector roles	
Pricing policy	
Universal access	
Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Lao National Internet Committee formulates and regulates national Internet policies. The Ministry of Information and Culture is also technically responsible for regulating Internet content, though there are few Laotian sites for it to monitor. (http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=1384).

The information sector	
Content	
Delivery	
Processing	
Information and organisations	
Public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government has promoted the use of ICT and the internet as part of the e-ASEAN Framework. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/la.pdf). For the e-ASEAN Framework, see (http://www.aseansec.org/5308.htm).
Private sector	
Enabling policy	
Information in society	
Social use of information	
Overcoming the digital divide	
Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laos does not yet have a copyright law but one is being drafted (in 2004). (http://www.law.ed.ac.uk/ahrb/script-ed/elaw/asia-pacific.asp#Laos). See also (http://www.iipa.com/rbc/2003/2003 SPEC301 SPECIALMENTION.pdf).
Data protection	
Access to official information	

Censorship	
Skills and competencies	
Information literacy	
General information-handling skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The <i>Information Technology Master Plan in Education Management</i> has three major components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The establishment of a ministerial intranet system with links to provincial education services and the National University of Laos in order to facilitate information collection and processes. ■ The incorporation of ICT content into the secondary and tertiary curriculum. <p>The promotion of distance learning and e-learning through the newly established intranet system. (http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=1384).</p>
Information specialists	

Information Policies in Malaysia	
Overall policy and coordination	
Main policies and initiatives	
Other policies	
Telecommunications infrastructure	
Network development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to develop the network, private sector investment is encouraged by the Ministry of Energy, Water and Communications, under the <i>Communications and Multimedia Act (1998)</i>. (http://www.ktkm.gov.my/template01.asp?Content_ID=39&Cat_ID=4&CatType_ID=24).
Private/public sector roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In transition from a state monopoly to private sector competition. (http://www.ktkm.gov.my/template01.asp?Content_ID=39&Cat_ID=4&CatType_ID=24).
Pricing policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competition is being introduced in an attempt to drive down prices (http://www.ktkm.gov.my/template01.asp?Content_ID=39&Cat_ID=4&CatType_ID=24).
Universal access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A universal service obligation is imposed by the <i>Communications and Multimedia Act (1998)</i>. (http://www.ktkm.gov.my/template01.asp?Content_ID=50&Cat_ID=4&CatType_ID=23&SubCat_ID=30). To increase access, there is a programme to develop a network of Rural Internet Centres (http://www.ktkm.gov.my/template01.asp?Content_ID=113&Cat_ID=3&CatType_ID=23&SubCat_ID=32&SubSubCat_ID=44).
Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission was created in 1998 by the <i>Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission Act</i> as a new regulator for the communications and multimedia industry in Malaysia. At the same time, the <i>Communications and Multimedia Act (1998)</i> was passed, to fulfil the need to regulate an increasingly convergent communications and multimedia industry.

The information sector	
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Energy, Water and Communications is responsible for support the development of the information content industry and has established a RM 10 million (US\$ 3million) <i>Local Content Development Fund</i>. The Ministry also is in the process of formulating <i>National Content Policy</i> to develop and control local content. (http://www.ktm.gov.my/template01.asp?Content_ID=88&Cat_ID=4&CatType_ID=23&SubCat_ID=32&SubSubCat_ID=23).
Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This sector is actively supported by the Ministry of Energy, Water and Communications under the <i>Communications and Multimedia Act (1998)</i>. Private sector providers have to operate under licence. (http://www.ktm.gov.my/template01.asp?Content_ID=45&Cat_ID=4&CatType_ID=24&SubCat_ID=25).
Processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Malaysia Multi-Media Super Corridor has been established as a major capital investment programme to create a new city that will foster and support information society developments in general and information processing industries in particular. (http://www.mdc.com.my/).
Information and organisations	
Public sector	
Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of e-commerce is actively encouraged. An <i>e-Commerce Bill</i> is due to be tabled in Parliament soon. (http://consult.galexia.com/public/assets/galexia_aadcp_ecommerce_workshop_w4_speeches_and_media_v6_20050808.pdf). It will complement the <i>Digital Signature Bill (1997)</i>. (http://www.bakernet.com/ecommerce/malaysia-t.htm)
Enabling policy	
Information in society	
Social use of information	

Overcoming the digital divide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equality of access to information is a key element in the <i>Communications and Multimedia Act (1998)</i>. (http://www.ktkm.gov.my/template01.asp?Content_ID=85&Cat_ID=4&CatType_ID=23&SubCat_ID=32&SubSubCat_ID=20).
Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Copyright (Amendment) Act (1997)</i> amends the <i>Copyright Act (1987)</i> to extend copyright law to the new and converged multimedia environment. It was brought into force on 1st April 1999. (http://www.mycert.mimos.my/).
Data protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Energy, Communications and Multimedia is in the process of drafting a new piece of legislation on Personal Data Protection. (http://www.ktkm.gov.my/mplate01.asp?Content_ID=368&Cat_ID=5&CatType_ID=84).
Access to official information	
Censorship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 (Amended 1987)</i> continues to be used as a means of censorship. (http://www.digital-review.org/05_Malaysia.htm).
Skills and competencies	
Information literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are various programmes to support ICT literacy through the use of ICT in primary and secondary schools. (http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=1846).
General information-handling skills	
Information specialists	

Information Policies in Mongolia	
Overall policy and coordination	
Main policies and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The <i>Information Communications Technology Development Concept for the Period up to 2010</i> was adopted by Parliament in 2000. It is designed to provide the framework for the use of ICT in government and in business and to ensure that the citizens of Mongolia are able to benefit from the development of an information-based society. (http://www.ict.mn/midas/eng/vision.htm). ● Based on the <i>Information Communications Technology Development Concept for the Period up to 2010</i>, Mongolian Information Development Association has defined a <i>Medium-term Development Strategy</i> in order to establish a state policy and regulatory system and create a favorable environment for human and social, economic and business, political and legal developments. The main objectives are to create: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Policy and legal framework; ■ Infrastructure development; ■ Human capacity building; ■ Business and private sector support. (http://www.ict.mn/midas/eng/laws_policies.html). ● The Policy and Coordination Department for ICT was set up in the Ministry of Infrastructure in 2003. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/mn.pdf).
Other policies	<p><i>General Law On Information Technology</i> "The purpose of this Law is to regulate relations related to the use of information technology." (http://www.ict.mn/midas/english/module.php?do=home#).</p>
Telecommunications infrastructure	
Network development	
Private/public sector roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In line with WTO requirements, the telecommunications sector was liberalised in 2000-2002. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/mn.pdf).
Pricing policy	

Universal access	
Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The communications sector is regulated by the Communications Regulation Commission. (http://www.crc.gov.mn/english/).
The information sector	
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Medium-term Development Strategy</i> contains proposals to implement a policy for a systematic development of the national information content to be placed on the Internet (http://www.ict.mn/midas/eng/laws_policies.html).
Delivery	
Processing	
Information and organisations	
Public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting e-government is one of the goals of the <i>Medium-term Development Strategy</i>. (http://www.ict.mn/midas/eng/laws_policies.html).
Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The promotion of e-commerce is one of the goals of the <i>Medium-term Development Strategy</i>. (http://www.ict.mn/midas/eng/laws_policies.html).
Enabling policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Law of Mongolia on Electronic Governance</i> provides the basis for electronic government. (http://www.ict.mn/midas/english/module.php?do=home#). The <i>Law of Mongolia on Electronic Signature and the Law Of Mongolia On Electronic Transaction</i> provide two of the basic foundations for e-commerce. (http://www.ict.mn/midas/english/module.php?do=home#).
Information in society	
Social use of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting the social use of information is one of the goals of the <i>Medium-term Development Strategy</i>. This includes steps to eradicate the digital divide. (http://www.ict.mn/midas/eng/laws_policies.html).

Overcoming the digital divide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See above
Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mongolia has adopted full intellectual property rights through its accession to the Berne Convention and to the World Trade Organisation. (http://www.law.ed.ac.uk/ahrb/script-ed/elaw/asia-pacific.asp#Mongolia).
Data protection	
Access to official information	
Censorship	
Skills and competencies	
Information literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising levels of information literacy is one of the goals of the <i>Medium-term Development Strategy</i>. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/mn.pdf).
General information-handling skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducing ICT use into mainstream education provision is one of the goals of the <i>Medium-term Development Strategy</i>. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/mn.pdf).
Information specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of a skilled ICT workforce is one of the goals of the <i>Medium-term Development Strategy</i>. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/mn.pdf).

Information Policies in Myanmar

Overall policy and coordination

Main policies and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● According to one 2002 source, the government formulated a <i>National IT Master Plan, 2001-2010</i> in 2001. (http://www.asia-elearning.net/content/relatedInfo/report/elearning-trend-2002-myanmar.pdf). ● A later (2006) source, however, implies that the <i>National IT Master Plan</i> is still in the process of being developed by the e-National Task Force. (Khin Aye Wyn (2006) <i>Myanmar In: The Digital review for Asia 2005-06</i> (Asia-Pacific Development Information Programme). See http://www.apdip.net/projects/dig-rev/).
Other policies	

Telecommunications infrastructure

Network development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications is responsible for developing the network. It is also the monopoly provider. It operates under the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs. (http://www.mpt.net.mm/). ● The network is rudimentary and telephone density is one of the lowest in the world. The plan is to develop the network through an optical fibre backbone linking the major cities as well as satellite wireless services. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/dig-rev/info/mm).
Private/public sector roles	
Pricing policy	
Universal access	
Regulation	

The information sector

Content	
---------	--

Delivery	
Processing	
Information and organisations	
Public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are a number of projects and pilot projects underway supervised by the e-Application Working Committee, which is part of the e-National Task Force. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/dig-rev/info/mm)
Private sector	
Enabling policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Myanmar Cyber Law</i> and the <i>Electronic Transactions Law, 2004</i> provide the basis for electronic commerce. (Khin Aye Wyn (2006) <i>Myanmar In: The Digital review for Asia 2005-06</i> (Asia-Pacific Development Information Programme). See http://www.apdip.net/projects/dig-rev/).
Information in society	
Social use of information	
Overcoming the digital divide	
Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing copyright law is based on the 1911 UK's <i>Imperial Copyright Act</i>. Myanmar is now, however, a member of the World Trade Organisation and will need to conform to global norms by 2006. Accordingly, new copyright legislation is being drafted. (http://www.law.ed.ac.uk/ahrb/script-ed/elaw/asia-pacific.asp#Myanmar).
Data protection	
Access to official information	

Censorship	
Skills and competencies	
Information literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universal ICT literacy is one of the seven goals of the <i>National IT Master Plan 2001-2010</i>. (http://www.asia-elearning.net/content/relatedInfo/report/elearning-trend-2002-myanmar.pdf).
General information-handling skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Information in 2000 started a project to establish e-learning centres in high schools, colleges and universities. (http://www.digital-review.org/05_Myanmar.htm).
Information specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are two universities of computer studies and 22 computer colleges under the Ministry of Science and Technology, which are equipped with facilities similar to those universities run by the Ministry of Education. 25,000 ICT professionals will be graduating annually starting from 2004. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/dig-rev/info/mm).

Information Policies in Nepal	
Overall policy and coordination	
Main policies and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An <i>Information Technology Policy, 2000</i> was formulated and adopted in 1999. The main objective of this policy is to develop and expand the telecommunications services in a fair competitive atmosphere with the involvement of private sector. It had three objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To make information technology accessible to the general public and increase employment through this means, ■ To built a knowledge-based society, and ■ To establish knowledge-based industries. (http://www.itu.int/newsarchive/wtdc2002/nepal.html). ● The High Level Commission for Information Technology has been formed under the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology. ● The current framework appears to be set out in the <i>Long-term Policy of Information and Communication Sector, 2002</i> but this is only available in Nepali. (http://www.nta.gov.np/long_term_policy_for_information_and_communication_sector_2059.htm).
Other policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The <i>National Communications Policy, 1992</i> recognised the need to make available all kinds of information to the people, emphasized the development and expansion of telecommunications services as a very essential service in order to foster it as an infrastructure of national development, and encouraged the participation of private sector investment. (http://www.itu.int/newsarchive/wtdc2002/nepal.html). ● A further <i>Telecommunications Policy</i> was issued in 2004, with similar objectives and a stronger emphasis on universal service. (http://www.nta.gov.np/telecom_policy_2060.htm#3.%20%20%20Objectives).
Telecommunications infrastructure	
Network development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● See: Other policies, above.
Private/public sector roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Private sector involvement has been encouraged since liberalisation in the mid-1990s. (http://www.nta.gov.np/).

Pricing policy	
Universal access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Telecommunications Policy, 2004</i> has universal access as a goal but this is still a long way off. (http://www.nta.gov.np/telecom_policy_2060.htm).
Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The regulator is the Nepal Telecommunication Authority. (http://www.nta.gov.np/).
The information sector	
Content	
Delivery	
Processing	
Information and organisations	
Public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some basic steps have been taken to introduce e-Government. (http://www.aptsec.org/meetings/2005/WS-EG-VTN/Papers/Nepal-Country%20paper-F1.doc)
Private sector	
Enabling policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Electronic Transactions Ordinance (Cyber Law) 2004</i> provides the basic framework for electronic commerce. (http://www.nta.gov.np/cyber_law.html).
Information in society	
Social use of information	
Overcoming the digital divide	
Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nepal passed a <i>Copyright Act</i> in 2002. The government passed the <i>Copyright Regulation 2004</i>, an ordinance under the Act in 2004.

Data protection	
Access to official information	
Censorship	
Skills and competencies	
Information literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The <i>ICT Project 2000</i> aims to introduce computers into primary and secondary schools to promote ICT literacy. The computers will also be made available to people other than pupils outside school hours. (http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=1586). ● In the <i>Tenth Plan, 2002-2007</i> the government aims to establish 1500 Telecentres throughout the country.
General information-handling skills	
Information specialists	

Information Policies in Pakistan	
Overall policy and coordination	
Main policies and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>National IT Policy, 2000</i> set out a strategy for developing the use of IT (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/pk.pdf).
Other policies	
Telecommunications infrastructure	
Network development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft <i>Broadband Policy</i> has just been published (2005). It is designed to achieve the following objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To spread an affordable broadband service in the corporate and residential sectors of Pakistan. ■ To encourage the entry and growth of new service providers while, at the same time, stimulating the growth of existing providers. ■ To encourage private sector investment in local content generation and broadband service provision. (http://www.pakistan.gov.pk/divisions/ContentInfo.jsp?DivID=9&cPath=81_85&ContentID=2207).
Private/public sector roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fixed line telecommunications sector is being opened up to competition in line with the <i>Telecommunications Deregulation Policy of 2003</i>. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/pk.pdf). • There are four private sector providers of mobile telecommunications. (http://www.digital-review.org/05_Pakistan.htm).
Pricing policy	
Universal access	
Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The telecommunications network is regulated by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority under the <i>telecommunications (Reorganisation) Act, 1996</i>. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/pk.pdf).

The information sector	
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The main responsibility for content development rests with the private sector. The government is working to increase the amount of public sector information that is available in Urdu. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/pk.pdf). ● Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) was established on March 01, 2002 through an Ordinance to induct the private sector into the field of electronic media. PEMRA has been mandated to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Improve the standards of information, education and entertainment. ■ Enlarge the choice available to the people of Pakistan in the media for news, current affairs, religious knowledge, art, culture, science, technology, economic development, social sector concerns, music, sports, drama and other subjects of public and national interest. ■ Facilitate the devolution of responsibility and power to the grass-roots by improving the access of the people to mass media at the local and community level; and ■ Ensure accountability, transparency and good governance by optimizing the free flow of information. (http://www.pemra.gov.pk/). ● Local content creation by the private sector is an objective of the draft <i>Broadband Policy</i>. (http://www.pakistan.gov.pk/divisions/ContentInfo.jsp?DivID=9&cPath=81_85&ContentID=2207).
Delivery	
Processing	
Information and organisations	
Public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An E-Government directive – the <i>E-Government Master Plan</i> - has been established in the Ministry of IT to automate government functions and to promote electronic interaction with citizens. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/pk.pdf).
Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The government encourages SMEs to use ICT to improve productivity. (http://www.digital-review.org/05_Pakistan.htm)
Enabling policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The <i>Electronic Transactions Ordinance, 2002</i> provides a legal framework to support electronic commerce. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/k.pdf).

Information in society	
Social use of information	
Overcoming the digital divide	
Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copyright and other intellectual property rights have been brought into line with TRIPS (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/pk.pdf).
Data protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry for Information Technology has published a draft <i>Foreign Data Security and Protection Act 2004</i>, which is designed to deal only with foreign data from outside Pakistan, and will not set out a national regime of privacy or data protection. It will enable European Union countries to export data to Pakistan for processing. (http://www.out-law.com/page-5071).
Access to official information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Freedom of Information Ordinance, 2002</i> gives citizens access to information held by the federal government. It does not apply to provincial or local government. (http://www.freedominfo.org/survey.htm).
Censorship	
Skills and competencies	
Information literacy	
General information-handling skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Education has established the Virtual University of Pakistan to use electronic networks to deliver distance education. (http://www.vu.edu.pk/)
Information specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICT professionals are being trained under the <i>Human Resource development Initiative</i> but now supply exceeds demand from the ICT industry. (http://www.digital-review.org/05_Pakistan.htm).

Information Policies in The Philippines

Overall policy and coordination

Main policies and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall policy framework is set by <i>IT21: Action Agenda For The 21st Century</i> (http://www.neda.gov.ph).
Other policies	

Telecommunications infrastructure

Network development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Originally the network was a state monopoly. Since 1995 it has been developed and expanded, both in terms of access and capacity by private sector providers, following the <i>Public Telecommunications Policy Act of 1995 (Republic Act No 7925)</i>. (http://www.american.edu/carmel/bree/priv.html).
Private/public sector roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Philippines telecommunications industry was once a monopoly of the Philippines Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT) overseen by the Philippines government. In 1995, the government decided to privatize the industry and created the <i>Public Telecommunications Policy Act of 1995 (Republic Act No 7925)</i>. The Act defined the new legal, policy, and regulatory framework in the promotion and governance of Philippine telecommunications development. The country was divided up into eleven regions, opening up the market to various competing telecommunication companies. (http://www.american.edu/carmel/bree/priv.html).
Pricing policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Driven by market forces.
Universal access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The goals of universal access and inter-connectability were set out in the <i>Public Telecommunications Policy Act of 1995 (Republic Act No 7925)</i>. (http://www.american.edu/carmel/bree/priv.html).
Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The telecommunications sector is regulated by the National Telecommunications Commission, which, although it is independent, is under the administrative supervision of the Department of Transportation and Communication. (http://www.ntc.gov.ph/).

The information sector	
Content	
Delivery	
Processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IT and IT-enabled industries are one of the Department of Trade and Industry's 10 priority development sectors. They are keen to develop the Philippines as a centre for out-sourced information work. (http://www.dti.gov.ph).
Information and organisations	
Public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Information Technology and Electronic Commerce Council has developed a <i>Government Information Systems Plan</i> to stimulate the use of ICT in government and to promote the concept of electronic government. (http://www.neda.gov.ph).
Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IT and IT-enabled industries are one of the Department of Trade and Industry's 10 priority development sectors. They are keen to develop the Philippines as a centre for out-sourced information work. (http://www.dti.gov.ph).
Enabling policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Electronic Commerce Act 2000</i> provides the framework for electronic commerce (http://www.neda.gov.ph/references/RAs/IRR_RA8792.htm).
Information in society	
Social use of information	
Overcoming the digital divide	
Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full intellectual property rights are provided in the <i>Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines (Republic Act No 8293)</i> (http://www.chanrobles.com/legal7code.htm).

Data protection	
Access to official information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rights of access to official information were set out in the 1973 constitution and expanded in the, current, 1987 constitution. They are supplemented by a <i>Code of conduct and ethical standards for public officials and employees</i> (1987). Together they are considered to be equivalent to a formal freedom of information act. (http://www.freedominfo.org/survey/global_survey2004.pdf).
Censorship	
Skills and competencies	
Information literacy	
General information-handling skills	
Information specialists	

Information Policies in Singapore	
Overall policy and coordination	
Main policies and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Info-communications Development Authority of Singapore is the body responsible for coordinating policy. (http://www.ida.gov.sg/idaweb/marketing/index.jsp). IDA is a Board of the Ministry of Information, Communication and the Arts (http://www.mica.gov.sg/aboutus/abtus_logo.html). The overall framework policy is <i>Singapore ONE</i>, which is a national initiative that delivers a new level of interactive, multimedia applications and services to homes, businesses and schools throughout Singapore. It comprises two distinct but integrated levels. The first is a broadband infrastructure level of high-capacity networks and switches. The second is a level of advanced applications and services that take advantage of the infrastructure's high-speed and high-capacity capabilities. (http://www.ida.gov.sg/idaweb/broadband/infopage.jsp?infopagecategory=&infopageid=1880&versionid=7).
Other policies	
Telecommunications infrastructure	
Network development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A sophisticated Broadband network has been created as a result of the <i>IT2000 Masterplan</i>, and more recently, <i>Singapore ONE</i>. (http://www.ida.gov.sg/idaweb/broadband/infopage.jsp?infopagecategory=factsheet:broadband&infopageid=1880&versionid=5),
Private/public sector roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full market competition in the telecommunications sector has operated since April 2000. (http://www.ida.gov.sg/idaweb/pnr/infopage.jsp?infopagecategory=&infopageid=1489&versionid=1).
Pricing policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitive prices set by the market. (http://www.ida.gov.sg/idaweb/pnr/infopage.jsp?infopagecategory=&infopageid=1489&versionid=1).
Universal access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full broadband universal access, originally envisaged in the <i>IT2000 Masterplan</i>, has now been achieved with <i>Singapore ONE</i>. (http://www.ida.gov.sg/idaweb/broadband/infopage.jsp?infopagecategory=factsheet:broadband&infopageid=1880&versionid=5).

Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Telecommunications sector is regulated by the Infocomms Development Agency, a Board of the Ministry of Information Communications and the Arts.
The information sector	
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A key feature of <i>Singapore ONE</i> is support for the creation of digital content and ICT applications. (http://www.ida.gov.sg/idaweb/marketing/infopage.jsp?infopagecategory=factsheet:marketing&versionid=7&infopageid=1776).
Delivery	
Processing	
Information and organisations	
Public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of ICT in government has been at the core of the development of Singapore as an information society. The <i>e- Government Action Plan II</i>, published in 2003 will guide Singapore's e-Government efforts for the next 3 years, from 2003 to 2006. (http://www.ida.gov.sg/idaweb/media/infopage.jsp?infopagecategory=general.speeches:media&versionid=2&infopageid=12400).
Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDA has played a major role in nurturing and creating a conducive and trusted environment that has allowed e-business to flourish. Such an environment includes putting in place the necessary legal and policy framework, infrastructure, and capabilities for e-businesses. (http://www.ida.gov.sg/idaweb/ebusiness/infopage.jsp?infopagecategory=&infopageid=1267&versionid=9).
Enabling policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e-Commerce is supported by the <i>Electronic Transactions Act (Cap 88) 1998</i>, which provides a legal foundation for electronic signatures, and to give predictability and certainty to contracts formed electronically. (http://www.ida.gov.sg/idaweb/pnr/infopage.jsp?infopagecategory=&infopageid=1237&versionid=2).
Information in society	
Social use of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an extensive range of e-government services available through the e-Citizen portal (http://www.ecitizen.gov.sg/).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Singapore ONE</i> envisages a very high level of use of digital information, accessed by broadband networks. (http://www.ida.gov.sg/idaweb/broadband/infopage.jsp?infopagecategory=&infopageid=1880&versionid=7).
Overcoming the digital divide	
Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Copyright Act 1999</i> conforms to the Berne Convention and TRIPS (http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/).
Data protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singapore has a <i>Model Data Protection Code</i> but it is not considered to be sufficiently rigorous to conform to the requirements of the European Union. (http://www.hiit.fi/u/vlehdonv/publications/singapore_data_protection.pdf).
Access to official information	
Censorship	
Skills and competencies	
Information literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is extensive use of ICT throughout the education system. The main impetus was the <i>Masterplan for IT in Education 1997-2002</i>. (http://www.moe.gov.sg/edumall/mpite/index.html).
General information-handling skills	
Information specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Infocomm Manpower Development Roadmap</i>, developed by the Infocomm Development Authority will develop Infocomm professionals into globally-competitive players. The goal is the development of an 'innovative entrepreneurial, globally-competitive and infocomm-savvy workforce'. (http://www.ida.gov.sg/idaweb/marketing/infopage.jsp?infopagecategory=&infopageid=13680&versionid=3).

Information Policies in Sri Lanka	
Overall policy and coordination	
Main policies and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The overall policy framework is provided by the <i>e-Sri Lanka</i> programme that envisages using ICT to develop the economy of Sri Lanka, reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of the people. The vision will be realized through a five programme strategy which encompasses building the implementation capacity, building information infrastructure and an enabling environment, developing ICT human resources, modernizing government and delivering citizen services, and leveraging ICT for economic and social development, through public-private partnerships. (http://www.icta.lk/Insidepages/e-srilanka/e-srilanka.asp).
Other policies	
Telecommunications infrastructure	
Network development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Responsibility for infrastructure and network development rests with the Information and Communication Technology Agency which aims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To provide a modern information and communication infrastructure throughout Sri Lanka that provides user-friendly access to all citizens ■ To establish a legal infrastructure that is internationally aligned ● To establish common standards for a security framework and infrastructure implementation architecture (http://www.icta.lk/Insidepages/programmes/Information_Infrastructure.asp).
Private/public sector roles	
Pricing policy	
Universal access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Information and Communication Technology Agency has a programme to develop 1000 tele-centres, called Nanasalas, in rural areas to provide access to ICT. There are four different models, depending on the nature of the community to be served. (http://www.icta.lk/Insidepages/Nanasala Establishment Of Nanasala.asp).

Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the <i>Telecommunications Act 1996</i>, services are regulated by the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority Commission of Sri Lanka (http://www.trc.gov.lk/).
The information sector	
Content	
Delivery	
Processing	
Information and organisations	
Public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Information and Communication Technology Agency has developed the <i>Re-engineering Government</i> programme to embed the use of ICT into the public service. (http://www.icta.lk/Insidepages/programmes/Re-engineering_Government1.asp).
Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through its <i>ICT Investment and Private Sector Development</i> programme, the Information and Communication Technology Agency aims to create an environment that will support information-intensive organisations in the private sector and that will stimulate inward investment. (http://www.icta.lk/Insidepages/programmes/ICT_Investment_and_Private_Sector_Development.asp).
Enabling policy	
Information in society	
Social use of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>e-Sri Lanka Initiative</i> is designed to promote the social applications of ICT and the social use of information (http://www.icta.lk/Insidepages/programmes/e-Society.asp).
Overcoming the digital divide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Information and Communication Technology Agency has a programme to develop 1000 tele-centres, called Nanasalas, in rural areas to provide access to ICT. There are four different models, depending on the nature of the community to be served. (http://www.icta.lk/Insidepages/Nanasala/Establishment Of Nanasala.asp).

Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Intellectual Property Code</i> came into effect in 1979 and was amended in 1990. It does not conform to WIPO or to TRIPS. (http://www.iipa.com/rbc/2003/2003SPEC301SRILANKA.pdf).
Data protection	
Access to official information	
Censorship	
Skills and competencies	
Information literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Information and Communication Technology Agency has developed the <i>ICT Human Resource Development programme</i>, one element of which is to improve information literacy teaching throughout the education system. (http://www.icta.lk/Insidepages/programmes/ICT_Human_Resource_Development.asp).
General information-handling skills	
Information specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Information and Communication Technology Agency has developed the <i>ICT Human Resource Development programme</i>, one element of which is to improve the supply of ICT professionals. (http://www.icta.lk/Insidepages/programmes/ICT_Human_Resource_Development.asp).

Information Policies in Tajikistan	
Overall policy and coordination	
Main policies and initiatives	
Other policies	
Telecommunications infrastructure	
Network development	
Private/public sector roles	
Pricing policy	
Universal access	
Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The telecommunications sector is regulated in accordance with the <i>Law on Telecommunications 2002</i>. (http://www.tajik-gateway.org/index.phtml?lang=en&id=1414).
The information sector	
Content	
Delivery	
Processing	
Information and organisations	
Public sector	
Private sector	
Enabling policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a <i>Law on Electronic Documents</i> (but it is only available in Russian). (http://www.tajik-gateway.org/index.phtml?lang=en&id=1415).

Information in society	
Social use of information	
Overcoming the digital divide	
Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	
Data protection	
Access to official information	
Censorship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Censorship of the mass media is prohibited by the <i>Law on the Press and other Mass Media</i>. (http://www.ijnet.org/FE_Article/MediaLaw.asp?UILang=1&CID=25413).
Skills and competencies	
Information literacy	
General information-handling skills	
Information specialists	

Information Policies in Thailand	
Overall policy and coordination	
Main policies and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall policy framework is provided by IT 2010: <i>The National Information Technology Policy Framework</i> which runs from 2001-2010. The focus is on the application of ICT for national economic and social development. There are 5 flagship projects: e-Commerce, e-Industry, e-Government, e-Education and e-Society, (http://egov.thaigov.net/english/Doc_eng/pdf/National%20Polcy%20Plan%20on%20ICT.pdf). <i>IT 2010</i> was followed by the <i>National ICT Master Plan 2002-2006</i> (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/th.pdf).
Other policies	
Telecommunications infrastructure	
Network development	
Private/public sector roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The telecommunications sector is gradually moving from being wholly state-owned to one which is open to competition. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/th.pdf).
Pricing policy	
Universal access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>IT 2010</i> policy (see below) emphasises social equity and universal access to telecommunications and information. (http://www.nitc.go.th/it-2000/index.html). This is reinforced by the <i>National ICT Master Plan 2002-2006</i> (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/th.pdf).
Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The telecommunications sector is regulated by the National telecommunications Commission and the broadcasting sector is regulated by the National Broadcasting Commission. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/th.pdf).

The information sector	
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the second half of <i>IT 2010</i> increasing emphasis will be given to supporting the development of the information content sector in Thailand. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/th.pdf).
Delivery	
Processing	
Information and organisations	
Public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-Government development has been driven since 1994 by the Sub-Committee of Promotion of Utilisation of Information Technology in Public Organisation which is under the National Information Technology Committee (NITC). It is also a key strategy in the <i>National ICT Master Plan 2002-2006</i> (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/th.pdf).
Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of information-intensive organisations, especially SMEs is a key strategy in the <i>National ICT Master Plan 2002-2006</i> (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/th.pdf).
Enabling policy	
Information in society	
Social use of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of the social use of information is implicit in the second phase of the <i>IT 2010 Plan</i> (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/th.pdf).
Overcoming the digital divide	

Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a full range of intellectual property right laws including the <i>Copyright Act BE 2537, 1994</i>. (http://www.ipthailand.org/Static/IPSystem/COPYRIGHT_ACT.doc).
Data protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A data protection law is in the process of being formulated as part of the drive to create a legal framework within which e-commerce can develop. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/th.pdf).
Access to official information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Official Information Act, B.E. 2540 (1997)</i> gives citizens the right to demand official information and requires public officials to provide it. (http://www.oic.thaigov.go.th/new2/ver4/oicnewweb2/content_eng/act.htm).
Censorship	
Skills and competencies	
Information literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is being addressed as an element in <i>IT 2010</i> (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/th.pdf).
General information-handling skills	
Information specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing ICT specialists is a key strategy in the <i>National ICT Master Plan 2002-2006</i> (http://www.apdip.net/projects/2003/asian-forum/docs/country/th.pdf).

Information Policies in Turkmenistan	
Overall policy and coordination	
Main policies and initiatives	
Other policies	
Telecommunications infrastructure	
Network development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Communications is the sole provider of telecommunications services. It is up-grading the network with the assistance of the government of Turkey. (http://www.photius.com/countries/turkmenistan/economy/turkmenistan_economy_telecommunications.html).
Private/public sector roles	
Pricing policy	
Universal access	
Regulation	
The information sector	
Content	
Delivery	
Processing	
Information and organisations	
Public sector	
Private sector	
Enabling policy	

Information in society	
Social use of information	
Overcoming the digital divide	
Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turkmenistan passed a new copyright law in 1995. (http://www.iipa.com/rbc/1997/rbc_c.i.s._301_97.html).
Data protection	
Access to official information	
Censorship	
Skills and competencies	
Information literacy	
General information-handling skills	
Information specialists	

Information Policies in Uzbekistan	
Overall policy and coordination	
Main policies and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The overall framework is provided by the <i>Strategy and Action Plan in ICT and Internet Sector</i>, which was launched in 2001. (http://en.ictp.uz/content/view/11/14/). ● Also relevant is the <i>Computerization and Information Technologies Development Programme for 2002-2010</i>, which covered network development, legislation and the training of IT specialists. (http://en.ictp.uz/content/view/11/14/). ● Coordination is provided by the Coordinating Council on Development of Computerization and Information-Communication Technologies. (http://www.ictcouncil.gov.uz/main.php?chlang=2).
Other policies	
Telecommunications infrastructure	
Network development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Uzbekistan Telecommunications Administration (Uzbektelecom), which is part of the Ministry of Communications, is responsible for providing telecommunications services and for up-grading the network. (http://www.country-data.com/cgi-bin/query/r-14481.html). ● In 1995, the government launched <i>A National Program of Reconstruction and Development of Telecommunication Network of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the Period to 2010</i>. (http://en.ictp.uz/content/view/11/14/).
Private/public sector roles	
Pricing policy	
Universal access	
Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Communications and Information Agency of Uzbekistan is responsible for regulating the development of the telecommunications infrastructure. (http://www.aci.uz/indexru.php?).

The information sector	
Content	
Delivery	
Processing	
Information and organisations	
Public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government has prepared a Draft Programme for the <i>Introduction of Electronic Technologies into the Government for the period of 2003-2010</i>. (http://en.ictp.uz/content/view/1/2/). • In 2005 a basic e-Government system (e-doc flow system, Portal) will be implemented in Syrdarya region by UNDP's ICT Policy Programme, working jointly with the Communication and Information Agency of Uzbekistan. (http://en.ictp.uz/content/view/1/2/).
Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government is planning an <i>Electronic Commerce Development Programme</i> to stimulate developments. (http://en.ictp.uz/content/view/11/14/).
Enabling policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A legislative framework to support e-commerce is being put in place. (http://en.ictp.uz/content/view/11/14/).
Information in society	
Social use of information	
Overcoming the digital divide	
Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a <i>Law on Copyright and Adjacent Rights</i>. (http://en.ictp.uz/content/view/11/14/).
Data protection	

Access to official information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The <i>Law on the Principles and Guarantees of Freedom of Information, 2002</i> went into effect in 2003. (http://www.freedominfo.org/survey.htm).
Censorship	
Skills and competencies	
Information literacy	
General information-handling skills	
Information specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The training of IT specialists is one of the goals of the <i>Computerization and Information Technologies Development Programme for 2002-2010</i>. (http://en.ictp.uz/content/view/11/14/).

Information Policies in Vietnam

Overall policy and coordination

Main policies and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall framework is provided by <i>The Master Plan for IT Use and Development in Vietnam</i>. Issued in 2002, the Plan sets out a programme of development up to 2005. (http://www.iipi.org/Conferences/Hawaii_SW_Conference/Nguyen%20Paper.pdf).
Other policies	

Telecommunications infrastructure

Network development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A major plan to extend and upgrade the telecommunications network is being led by the Directorate General of Post and Telecommunications, as part of <i>The Master Plan for IT Use and Development in Vietnam</i>. (http://www.digital-review.org/05_Vietnam.htm).
Private/public sector roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public sector leads development.
Pricing policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directorate General of Post and Telecommunications continues to lower charges for Internet and telecommunications services to match those in the region. During 2003, 12 types of services fees were reduced by about 10 - 25 percent. (http://www.digital-review.org/05_Vietnam.htm).
Universal access	
Regulation	

The information sector

Content	
Delivery	
Processing	

Information and organisations	
Public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government is actively implementing the state management computerisation project to improve the capacity of state management bodies in providing public services conveniently, quickly and of high quality. (http://www.apdip.net/projects/dig-rev/info/vn).
Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-commerce is in the early stages of development but progress must await improvements in telecommunications, human resources and the necessary legal framework. (http://www.digital-review.org/05_Vietnam.htm).
Enabling policy	
Information in society	
Social use of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Internet for Community</i> project plans to develop the present Cultural Centres into Multi-purpose Community Telecentres to provide information to residents and to narrow the digital divide. (http://www.jtec.or.jp/e-report06.html).
Overcoming the digital divide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See above
Legal and regulatory framework	
Intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government has issued <i>Decree No 76/cp</i> on the implementation of regulations on copyright in the <i>Civil Code</i>. "However, these regulations are not concrete enough to implement. Furthermore, the enforcement system for copyright in Vietnam is unreliable." (<i>Digital Review for Asia Pacific 2005-06</i> http://www.digital-review.org/05_Vietnam.htm).
Data protection	
Access to official information	

Censorship	
Skills and competencies	
Information literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>master Plan for ICT use in Education</i>, published in 2001 sets out plans for the investment in an ICT infrastructure in schools and educational institutions, as well as for the training of teachers and the development of curricula and distance learning initiatives. (http://www.iipi.org/Conferences/Hawaii_SW_Conference/Nguyen%20Paper.pdf).
General information-handling skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the programmes contained in the <i>Master Plan for ICT use in Education (2001)</i> is concerned with the development of information-handling skills among future managers. (http://www.iipi.org/Conferences/Hawaii_SW_Conference/Nguyen%20Paper.pdf).
Information specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the programmes contained in the <i>Master Plan for ICT use in Education (2001)</i> is concerned with the education and training of ICT specialists. It aims to produce at least 25,000 trained ICT specialists by 2005. (http://www.unescobkk.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ict/Metasurvey/VIETNAM.PDF)



Communication and Information (CI) in Asia
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNESCO Bangkok
920 Sukhumvit Road, Prakanong
Bangkok - 10110
Thailand