

Regulatory Issues: Role of Broadband in Promoting UA in Nepal

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Internationally Accepted Definition Broadband

- ▶ Definition of 'Broadband' varies from country to country, but it is generally accepted as high speed, 'always on' Internet connection
- ▶ ITU, OECD and international regulators specify the minimum download speed of a broadband connection ranging from 128 Kbps to 2 Mbps or higher

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Definition of Broadband as per draft Broadband Policy

- ▶ Always on Connection with Minimum upload and download speeds of 128 kbps and 256 kbps

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Brief on Contents of Draft Broadband Policy

- ▶ **Vision:** To transform Nepal in to an "Information Society" through informatization
- ▶ **Mission:** Build and extend broadband infrastructure throughout Nepal to provide access to ICT and to eliminate poverty
- ▶ **Goal:** to make broadband internet penetration 15% by 2015 and raise awareness of ICT and ICT based services.

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Brief on Contents of Draft Broadband Policy

Objectives:

- ▶ To develop and extend broadband technology infrastructure and increase internet penetration
- ▶ To provide Incentive package to increase broadband access and encourage demand
- ▶ To provide broadband services at affordable rate
- ▶ To improve and strengthen the intergovernmental agencies/departments for delivering e-government services
- ▶ To raise public awareness to use ICT related services
- ▶ To promote and raising awareness on Broadband Access Hubs, ICT and eServices

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Steps taken towards finalizing Broadband Policy

- ▶ A study group was formed to draft the Broadband Policy
- ▶ Workshop on Broadband was conducted to discuss and take feedbacks from the concerned stakeholders
- ▶ Study Group Submitted the Draft Broadband Policy Report
- ▶ Consultation Paper is published and Feedbacks from the concerned stakeholders is requested
- ▶ A study on Broadband was conducted by ITU Experts and report on "UA to Broadband in Nepal" is obtained
- ▶ A consultant has been designated to finalize the Draft Broadband Policy and we will soon be receiving the report

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Current status of broadband deployment in Nepal

1.2 Data/Internet Services

Services	Subscribers				Total
	NDCL	UTL	NCELL	ISPs*	
Dialup (PSTN+ISDN)	5,464	-	-	14,207	19,671
Wireless Modem, Optical	-	-	-	-	-
Fibre Ethernet	-	-	-	30,495	30,495
Cable Modem, Cable etc.	-	-	-	16,919	16,919
ADSL	77,737	-	-	-	77,737
GPRS	1,321,317	-	2,234,545	-	3,555,862
CDMA 1X	109,076	64,233	-	-	173,309
Total	1,513,594	64,233	2,234,545	61,621	3,873,993
Internet Penetration Rate %					14.55

* Licensee wise ISP's subscribers is shown in Appendix-II

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Broadband Technologies in use in Nepal

- ▶ Broadband Technologies in use:
 - ▶ Wi-Fi
 - ▶ VSAT
 - ▶ HFC
 - ▶ ADSL
 - ▶ Optical fiber
 - ▶ 3G

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Two Main Broadband Projects in Pipeline

- ▶ District Optical Fiber Network (DOFN) Program using RTDF Fund
 - Backbone Project
- ▶ Wireless broadband project funded by ADB
 - Last mile access project for e-gov services

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Regulatory Issues

- ▶ Difficulty in disbursing RTDF fund for the DOFN Project
- ▶ Frequency Allocation Issues for Wireless broadband project
- ▶ Broadband does not seem to be included explicitly Telecommunication Policy UA objectives

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Thank You

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