



Kingdom of Cambodia

Following the announcement of 'Rectangular Strategy' for overall national administration, Cambodia's third-term coalition government launched in July, 2004 released specific action plans in order to enable the strategy to be effectively implemented and to resolve issues by area that may hamper sustainable economic development. To this end, the coalition government decided to focus on the development of world-class postal service and communications system based on advanced IT technologies, as well as to strengthen market-opening policies as one of the WTO members in order to facilitate the participation of the private sector in IT markets. In addition, more than 100 million dollars worth of financial assistance a year from Japan is expected to enable the government to set up a fiber-optic cable network for communications service enhancement by 2008.

e-Government

The National Information Communication Technology Development Authority (NiDA) established the Government Administration Information System (GAIS) in 2003, supported by the Korean government. An e-government network has been set up and controlled by NiDA, promoting cross-functional cooperation through an e-authentication system. The goal of the initiative is to connect government agencies through the e-government network in a form of G2G (government to government) scheme facilitated by the Cambodian government. The success in the e-government project for central administrative agencies has led the government to construct the Provincial Administration Information System (PAIS), by the year 2008.

Communications Market

Wireless communications services penetrated into Cambodia's communications market more widely than wired ones. According to Paul Budde, Cambodia's wired service penetration stood at just 0.3% as of the year 2004, clearly contrasted with a wireless penetration of 7.8%, up 23.3% from a year earlier. Internet service subscription has been maintained at a relatively low level, compared with a high mobile service customer base. Internet service fees in Cambodia have also been much higher than in the rest of Southeast Asia. Internet service penetration reached 0.3% (41,000 subscribers), as of the year 2004. Low dissemination rates and high access costs have strengthened the popularity of Internet Cafes in Cambodia.



United Arab Emirates

The UAE government established the Dubai Technology E-commerce & Media Freezone (TECOM) in 2000 in order to be reborn as a knowledge-based economy. The TECOM, a duty-free commercial zone, consists of three hubs for IT firms (Dubai Internet City), Media firms (Media City), and knowledge-based firms (Knowledge Village), respectively. The government also devised the General Policy for the Telecommunication Sector (GTP), which was expected to be executed from 2006 to 2010. The GTP was designed to function as a catalyst for the acceleration of growth and development, based on the government's goal of developing the UAE as a top-notch IT hub.

e-Government

The UAE government implemented the 'e-Government @ Dubai' project from April, 2000 to October, 2001. The US EDS has taken the sole responsibility of completing the e-government project by 2001 while the UAE government has been controlling planning affairs including contents development. The government is planning to raise the share of e-government process in administrative services to 70% by 2005 and to 90% by 2007.

Then, it installed a national web portal (www.government.ae) in order to enable its citizens, foreign workers, and tourists to have access to a diversity of online data therefrom. Abu Dhabi's e-government project that had been executed by the Ministry of Finance and Industry (MOFI) since the year 1997 officially signaled the launch of the UAE Federal e-government in November, 2004, facilitating the es-

establishment of web pages and Intranet by agency. Each affiliated agency's IT team has controlled and executed individual projects.

IT Industry

The World Bank's Knowledge Assessment Methodology 2005 estimated that the UAE invested about 3.58% of its GDP into IT business which showed the government's heightening interest in the IT industry. The UAE's IT industry has marked a double-digit growth every year and is forecast to post an average yearly growth of 10.6% from 2004 to 2009. As of the year 2005, wired service penetration in the UAE reached 27.5% while wireless penetration exceeded 100%, up 23% from a year earlier. Internet and PC penetration were estimated at 31.1% (2005), up 10% from a year earlier and 19.8% (2004), respectively.



Vietnam

Under the premise that IT is the most significant engine for socio-economic growth, the Vietnamese government has been promoting the 'Vietnam Post and Telecommunications Development Strategy by 2010 and Orientation by 2020.' This scheme focused on the wide use of IT in key economic areas and the establishment of e-Vietnam composed of e-government, e-business, and e-commerce by 2010. Specifically, the government is planning to expand wired, wireless, Internet, and PC penetration to 32-35%, 18-20%, 13%, and 10%, respectively, by 2010. About 50% of the whole population is expected to benefit from the Internet, about 30% of whom will be broadband users. The government is forecast to invest 4 billion dollars into the IT industry from 2002 to 2010, establishing communications infrastructure, cultivating IT human resources, and facilitating the wider use of the Internet.

e-Government

The Vietnamese government approved the project of state administrative management computerization (SATcom; from 2001 to 2005) and set up Board 112 under its Cabinet at the end of 2001 in order to promote administration service computerization, the establishment of government web-sites, and a model e-government project.

Vietnam's NIPTS survey (2006) showed the rapid growth in PC penetration, DB utilization, and Internet access within the government environment. However, the in-depth use of IT and Internet was yet to be witnessed. Vietnam has posted a remarkable enhancement in government digitization. The 2007 global e-government survey conducted by a research group of the US-based Brown University ranked Vietnam 90th in e-government index (cf. 126th in 2006) in the world and 5th out of 10 ASEAN members, following Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, and Cambodia.

IT Industry

Vietnam's IT industry has marked an average yearly growth of more than 20%

since 1996. As recently as July, 2007, the Ho Chi Minh City Informatics Association estimated the worth of Vietnam's IT industry at 2 billion dollars, up 38% from a year earlier. In particular, its wireless communication market grew by 47.8% a year between 2001 and 2004, leading Vietnam to be globally recognized as one of the fastest growing regions in Asia.

Paul Budde estimated wired and wireless penetration in Vietnam at 32.5% and 19.3%, up 104.3% from a year earlier, respectively, as of the year 2006. Since the monopoly of Internet services was eliminated, the number of Internet subscriptions has risen by more than four-fold from 450,000 in May, 2003 to 2.78 million in May, 2005. The number of Internet users also swelled to 15 million in 2006, accounting for 17.6% of the whole population in Vietnam.

About the Article

This article is reorganized based on *The National Informatization White Paper* released by the National Information Society Agency (NIA) in Korea. The white paper has been published every year since 1993 in order to help both IT experts and the public better understand national informatization trends.