

Message from the Publisher

The fourth issue of *ICT World Today*, Spring 2010, was published for its overarching purposes of resolving the digital divide and contributing to the socio-economic development in developing countries through global cooperation and mutual harmony. The current issue concentrates specifically on the ways to encourage innovation and enhance efficiency across the overall society and economy, under the current circumstances that ICT is emerging as one of the practical responses to major global challenges such as world economic downturn resulting from the recent global financial crisis; climate change and environmental issues; natural disasters; price hikes in resources and food; and the spread of contagious diseases.

This issue of *ICT World Today* covers articles contributed by experts from each sector to promote understanding of policy response and international cooperation with regard to the aforementioned issues, through which it discusses such global challenges and innovations as low-carbon (green) cities; Japan's national strategy for wireless systems; ICT Korea for the sustainable development; ICT and social innovation; and ICT and innovation facing the global challenges from various perspectives. The main story section introduced ICT-based problem-solving and innovation efforts as well as policy experiences by global issues such as economic crisis, poverty and development, cyber security, climate change and environment problems, disaster response, human resource development, and the aging population.

On the forefront of economic crisis, the issue describes the current status of countries' investment in the ICT infrastructure, as part of a stimulus package to overcome global economic crisis, and provides guidelines for efficient public investment, and it also explains expected effects from the ICT investment such as consumption boost, job creation and productivity increase across the overall national economy. On the dimension of poverty and development, this issue presents the Knowledge Map for improving the livelihood of the rural poor on the basis of ICT. With regard to cyber security, this issue highlights the importance of security from cyber crimes in terms of disseminating and utilizing ICT in developing countries and presents counter strategies including capacity building and international cooperation. On the front of climate change and environmental issues, this issue examines the role of ICT in achieving food security and sustainable agriculture, and the meaning of the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference. As for disaster response, this issue

explores the role and utility of ICT in response to natural disasters, along with post-disaster relief activities utilizing satellite communication technology. With regard to human resource development, this issue gives insight into the potential effect of creating business opportunities and building self-reliant capacity through women's small-scale organic farms and e-business-driven cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. In terms of the aging population, this issue studies how ICT infrastructure can help make efficient response to the aging society, thereby expanding social welfare and saving social costs.

In order to effectively respond to the pressing global challenges, ICT-based efforts are important to improve the efficiency across all of society. That is, society is in common need of innovation. Drawn from the experience of advanced ICT countries, global challenges have served as a great motive and opportunity to drive change and innovation, and new infrastructures such as ICT were utilized to make effective responses to those challenges. The ICT, mostly represented as broadband and mobile networks, is an indispensable infrastructure to socio-economic activities, and it is expected to bring about a substantial ripple effect in the existing sectors across all of society and the economy as well as the information and communication sector. To fully realize the effects, it is required to make continued investments in the ICT infrastructure, provide a playing field for human resource development and reasonable market competition, enforce appropriate regulatory policies, and launch cooperative efforts to address the digital divide, maximize the impact of the network economy, and to promote common prosperity.

ICT World Today is committed to continuously serving as a driving force to utilize information and communication technology in contributing to shared prosperity for the whole society and economy.



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