

Research Report

Special Conference I

Promoting new technology to improve communication

MUNISH '11



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Forum	Special Conference 1
Issue:	Promoting new technology to improve communication
Student Officer:	Salome Zimmerlin
Position:	President of the Special Conference committee

Introduction

Over the past 15 years technology has been evolving at a very fast pace. In the world we live in today technology has become a very important concept as it enables us, human beings to communicate between each other at any time, any place. Communication has always been a primordial topic amongst human beings. It is used in all sorts of supports such as phones, emails, instant chat, face book, the post etc. Without communication everything would be different. It is also a very good time saving concept. However providing the entire world with a proper communication system is still a relatively huge challenge, this is mainly due to the fact that not the entire world has proper access to new developing technology more specifically Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDC) s. Communication interactions are growing very rapidly due to the fast improvement of technology. This is why it is quite a challenging task to provide the latest technology to developing country in order for them to have a better communication.

Definition of Key Terms

ICT (information and communication technology)

It is a term often used to show the role of technology in order to communicate and inform. ICT is communication under all its possible forms : broadcast media, internet, telecommunication etc.

Local Area Network (LAN)

It means internal networks in other words it includes connecting devices in the same building or office. It is used mainly by companies.

Wide Area Network (WAN)

This term is used to describe external networks. Internet is the biggest WAN because it is a multitude of different networks communicating together.

Communication infrastructure

Without communication infrastructure the technology used to communicate cannot function. It is the basic installations or services needed in order for communication to work.



General Overview

ICT is used all around the world and is developing everyday at a very fast rate. It enables humans to communicate from one part of the world to another. Internet has become so important that it is considered as a type of culture. ICT has also solved the problem of the language barriers, due to its translating applications. It is all about communication and how communication functions through satellites, networks, internet with either WAN or LAN mentioned in the definition key terms.

Nowadays over 70% of the world's population has a mobile phone, in other words that is nearly 5 billion mobile subscribers. Google's Android is growing at 886% every year with 160,000 devices activated everyday. Communication and technology both evolve at a very rapid pace and most importantly together.

The table below shows the world's total internet users:

WORLD INTERNET USAGE AND POPULATION STATISTICS						
March 31, 2011						
World Regions	Population (2011 Est.)	Internet Users Dec. 31, 2000	Internet Users Latest Data	Penetration (% Population)	Growth 2000-2011	Users % of Table
<u>Africa</u>	1,037,524,058	4,514,400	118,609,620	11.4 %	2,527.4 %	5.7 %
<u>Asia</u>	3,879,740,877	114,304,000	922,329,554	23.8 %	706.9 %	44.0 %
<u>Europe</u>	816,426,346	105,096,093	476,213,935	58.3 %	353.1 %	22.7 %
<u>Middle East</u>	216,258,843	3,284,800	68,553,666	31.7 %	1,987.0 %	3.3 %
<u>North America</u>	347,394,870	108,096,800	272,066,000	78.3 %	151.7 %	13.0 %
<u>Latin America / Carib.</u>	597,283,165	18,068,919	215,939,400	36.2 %	1,037.4 %	10.3 %
<u>Oceania / Australia</u>	35,426,995	7,620,480	21,293,830	60.1 %	179.4 %	1.0 %
<u>WORLD TOTAL</u>	6,930,055,154	360,985,492	2,095,006,005	30.2 %	480.4 %	100.0 %

On this table if you look more closely at the penetration % population column it is quite clear that in North America, Europe and Oceania they are much higher than in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. This proves that most continent with impoverished areas struggle to have access to technology which stops them from communicating using technology.

Communication has always existed in the human kind; it has also expanded very quickly due to the improvement of technology. Years after year's technology made communication simpler and much faster. Hence promoting technology to improve communication is quite a fundamental issue. Every year since 2003 a World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) is held. In this summit everything concerning ICT worldwide is discussed. Leaders from many nations in the world come to find solution in order to promote technology to improve communication however it is a very difficult task.



The current situation about this issue is that LEDCs obviously struggle more than MEDCs, this is due to their respective economical situation. Innovating new technology is quite an expensive thing because of all the research that needs to be done and because it is quite time consuming. The issue is still prominent in most LEDCs mainly due to limited communication infrastructure and the attendant high costs of access to new technology.

Another factor, which has an impact on promoting this new technology, is education. Without education or training the people living in rural areas are not use to manipulate such technological devices. This is sometimes due to illiteracy.

The secretary General of the UN once said : “Connected schools can become connected community ICT centres. They can provide a vital link to marginalized and vulnerable groups. They can become an information lifeline for women, indigenous people, persons with disabilities and those living in rural, remote and underserved areas.”(Ban Ki Moon)

Major Parties Involved

United Nation Development Program (UNDP)

This Non-governmental organisation plays an important role in regards to this issue because it is the UN body in charge of development more specifically in impoverished regions. UNDP has already done a few things such as installing better infrastructure in order for the technology to function more specifically in the African continent. They have also created seminars in some LEDCs where people are taught about the way the technology functions in order to communicate. UNDP has even created an extra organisation (ITU) to mainly focus on tackling this issue at hand.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

This organisation is part of UNDP and attempts to establish proper telecommunication infrastructure in the developing countries. It is composed of 193 UN Member states. Its main missions is to enable the growth and sustained development of information networks and telecommunication and to bring the benefits of CIT to all the world's inhabitants. Every 4 years ITU holds a plenipotentiary conference which consists of reviewing convention, constitution and the ITC worldwide. In 1992 ITU created a convention concerning ITC ratified by the 193 member states.

Google Inc.

Google is known as the biggest and most used search engine worldwide. According to recent data Google has indexed billions of web pages which enables the users to search for what they desire. Promoting such a search engine in LEDCs could lead to a better communication. The Google company has quite an important role regarding cyber communication. Google's main aim regarding this issue is to assure cyber security to its users.



Timeline of Key Events

- 1865 ITU was created in Geneva by the UN
- 1930 The first television broadcast was in the United States
- 1971 The first email was sent from one computer to another
- 1951 The first computers were sold
- 1960 Internet starts to develop worldwide
- 1979 The first cellular phones were sold in Japan.
- 1994 The first networking website was created, it was called
- 2000 There are 20 000 000 Websites on the Internet geocities, it could be considered as face book's ancestor
- 2004 Facebook the famous social networking service was launched
- 2011 Smart phones become the CPU of the laptop

Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

In 2004 UNDP held knowledge management training about ICT. The event was held in Ukraine and it was meant to explain how to support local development by improving the access to ICT. This attempt wasn't a great success because it was focused only in one area of the world where there was already so sort of technology in comparison to other rural areas.

Since 1994 ITU hold a conference every four years in Geneva to discuss and amend the convention that was created in 1994 when they started. The problem with this convention is that the UN has no right to force a country to follow the article stated in the convention itself. Therefore only the member states who have ratified the actual convention will attempt to follow all the articles presented.

The core of the issue is that in order to communicate through technology knowledge of how it functions is imperative. If the people don't know how to use or construct the technology they are given, they will not be able to communicate even though they have the actual technology.

Ban Ki Moon once said "Let us pledge to adhere to the guiding principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and work together to connect all humankind equally to the present opportunities and those yet possible in our ever-evolving world."



Another problem is the infrastructure because in many impoverished countries the communication infrastructure is too poor to install new technologies to improve the communication. There have been attempts to construct and build those infrastructures by many different associations however there are many factors which slow this process such as the lack of funding, natural disasters, illiteracy etc.

Possible Solutions

In order to promote technology to improve communication the first primordial solution would be to ensure proper education, as education is the key to many issues. In this case it would educate the people regarding the way technology functions.

The second important step to take would be to build proper infrastructure in impoverished areas in order for the technology to function.

Another solution to tackle this issue would be to ensure cyber security as people would maybe use the Internet to communicate more if they knew it was entirely safe.

The secretary General of the UN once said : “Connected schools can become connected community ICT centres. They can provide a vital link to marginalized and vulnerable groups. They can become an information lifeline for women, indigenous people, persons with disabilities and those living in rural, remote and underserved areas.”

Appendix/Appendices

http://tutor2u.net/business/ict/intro_what_is_ict.htm

<http://www.itu.int/en/history/plenipotentiaryconferences/Pages/aboutPPC.aspx>

<http://www.itu.int/wsis/index.html>

http://www.itu.int/newsroom/press_releases/2002/01.html

(This link leads you to the resolution[A/RES/56/183] which was written by the ITU)

<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/un/unpan033704.pdf>

(This is a resolution (A/RES/63/202) which was written in 2008 by the GA regarding this specific issue)



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