



MEASURING THE INFORMATION SOCIETY



2013

I n t e r n a t i o n a l T e l e c o m m u n i c a t i o n U n i o n

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International Telecommunication Union
Place des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva Switzerland

Original language of publication: English.

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ISBN 978-92-61-14401-2

Foreword

I am pleased to present to you the 2013 edition of *Measuring the Information Society* (MIS). Now in its fifth year, this annual report identifies key ICT developments and tracks the cost and affordability of ICT services, in accordance with internationally agreed methodologies. Its core feature is the *ICT Development Index* (IDI), which ranks countries' performance with regard to ICT infrastructure and uptake. The report aims to provide an objective international performance evaluation based on quantitative indicators and benchmarks, as an essential input to the ICT policy debate in ITU Member States. The 2013 edition also presents the latest results of the *ICT Price Basket* (IPB), and the first complete price data set for mobile-broadband services; the first-ever model to measure the world's *digital native* population; and a quantitative assessment of recent digital TV broadcasting trends.

Over 250 million people came online over the last year, and almost 40 per cent of the world's population will be using the Internet by end 2013. Mobile technology and services continue to be the key driver of the information society, and the number of mobile-broadband subscriptions is close to 2 billion. Mobile-broadband networks are allowing more people to connect to high-speed networks and benefit from a growing number of applications and services. While both fixed- and mobile-broadband speeds continue to increase, the price of services is falling and ICTs are becoming more affordable: in the space of four years, fixed-broadband prices have dropped by an impressive 82 per cent.

At the same time, the report also shows that ICT uptake remains limited in many developing countries, and particularly in the world's least connected countries (LCCs) – a group of 39 countries (home to 2.4 billion people) with particularly low levels of ICT development. In this group of countries, ICTs can become key enablers for achieving international and national development goals and have the greatest development impact, and more policy attention needs to be directed towards them.

Young people all over the world are the most active users of ICTs. For the first time, a model has been developed to estimate the number of digital natives – the young people with solid ICT experience who are drivers of the information society. While 30 per cent of the youth population are digital natives today, the report shows that within the next five years, the digital native population in the developing world is expected to double.

The report also sheds new light on the latest digital TV broadcasting trends, another key driving force of the growing information society. The TV industry has undergone an important shift during the past few years and, in 2012, the number of households with digital TV overtook the number of households with analogue TV. This achievement reinforces the dual role of TV broadcasts: fulfilling some of the public services associated with communications and being a major market for private content creators, distributors and networks.

I trust that the data and analysis contained in this report will be of great value to the ITU membership, including policy-makers, the ICT industry and others working towards building an inclusive global information society.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brahima Sanou'.

Brahima Sanou
Director

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Acknowledgements

The 2013 edition of *Measuring the Information Society* was prepared by the ICT Data and Statistics Division within the Telecommunication Development Bureau of ITU. The team included Susan Teltscher (Head of Division), Vanessa Gray, Esperanza Magpantay, Doris Olaya and Ivan Vallejo. The following consultants to ITU provided substantive inputs: Lisa Kreuzenbeck, Michael Best (Chapter 4), and Simon Murray (Chapter 5). Fernando Callorda, Diana Korka, Christoph Stork and Shazna Zuhely contributed to the compilation of data sets on prices. Helpful inputs and suggestions were received from the following ITU colleagues: Istvan Bozoski, Pham Hai, Aurora Rubio, Sameer Sharma, Anne Rita Ssemboga and Marcelino Tayob. The work was carried out under the overall direction of Cosmas Zavazava, Chief, Project Support and Knowledge Management Department, Telecommunication Development Bureau.

The report includes data from Digital TV Research, Eurostat, OECD, IMF, UNCTAD, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, the United Nations Population Division and the World Bank, which is greatly acknowledged.

ITU also appreciates the cooperation of countries that have provided data included in this report.

The report was edited by Anthony Pitt and Bruce Granger, ITU English Translation Section. The desktop publishing was carried out by Nathalie Delmas, and the cover was designed by Céline Désthomas. Administrative support was provided by Herawasih Yasandikusuma.

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