

# **A regional overview: the current status on ICT access and emerging issues**

Information and Communications Technology and  
Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD)  
**ESCAP**

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### Where we stand: a regional overview

- Fixed telephone lines on decline among advanced countries: trends accelerating
- Mobile technologies are expanding rapidly among LDCs, especially LLDCs, with over 100% growth between 2003-2008
- SIDS generally show slower growth than the rest
- Mobile communication is the predominant means for communication among LDCs
- Broadband: a stark divide exists among advanced countries and the rest

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### Fixed telephone lines

#### Fixed telephone lines per 100 populations

Country Name	2003	2008	CAGR (%)
Australia	52.6	44.5	-3.3
Republic of Korea	53.3	44.3	-3.6
Japan	47.3	40.2	-3.2
Nepal	1.4	2.8	14.4
Myanmar	0.8	1.4	13.4
Bangladesh	0.5	0.8	10.9

- 19 out of 51 countries showed negative growth in 2008, indicating accelerated transition to mobile and broadband
- High CAGR recorded among some LDCs

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### Some observations

- Average growth rate of fixed lines among the ESCAP member countries= 4.2%
- Sub-regional differences: South-East Asia (19.6%)
- Almost no growth among SIDS
- LDC average is 11.7%

### Mobile subscribers

Mobile subscribers per 100 populations			
Country/Name	2003	2008	CAGR(%)
Australia	72.1	105.0	7.8
Republic of Korea	71.2	94.7	5.9
Japan	68.1	86.7	5.0
Pakistan	1.5	49.7	101.0
Uzbekistan	1.2	46.5	106.2
Bhutan	0.4	36.5	150.1
Tajikistan	0.7	34.4	115.1
Afghanistan	0.9	29.0	101.3
Nepal	0.3	11.3	105.0
Turkmenistan	0.2	6.9	103.9

Source: ESCAP (2008)

### Mobile subscribers: overall trends

- Mobile saturation with slow growth
- Rapid expansion among LDCs
- 3 LLDC recorded over 100% CAGR between 2003 and 2008
- Some Central Asian countries recorded high growth
- Relatively slower growth among SIDS

### Mobile subscription: overview

- Average growth among ESCAP member countries: 26.4%
- LDC average is 88.5%
- 10 out of 14 LDCs exceed the ESCAP average
- LLDC and South and South-West Asia also recorded high growth: 68.1% and 51.6% respectively

### Share of mobile out of all telephone lines

- Higher among LDC (95.1%), LLDC (84.9%) and SIDS (76.9%) than industrialized countries
- Average of the ESCAP member countries is 75.4%
- High mobile share in South and South-West Asia (87.1%) and North and Central Asia (81.3%)
- East and North-East Asia (64.4%) is the lowest

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### Internet subscription

Internet users per 100 populations			
Country/Name	2003	2008	CAGR(%)
Republic of Korea	65.9	77.8	3.4
Japan	48.4	69.2	7.4
Singapore	53.8	67.3	4.6
Malaysia	35.0	62.6	12.3
Cambodia	0.3	0.5	13.0
Bangladesh	0.2	0.3	13.8
Myanmar	0.0	0.1	27.3
Timor-Leste		0.1	


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## Internet subscription: overall trends


- The lowest Internet subscriber number found in South and South-West Asia with 8.6 per 100 populations with the highest average CAGR of 27.8%
- The highest number, 44.2, is found in the Pacific (including Australia and New Zealand), with negative growth between (-0.4%).
- ESCAP average in 2008 is 17.4
- **LDC average is 0.6**

## Internet subscription

- The digital divide remains in the number of Internet subscribers
- The use of the Internet depends on the level of literary and education?
- Does mobile communication substitute the Internet use?
- Some countries show rapid mobile growth with slow Internet subscription growth (Cambodia)

 <b>ICT for an inclusive and sustainable development</b>			
Broadband Internet per 100 populations			
Country/Name	2003	2008	CAGR(%)
Republic of Korea	23.701	32.1	6.3
Japan	11.722	23.7	15.1
Singapore	10.041	21.7	16.7
Malaysia	0.447	4.8	60.9
Kazakhstan	0.007	3.6	252.7
Viet Nam	0.011	1.5	165.7
Azerbaijan	0.005	0.7	169.7
India	0.013	0.5	103.5
Iran (Islamic Rep.)	0.001	0.4	232.2
Cambodia	0.003	0.1	80.9

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**Broadband subscription: overview**

- The most obvious digital divide appears in the number of broadband usage
- Correlation between decline in fixed

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[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_8210](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_8210)

