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## IS THE INTERNET MOBILE? MEASUREMENTS FROM ASIA-PACIFIC

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*Opinions expressed may not reflect the views of the International Telecommunication Union or it members* 





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Some of the data is estimated or from 3<sup>rd</sup> parties. When data only available for one operator, it is used as a proxy for entire economy.





# Why measure?

- Mobile has passed fixed & Internet use growing
  - A logical marriage?
- Non-voice mobile use growing
- Commercial / regulatory / social / analytical implications







#### What is Mobile Internet?



Browsing Internet from a mobile...



...or accessing Internet from a mobile network?



#### Overview of advanced Asia-Pacific mobile markets

- Mature
  - Taiwan, China first economy in world to have more mobiles than people!
- Mixture of technologies
- Trendsetters in mobile data:
  - Korea (Rep.) launched world's first CDMA2000
     1x 3G network in October 2000
  - Japan launched world's first W-CDMA 3G network in October 2001





Source: ITU.



# Text messaging

- Not mobile Internet
- Most intensely used non-voice mobile application
- Possible indicator of potential mobile Internet use
  - Number of messages
  - Penetration (i.e., % of subscribers that use it)
- Wide variation in region
  - Definitions? (e.g., sent & received, 'junk' SMS, etc.)



*Note:* SMS = Short Message Service *Source*: ITU adapted from various reports.



## **Traffic: Minutes or Packets?**

- Measure in two ways:
  - Time (minutes of use)
  - Volume (kilobytes)
- Few operators publish this data





*Note*: 2002. Data MOU is average connection to wireless data network regardless of charging system, time-based or packet-based. *Source*: KTF, DoCoMo.



## Mobile phone Internet subscribers

Subscribers browsing the Internet from their mobile phone (e.g., Wireless Access Protocol (WAP), i-mode)



Source: ITU adapted from various sources

Source: ITU adapted from Nomura Research Institute & Korea Network Information Center



## What is an Internet user?



Source: ITU.

Source: ITU adapted from Nomura Research Institute.



#### High-speed mobile (e.g., GPRS, CDMA2000 1x, W-CDMA)

- Infrastructure indicator
  - Subscribers to high-speed mobile data services
  - Coverage of high-speed mobile Internet network
- Comparability issues
  - Not all high-speed networks same (GPRS, CDMA2000 1x, CDMA2000 1x EV/DO, W-CDMA)
  - Some operators count handsets rather than subscribers
  - A subscriber may not be using high-speed features
  - Subscribers may be pay as you go





#### High-speed mobile Subscribers & Coverage



Source: ITU adapted from various sources.

Source: ITU adapted from DoCoMo.



## Mobile data revenue

- Most popular metric among operators with almost all publishing
- True mobile Internet use is often not separated from message revenues
- May reflect high prices rather than intensity of use
- Two basic indicators:
  - Mobile data revenue as
    % of total mobile revenue
  - Average Mobile Data Revenue Per User (ARPU)



Source: ITU adapted from various sources.



# Mobile pricing

- Two ways of pricing:
  - Time (length of period logged on).
     Generally used for low-speed access.
  - Volume (amount of data transferred).
     Generally used for high-speed access.
- Can also have a subscription plan or "pay as you go".





# High-speed mobile pricing

- 1 Megabyte (MB) is approximately equivalent to:
  - 250 emails
    (of 200 words)
  - 20 emails with attachments
  - 20 pages of spreadsheets
- 10 web pages Source: Telstra



Source: ITU adapted from various sources.



# Mobile Internet Index

- Which economy is doing best overall in mobile Internet?
- Helps to overcome limitations of different data by using a number of variables
- Indicators:
  - Mobile to Internet Ratio
  - SMS/sub/month
  - Mobile telephone Internet users ratio
  - High-speed mobile subscriber ratio
  - Mobile data revenue ratio
- Mobile Internet Divide



Source: ITU.



### Recommendations

- Agreement on standard list of mobile Internet indicators and definitions
- Government ICT agencies need to collect and disseminate the data (only Hong Kong, China and Taiwan, China publish limited mobile Internet statistics)
- National statistical offices should incorporate mobile Internet questions into ICT surveys
- If mobile is important, then why not PDAs and notebooks? If wireless important, then why not 802.11? So should WiFi also be included as a mobile Internet indicator (e.g., number of users, number of hotspots)?







## **HH Surveys**

- % HH that use wireless to access Inet (mode of connection)
  - HKG, 2'200 (via PC), 0.2%
  - Taiwan, 1%
- % HH using mobile phones to access Inet
  - Taiwan: mobile phones, 9%
- % individuals that use cellular phone to access Internet (both PC and cellphone; only cellphone)
  - HKG: 72'200 WAP phone, 2.5%
  - Japan: 14.8% via mobile phone only
- % of subscribers that use wireless to access Internet
  - Taiwan: 747'000 WAP and GPRS, 10%



## Mobile Internet Data availability

	SMS	Traffic	Subscribers	Infra- structure	Revenue	Pricing	Surveys
AUS	:	$\overline{\mathbf{i}}$	$\overline{\mathfrak{S}}$	$\overline{\mathbf{O}}$	:		$\odot$
HKG	$(\mathbf{i})$	$(\dot{c})$	$\odot$	$\odot$	:	:	:
JPN	$\odot$	:	$\odot$	$\odot$	:	:	$\odot$
KOR	$\odot$		<b>::</b>		:		$\odot$
NZL	$(\dot{\mathbf{x}})$	$\overline{\mathbf{i}}$	$\overline{\mathfrak{S}}$		:		$\odot$
SGP	:	$\odot$	$\overline{\mathbf{i}}$		:		$\odot$
TWN		$\overline{\mathbf{i}}$	$\odot$		$\odot$		:

☺ Generally available at economy level (from telecom regulator)

- Available from at least one operator
- $\odot$  No primary data available. Estimated or secondary source.





### What is Mobile Internet?







## **3G licenses**

Country	Licenses	Method	Date awarded	Amount (US\$ m) ~
Australia	6	Auction (regional)	Mar-01	579
Hong Kong, China	4	Auction (pre-qualify)	Sep-01	128*
Japan	3	Beauty contest	Jun-00	Free
Korea (Rep.)	3	Beauty contest	Aug-01	2'886
New Zealand	4	Auction (regional)	Jan-01	60
Singapore	3	Auction (Cancelled)#	Apr-01	165
Taiwan, China	5	Auction	Feb-02	1'399

*Note*: ~ Total amount received for all licenses. Local currency converted at rate at date of license award. \* Amount bid was HK\$ 4.1 (US\$ 0.5) million. In addition, licensees must pay minimum of HK\$ 50 million per year or 5% of turnover. Amount shown reflects first five years. # Only one offer was made for each 3G spectrum right so licenses awarded to three bidders.