



Regional workshop on guidelines on the smooth transition of existing mobile networks to IMT-2000

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Abstract:

Topic: WiFi and 3G Network for bridging digital divide in developing countries.

The biggest challenge facing operators and users in developing countries is lack of access to telecommunication network. In most cases the network operator has enough core network capacity but very limited access network. As a result the users are not able to access the information resources due to this digital divide. This is generally the case in rural and sub urban areas. WiFi technology can be used at an affordable cost in the license free bands in the 2.4 and 5.8 GHz to supplement the fixed lines and 3G networks. It could bridge the divide during the transition from 2G to 3G in most developing countries where the access network is very small and has low bandwidth. This paper will outline the WiFi technology and show the steps of implementation. It will also indicate cost benefit analysis of the technology in comparison to other wireless systems. The paper will show some applications of WiFi in the areas of education, healthcare, Internet, emergency communication in developing countries. The presentation shall show steps for a community WiFi deployment in a rural area of Africa.