

**Topic: How a Rural-Suburban WiMAX blueprint will help Thailand and the ASEAN, realise the UN Millenium Development Goals**

Abstract: Whilst progress is being made towards the Millenium Development Goals - underlying socio-economic platforms like rural broadband continue to restrain critical capital development in rural communities. Thailand's regulator, the NTC and Intel have facilitated a joint Government-Industry approach in establishing a suburban-rural WiMAX strategy as a platform for - a) social equity in education and wellness, b) economic empowerment in community and market inclusion, and c) lifestyle opportunities through the digital economy. Such strategies must foster open-market competition whilst also ensuring commercial sustainability. Whilst initiated in Thailand, this strategy is currently under review by international aid organisations as a potential blueprint for this consistent problem statement facing the ASEAN nations.