Broadband for Development in the ESCWA Region

Abstract

Broadband availability is widely perceived as a powerful catalyst for socioeconomic development. It enables the delivery of content, promotes the development of new services, and boosts useful applications, which offer significant benefits to individuals and communities, government institutions and businesses.

The presentation is report is intended to present an overview for broadband deployment in the ESCWA region. Furthermore, it provides guidelines for ICT policymakers with respect to infrastructure development at the national and regional levels. The approach adopted in this presentation is based on an analysis of the status of broadband deployment in the ESCWA region, coupled with an evaluation of technologies and business cases that may support *broadband for socioeconomic development* in the region.

The presentation provides an analysis of broadband indicators in the ESCWA countries. It also discusses the market structure and existence of broadband initiative in the different ESCWA member countries, and the very important issue of international connectivity. An analysis of the main factors affecting broadband demand in the ESCWA region, including service, regulatory, pricing and business issues, leads to sound recommendations for making "Broadband for All" a reality in the region for the service of economic and social development.

Policymakers in Government institutions should formulate policies that harness broadband to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable socioeconomic development, and to empower citizens of a people–centered knowledge society in the region.