

Broadband Policy and Regulation- Case study from Emerging Market
Satya N. Gupta
Chief Regulatory Advisor, SAARC Region
BT , Global services

Abstract

This presentation covers a country case study from a developing country (India) highlighting the need for an enabling policy approach and facilitating regulatory regime to fuel the uptake of growth of broadband in the nation. It identifies various bottlenecks which obstruct the growth and spread of broadband services in a vast geographically spread country dominated by rural population and suggests various Governmental initiatives related to the policy framework and regulatory regime.

In India regulatory regime for ISPs who provide internet and Broadband services is one of the most liberal with unlimited competition and negligible entry barriers. Technology- neutrality enabling service providers to use any technology and make use of infrastructure of any network is one of the Hallmarks of the liberal regime. A light regulation on ISPs in respect of market driven tariff and no liability to contribute towards Universal Service Obligation (USO) and licence fee is another salient feature. In addition Govt. facilitated the setting up a National Internet Exchange (IXP) and regulator reduced the cost of international Bandwidth through tariff cap regulation. Also there is a move towards creation of National Broadband Backbone through public funding and PPP mode.

Some bands of radio spectrum were also delicensed for the outdoor usage to enable the deployment of BWA to accelerate the growth of broadband further.

All the above measures have resulted into an Ecosystem to accelerate the penetration of Broadband throughout the country by making it ubiquitous and affordable to bridge the Digital-Divide.