



ITU WHITE PAPER ON BROADBAND REGULATION AND POLICY IN ASIA PACIFIC REGION: FACILITATING FASTER BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT



Bangkok 14-17 November

On the occasion of the ITU Telecom World 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand, ITU in collaboration with Huawei launch ITU White Paper on Broadband Regulation and Policy in Asia-Pacific Region with its theme Facilitating Faster Broadband Deployment at a special session of the Asia-Pacific Exchange on Broadband Regulation and Policy: Opportunities and Challenges in Driving the Digital Economy.



The White Paper explores broadband regulatory and policy aspects in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region with an aim to facilitate high-speed broadband deployment. Asia-Pacific countries generally and particularly the report's in-scope countries covering Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam (which are referred to as the APAC 8 in the paper) have a tremendous opportunity to improve their economic performance and social prosperity via a wide range of ICT applications and innovative business models and, in particular, through ubiquitous and affordable broadband connection.



Bangladesh



Cambodia



India



Lao PDR



Myanmar



Sri Lanka



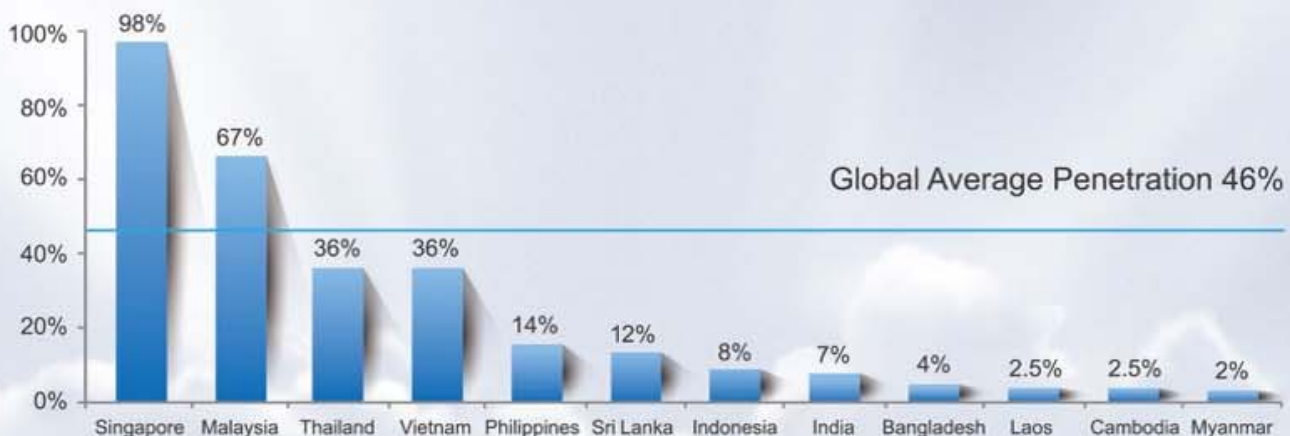
Thailand



Vietnam

Despite the rapid growth of wireless broadband, which is relatively much cheaper and easy to deploy, it's unlikely to have sufficient network capacity to deliver the increasing bandwidth demand by the next generation of broadband users. However, the deployment of fixed broadband infrastructure is facing a wide range of difficulties and challenges, especially in terms of the cost of construction and deployment efficiency, which render fixed broadband services either unavailable and/or unaffordable. Hence, significant efforts need to be undertaken by the Governments as well as regional organisations to articulate regulatory and legal frameworks to facilitate efficient and optimal deployment of fixed broadband through effective collaboration and cooperation amongst the stakeholders along the value chain.

Fixed Broadband Penetration in Major APAC Countries (2016)



Download Full Report (White Paper)
<http://itu.int/go/apac-bb-2016>

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Recommendations

Building from the experience of extensive broadband deployments that have occurred in more advanced markets, the White Paper highlights key eight actions.



While Wireless Broadband is Excellent, Fixed Broadband is the Critical Infrastructure to Digital Economy

Wireless broadband while excellent and getting better, cheaper and faster is, by itself, insufficient for a modern nation and to underpin a digital economy.



Optical Fibre Networks are Necessary to Support Growing Data Traffic

High speed broadband i.e. optical fibre networks are necessary as a minimum for (i) enterprises and Government, (ii) urban residence, and (iii) wireless backhaul transmission to support the growing traffic volumes.



Optimal Approach to Drive Broadband Penetration is to Concurrently Facilitate Both Fixed and Wireless Services

The optimal approach to delivering national broadband services is multi-mode competition, under which the wireless mobile industry has been very successful in underpinning regional and national economic growth supported by Government policy while concurrently steps would need to be taken to accelerate fixed broadband infrastructure.



Developing a Supportive Regulatory Framework Would Facilitate Broadband Rollout

Develop regional regulatory and legal frameworks (ASEAN & SAARC) based on global and regional exemplars to facilitate efficient and optimal fixed broadband deployment, including enhanced rights of way (ROW) access, established one-stop centres, and 'dig once' policies.



Strategic Policy Interventions Would Enable Efficient Deployment and More Affordable Broadband

Detailed policy interventions required in Asia-Pacific region including relevant policies and rules to promote infrastructure sharing, re-use of Government assets based on global exemplars, co-ordinate infrastructure construction, pre-deploy fibre in greenfields estates, improve international connectivity and encourage industries cooperation to accelerate broadband inclusion.



Strengthening and Reform of Incumbent Operators is Necessary or if Required, New Competitors Should be Licensed

It is critical to strengthen and reform incumbent operators (like the relaxation of any restrictions, removal of subsidies and, strengthen management etc) in order to secure viable and properly scaled optical fibre deployments.



Make Available Spectrum for Wireless Broadband Services at Affordable Prices

Ensure the availability of technology neutral IMT spectrum for wireless broadband services including for 4G/LTE, LTE-A and 5G services and fixed broadband services at reasonable prices.



Stimulate the Development and Utilisation of Local Content/Applications

Formulate programs and policies which will stimulate the demand resulting in development of domestic content and apps relevant for Asia-Pacific markets including in local languages.

The Path to Prosperity

The White Paper concludes by arguing that if the best practice recommendations are followed then such regulation and policy will underpin world-class multi-mode broadband competition in APAC markets. This will lay the foundation for increased economic growth, social inclusion, and a greater integration of APAC markets and its citizens. It would also specifically facilitate the successful transition of the APAC8 into a globally connected world and promote their participation in the global digital economy. Such an approach minimises country risk, and starts to address significant deficiencies in the availability of high-speed broadband infrastructure found in many APAC markets.