

**10th World Telecommunication/ICT
Indicators Meeting (WTIM-12)
Bangkok, Thailand, 25-27 September 2012**



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10th ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Meeting (WTIM)

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1. Measuring Broadband capacity, quality and speed

Ministry of Information and Communication in Bhutan is solely responsible for helping the two telecom operators to increase their broadband capacity, quality and speed. To this extent, MoIC is in the process of establishing a II International gateway in the country as well as laying down fiber optic cable across the country to increase broadband capacity, quality and speed.

Bhutan being a small market has only two telecom operators and among which only one telecom operator i.e. Bhutan Telecom provides broadband connectivity. In order to measure the broadband capacity, quality and speed, MoIC collects quarterly / bi-annual information/data's from the telecom operators.

Information such as:

- a. Broadband (fixed/mobile) subscribers
- b. Broadband (fixed/mobile) internet connection charges
- c. Broadband (fixed/mobile) broadband speed (Mbits)
- d. Broadband (fixed/mobile) capacity
- e. Data on broadband price per additional downloaded (Gigabytes) once the monthly allotted limit of broadband subscription is over.

2. Measuring progress towards the achievement of the WSIS outcomes, including in the areas of education, business and security.

Bhutan for the past years has always been measuring the WSIS outcomes. With high priorities given to WSIS target by the Royal Government of Bhutan, the Ministry has been continuously trying its best to achieve it and also measure its achievements.

WSIS Target 1: By December 2011, Bhutan has connected almost 99% of area under its jurisdiction with mobile services with the other 1 % to be connected by mid 2012. The Ministry has collected information regarding the places connected, number of subscriber by type & operator. The Ministry also collected data on fixed telephone connections. The Ministry is also in the process of collecting information regarding internet access and usage with the help of National Statistical Bureau via their survey (Bhutan Living Standard Survey). The survey will be released by December 2012.

WSIS Target 2: Being an IT and Media Ministry, this ministry has been supporting the Education Ministry in bring IT and Media to different schools in the country. The Ministry has collected data related to schools with IT and internet facilities used for their educational purposes. With

the Media Impact Study due next year, the Ministry intends to collect data related to use of radio and television in schools.

WSIS Target 3: All the research institutes in Bhutan is connected with internet. The Ministry has all the required data.

WSIS Target 4,5 and 6: The Ministry has supported in providing internet connections to all the post offices via Community Centers, museums, public libraries, health centers and hospitals. The ministry collects all the data on it.

WSIS Target 7 and 9: With the development of ICTs sector in the Country, the Ministry in collaboration with Ministry of Education is in the process of developing curriculum in ICTs in all schools including tertiary institutes. The Media Department and the Research Division within the Ministry is currently looking into the content issues. Some work on Media local content has been developed as of now. Therefore, this meeting would be very beneficial for us in knowing how it could be measured.

WSIS Target 8 and 10: The Ministry has been annually collecting data with regard to target no. 10 and the information is available. As for target no. 8, the Ministry has been collecting the information every five year with our own Media Impact study and through National Statistics Bureau's Bhutan Living Standard survey.

3. Revisions to the indicators on household ICT access and individual ICT usage, including aspects of youth and gender

Ministry of Information and Communications is mandated to collect information/data with regard to ICT/Telecom sector in the country. With this mandate, MoIC is actively involved in forming indicators for various household ICT access and individual ICT usage. In 2009, MoIC calculated the ICT Development Index via a table survey using the formulae used by ITU. The Index was calculated especially to measure ICT access and ICT. Result for it can be found in MoIC's website i.e. www.moic.gov.bt. MoIC via a local consultant is also trying to measure it for 2010.

Taking into account the new development in the world of ICT, MoIC is in the process of revising its ICT indicators. We are also organizing workshop and meetings for local stakeholders on ICT statistics and its indicators in November, 2011. MoIC will further collaborate with National Statistical Bureau to discuss on the same topic.

4. Emerging issues such as measuring digital broadcasting and internet content.

Currently Bhutan is in a introductory stage with regard to digital broadcasting. Being a member of the committee looking into the digital broadcasting area, therefore I think this workshop will be of great benefit.

With regards to internet content, Bhutan through its amendments to the ICM Act intends to study and regulate it. Same like the digital broadcasting, this area is also new to Bhutan and the meeting would be highly useful.

5. Results of the work carried out by the Expert Group on Telecommunications/ICT Indicators (EGTI) and launch of the ITU Handbook on infrastructure indicators.

I am an member of the Expert Group on Telecommunications/ICT Indicators(EGTI) online forum.