



Universal Service Fund Asia: A Proposal

by
Toshihiko Hayashi
Professor of Economics, University of the Air
Director, Institute for Safer and Securer
Society

<http://hayashiland.com>



Impacts of Internet

- escience global climate research
- ecommerce Yahoo, Google, eBay
- egovernment ... family registration, tax
- edemocracy voting, election campaign
- elearning Thamasat, ipod, YouTube
- telemedicine ... clinical record, diagnosis
- telework SOHO, newsweek
- broadcast net TV, VOD



Ubiquitous Network

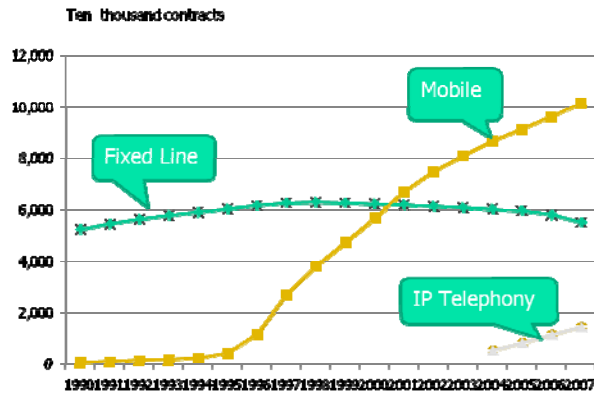
- Broadband infrastructure
- Ultra high speed transmission of massive information
- Sensor technology
- Everything on internet protocol (IP)
- Anyone, any time, anywhere



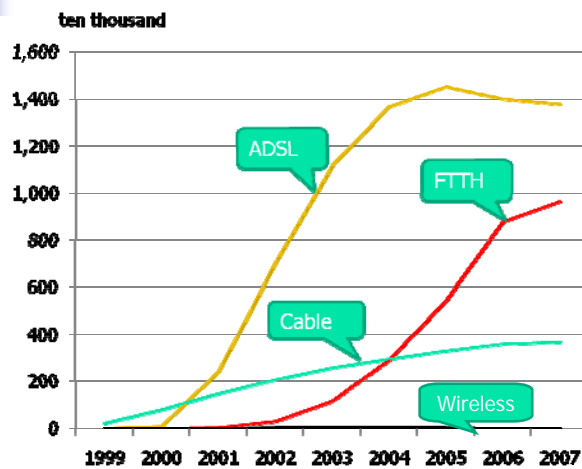
Ubiquitous Information Society

- Anyone, any time, anywhere, with anyone
- Machine to machine communication
- Networked home appliances
- Your avatar in network
- Global brain
- George Orwell's "1984"?
- Privacy exposed ?

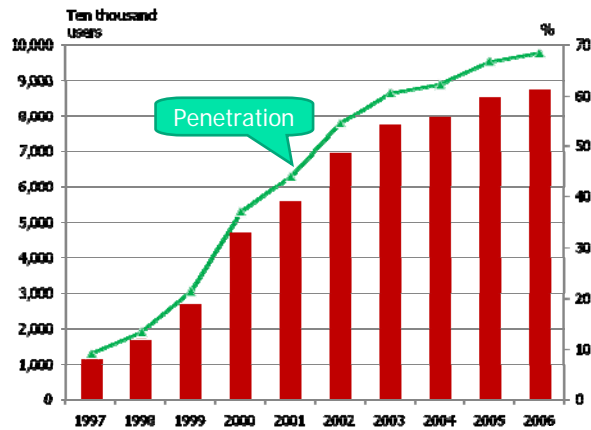
Telephone Subscription



Broadband Contracts



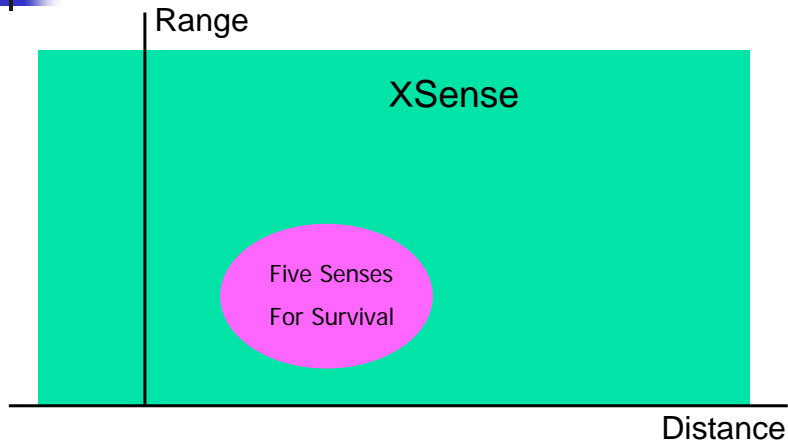
Internet Users and Penetration of Population



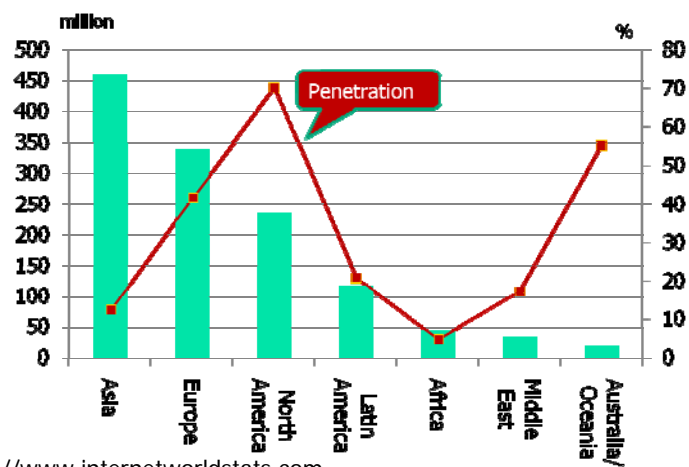
Future of Information Society

- Information, communication, and thought
- Information environment
- From digital divide to digital empowerment
- Ruleless network society?
- Information and energy obesity?
- From sardines in ocean to whales in bay?

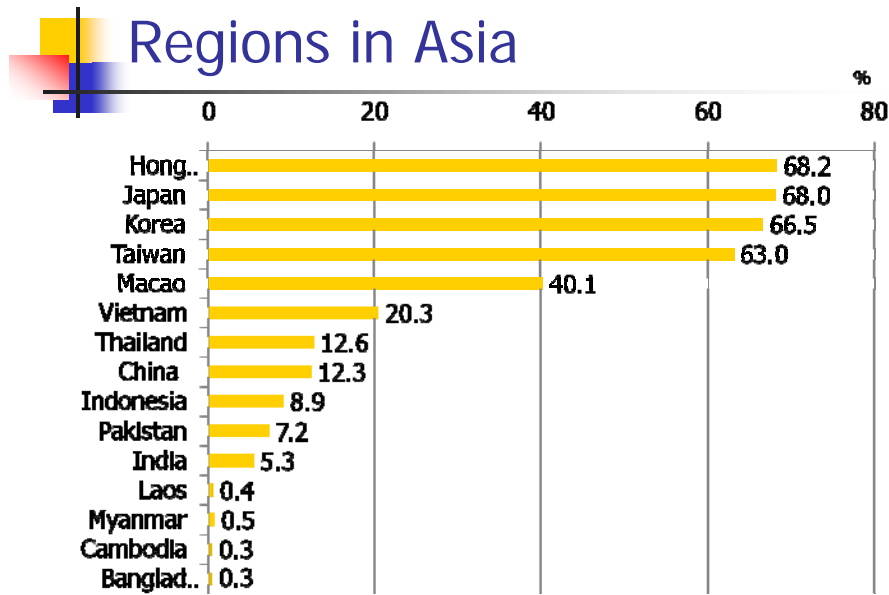
Man, Society and Technology



Internet Users in the World



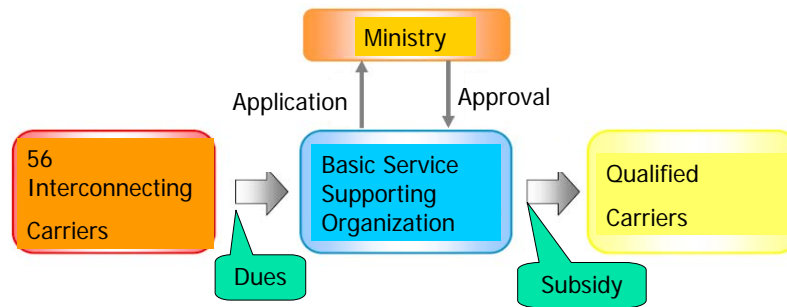
Selected Countries and Regions in Asia



Universal Service Fund: US Version

- To provide access to telecommunications services to all Americans at reasonable rates:
 - Rural or high cost areas
 - Low-income consumers
 - Rural health care facilities
 - Schools and libraries

Japan's Universal Service Fund



Universal Service Fund Asia: A Proposal

- Towards digital empowerment of Asia.
- Promote ICT deployment in high cost area and low income area.
- Treaty for basic ICT cooperation.



Purpose of USFA

- The purpose is to help provide accessible and affordable ICT infrastructure in Asia.
- To turn wide Asian diversity in endowment, history, culture, technology and ideas into global asset of mankind.



Questions about USFA

- Who should contribute?
Carriers and information service providers, and ultimately network users in informatinally advanced countries.
- Why?
They can benefit from network externalities.



More questions on USFA

- Who should receive subsidies?
Infrastructure service providers in the high cost countries.
- Why?
Deployment of infrastructure helps those people in the recipient countries and benefit expands to all users.



Further question on USFA

- How is it different from official development aid?
- Operated on a non-government basis, it can create a community participated by individuals in all Asia.



A Crazy Idea?

- It can work on the grass root basis.
- It can enhance the soft power of Asia.
- EU started with economic integration. Asia can start with network integration.
- More than anything else, there are lots of fun, interesting ideas, and amazing monuments that enrich everyone.