Universal Service Fund Asia: A Proposal

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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

- Fixed Line
- Mobile
- IP Telephony

Broadband Contracts

- ADSL
- FTTH
- Cable
- Wireless
Internet Users and Penetration of Population

![Graph showing internet users and penetration]

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

Range

Distance

XSense

Five Senses
For Survival

Internet Users in the World

http://www.internetworldstats.com
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.