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GENERAL

E/ESCWA/ICTD/2003/11/Add.2
7 November 2003
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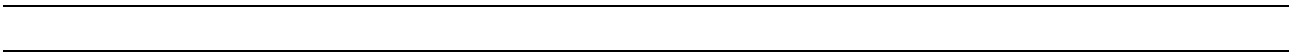
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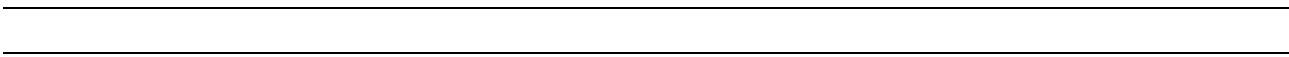
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**Regional Profile for the Information Society
Template for country profiles**

Introduction

An overview of the national context and important milestones on the road to the Information Society in the country

I. Policies and strategies

- i. National information society policies and strategies (adopted/planned policies and strategies with an evaluation of their implementation)
- ii. Sectoral plans for building the information society (focusing on the most important sectors such as education, industry, commerce, government and health)

II. Legal and regulatory frameworks

- i. Intellectual Property Rights and Privacy status (existing/planned laws and their implementation)
- ii. Telecom regulatory framework in the country (ownership, privatization of services, public-private partnership, ...)
- iii. Regulating the Internet (including ISPs, access facilitation, information exchange, ...)
- iv. Privacy and security laws and regulations for applications (e.g. e-signature law – needed for e-commerce and e-government applications)
- v. Other ICT-related laws and regulations (including WTO compliance)

III. ICT infrastructure

- i. Telephone penetration (actual and planned for fixed and mobile telephony, in cities and in the countryside)
- ii. Internet backbone (existence and coverage)
- iii. ISPs and ASPs (their number, number of users for each, cost for users, quality of service, ...)
- iv. Access (availability, affordability, reliability and security)
- v. PC dissemination

IV. ICT Capacity-building

- i. Awareness and dissemination (such as national ICT awareness programmes, dissemination of the International Computer Driver Licence, ...)

- ii. Computers in schools (extent of computer use in teaching/administrative tasks, teacher training, review of education programmes to introduce ICT as a tool and a subject, ...)
- iii. Vocational training (volume and quality of institutions for ICT vocational training in regular education programmes and in private/public training centers)
- iv. University education (variety and quality of ICT programmes, departments and faculties, number of students/graduates and professors in ICTs,...)
- v. Research, Development and Innovation in ICTs (RDI institutions, initiatives/programmes, including excellence centers, output volume and quality)

V. Building the ICT sector

- i. ICT firms (categories: private/public, telecom, hardware, software, services; size and quality)
- ii. Investment in ICTs (National and foreign direct investment; policies, volume, trends, ...)
- iii. Government facilitation (tax incentives, import/export facilitation, ...)
- iv. Export of ICT equipment/software (market, volume, obstacles,

VI. Applications in government establishments

- i. Computerization of public administrations
- ii. Digitization of information
- iii. e-government plans
- iv. e-procurement applications

VII. Applications in education

- i. e-learning (dissemination in schools and universities, on-line courses)
- ii. e-school projects (networking of schools, organization and coordination efforts)
- iii. Virtual universities (availability, structure and effectiveness of existing schemes)

VIII. Applications in commerce and business

- i. Extent and maturity of e-commerce and e-business applications (B2B, B2C, standards, security issues, ...)
- ii. Availability and quality of e-banking

IX. Applications in healthcare

- i. Databases for national healthcare (volume, coverage, online/offline availability, and updates)
- ii. Telemedicine and medical use of teleconferencing

X. Digital Arabic content

- i. Arabic vs. English content on the Web for national use (categories, necessity/importance, content generation firms,...)
- ii. Obstacles for its development and ways for removing them

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Table of indicator values

Indicator		Y2000	Y2001	Y2002
1. Basic Background Indicators				
1.1	Population	3.21 mil.	3.52 mil.	3.7 mil.
1.2	Area	82,880 KM2	82,880 KM2	82,880 KM2
1.3	Density	27	29	31
1.4	Urban population	-	87%	-
1.5	Adult Literacy	94.4%	94.7%	95.1%
1.6	Poverty	N/A	N/A	N/A
1.7	GNI per capita	\$17,700	\$22,800	\$21,100
1.8	GDP Growth	2.9% average		
2. Telecom Infrastructure				
2.1	Fixed lines (total)	1,020,097	1,052,930	1,120,000
2.2	Domestic (lines per household)	-	-	-
2.3	Urban (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.4	Waiting list (total number)	-	-	745
2.5	Waiting time (average)	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.6	Total Revenue (\$)	\$583 million		195.6
2.7	Cost of local call (\$ per 3 minutes)	-	-	-
2.8	Cost of call within region (\$ per 3 minutes)	-	-	-
2.9	Cost of call to US (\$ per 3 minutes)	-	-	\$4.11
2.10	Number of fixed lines operators	-	-	-
2.11	ISDN lines	-	21,983	24,353
2.11.1	Initial cost (\$)	-	-	-
2.11.2	Monthly charge (\$)	-	-	-
2.12	DSL lines	-	8,700	-
2.12.1	Initial cost (\$)	-	\$54	-
2.12.2	Monthly charge (\$)	-	\$295	-
2.13	Leased lines	427	450	567
2.13.1	Initial cost (\$)	-	\$750	-
2.13.2	Monthly charge (\$)	-	\$1800	\$750
2.14	Cable	-	-	-
2.14.1	Initial cost (\$)	-	-	-
2.14.2	Monthly charge (\$)	-	-	-
2.15	Outgoing traffic (minutes)	-	963.3 million	-
2.16	Incoming traffic (minutes per subscriber)			
2.17	Mobile lines	1,428,000	1,909,000	2,557,679
2.18	Number of mobile operators	1	1	1

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Indicator		Y2000	Y2001	Y2002
3. Media Infrastructure				
3.1	Radios	318 per 1,000	-	-
3.2	Television	292 per 1,000	-	-
3.3	Satellites	-	-	8
3.4	Daily Newspapers	7	7	7
4. Computers and the Internet				
4.1	Personal computers	400,000	420,000	490,000
4.2	Personal computers in education	-	-	-
4.3	Percentage of computers that are networked	13.2%	25.5%	-
4.4	Internet subscribers	209,000	256,000	286,000
4.5	Internet users	765,000	976,000	1,175,000
4.6	Internet hosts	42,962	42,546	52,332
4.7	ISP's	1	1	1
4.8	ISP monthly charges (\$)	-	\$13	-
4.9	Telephone usage charges (\$)	-	0.00	-
4.1	Available national bandwidth	-	620 Mbps	-
4.11	Hosting availability	-	4500	8094
4.12	Secure servers	-	31	-
5. ICT expenditure				
5.1	Telecom expenditure (million \$)	-	-	\$1.245billion
5.2	IT expenditure (million \$)	\$720million	-	-
5.3	Percentage of GDP (%)	-	-	1.77%
5.4	ICT per capita (\$)	-	-	\$336
6. Capacity building				
6.1	Scientists and engineers in R&D	-	N/A	-
6.2	R&D expenditure (% of GNI)	-	N/A	-
6.3	ICT related university graduates per year	-	1791	-
7. ICT government and business environment				
7.1	e-readiness index	-	High	-
7.2	e-government index	-	High	-
7.3	IPR enforcement	-	High	-
7.5	Compliance with WTO	-	High	-
7.6	Basic telecom agreement	-	No	-
7.7	Reference paper	-	-	-

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Indicator		Y2000	Y2001	Y2002
8. Laws and regulations				
8.1	Patent law	-	Available	-
8.2	Trademark law	-	Available	-
8.3	Copyright law	-	Available	-
8.4	IT Agreement	-	N/A	-
8.5	e-Commerce law	-	In Progress	-
8.6	e-Signature law	-	In Progress	-
8.7	Piracy rate	-	N/A	-
9. ICT Policy				
9.1	ICT strategy	-	Available	-
9.2	ICT Plan of action	-	In Progress	-
9.3	National initiatives	-	Many	-



ADSL: Asynchronous Digital Subscriber Line	
ASP : Application Service Provider	
ATM: Asynchronous Transfer Mode	
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B2B: Business to Business	- -
cable	
CEO: Chief Executive Officer	
Clearing	()
Copyright	
Cyber-school	
DSL: Digital Subscriber Line	
e-Commerce	-
e-Government	-
entrepreneur	
eProcurement	-
eSinaee	
E-Vision	-
FDI: Foreign Direct Investment	
FMCG: Fast Moving Consumer Goods	
G2B: Government to Business	- -
GDP: Global Domestic Product	
GIRS: GSM International Roaming Service	GSM
GNI: Global National Income	
GPS: Global Positioning System	
GSM: Global System for Mobile communications	
Hosting Services	
HTML, XML	
ICT: Information and Communication Technology	
in-situ	()
interactive	
ISDN: Integrated Services Digital Network	
ISP: Internet Service Provider	
IT: Information Technology	
LAN: Local Area Networks	
MIS: Management Information Systems	
Online	()
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Penetration rate ()
per-capita
RFQ: Request For Quotation ()
roaming ()
semi-conductors
Server ()
SIM: Subscriber Identification Module () ()
SME: Small and Medium Enterprise
SMS: Short Message Service
spin off ()
TQM: Total Quality Management
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transaction
WAP: Wireless Application Protocol
WTO