APEC's potential to underpin the knowledge-based economy

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APEC and the ICT revolution

The revolution in information and communications technology has made it possible to think of a knowledge and information based economy.

This has enormous potential for improving productivity as well as access to essential services.

To access these opportunities, it is essential to have access to ICT via the internet.

In Brunei Darussalam, in late 2000 APEC leaders endorsed a vision of a region in which all communities would have access to the internet by 2010.

Region-wide community-based access to the internet

Is this target worth considering?

Is it significant and well understood?

does it complement other goals already set by APEC leaders?

Is it measurable?

Is it realistic?

Region-wide community-based access to the internet

Can APEC add value?

Are APEC groups doing relevant work?

Are there benefits of a regional, rather than an economy-by-economy approach?

Can APEC catalyse resources from others?

Region-wide community-based access to the internet

Is this target worth considering?

     Yes!

Can APEC add value?

     Yes!

Can APEC meet its internet access target?

Implementing targets

- Define the challenge
- Define the policy approach
- Assign responsibility for encouraging APEC governments to implement such policies
- Monitor progress
- Report regularly to APEC Ministers and leaders

Implementing the Bogor targets

- Osaka Action Agenda Part One
- OAA principles, facilitation principles
- CTI which manages work program and resources of sub-groups responsible for each aspect of the OAA
- IAPs and CAPs, regularly updated and reviewed
- Annual meetings of Ministers Responsible for Trade
- Annual review of progress by APEC leaders

Implementing the internet access target

- Define the challenge
- Define the policy approach/strategy
- Assign responsibility for encouraging APEC governments to implement such policies
- Monitor progress
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A strategy for access to ICT

Access to ICT via the internet is already spreading rapidly,

   largely driven by market forces …

What do APEC governments need to do?

- to assess where market forces are least likely to provide at least community-based access, and

- to define what can be done to increase both the demand and the incentives for the investment needed in such difficult places

In 2003, it may be possible to announce the creation of an.

APEC Leaders Strategy Group

APEC Leaders Strategy Group

This high-level group could include:
- APEC leaders Thailand and Chile
- the leader of the e-ASEAN initiative;
- CEOs of some top ICT enterprises;
- leading academics in ICT-based education for economic development;
- senior representative of a multilateral development agency.

What kind of strategy?

- assemble information about the ongoing public and private sector efforts to extend access to ICT to remote, or otherwise disadvantaged, locations;

- learn from the rapidly accumulating experience;

- encourage new public/private partnerships to supplement current efforts;

- share experience on ways of adapting policy for telecommunications in response to changing technology,

- investigate options for intermediation in telecommunications markets to promote low-cost access by small users in remote areas.

- promote pilot tests in some remote areas

Implementing the strategy

Once a strategy for region-wide access to ICT via the internet is endorsed by APEC leaders

Then we will need **Action Plans:**

individual and collective action plans for wider access to ICT

And a group of APEC officials to monitor these, just as the CTI monitors Action Plans for TILF