

FORESIGHT FOR DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT

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UNCTAD

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Sessional Panel
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3: DIGITAL POLICY MAXIMIZING DEVELOPMENTAL IMPACT

Conduct
Foresight
Studies

Promote
Pro-poor
Innovation

Regulatory
Frameworks

2: DIGITAL TRENDS BIG DATA, IoT, 3D PRINTING, AUTOMATION, MOOCs

4 Digital
Trends

Opportunities
for
Development

Risks and
Challenges

1: DIGITAL FORESIGHT DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY FORESIGHT

ICTs for SDGs

Digital Divide

Technology
Foresight

ICTs AS ENABLER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ICTs are critical for achieving the SDGs.

HOWEVER, ICTs bring both opportunity and risks.

ENVIRONMENT

DECOUPLING GOOD AND SERVICES PRODUCTION FROM CARBON EMISSIONS



ECONOMY

HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY AND INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION



SOCIETY

INCREASED SOCIAL INCLUSION AND INTEGRATION



ADDRESSING THE CONTINUING DIGITAL DIVIDE

2000-2015

GROWTH IN MOBILE NETWORKS

SIGNIFICANT DIGITAL CHALLENGES

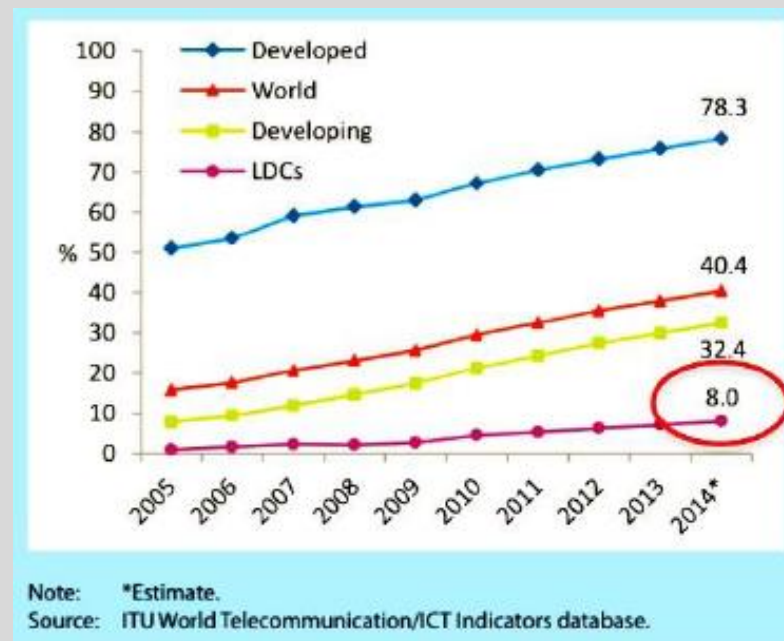
EXPANSION OF EXISTING BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

NEED FOR LARGE CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

LACK OF DIGITAL CONTENT

SHORTAGES OF RELEVANT SKILLS

DIGITAL DIVIDE REMAINS



SDG 9C states to "Significantly increase access to information and communication technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020."

TECHNOLOGY FORESIGHT FOR POLICY MAKING

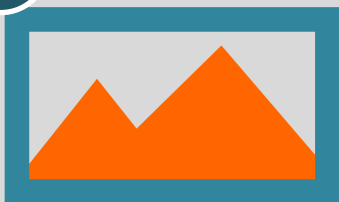
WHAT IS TECHNOLOGY FORESIGHT?

1

FORECASTING EVOLUTION OF TECHNOLOGIES AND THEIR IMPACT ON SOCIETY FOR POLICY MAKING AND FIRM-LEVEL STRATEGY.

2

THERE ARE MANY FORESIGHT METHODS



FOCUS GROUPS
DELPHI METHOD
SIMULATIONS
SCENARIO BUILDING
INTERVIEWS

3



1970s

JAPAN CONDUCTED FORESIGHT STUDIES ON ELECTRONICS SECTOR

4

SINCE WSIS SUMMIT IN 2003 & 2005, LOTS OF CHANGES IN THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Web 2.0 | Broadband |
| Cloud Computing | Mass Mobile |
| Social Media | Big Data |

FOUR BROAD DIGITAL TRENDS

1

Big Data & IoT



- Big Data: Huge volumes of data and data analysis.
- Internet of Things: Internet-enabled sensor devices

2

MOOCs



- Online courses that allow open access and unlimited participation.
- Social sharing, interactive learning

3

3D Printing



- Printing physical items with ink layer by layer
- Additive – rather than subtractive – manufacturing

4

Automation



- Ability of computers to take over cognitive – and not just physical – tasks.
- Productivity growth without job growth

Big Data & IoT

MOOCs

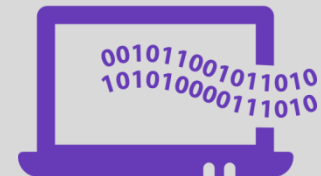
Automation

3D Printing

Builds on current ICT infrastructure

Could lead to new digital divides

Digital Trends



HOW DIGITAL TRENDS CONTRIBUTE TO DEVELOPMENT

BIG DATA: Insurance for small scale farmers in Africa

IoT: Water Quality Monitoring in Bangladesh

Automation: Election Monitoring in Kenya with Ushahidi Platform

MOOCs: Kepler University in Kigali, Rwanda

Digital trends can potentially contribute to sustainable development

However, development dimension must be prioritized for SDGs

3D Printing can produce products in one process, without multitudes of parts, and with recycled materials



DECOUPLING
CARBON
EMISSIONS
FROM
PRODUCTION

RISKS AND CHALLENGES OF DIGITAL TRENDS

Digital trends come with potential developmental benefits



HOWEVER, these digital trends come with potential risks and challenges.



DATA



PRIVACY & SECURITY:

Big Data and IoT technologies can endanger consumer privacy and security and compromise confidentiality.

DATA SHARING:

Illegal sharing of 3D printed data can potentially pose risks for national security as well as economic sectors.

REGULATION:

Lack of regulatory standards for data interoperability may minimize potential benefits.

PEOPLE



POTENTIAL JOB LOSS:

Automation and MOOCs can potentially reduce need for labor in spite of rising productivity.

HUMAN CAPITAL:

Emerging digital trends require skilled labor to maximize benefits.

DISCRIMINATION:

Digital automation algorithms and big data analysis can potentially reinforce discriminatory biases.

CONDUCTING FORESIGHT STUDIES



Countries may consider foresight as policy tool.

Foresight can potentially shape funding and decision-making processes.



SINGAPORE TECH FORESIGHT ON AUTOMATION



- ▶ Conducted study by Ctr. for Strategic Foresight and Min. of Manpower
- ▶ How will big data and automation affect jobs?
- ▶ Recommend incentivizing automation
- ▶ Recommend upskilling citizens for future jobs



GOVERNMENTS MAY CONSIDER:


- 1 Developing institutional capacity for foresight.
- 2 Prioritizing foresight for S&T policy-making and relevant sectoral strategy.
- 3 Conducting foresight on technologies, even if they are not locally adopted.
- 4 Sharing relevant lessons through global platforms like CSTD.

PROMOTING PRO-POOR INCLUSIVE INNOVATION



Digital developments can be part of national development plans

HOWEVER, without pro-poor focus the benefits are not likely to be inclusive



GOVERNMENTS MAY CONSIDER:

- Developing capacity for digital development as "knowledge aid."
 - Forging North-South and South-South partnerships to harness digital developments for the poor.
-
- Adapting free and open source digital technologies for locally-relevant, pro-poor applications.
 - Supporting local innovators who create applications with an inclusive, pro-poor focus

GOVERNMENT CAN ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION OF MILLENNIALS.

GOVERNMENT CAN LINK POVERTY REDUCTION TO DIGITAL TRENDS.



DEVELOPING REGULATORY AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS

To maximize the developmental impact of digital trends, governments can consider the following:

DATA REGULATION

Ensure Privacy & Security and Encourage Innovation



HUMAN CAPITAL

Invest in Human Capital and Up-Skilling Workers.



DIGITAL DIVIDE

Continue to Bridge Digital Divides and Ensure Inclusive Access.



FORESIGHT FOR DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT

1: DIGITAL FORESIGHT
ICTs ARE IMPORTANT FOR ACHIEVING SDG'S AND
TECHNOLOGY FORESIGHT CAN AID POLICYMAKING

2: DIGITAL TRENDS
BIG DATA, IoT, 3D PRINTING, AUTOMATION, & MOOCs
PRESENT OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR SDGs

3: DIGITAL POLICY
NATIONAL POLICIES CAN MAXIMIZE DEVELOPMENTAL
IMPACTS AND MINIMIZE RISKS OF DIGITAL TRENDS

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