

## Bridging the digital divide -- Government's policy and practice

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## **E-Readiness**

July 2004

Items	Penetration Rate	
Internet Population	56.49%	
<b>Broadband Population</b>	48.99%	
<b>Households Connected</b>	68.85%	
<b>Broadband Households</b>	49.47%	
Mobile Phone	106.45%	
Cable TV	84.6%	
* Total Population: 22.5 million	* Total Households: 5.5 million	
Source: 1. Taiwan Network Information Center 2 Ministry of Transportation and Communications		

2. Ministry of Transportation and Communications



## The Gap in Geography





## The Gap in Geography





## **Citizens' Perspective**

Items	Percentage
Citizens who had used government	45.9%
websites in last 12 months.	
Citizens who had submitted feedback	10.7%
or comments to government websites	
via email in last 12 months	
Citizens who had used e-government	22.1%
online services in last 12 months	

Source: A survey by Research, Development and Evaluation Commission in Jun. 2004









### **E-Gov Implementation Mechanism**





#### Bridging the Digital Divide -- Toward a Fair and Equitable Society (E-government perspective)

- Promote access to government information
- Make administrative procedures transparent
- Empower citizens
- Expand participation in public affairs
- Make government more accountable
- Promote fair competition
- Encourage community development



## Policies Adopted (1)

NII Promotion Program (1997 ~ 2001)

- Construction of fiber telecommunication backbone
- Building wide-spread public information centers
- Internet-connected in every elementary and juniorhigh school
- Promoting telecommunication universal services
- Enhancing information education and training
- Developing digital content industry
- Establishment of 141 telecenters in remote areas



# **Policies Adopted (2)**

Challenge 2008: National Development Plan.

- Strengthening information education for elementary and junior-high schools in remote areas
- Promoting information education and training programs for indigene
- Implementing information education and training programs for laborers, farmers, and senior citizens
- Establishing telecenters in remote areas



## Policies Adopted (2)

- Challenge 2008: National Development Plan. --- continued
- <u>Provide universal access service:</u> broadband, TV for indigene, libraries in townships, telecenters
- <u>Strengthen IT services for disabilities:</u> remote areas, computer cycling, accessible websites, IT training for lowincome, senior citizens, housewives



## Telecenter Establishment and relevant experiences



## What telecenter?

- Internet access center in remote areas
- Information training/promotion center





# Where and Who about telecenter?

- Rural/remote areas
- RDEC established 141 points for trial in 2001, 70 points in 2003, and 33 in 2004.
- Local government's efforts
- Private sectors' contribution



## **Service Hours per Week**





### No. of People Telecenters Served between Jan.-June 2004





### **User Satisfaction of Telecenters**





## **Results and Lessons learned**

- Few telecenters survived
- Maintenance cost underestimated
- Lack of local community support
- Lack of promotion and training
- Lack of qualified workforce
- Lack of content and services



## How telecenter (1)

- Strategies:
  - -Government support
  - -Community involvement and ownership
  - –Partner with private sectors/NGOs



## How telecenter (2)

- Technical consideration:
  - -Telecommunication: dial-up? ADSL? Satellite? Microwave?
  - –Computer facilities: PC? Kiosk? Digital TV?





### **Multimedia Public Telephone**





Research, Development, and Evaluation Commission

#### **Appearance of Main Screen**





#### When Used as a Telephone





#### Take a picture and sent it out.





## How telecenter (3)

- Training: cooperate with local schools, corporate donations
- Promotion and marketing: involved with local people's culture and life
- Content and services are key factors



## Bridging the Digital Divide -- International Cooperation

- Government's commitment and support
- Integrate resources from government and private sectors.
- Involvement of local communities
- E-government should take the lead.



# Thank you

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