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Session 5: Bridging the Digital Divide

Is there any affordability gap in Internet access in Brunei Darussalam?

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(Thursday, 8th September 2005, 10.30am – 12.15pm)

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

THE AFFORDABILITY GAP
IN INTERNET ACCESS
IN
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

CONTENTS

- 1. Definition of Affordability Gap
- 2. Types of Internet Access in Brunei
- 3. Importance of accessing the Internet
- 4. Comparison of connection rates between Brunei & other countries in the region
- 5. Is Internet access in Brunei affordable?
- 6. Proposals to bridge the affordability gap

AFFORDABILITY GAP

- The gap that divides those who can afford to pay & access the Internet, & those who cannot
- Focuses on the cost of Internet access & the amount of money that the majority of people in Brunei are willing to pay for the service

MAIN TYPES OF INTERNET ACCESS IN BRUNEI

- DIAL-UP
 - up to 56kbps
- BROADBAND/ADSL
 - from 256kbps to 640kbps
- LEASED LINE
 - from 64kbps to 2048kbps

IMPORTANCE OF ACCESSING THE INTERNET

Global advance towards an ICT world

World Regions	Population % of World	Usage Growth 2000-2005	World Users %
<u>Africa</u>	14.0 %	258.3 %	1.7 %
<u>Asia</u>	56.4 %	183.2 %	34.5 %
Europe	11.4 %	161.0 %	28.7 %
Middle East	4.1 %	311.9 %	2.3 %
North America	5.1 %	106.7 %	23.8 %
Latin America/Caribbean	8.5 %	277.1 %	7.3 %
Oceania / Australia	0.5 %	115.9 %	1.8 %
WORLD TOTAL	100.0 %	160.0 %	100.0 %

USES OF THE INTERNET

- Communication
- Education
- Business / Commercial use
- Entertainment

COMPARISON OF CONNECTION RATES

DIAL-UP connection rates (Limited)

	BRUNEI (BRUNET)	MALAYSIA (TMNET)	SINGAPORE (SINGTEL)	SINGAPORE (PACIFIC INTERNET)
Monthly Subscription (Personal) for 56kbps	BND\$15	BND\$1	BND\$9.98	BND\$5.20
Standard rate/ per minute (for usage over free mins)	BND\$0.027	BND\$0.005	BND\$0.0525	BND\$0.0517
Free Usage (mins per month)	650		780	780

DIAL-UP connection rates (Unlimited)

	BRUNEI (BRUNET)	MALAYSIA (TMNET)	SINGAPORE (SINGTEL)	SINGAPORE (PACIFIC INTERNET)
Monthly Subscription for 56kbps	BND\$88	-	BND\$105	BND\$31.45

BROADBAND connection rates

Monthly Subscription for different speeds	BRUNEI (ESPEED2)	MALAYSIA (TMNET)	SINGAPORE (SINGTEL)	SINGAPORE (PACIFIC INTERNET)
384 kbps	BND\$168	BND\$33		BND\$62.90
512 kbps	BND\$238	BND\$44	BND\$47.25	BND\$78.75

IS INTERNET ACCESS AFFORDABLE IN BRUNEI?

WORKING-CLASS SOCIETY

- 60% have a monthly salary of \$2000-\$3000
- 67% spend a total of \$1000-\$2000 per month
- 65% spend \$100 or below on Internet Access per month
 - (i.e. 7% out of total monthly expenditure)
- 75% think Internet Access in Brunei is affordable

STUDENT COMMUNITY

- 80% spend a total of \$100-\$200 per month
- 97% spend below \$100 on Internet Access per month (i.e. 46% out of total monthly expenditure)
- 63% spend 1-2hrs online per day
- 13% think Internet Access in Brunei is affordable

BRIDGING THE AFFORDABILITY GAP

(from a student's point of view)

- Available Internet Access in schools / colleges
- Hotspot / Wireless Internet within the campus
- More Internet Service Providers (ISPs)

Thank You...