The Internet in South East Asia: ITU Case Studies

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International Telecommunication Union

- UN agency for telecommunications
- 189 member states; 650+ other companies & organizations
- Based in Geneva, Switzerland. Asian regional offices in Bangkok and Jakarta
- Telecom Development Bureau responsible for promoting telecom in developing countries
- Strategic Planning Unit carrying out number of topical studies as part of ‘New Initiatives’ program

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ITU Internet Studies

- **Reasons**
  - Improve market information
  - Examine factors influencing Internet diffusion
  - Compare & contrast
  - Recommendations
- **Launched 2000**
- **Other case studies**

www.itu.int/ti/casestudies
Internet Case Study
Contents

- Country overview
- Telecom & Media sector
- Media sector
- Internet market
- Use in government, health, education and business
- Comparative framework
- Recommendations
## South East Asia studies

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<th>Country</th>
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The e-city: Singapore

• First study completed (Report available at: www.itu.int/ti/casestudies)
• Universal access: All telephone subscribers (almost all households) have ‘free’ Internet access (only pay telephone usage charge)
• One of most broadband countries on earth
• Converged regulator and high level support for ICT
• Good market information from regulator, national statistical agency and research firms
Collaboration with e-ASEAN

- Meeting in Jakarta in August 2001
- Sharing of information
Conclusions

- Digital divide is **not primarily** an infrastructure problem but an affordability and awareness problem
- Universal access policies are, in general, non-existent, **insufficient**, and not clear
- **Lack** of market information
- Shortage of **relevant** applications is a major barrier to benefits of ICT for development
  - Concept of *Internet for Development*
- Governments need to promote national ‘killer application’
Thank you!!

To all the people that assisted us in the research...