Country Paper (Thailand)

The Third Session of the APCICT Governing Council
December 9, 2008
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

The initiatives in the field of ICT Human Capacity Building.

In Thailand, the first ICT policy document known as IT2000 has been conceived since 1995. This very first set of policies focused on basic ICT factors important to the development of the country, which are information infrastructure, human resource development and public administration. The first policy document has later been superseded by a new policy framework called IT2010. This IT2010 has been formally approved in the year 2001. In October 2002, the government of Thailand has established the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) to be responsible for the implementation of the national plan and materialize the plan and vision into reality. IT2010 has been followed and used as a basis for the development of MICT current five-year strategic plan : ICT Master Plan 2002-2006.

The original goal as stated in the IT2010 policy framework is to move the country forward from where we are to become a knowledge-based economy by the end of 2010. From there, the next step is to further leverage on ICT advancement to move Thailand towards the status of ubiquitous society. IT2010 policy framework concentrates itself on there key policies. First, Building knowledge-based human capability, Second, Promoting innovation in economic and social systems, and Third, Strengthening information infrastructure and industry.

With regard to human resource development, the aim is to provide easy access to contents for everyone but not limited to those students in primary, secondary and tertiary levels, including those who are not in a formal education systems, especially ones in rural areas. An example of initiative projects to support the aim is the

accomplished 250,000 PCs and High Speed Internet for Education. The project has completed the distribution of 250,000 PCs to public schools together with the installation of high-speed Internet access. For rural areas, a project call i-community has been initiated in 2005. The first step of the project was to set up an Internet café style e-Learning Center in each rural community. The ultimate objective of this project is to set up community networks through the use of ICT. The concept of i-Community is to take all the information available in the community and turn them into useful ideas allowing people in the community to make smart decisions. Besides that, the national center of knowledge has been established in order to let all population to get access to knowledge and information through website www.tkc.go.th and government also develops and collects e-Learning media in form of e-Learning and e-Book, provides people with internet service units, such as SchoolNet, which offers learning media service and internet networks to schools, and UniNet, which offers learning media service and internet networks to universities and higher institutions.

The existing training programs in the ICT Human Capacity Building.

TOT academy is the professional telecommunication Training center which is an organization under MICT and TOT corporation co., ltd., providing ICT related programs for TOT officers, government officers and interested people. The objectives of TOT Academy are to build the trained people to be professionals in Telecommunication services and to be a center of last updated telecommunication knowledge technology which is practical for telecommunication officer work. Training style is to focus on developing trained people skills for being applied to their work. The programs are classified into basic, intermediate and advance level. For duration of training, most of them are short courses. The examples of programs are Understand Telecommunications (basic level : 3 days), UMTS Technology (3G) (intermediate level : 4 days) and Next Generation Network (NGN) (advance level : 5 days).

NECTEC training center is another training center for ICT human resource development. NECTEC is an organization under Ministry of Science and Technology and NECTEC. The objective is to provide knowledge of Electronic Technology,

Computer and Information Technology for interested people including public and private organizations. The programs are classified into 5 categories which are Systems/Networking and Security Professionals, Application and Software Development, Database Management, Internet & Web Technology and IT Project Management.

Needs and recommendations in the area of ICT Human Capacity Building.

Beyond two main training centers mentioned above, the organizations under MICT such as CAT Telecom Public co.,ltd and Thailand Post Public co.,ltd also have their own training department within their organizations. So the unique and national ICT center still has not been established yet in Thailand.

Recently, the minister of MICT had made a policy of establishing National ICT Academy which will be an organization under MICT. As a result, MICT now is in a process of establishing National ICT Academy for government officers and people who use ICT as a tool for their work. The Minister has just signed an official command of appointing the committee to be responsible and prepare for establishing the National ICT Academy on November 17, 2008. The committee is studying the model for establishing the National ICT Academy and other necessary things such as the act, program framework etc. The pilot project of the National ICT academy is expected to be implemented within 6 months. The National ICT Academy should be established as soon as possible so that it will be a national ICT training center for increasing information literacy for achieving the goal of knowledge-base society and innovation eventually.

_____