

## **Universal Service Obligation Fund of Mongolia**

*Compiled by: L. Ariunaa, CEO, INTEC Co.,Ltd*

Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has been established upon approval of the regulation on “composition and spending of Universal Service Obligation Fund” by Government of Mongolia in December, 2006. The World Bank provided initial seed money for USOF through “Information Communications Infrastructure Development Project” (ICIDP). According to “the regulation of on composition and spending of USOF”, it is to be used to deliver services “to citizens in rural, distantly located and areas without services, establishing new or extending existing networks for postal and telecommunications services.” The telecommunications services companies are levied with 2 percent from their income to be accumulated at the USOF. The Communications Regulatory Committee (CRC) is regulatory body, which is mandated to monitor composition and spending of USOF. Action plans for 2007 and 2008 were developed to reflect projects and activities to be funded by USOF and were approved by Prime Minister of Mongolia. In 2007, there were 3 projects implemented: 1) delivering wireless telecommunications services to soums; 2) pilot testing of new digital relay technology and 3) postal services project. In 2008, there were 3 projects implemented: 1) Second phase of delivering wireless telecommunications services to soums; 2) Pilot testing of Internet project; 3) Postal services project and 4) Project to deliver short-wave radio services to soums. In addition, the projects to introduced fixed telephone services and outreaching data networks to rural areas were implemented in 2008.

The following services are covered under USOF: 1) telecommunications which includes delivering mobile services to soum centers and public telephone services to baghs; 2) Internet – delivering 128/512kbps to soum centers for public and private use; 3) postal services – delivering letters and packages; 4) radio – enabling reception of Mongolia radio programs at soum and baghs and 5) television – enabling reception of Mongolian television programs at soum centers.

About 85,000 citizens of 31 soums of 15 aimags will be able to have access to latest information and communications technology.

### **Questions to Think About**

How much are you aware about these projects and activities? USOF?

What kind of services, which your organization provides, can be delivered through this network using latest technology?