



9/12/2011

# Future of Internet: a view from the emerging world

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# Outline

- Internet is Power
- Promises of Internet
- Internet Communities
- Technology and Governance
- Sustainability
- Asia-Centric Internet
- Lives

# Internet is Power

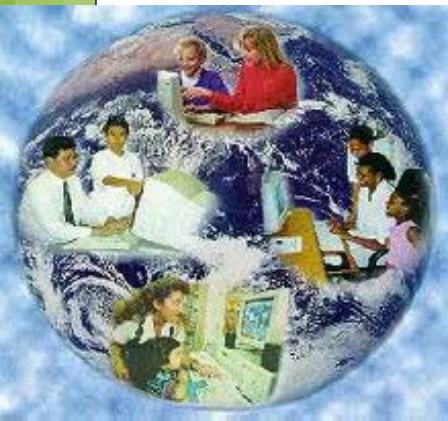
- It has empowered people around the world
  - Enabled a large number of people who were left behind to overcome generations of deprivation
  - and compete with those in the developed world
- But still a large number of people are not connected
  - India has just 100M connections for its 1.2B people
  - Content still dominated by 4 – 5 international languages
  - And what about illiterate or semi-literate
    - Can **voice be used** to access Internet?
    - **Mobile phones** may became the main interface for Internet
  - By when will we **connect everyone**?



# Promises of Internet



- Can Internet help strengthen health care?
- Can education reach everyone?
- Can it contribute to more egalitarian society?
- Can it contribute to better understanding and peace in the world?



# Internet Communities

- Internet has created many virtual communities
  - Dis-empowered can connect with each other and fight against despotic laws / governments
    - Even people with very specific interest and views, not shared by anyone nearby, need no longer **feel isolated**
      - Can connect with similar people around the world
- But can some people get lost in virtual community
  - and **lose the ability to relate** to real community?
    - Will it distort personality?
- Will Internet encourage or discourage **diversity** in the society / world?

# Technology and Governance

- Can Internet be ever made **totally secure**?
  - Totally free of hacking?
- Can Internet Governance be fair and decentralized?
  - Today some nations with large population have very few IP address (IPV4)
  - Local people / governments deciding on topology, configuration, controls?

# Sustainability

- World's economies grow continuously
  - Increasing consumption everyday
  - But earth is retaliating
    - Can not sustain **ever-growing consumption**
- Will Internet add to sustainability or take us further away
  - Bits transmitted on Internet increasing everyday
    - Will it continuously **increase energy** consumption
    - Will wireless Internet continuously **increase EM emission**?
  - Is it necessary that same bits travel **again and again** on a link?
- Will video-conferencing ever **reduce human travel**?
  - Will the transport of goods only increase, due to online purchase?



# Asia-Centric Internet



- India – China with nearly half the population of the world
  - After centuries of deprivation, these economies are suddenly **growing to become lead economies** of the world
- As economic power moves to Asia, will they **define Internet** differently?

# Lives

- Internet has **enabled** working from homes
  - But will distinction between **work-lives** and **home-lives** also blur?
- Internet is invading all aspects of our lives
  - Can there be any **private life** any more?



# To Conclude

- As Internet become increasingly powerful impacting all aspects of our lives
  - there are more and more questions!
- Web-pages, Wiki, Blogs and twitter
  - Will they **promote knowledge** and understanding or spread **disinformation**?
  - Will we be able to distinguish **truth and untruth**?
  - Is **Governance** of Internet at all necessary?
  - Will the **powerful** be able to use it better than the **weak** or vice-versa?
  - Will Internet make us **better** human beings?
  - Will it make us **happier**?