Internet Accessibility in Asia-Pacific Region (PAKISTAN)

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Structure of Presentation

- Map of Pakistan
- Status – Current Survey
- The Challenges and Solutions – Internet Access
- Plans and Ways to Improve Current Domestic Situations
- Recommendation for International Cooperation
Map of Pakistan
Status – Current Survey

While there are over 20 million Pakistanis online – a number which is growing rapidly.

KEY FINDINGS

• Laptops are the most used device (81% of total respondents) to connect to the internet.
• Mobile phones (65% of total respondents used mobile to connect) outranked desktop computers (47% of total respondents) for accessing the internet.
• A vast majority of respondents (97%) have high speed internet connections. Dial-up internet use is almost negligible.
• Over half of respondents (60%) pay Rs1,500 or less per month for their internet connections.

Source: This online survey, conducted through Express Tribune and Express Urdu websites.
A majority of respondents use the internet over 5 hours a day, followed by those who use the internet 4-5 hours a day.

Over 90% of respondents often use the internet at home, as compared to often outside (16%) and often at work (52%).

- Social networks/chatting is the number one activity for respondents, followed closely by email and news.
- Shopping online registered low with respondents.

Source: This online survey, conducted through Express Tribune and Express Urdu websites.
Nearly all respondents are on Facebook. Twitter and LinkedIn are both used by at least half of respondents.

- More than half of respondents say they have befriended someone on a social network whom they have never met.
- 41% say they have met someone in the real world whom they have only met online.
- Over 30% of respondents say they have become romantically involved through the internet.

Source: This online survey, conducted through Express Tribune and Express Urdu websites
THE CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS – INTERNET ACCESS
Internet censorship in Pakistan

• National URL Filtering and Blocking System
  • In March 2012, the Pakistan government has taken the unusual step of touting for firms it thinks could help build it a nationwide content-filtering service capable of blocking up to 50 million websites.
  • Pakistan Telecommunications Authority published a request for proposals for the “deployment and operation of a national level URL Filtering and Blocking System” which would operate on similar lines to China's Golden Shield, or "Great Firewall".[5]
  • Academic and research institutions as well as private commercial entities have until 16 March to submit their proposals, according to the request's detailed 35-point system requirements list.
  • Key among these is the following: "Each box should be able to handle a block list of up to 50 million URLs (concurrent unidirectional filtering capacity) with processing delay of not more than 1 milliseconds"
YouTube Ban in Pakistan

• On 17 September 2012, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) ordered access to YouTube blocked, after the website did not remove the trailer of Sam Bacile's Innocence of Muslims, a film insulting Islam and eventually resulting in a ban due to YouTube's non compliance.

• On 25 July 2013, the government announced that it is mulling over reopening Youtube during the second week of August.

• A special 12-member committee is working on it under the IT Minister, Anusha Rehman, to see if objectionable content can be removed.

• The Pakistan Telecommunications Authority, the telecom watchdog in the country, has already expressed its inability to filter out select content.
Protests erupted across the Arab world

Policy Matters: Govt devises mechanism to filter objectionable material on YouTube - Pakistan

Policy Matters: Pakistan reportedly testing URL filters, may lift YouTube ban

Policy Matters: Pakistan prepares to end its year-long ban on YouTube

Policy: Internet Freedom Strengthens Democracy

The URL filters, provided by Pakistan Telecommunication Company, have already been tested and blocked 4,000 URLs with controversial content.

Source: http://internetgovernancepolicy.blogspot.com
Plans and Ways to Improve Current Domestic Situations

• Access and accessibility
  • Multilingualization of the Internet including Internationalized (multilingual) Domain Names
  • Cultural diversity
  • Accessibility policies for the disabled and Affordable and universal access
  • Reliability, and quality of service, especially in the developing world
  • Developmental aspects of the Internet

• Human rights
  • Freedom of Expression
  • Data protection and privacy rights
  • Consumer rights
Plans and Ways to Improve Current Domestic Situations

• Trade and commerce
  - e-commerce
  - copyright
  - patents
  - Trademarks

• Security and law enforcement
  - Internet stability and security
  - Combatting cybercrime
  - Other issues pertaining to the use and misuse of the Internet
  - Dealing effectively with spam
  - Protecting children and young people from abuse and exploitation
RECOMMENDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
Recommendation for International Cooperation

• Pakistan wishes to work close with Asia countries.
• Said the Prime Minister in Policy Statement in August 13
• Technical Cooperation in areas of Development and ICT.
• Pakistan would like to work close with MSIP n the co-development of AP region
• Pakistan is fully aware of the importance of joint discussion with other government in AP region
• Pakistan and Korea hopes that this forum can serve as a step toward further cooperation among government in AP region and development in the future with Sustainable Development of region with ICT
Thank you

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