

Access to Information and Knowledge



Presentation by
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Federal Chancellery – Berlin, Germany – 24/04/06

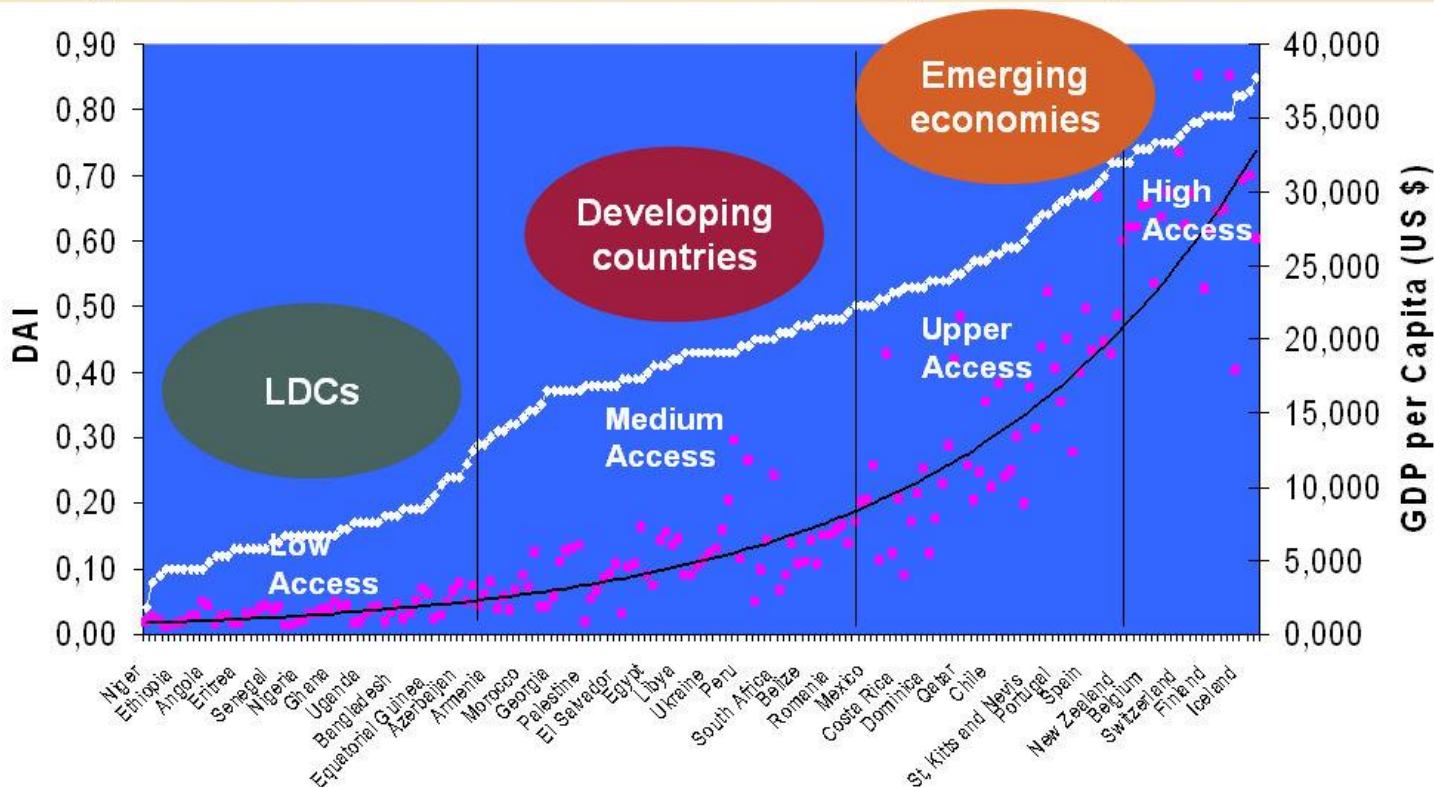


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Digital Access Index & GDP per Capita



Sources:
 Digital Access Index: World Telecommunications Development Report 2003, ITU (2004)
 GDP per Capita: CIA World Factbook (2004)

Correlation Coefficient: 0.85

◆ DAI ● GDP/Cap



Access to information & knowledge

■ Before WSIS

- Information & Communication for Development
- WEF Digital Divide Initiative
- G8 Digital Opportunities Task Force
- United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force

■ WSIS and beyond

- WSIS Geneva 2003 and Tunis 2005
- Internet Governance
- WSIS Follow-up and Implementation
 - 11 Action Lines



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WSIS and beyond

World Summit on the Information Society

Geneva 2003 – Tunis 2005 - and beyond.....

Access to information and knowledge

C3

Geneva Plan of Action:

« ICTs allow people, anywhere in the world, to access information and knowledge almost instantaneously. Individuals, organizations and communities should benefit from access to knowledge and information. »

Art. 10, Geneva Plan of Action, 2003

Tunis Agenda :

« **We attach great importance** to multi-stakeholder implementation at the international level, which should be organized taking into account the themes and action lines in the Plan of Action, and moderated or facilitated by UN agencies when appropriate. »

Art. 108, Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, 2005

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Geneva Plan of Action: Access to information & knowledge

- a. **Develop policy guidelines** for the development and promotion of public domain information [...].
- b. **Governments are encouraged to provide adequate access [...] to public official information.** Establishing legislation on access to information [...] is encouraged.
- c. Promote research and development to **facilitate accessibility of ICTs for all [...].**
- d. Governments, and other stakeholders, should **establish sustainable multi-purpose community public access points [...].**
- e. Encourage research and **promote awareness [... of ...] different software models,** and the means of their creation, including proprietary, open source and free software, in order to increase competition, freedom of choice and affordability [...].



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Geneva Plan of Action: Access to information & knowledge

- f. **Governments should actively promote the use of ICTs** as a fundamental working tool by their citizens and local authorities. [...] support capacity building [...] as a means to improving local governance.
- g. Encourage **research on the Information Society**, including on **innovative forms of networking, adaptation of ICT infrastructure**, tools and applications that facilitate accessibility for all, and disadvantaged groups in particular.
- h. Support the **creation of a digital public library** and archive services [...].
- i. Encourage initiatives to facilitate access, including free and affordable **access to open access journals and books**, and open archives for scientific information.
- j. Support research and development of the design of useful instruments for all stakeholders to **foster increased awareness, assessment, and evaluation of different software models and licences**, so as to ensure an optimal choice of appropriate software that will best contribute to achieving development goals within local conditions.

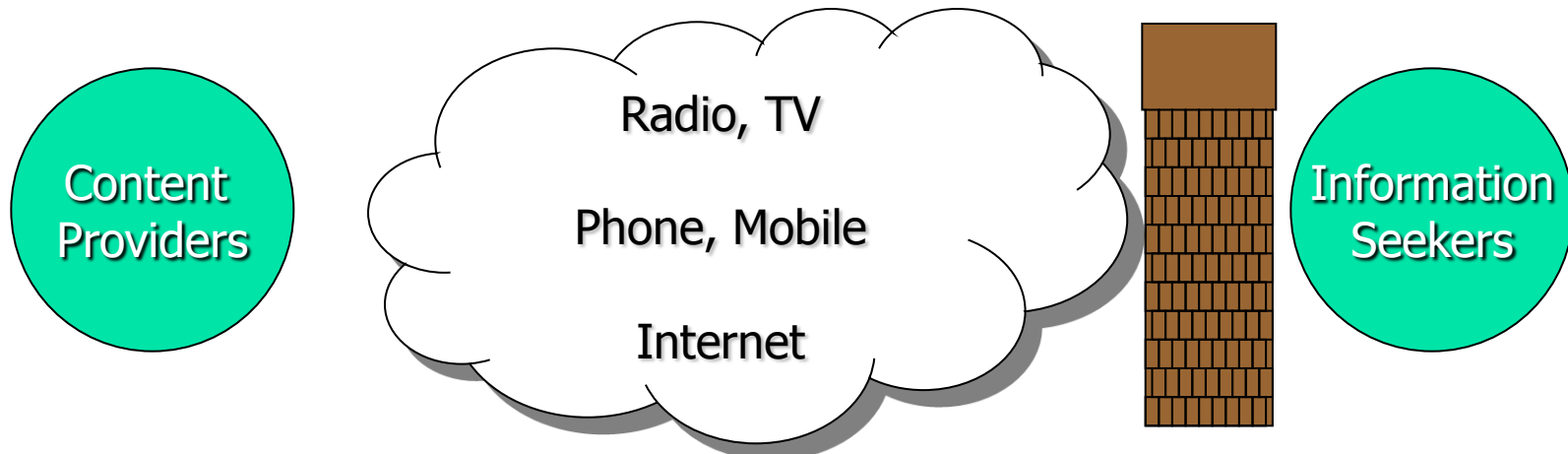


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Access to information & knowledge



Free Content

- Governments
- Intl Organizations
- Scientific Community
- Libraries

Paid Content

- Media
- Other Industries

Effects of Privatization

- De-/Re-Regulation
- Enabling Environment

Speed of Innovation

- New Business Models
- New Partnership Models, incl. PPPs

Barriers to Access

- Policies (incl. censorship)
- Risks, Incentives for Investment
- Technology, Infrastructure
- Capabilities, (Dis-)Abilities



Access to information & knowledge

■ Provision of information and knowledge

- Content providers
 - free content: universities, research, development organizations, public sector, NGOs
 - paid content: media, knowledge industries, private sector

■ Access to technology and networks

- Access to computers, hardware, software, routers etc
- Access to networks -> radio, TV, telephone, mobile, Internet

■ Freedom to access information

- Freedom from censorship of information
- human capacity / ability to access information



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