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Telecommunications in South Asia: Status and Future Potential

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Telecommunications in South Asia: Status and Future Potential

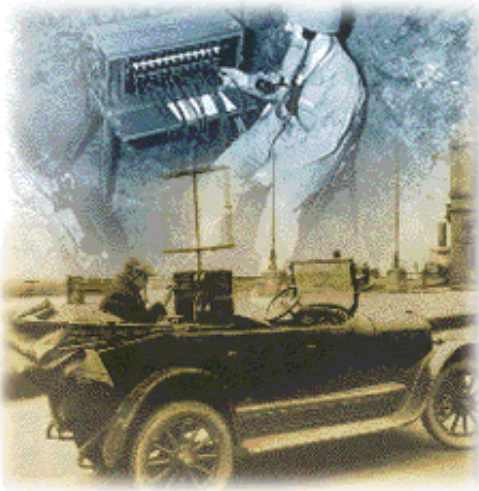
Dr. Raqibul Mostafa,
Dr. M. Rezwan Khan,
United International University, Bangladesh



Contents

- Introduction
 - Background on Communications Evolution
 - Present-day Global Scenario
- Telecom in South Asia
 - Facts and Statistics
- Potentials and Challenges

Communications: Past, Present and Future



Past: Just the beginning
(1920's for Mobile Communication)



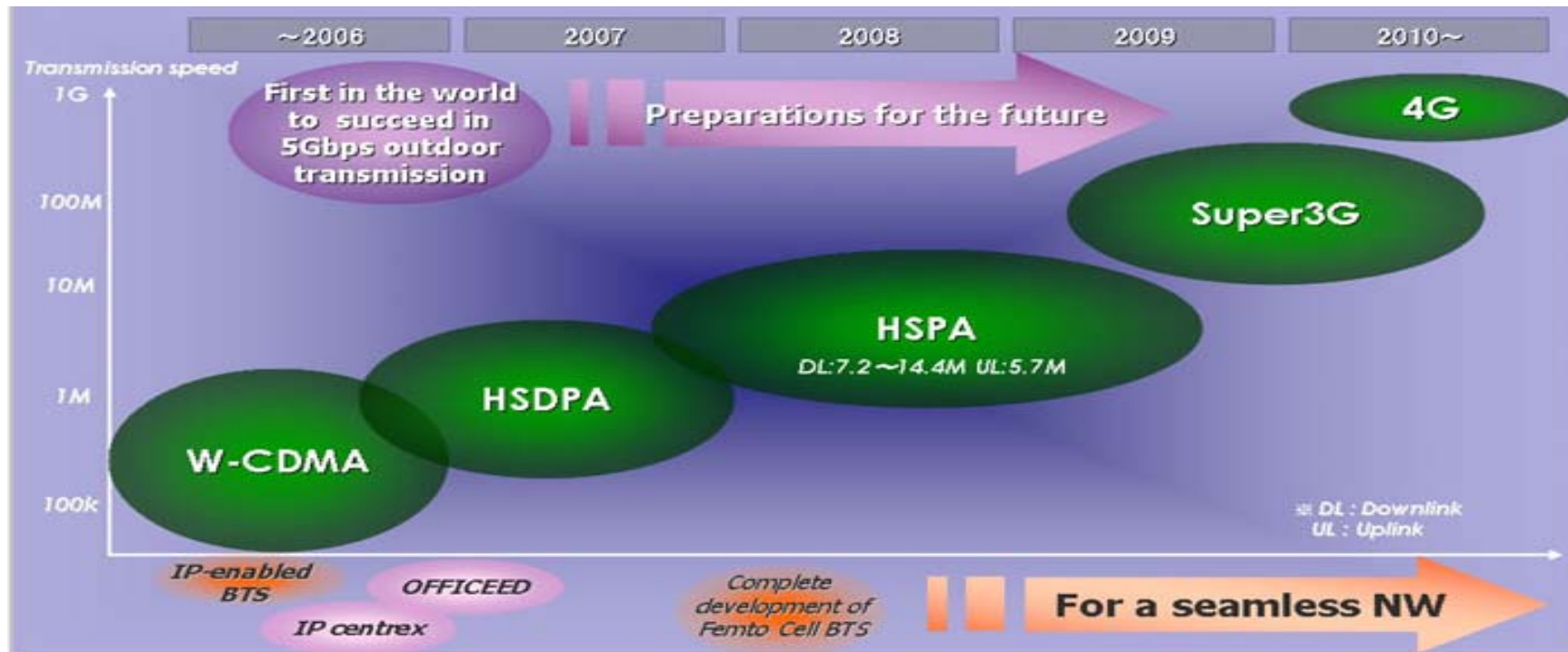
Present: Limited Multimedia



Future:

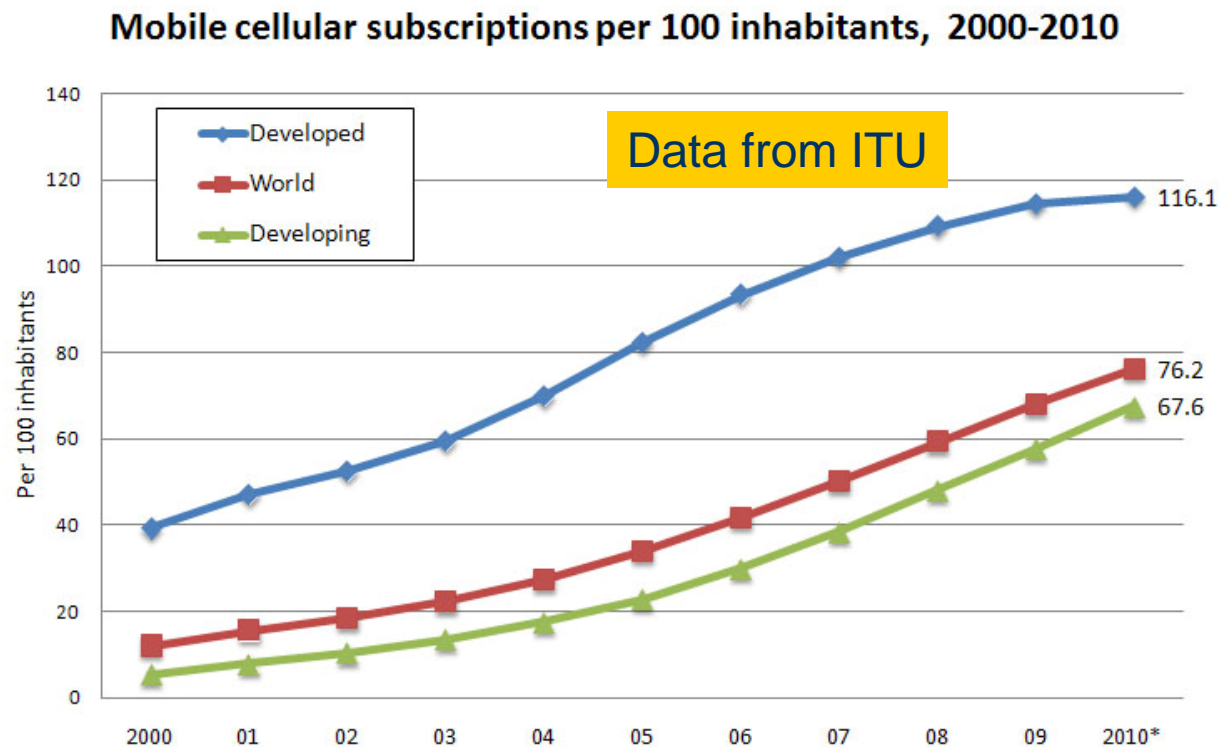
- Anywhere, Anytime and Anything
- Programmable phone
- Intelligent devices
- The list continues

Wireless Communications: Technology Pathway



Mobile Communications: Global Penetration

- Steady growth in the last decade
- South Asia below global level
- Sustained growth expected in the next few years

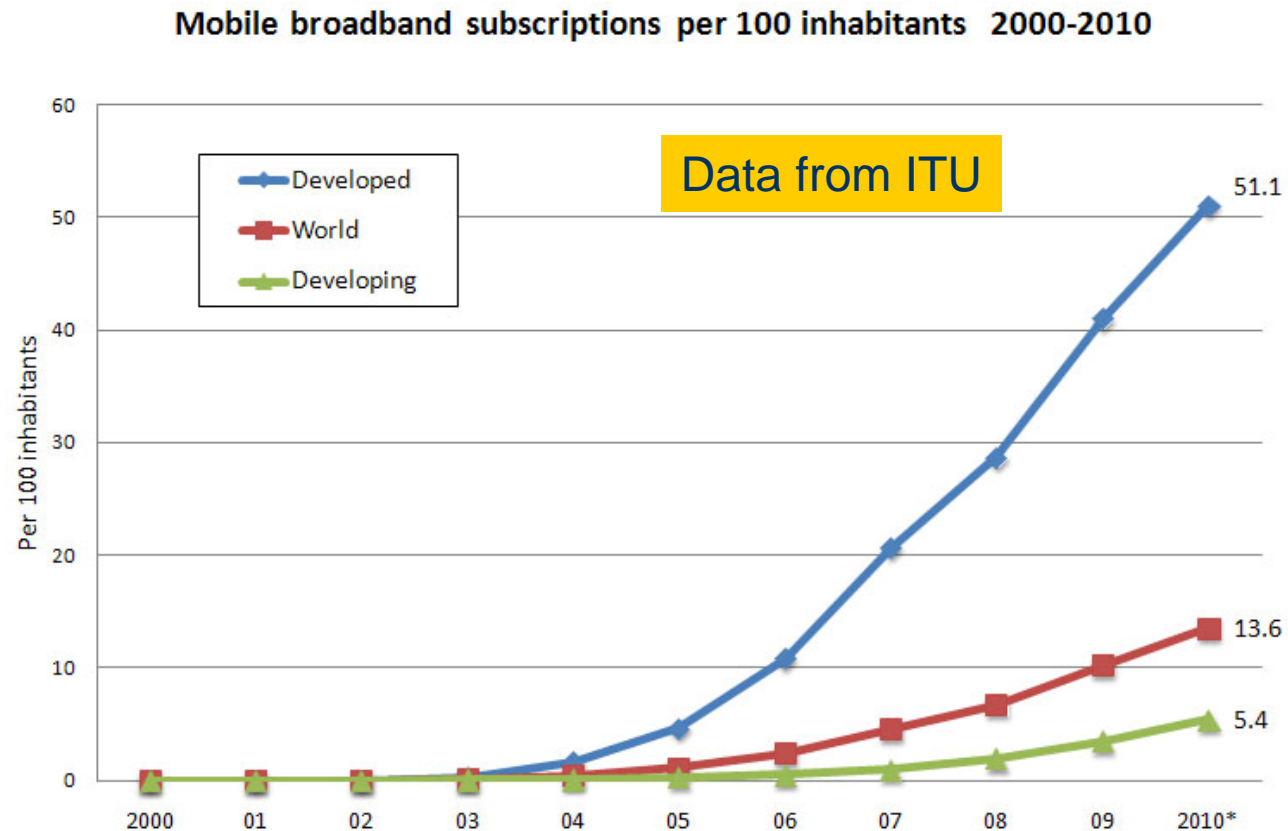


*Estimates

Source: ITU World Telecommunication /ICT Indicators database

Broadband Communications: Global Penetration

- Mobile Broadband
- Global accessibility still low
- South Asia has a long way to go



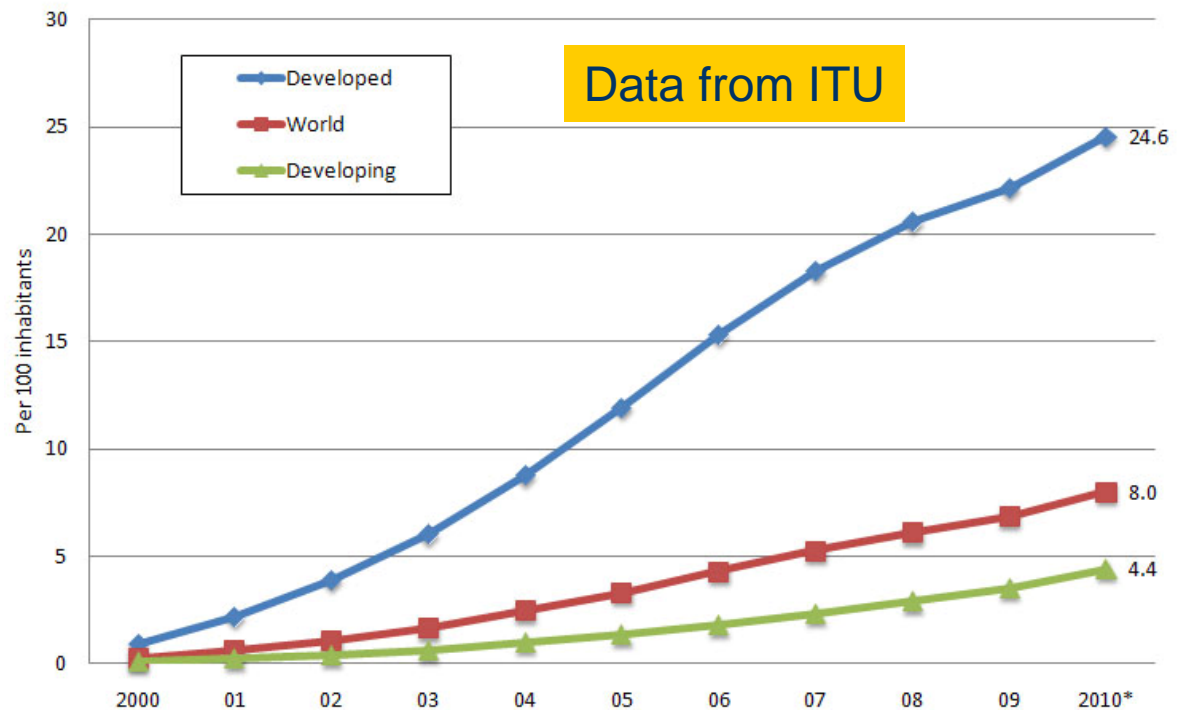
*Estimates

Source: ITU World Telecommunication /ICT Indicators database

Broadband Communications: Global Penetration

- Fixed Broadband
- Similar scenario as in mobile case
- Better infrastructure needed (e.g., optical fiber cable deployments)

Fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, 2000-2010

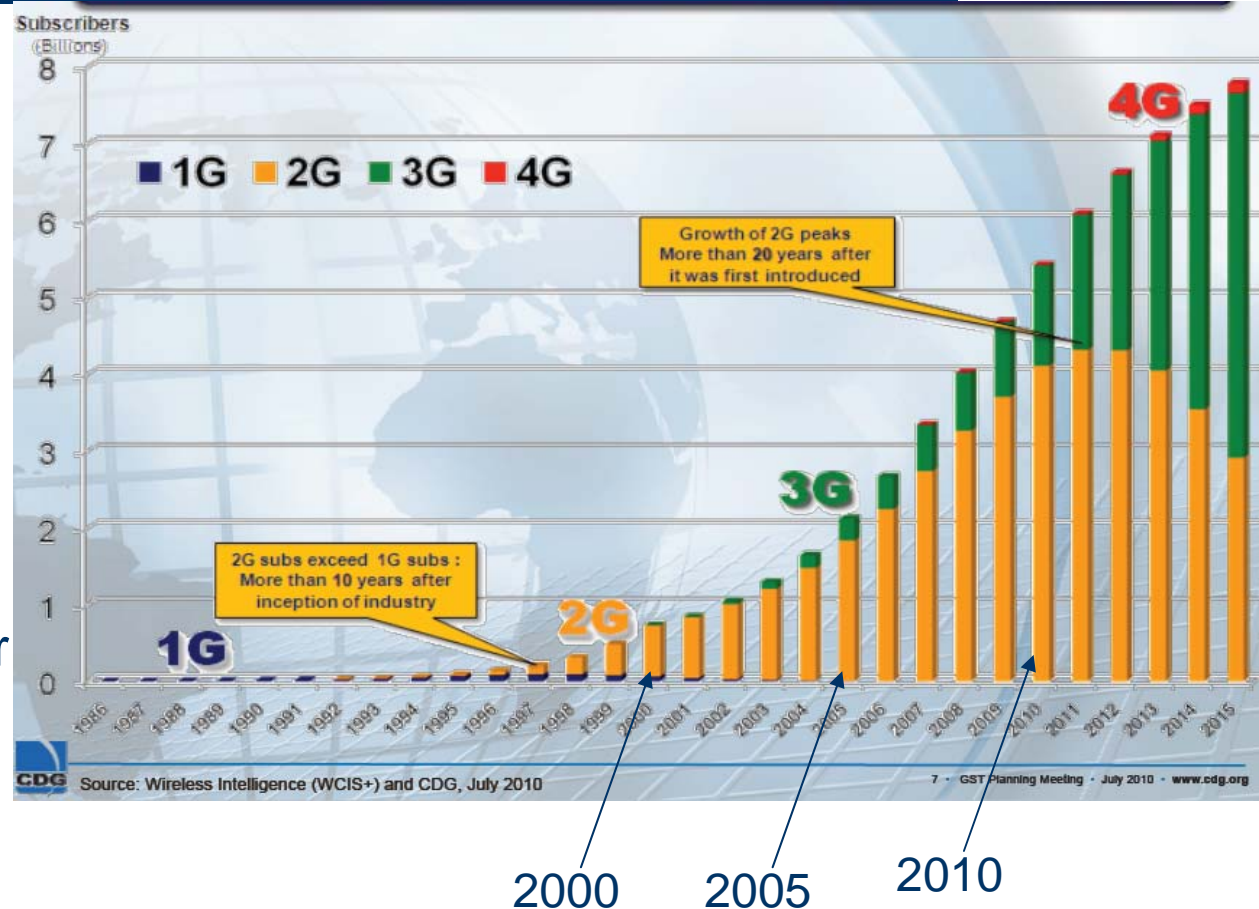


*Estimates

Source: ITU World Telecommunication / ICT Indicators database

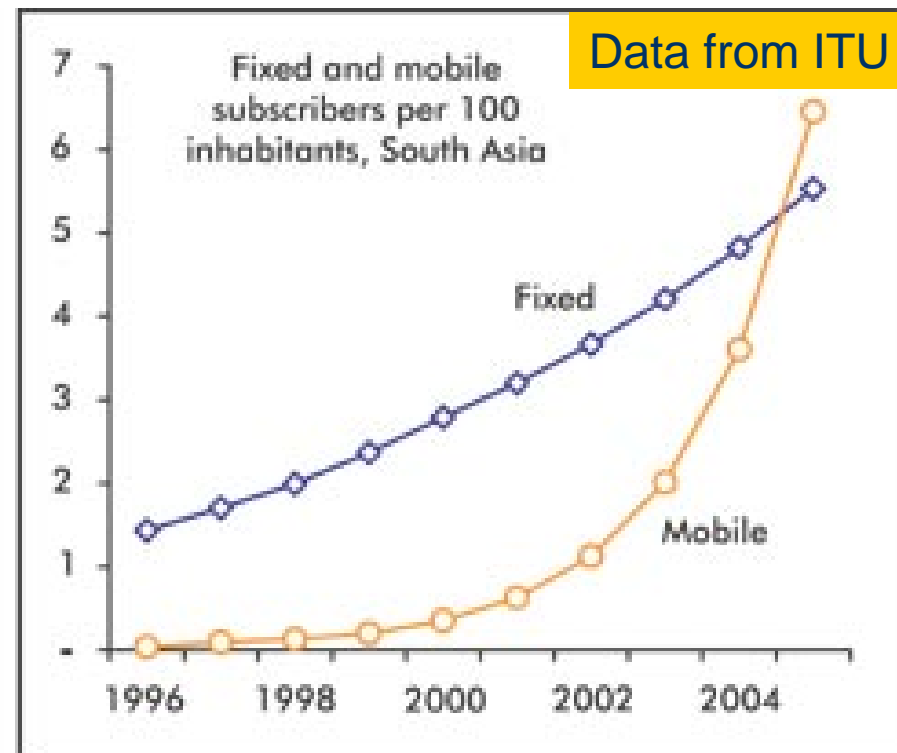
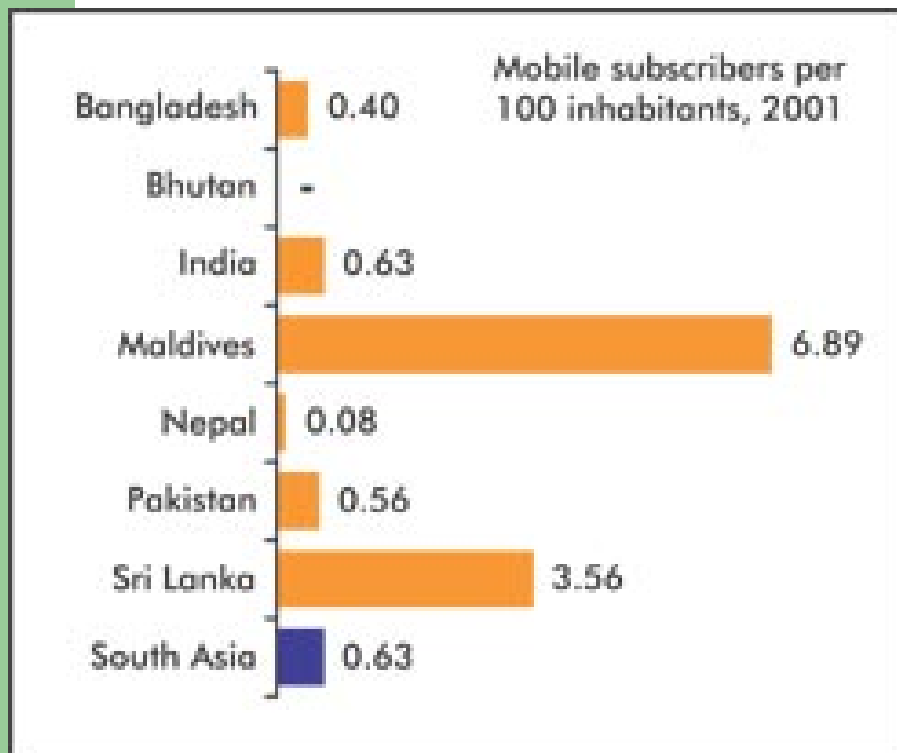
Technology Utilization: A Global Scenario

- Available Services:
 - Multimedia messaging
 - VOIP
 - eBanking, Shopping, Bill Pay
 - Gaming
 - Information: News, Weather update

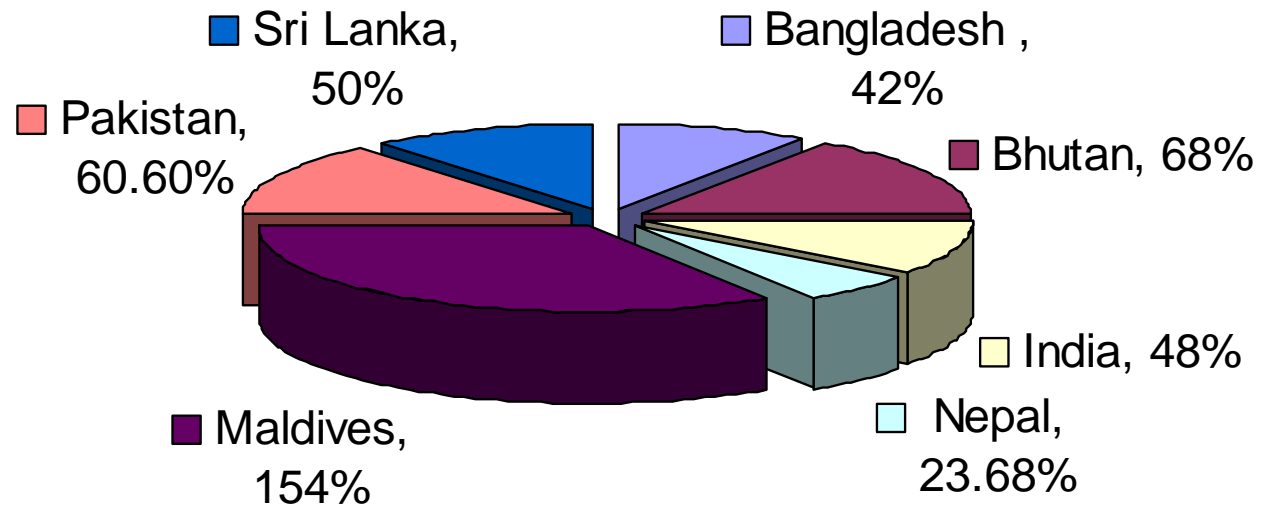


Trends in Cellular Communications in South Asia (2001)

- Low Teledensity but steep growth rate for Mobile



Recent Mobile Teledensity in South Asia (2010)



Numbers are percentage of mobile users over the population

Internet Usage in South Asia (2000-2010)

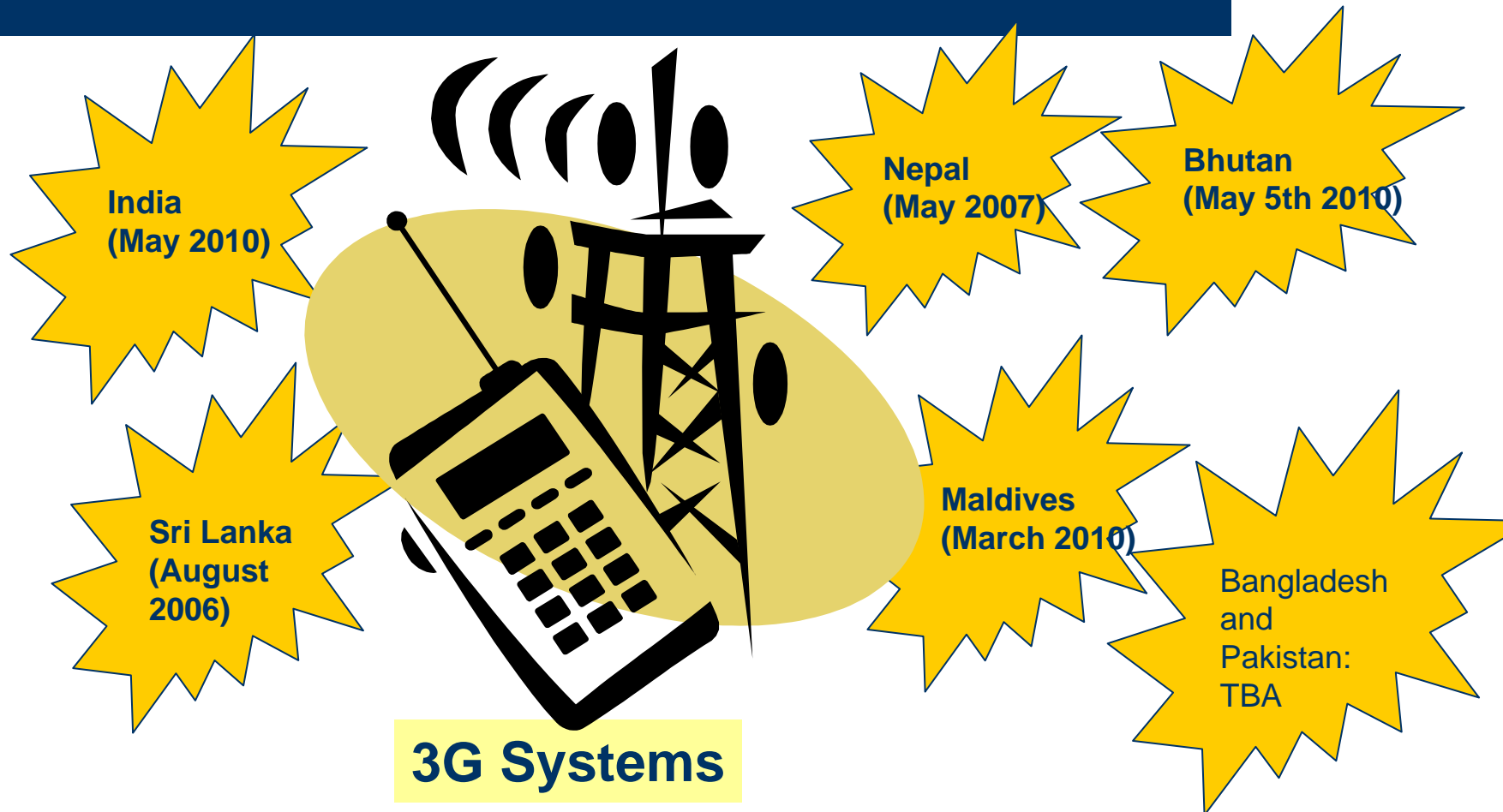
	Population (2010 Est.)	Internet Users (Year 2000)	Internet Users, Latest Data	Penetration (% Population)	User Growth (2000-2010)
Bangladesh	158,065,841	100,000	617,300	0.4 %	517.3 %
Bhutan	699,847	500	50,000	7.1 %	9,900.0 %
India	1,173,108,018	5,000,000	81,000,000	6.9 %	1,520.0 %
Maldives	395,650	6,000	87,900	22.2 %	1,365.0 %
Myanmar	53,414,374	1,000	110,000	0.2 %	10,900.0 %
Nepal	28,951,852	50,000	625,800	2.2 %	1,151.6 %
Pakistan	177,276,594	133,900	18,500,000	10.4 %	13,716.3 %
Sri Lanka	21,513,990	121,500	1,776,200	8.3 %	1,361.9 %

Amazing
growth
rate

Low
Penetration

NOTES: (1) The Asian Internet Statistics were updated for June 30, 2010. (2) CLICK on each country name to see detailed data for individual countries and regions. (3) The demographic (population) numbers are based on data contained in [Census Bureau](#). (4) The usage numbers come from various sources, mainly from data published by [Nielsen Online](#), [ITU](#), and other trustworthy sources. (5) Data may be cited, giving due credit and establishing an active link to [Internet World Stats](#). (6) For definitions and help, see the [site surfing guide](#). (*) For statistical purposes, China figures do not include SAR Hong Kong, SAR Macao and Taiwan which are reported separately. Copyright © 2010, [Miniwatts Marketing Group](#). All rights reserved worldwide.

3G in South Asia



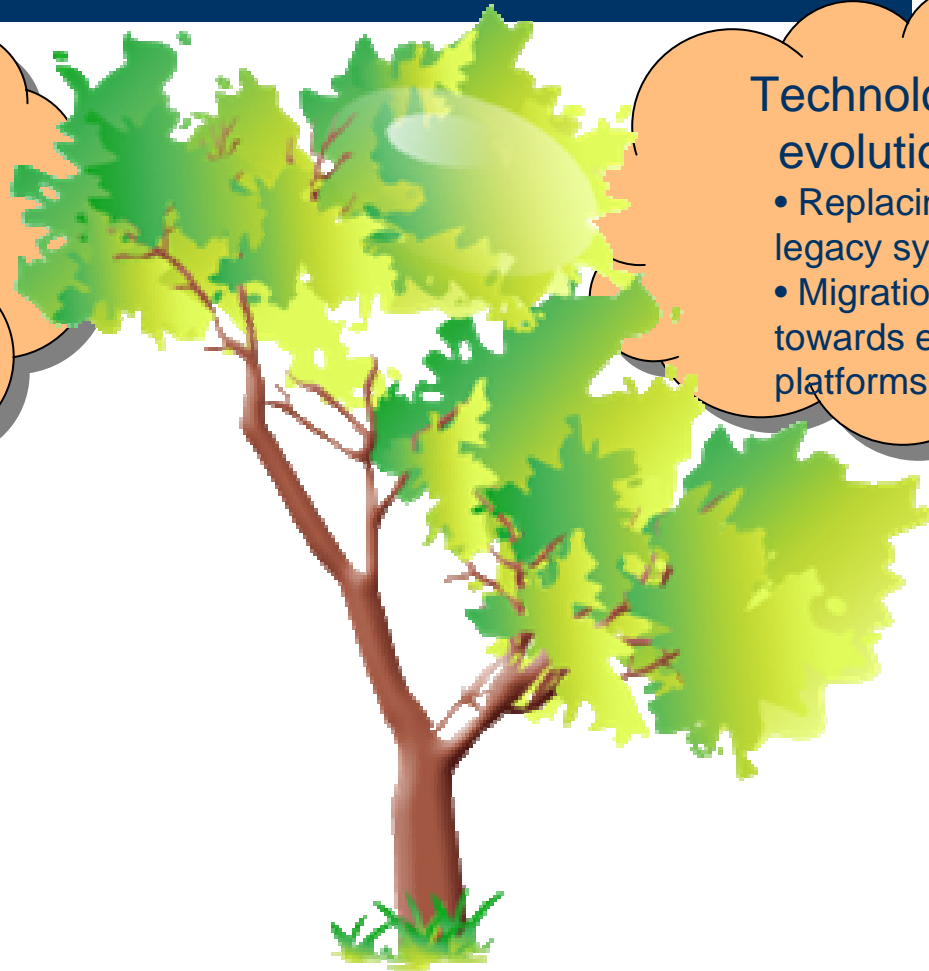
Potentials and Challenges

Growth

- Ubiquitous coverage or Universal access
- Higher teledensity

Technology evolution

- Replacing legacy systems
- Migration towards evolved platforms



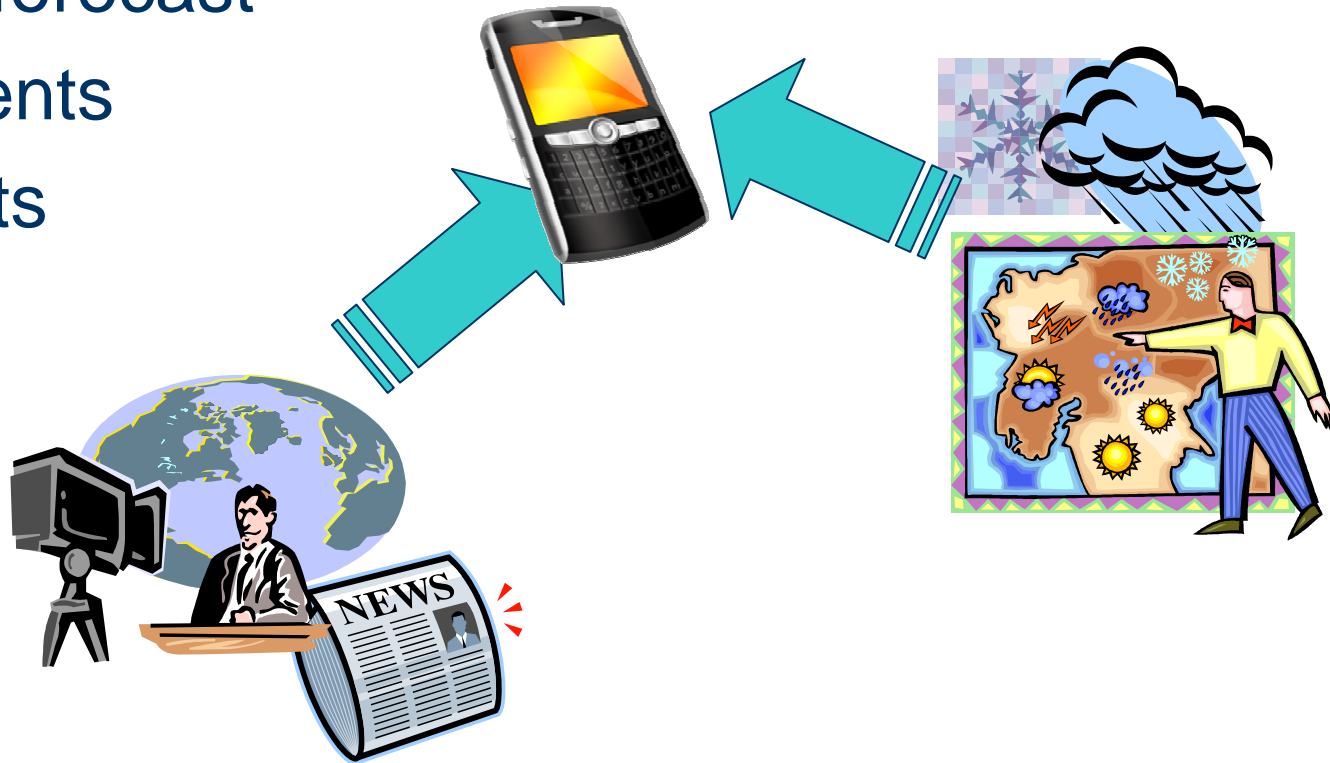
Applications: Social Networking



- Social networking
 - Connectivity
 - Productivity (“WFH” usage)
 - Global village
- Challenges
 - Easy availability of objectionable materials
 - Threat to privacy
 - Monitoring of children’s cyber activity

Applications: Information

- News
- Weather forecast
- Major events
- Live sports
- Location



Applications: E-learning

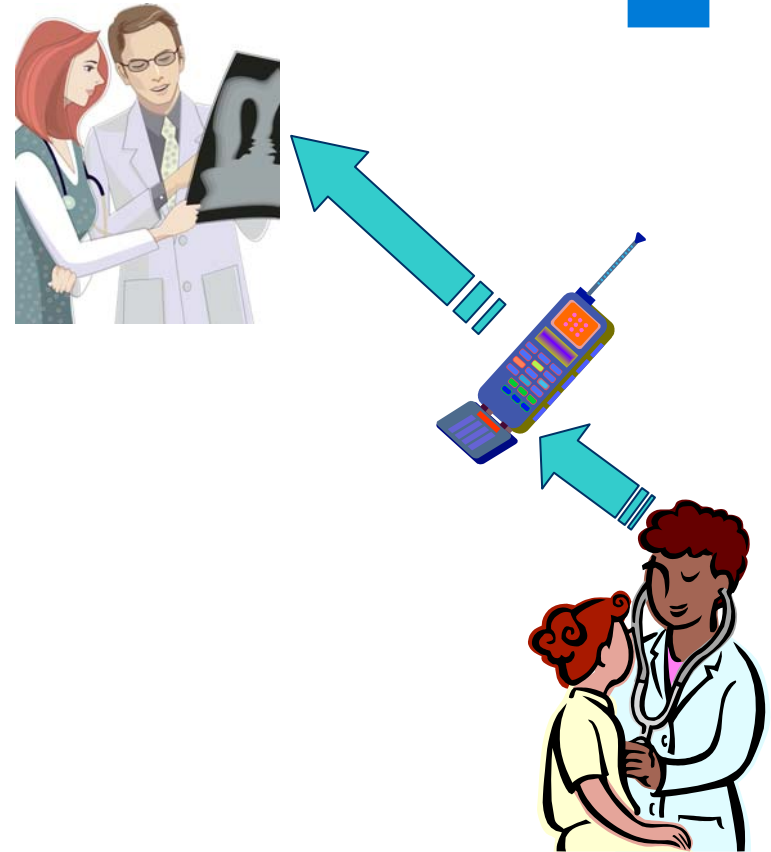
- Distance education
 - Invaluable for South Asian countries
- Certification courses
 - Better employment opportunities
 - Better career roadmap
- Online study
 - Market research, collaborative scientific research



Applications: Telemedicine



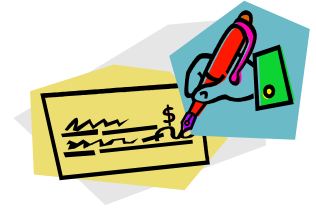
- Healthcare sector underdeveloped and inaccessible to majority of the population in South Asia
- Make affordable healthcare available to remote places
- Gaining rapid approval around the globe



Applications: E-Commerce and E-Governance

- E-commerce

- E-banking
- Bill pay
- Online purchase



- E-governance

- Online license renewal
- Voter registration
- Tax Payment




Applications: Agriculture

- E-consultation
 - Providing consultation about seeds, fertilizers etc. to local farmers
- Marketing
 - Storage and distribution



Challenges

- Challenges
 - Limited ICT literacy and awareness among the vast majority
 - Absence of rules and regulation against fraud and cyber crimes
 - Licensing issues
 - Infrastructure and handsets
 - Low teledensity and broadband connectivity

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THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION