

# Effects of ICT on youth activism in Asia

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# ICTs, Youth and Asia

- Youth forms a major pie of Asian population
- Asia has a diverse range of countries
- The status of ICTs in different countries in Asia varies largely
- Youths are the major users of various forms of ICTs

# Internet diffusion in selected Asian Countries in 2002

Country	Estimated PCs		Internet hosts		Number of ISPs	Number of Internet users		Number of Internet subscribers (in thousands)		International Internet bandwidth (M/bit/s)
	Estimated PCs total (in thousands)	Estimated PCs per 100 inhabitants	Hosts Total	Hosts per 100 inhabitants		Total (in thousands)	Per 100 inhabitants	Total	Broad band	
China	35,500	2.76	156,531	0.01	936	59,100	4.6	49,700	2260	9,380
India	7,500	0.72	78,595	0.01	90	16,580	1.5	3,640	82.4	1,670
Indonesia	2,519	1.19	61,279	0.03	60	4,500	3.7	600	31.3	573
Malaysia	3,600	14.68	86,285	0.35	6	7,841	31.96	2,633	19.3	1,320
Mongolia	69	2.84	127	0.01	NA	50	2.06	195	0.1	17
Pakistan	600	0.42	12,707	0.01	70	1,500	1.03	200	NA	410
Sri Lanka	250	1.32	2,335	0.01	29	200	1.06	70.1	NA	90
Thailand	2,461	3.98	100,132	0.16	18	4,800	7.76	1500	15	1011
Vietnam	800	0.98	529	—	4	1,500	1.85	350	1.1	143

Source: International Telecommunications Union, Telecommunication Indicators Database

NA: Data not available.

# Internet usage in Asia

Country	Internet Users (latest data)	% Use Growth (2000-2004)	% Population (Penetration)
China	79,500,000	253.3	6.0
Hong Kong	4,661,589	104.2	63.0
India	18,481,000	269.6	1.7
Indonesia	8,000,000	300.0	3.6
Japan	64,537,437	37.1	50.4
South Korea	29,220,000	53.5	62.0
Malaysia	8,692,100	134.9	35.3
Nepal	80,000	60.0	0.3
Pakistan	1,500,000	1020.2	1.0
Philippines	3,500,000	75.0	4.2
Singapore	2,100,000	75.0	60.0
Sri Lanka	200,000	64.6	1.0
Taiwan	11,602,523	85.3	50.3
Thailand	6,031,300	162.2	9.4
Vietnam	3,500,000	1650.0	4.2

*Source: Internet World Stats, 2004.*

## Effects of ICTs on youth activism in Asia

- Increased involvement of youth (more choices available) in various sectors of youth activism: social, political, economic
- Increased access to information
- Increased access to resources
- Increased access to international community

# Effects of ICTs on youth activism

- Youth platforms/ voices
- Capacity building of youth groups
- Global brotherhood - Networking opportunities and building partnerships
- Youth-led initiatives
- Changing youth roles from volunteering activities to policy intervention and participation in decision making

# Example

## Youth Activism in Politics

- Youths has effectively used new media to launch major campaigns to depose or elect leaders such as Suharto in Indonesia, Estrada in Philippines and Roh in South Korea or to report on events muffled by the established media such as the prosecution of Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Imbrahim. Youth and its use of new media in political change cannot be ignored.

- *Youth in Transition (UNESCO 2005)*

# Example From South Korea

- In South Korea's 2002 Presidential Election, youth successfully propelled Roh Moo Hyun to power on the back of an internet and mobile phone campaign. Two factors contributed to their success: South Korea is a world leader in the take up of broadband and mobile phone communication (62% internet penetration) and the younger generation had the numbers due to the Asian youth bulge in their demographic profile.  
*- Youth in Transition (UNESCO 2005)*

## Example From Nepal

- Immediately after the Royal coup on Feb 1, 2005 in Nepal where various civil and political rights of the people are limited, and freedom of expression where also limited – young people run websites like [www.insn.org](http://www.insn.org) and [www.samudaya.org](http://www.samudaya.org) were only platforms which provided opportunities to openly discuss and debate the establishment. These sites became popular so quickly and attracted thousands of hits everyday both from Nepal and overseas. Both these sites are run from Nepali youths in the US. After about 2 months these websites are were banned in Nepal and are still banned.

# Example

## Cyber youth activism

- [www.TakingItGlobal.org](http://www.TakingItGlobal.org) is now the largest database of youth and youth organisations in the world. With more than 100,000 registered youths from almost all the countries of the world, it provides platforms for youth people to express themselves, informs them about various issues and opportunities, help them network and provide various other resources and guides

# Benefits youth organisations are taking

- Email and Egroups
- Text messaging
- Blogs
- Online meetings and Video conferencing
- Conference calls
- Websites
- Less expensive and cost effective - youth friendly means of campaigning and advocacy

# Benefits youth organisations are taking

- Medium of Expression
- Youth driven media sector – youth have an advantage
- Information dissemination
- Being heard and gathering support

# Challenges

- ICTs for all
- The digital divide between rural and urban
- Ownership of personal computers
- Still expensive in many developing countries
- Language
- Turning into a Virtual world/ family -  
weakening social ties – how do we balance?
- Increasing Spam and Fraud

## The way ahead

- Developing ICT infrastructure
- Bridging the digital divide
- Localizing ICTs
- Capacity building of youth organisations
- Appropriate policies

Thank you !!