

Introduction to assignments

Marawila, 25-28 September 2015

Introduction

- The focus is on the National Telecom Policy (NTP) India (2012).
- Use the NTP of India as the base for Sri Lanka for this assignment.
- Divided to 5 groups and assigned 5 topics
- Each group required to make a presentation at a mock hearing organized by the ICTA (Information and communication Technology Agency) of Sri Lanka
- Detailed feedback will be provided by the panel

Introduction

- Important- Examine
 - Data
 - News reports about the ground situation
 - Legal environment
 - Political environment
- Group assignment circulated prior

Formed Groups

Group 1: M de Andrado, K. Ramakrishnan, K.I.P. Silva, B.S. Wijetunga

Group 2: A.W. Arjun, C.M. Wijerathna, K.G.P.N. Gamage, K.S. Hettiarachchi

Group 3: N. Maithree, S. Mahir, S.K. Gunarathna, J.G.I. Hurulle,

Group 4: M.S.I. Madushanka, T.S.S. Preena, D.D. Udugama, R. Wijesekera, H.T. Silva

Group 5: A. Hemmathagama, B. Hasthanayake, M. Guganeshan, W.M.A.T. Wanninayaka

Group 1- Affordable broadband of adequate quality throughout Sri Lanka

Assess the likelihood of achieving affordable broadband of adequate quality in Sri Lanka as per the policy recommendations below based on past experiences.

“Provide high speed and high quality broadband access to all Gram Panchayats (GP) through a combination of technologies by the year 2017 and progressively to all villages and habitations by 2022”

“Deliver high quality seamless voice, data, multimedia and broadcasting services on converged networks for enhanced service delivery to provide superior experience to users”

Group 2- Services and applications that are of value to Sri Lankan users

Assess the feasibility of making government services available to citizens electronically and recommend services and applications that are of value to Sri Lankan users.

“Governance and Services on Demand: Single window access to all persons by seamlessly integrating departments or jurisdictions; availability of government services in online and mobile platforms; All citizen entitlements to be available on the Cloud to ensure easy access; Government services to be digitally transformed for improving ease of doing business; Making financial transactions above a threshold, electronic and cashless; and Leveraging GIS for decision support systems and development.”

Source: <http://www.cmai.asia/digitalindia/>

Group 3- Trust and security

The policy document proposes a sharable private space on public cloud. Either argue for or against this policy direction in terms of trust and security.

“Infrastructure as a utility to every citizen: High speed Internet shall be made available in all villages; Cradle to grave digital identity; Mobile and Bank account would enable participation in digital and financial space at individual level; Easy access to common service centre within their locality; Shareable private space on a public cloud; and Safe and secure cyber space in the country”

Group 4- Affordable terminal devices that all can use, with special attention being paid to elderly and the differently able

There are many options of terminals at present. smartphones, e readers, tablets are a few of these. This policy provides a direction to make all government websites to be differently abled friendly. Identify the underlying challenges of making affordable terminal devices that all can use and provide recommendations to overcome these challenges.

Group 5- Skilled users

The rollout of digital infrastructure is of no use if the country does not have sufficient amounts of skilled users. Identify the digital literacy level in Sri Lanka using indices and recommend methods/ provide guidelines to improve the digital literacy in Sri Lanka.

“Digital empowerment of citizens: Universal digital literacy; All digital resources universally accessible; All government documents/ certificates to be available on the Cloud; Availability of digital resources/services in all official languages; Collaborative digital platforms for participative governance; Portability of all entitlements for individuals through the cloud.”

Outputs

- Teams are required:
 - To hand in a policy brief of a maximum of two pages based on template given. Reference all studies using APA Referencing
 - To make a 12 minute evidence based oral presentation at a mock public hearing to ICTA from your teams' perspective.
 - To answer any questions posed by the panel and fellow participants (Q&A limited 13 minutes).

- Reading material:

<http://lirneasia.net/2014/04/why-do-we-need-national-telecomictbroadband-policies/>

Intro to the resource repository on Broadband policy

www.broadbandasia.info