

Importance of ICT International Standard

(The additional role of international standard)

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DIGITAL DIVIDE

Bridging digital divide is the most important challenge and goal

There are two kinds of cause of the digital divide

- Economical reason
- Cultural/language reason
- And many others

Challenge of Asian Countries is to bridge a digital divide due to the cultural/language reasons

- Without local culture/language support, ICT user never reach to the critical mass
- There are many unique national characters only in Asia (Asian unique problem, other areas are mostly a version of alphabet)

Unique to local software enlarges the digital divide

- Developing a local application for local user is one of the common approaches.
- Unfortunately, the unique to local application are not practical, because,
 - Inter-operability problem with other countries in world networks
 - Incompatibility problem with equivalent solution of other countries
 - Too high costs to develop an equivalent application for every thing
 - Too high costs to maintain the equivalent application for every up-date
 - Too much of resource consumption

All developers must supply an application for every language

Is it possible?

All developer must know the requirements and languages of the world.

It never happen, but necessary to do.

How to make it possible?

International Standard is a solution

- If international standard covers a requirements of the world in a **form of technology**,
- And if developers of the world use the international standard,
- Then, it would happen.

- In a form of technology is a key.
- **Descriptive explanation of the language or culture does not work**

The New Role

- **Disclose** the country information in international standards
- This is the one of the necessary actions to minimize the digital divide in Asian countries

Conversion from explanation to “form of generic technology”

- Additional efforts are needed (needs of specialists)
- Understanding **the state of art technology** is necessary. (study by seeing a products in market does not work)
- Compromise is always necessary
- **Consensus within country** is necessary (needs of strong leadership) -continued

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Conversion from explanation to “form of generic technology”

- Organization in charge of standard is minimum requirement
- Develop **specialists**
- Participation is desired, but it is too costly
- **Asian wide cooperation** might be a solution

De-facto standard?

- This is a world trend
- Be aware of it.
- Interest group may forget about the small market intentionally/non-intentionally
- Raise loud voice in formal standard

Conclusion

- To **bridge the digital** divide due to the cultural difference, **disclosing** a country requirements for international standards is necessary.
- To make it happen, **Asian wide** cooperative action is needed