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Beirut, 4-6 February 2003

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THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN THE ARAB WORLD

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The Digital Divide in the Arab World

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Head, ITU Arab Regional Office

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Topics

- ✓ Introduction
- ✓ Digital Divide
- ✓ The Gap Within
- ✓ Internet Usage
- ✓ Language and Content
- ✓ ITU-D and WTDC
- ✓ Conclusion

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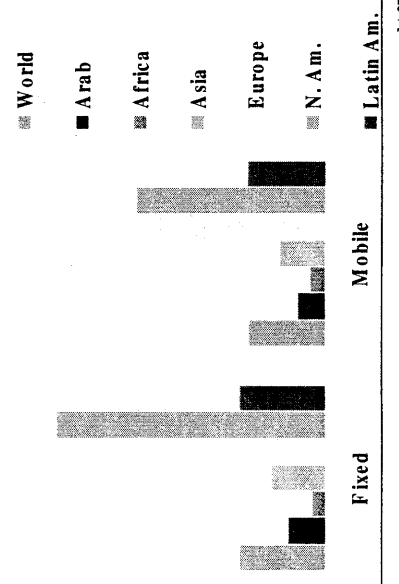
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Telecom Digital Divide

Tele-density (per 100 inhabitant)




Region	Fixed	Mobile
World	~15	~10
Arab	~10	~5
Africa	~5	~2
Asia	~10	~5
Europe	~25	~15
N. Am.	~20	~10
Latin Am.	~15	~5

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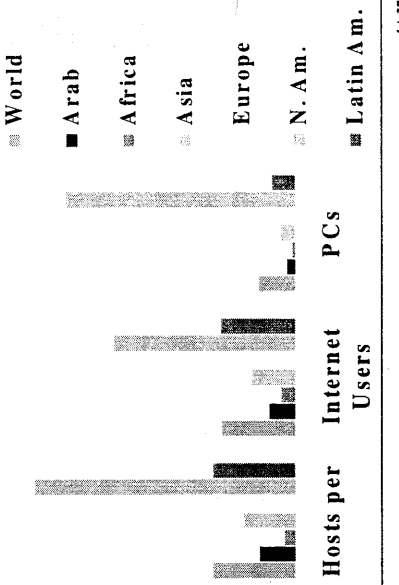
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IT Digital Divide

PCs and Internet (per 100 inhabitant)

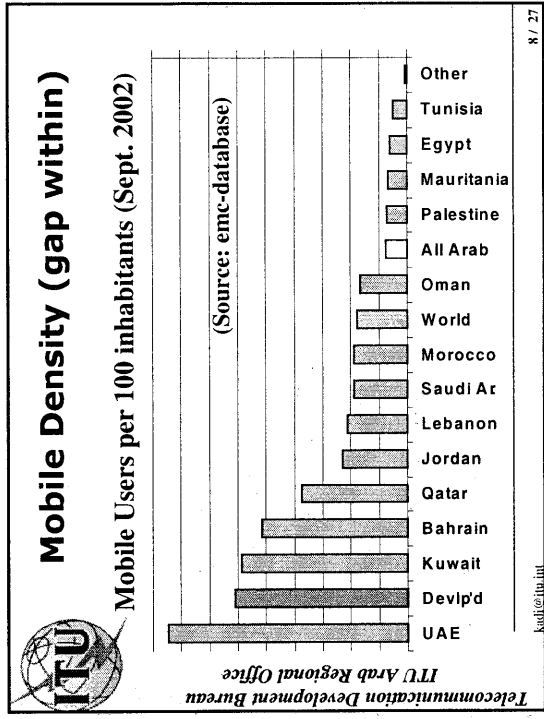
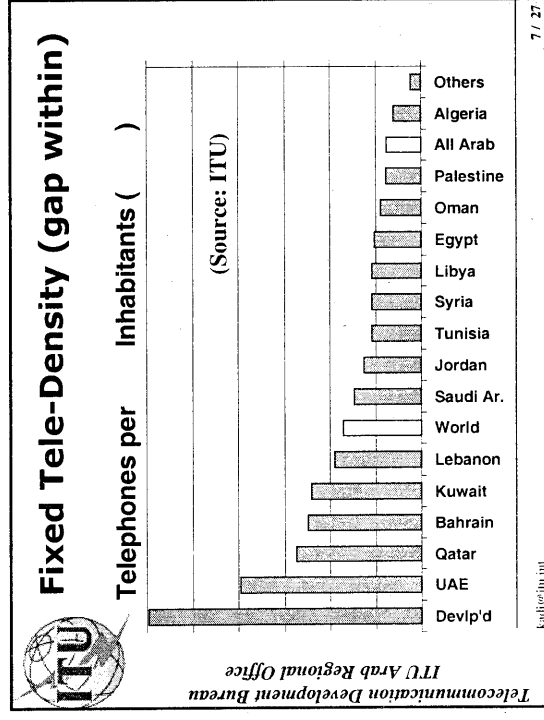
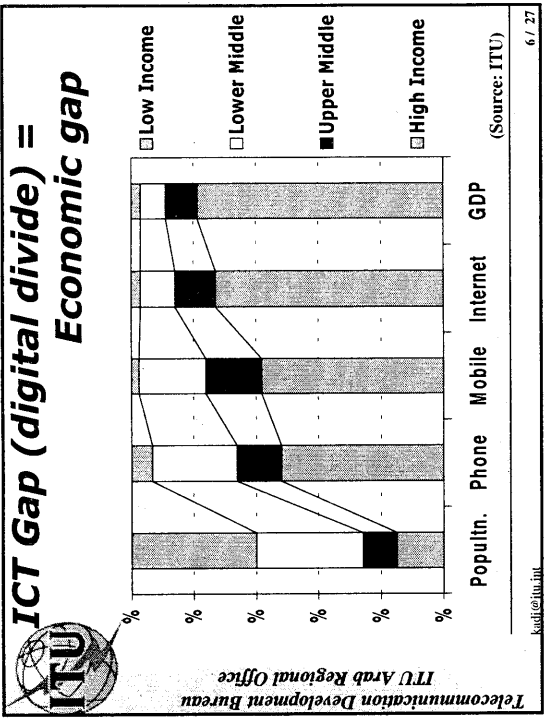
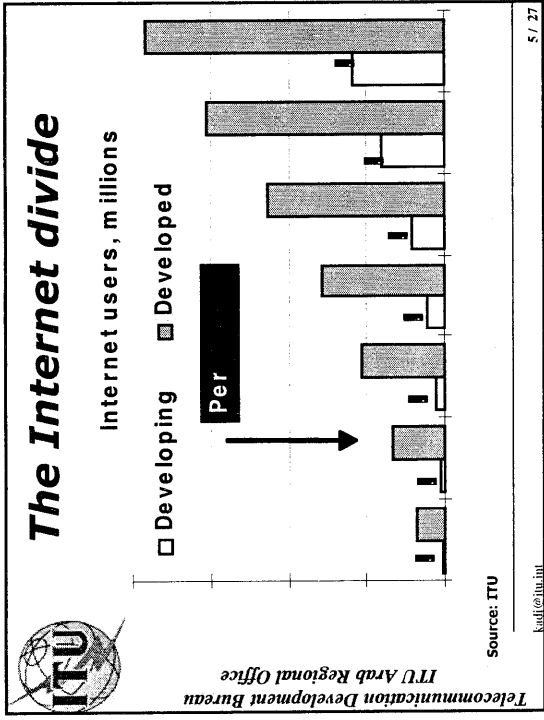


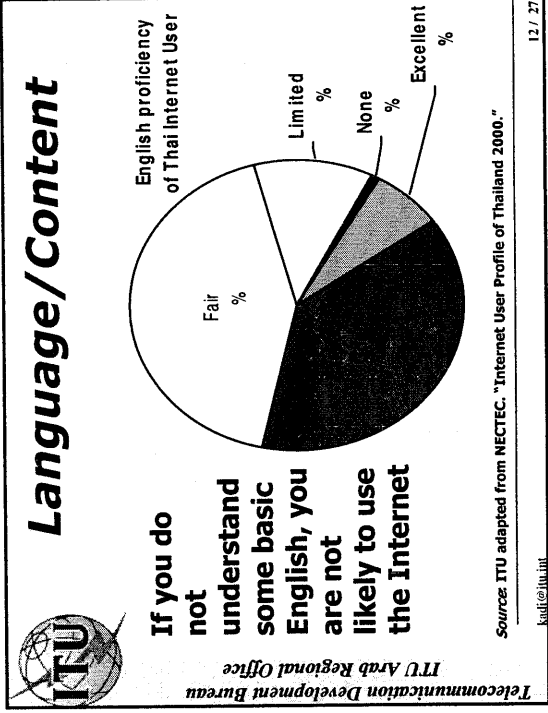
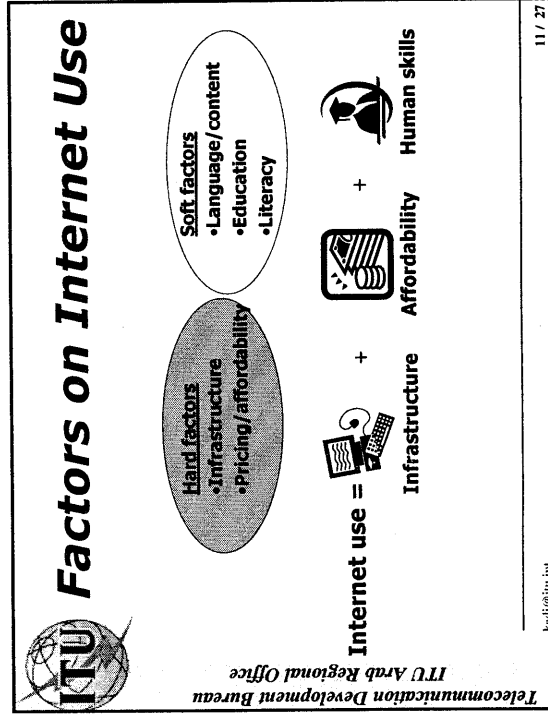
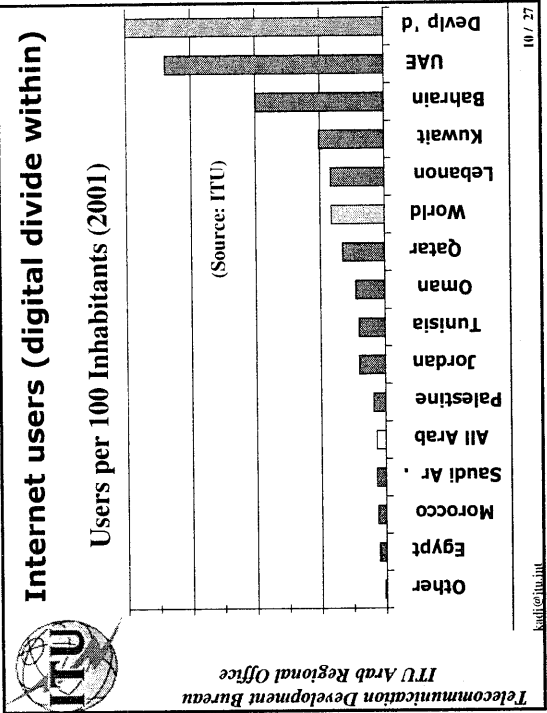
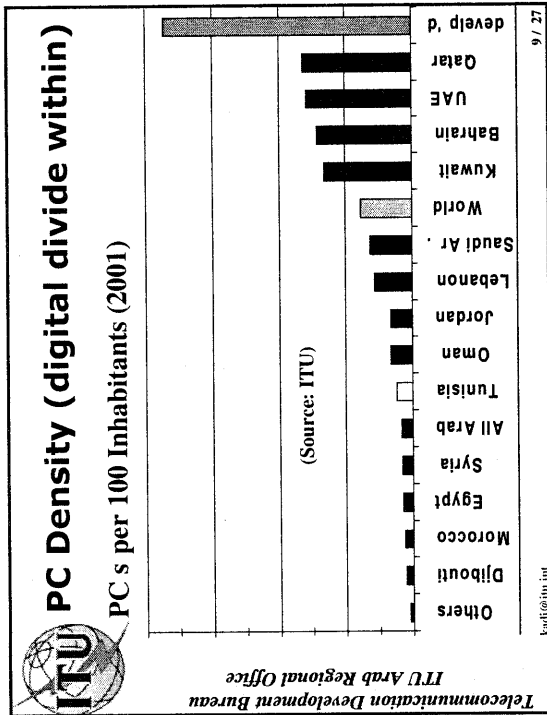
Region	Hosts per Internet Users	PCs per 100 inhabitants
World	~1.5	~10
Arab	~1.0	~5
Africa	~0.5	~2
Asia	~1.0	~5
Europe	~2.0	~15
N. Am.	~1.5	~10
Latin Am.	~1.0	~5

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Lessons learned... (1)



- ✓ Know where you stand and where you are going
- ✓ Data Analysis (beyond the pure ICT statistics)
 - ✓ Analysis
 - ✓ Trends
 - ✓ User profiles
 - ✓ What are your needs?
- ✓ Identify:
 - ✓ Strengths
 - ✓ Weaknesses
 - ✓ Opportunities
 - ✓ Threats
- ✓ adopt the appropriate policies

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Lessons learned... (2)



- ✓ Top-level support and a vision for ICT development
- ✓ Coordination of ICT initiatives to avoid duplication and guarantee success
- ✓ A comprehensive ICT and e-development strategy
- ✓ Governments need to:
 - attract & work with the private sector
 - create the appropriate environment for private companies to invest

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ITU-D Programs Istanbul Action Plan (IsAP)



1. Regulatory Reform
2. Technologies and Telecommunications
 - Network Development
3. E-Strategies and E-Services/Applications
4. Economics and Finance
5. Human Capacity Building
6. Special Programme for LDCs

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World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC)



- Istanbul, TURKEY
- Issue of Digital Divide
- Action plan to bridge the digital divide
- 1152 participants representing:
 - 152 Member States,
 - 79 sector members,
 - 45 orgs, agencies and
 - many private sector entities.

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WTDC 02 Special Session on Digital Divide

1. Identification of means to close the divide
2. Role of governments
3. Role of ITU/BDT
4. Recognition of regional initiatives

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WTDC-02 Conclusions

1. Istanbul Declaration
2. ITU-D Strategic Plan
3. Istanbul Action Plan (IsAP)
 - a. Cooperation among the members;
 - b. Regional initiatives
 - c. Resolutions and Recommendations (resolution 37: role of the ITU-D in bridging the Digital Divide)
 - d. IsAP Actions

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IsAP Initiatives

1. Statistics and information on telecommunications/ICT;
2. Partnership and Promotion;
3. Private sector initiatives;
4. Gender issues;
5. Youth initiatives;
6. Indigenous people issues

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ITU e-Strategies

- e-Strategies: ICTs for the socio-economic development of world countries:
 - ✓ e-Education
 - ✓ e-Health,
 - ✓ e-Business
 - ✓ e-Government.
- Internet is a low-cost, widely available channel: Confidence/ security concerns
- e-Strategies: leveraging the potentials of IP networks by addressing the security and trust concerns of the Internet for the roll-out of e-applications/services..

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THANK YOU
for your attention ..

and COMMENTS ..

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