

# Afghanistan-Country Report

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# Background

- **The authority supervising Telecommunications and IT sector in Afghanistan is the **Ministry of Communications**, which handles postal services, too.**
- **Information Technology was first introduced in **1973** by establishing “**Afghan Computer Center**”, the main functions of the centre were:**
  - Keeping records of foreign trade
  - Maintaining updated information of pension beneficiaries
  - Issuing bills for utilities
  - Operating a database for the bank
  - Maintaining a statistical database
  - Managing the ticketing and reservations system for ARIANA Airways
- **IT was introduced at university level for the first time in **1992** in **Kabul University****



# Policies and Regulations

- **Open Telecom market**
  - 4 GSM Operator
  - 1 Unified (CDMA 2000 WLL) Operator
  - 19 Internet Service Providers
  - 30 IT Solution Providers
  - 7 Postal Services Providers
  - Over 500 IT Companies
- **MoC as the Policy Maker rather than operator**
  - Establishment of **Afghan Telecom** (2005)
  - Establishment of **Afghan Post** (2007)
- **ATRA (Afghanistan Telecom Regulatory Authority)**
- **ICT Policy (2003)**
- **Telecom Policy (2003)**
- **Telecom Law (2005)**
- **ICT Law (just initiated)**

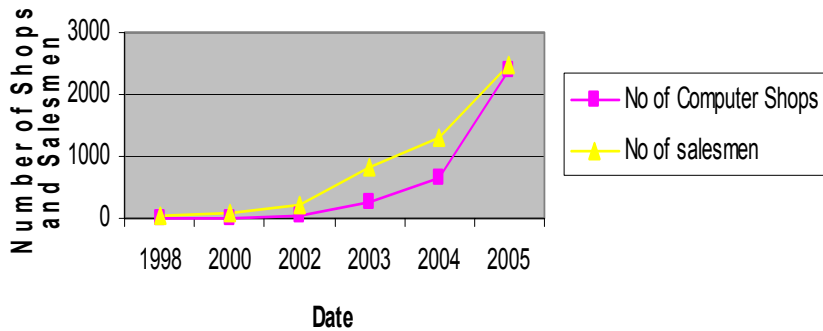


# Developments

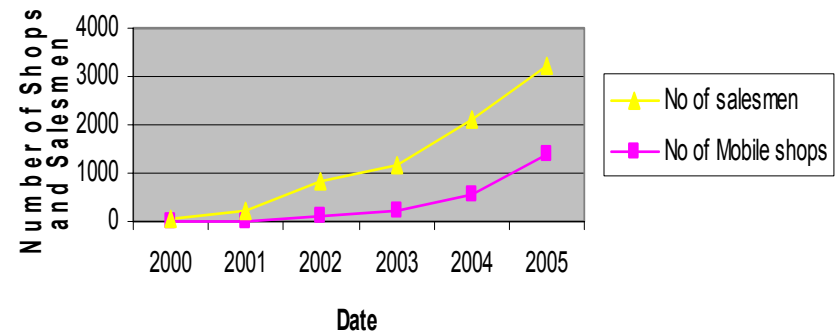
- Afghanistan had fewer than **40,000** telephone lines for a population of approximately **28 millions**.
- The telephone penetration rate in 2002 was **0.8%** which is **6%** now (2006).
- An estimated **100,000** net mobile subscriber adds across the industry per **month**.
- Approximately **40-50%** of Afghans now live within a coverage area of a telecommunications network i.e. have access.
- Connecting **34** Provincial capitals with **Voice, Data and Video conference** services.
- Connecting **355** districts with **Voice** and **Data** by end of 2007.
- Installation of **3600 km** of Fiber across the country with connection to **TAE** and **Submarine** through neighboring countries by end of 2008.
- Re-delegation of **.af** (2003)
- **ICTCA** (ICT Council of Afghanistan) established December 2006.

# Statistics based on sampling

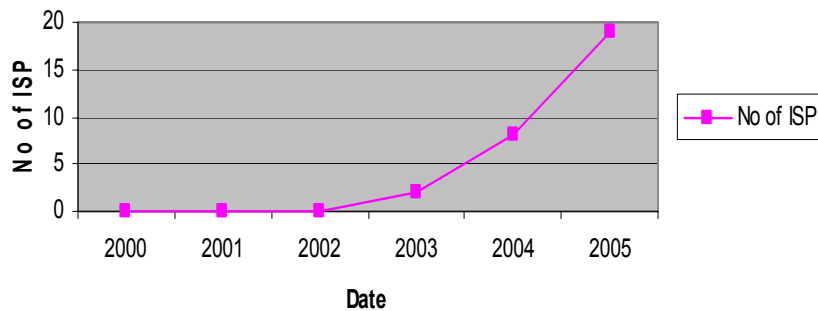
### Computer Shops and Salesmen statistics



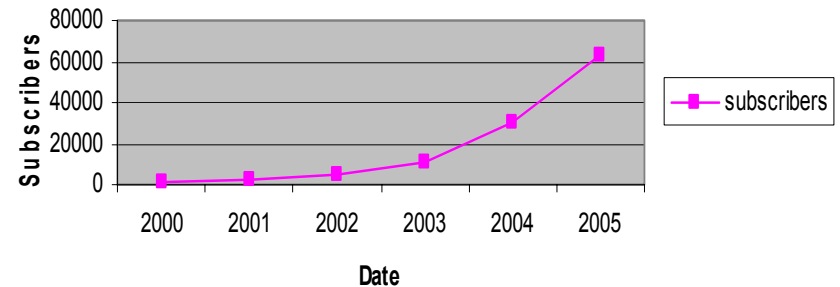
### Mobile phones Shops and Salesmen statistics



### IPS Licensing statistics



### Internet Subscribers statistics





# Need for Local Contents

- **Pashto and Dari** are the **official** languages.
- **34%** can read write Pashto and Dari (**18%** Women the rest Men).
- **2-3%** can read write English.
- All government correspondence, documentation, contracting etc are done in Pashto and Dari.
- Government as primary employer
  - **400,000.00** government employees out of which **191,000.00** are teachers.
- Private Sector and International Missions as alternate employer
  - NGOs, Companies, UN, EC, WB etc.



# Need for Local Contents

- **ICT Policy**

- **Vision:** *"To enable Afghanistan to further benefit from ICTs by becoming part of the global information society while preserving Afghanistan's cultural heritage."*

- **Clause** *"Promote localised software development and adoption of a national standard for computerised character representation applicable to the languages of Afghanistan. In addition, the GoA will promote the use of open source software and applications where appropriate."*

- **Local Content Policies: The governing agencies**

- **Ministry of Communications**
- **Ministry of Information and Youth**
- **Acadome Uolom (Academy of Sciences)**
- **Universities**



# Need for Local Contents

- **Initiatives**

- **Keyboard support** by Liwal Private Limited (**Word Perfect**) 1992.
- **Key board Support** by Liwal Private Limited (**Office 2005**) 1996.
- **Key board Support** by a number of **individuals** using **MSKLC** (1999-2005).
- **Afghan Languages UNICODE** (Pashto, Dari and Uzbek) MoC/UNDP **2003**.
- **ALP (Afghanistan Localization Program) 2004**
  - **Pan Localization**
  - **MS Localization**

- **Challenges**

- **ICT; newly introduced**
- **Lack of capacities**
- **Lack of funding**
- **Lack of coordination**



# Need for Local Contents

- **Future Planes**
  - **Windows Vista/office 2007**
  - **Pan Localization Phase 2**
  - **Open Source**
  - **Standardization**
  - **E-Government**
  - **Awareness**
  - **Prioritizing ICT as an enabler**
- **Expectation from the event**
  - **Know How transfer**
  - **Partnerships**
  - **Fellowships/student exchange**



**Thank You**  
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