

ICT Readiness in Lebanon and other MENA Countries

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October 2003

Outline

- Some ICT Indicators in MENA and ESCWA
- ICT Readiness
- Beirut Declaration to WSIS
- ICT strategies
- GSSD Potentials
- Conclusion

Ratio of Speakers of a Language to Web Pages in That Language, 2001

Rank	Language	No. of Web Pages	No. of Speakers (thousands)	Speakers/ Web Page
1	English	214,250,996	322,000	1.5
2	Icelandic	136,788	250	1.8
3	Sweden	2,929,241	9,000	3.1
4	Danish	1,374,886	5,292	3.9
5	Norwegian	1,259,189	5,000	3.9
6	Finnish	1,198,956	6,000	5.0
7	German	18,069,744	98,000	5.4
8	Dutch	3,161,844	20,000	6.3
9	Estonian	173,265	1,100	6.4
10	Japanese	18,335,739	125,000	6.8
11	Italian	4,883,497	37,000	7.6
12	French	9,262,663	72,000	7.8
13	Catalan	443,301	4,353	9.8
14	Czech	991,075	12,000	12.1
15	Basque	36,321	588	16.2
16	Slovenian	134,454	2,218	16.5
17	Korean	4,046,530	75,000	18.5
18	Latvian	60,959	1,550	25.4
19	Russian	5,900,956	170,000	28.8
20	Hungarian	498,625	14,500	29.1
21	Portuguese	4,291,237	170,000	39.6
22	Greek	287,980	12,000	41.7
23	Spanish	7,573,064	332,000	43.8
24	Lithuanian	82,829	4,000	48.3
25	Polish	848,672	44,000	51.8
26	Hebrew	198,030	12,000	60.6
27	Chinese	12,113,803	885,000	73.1
28	Turkish	430,996	59,000	136.9
29	Bulgarian	51,336	9,000	175.3
30	Romanian	141,587	26,000	183.6
31	Arabic	127,565,000	202,000	1,583.5

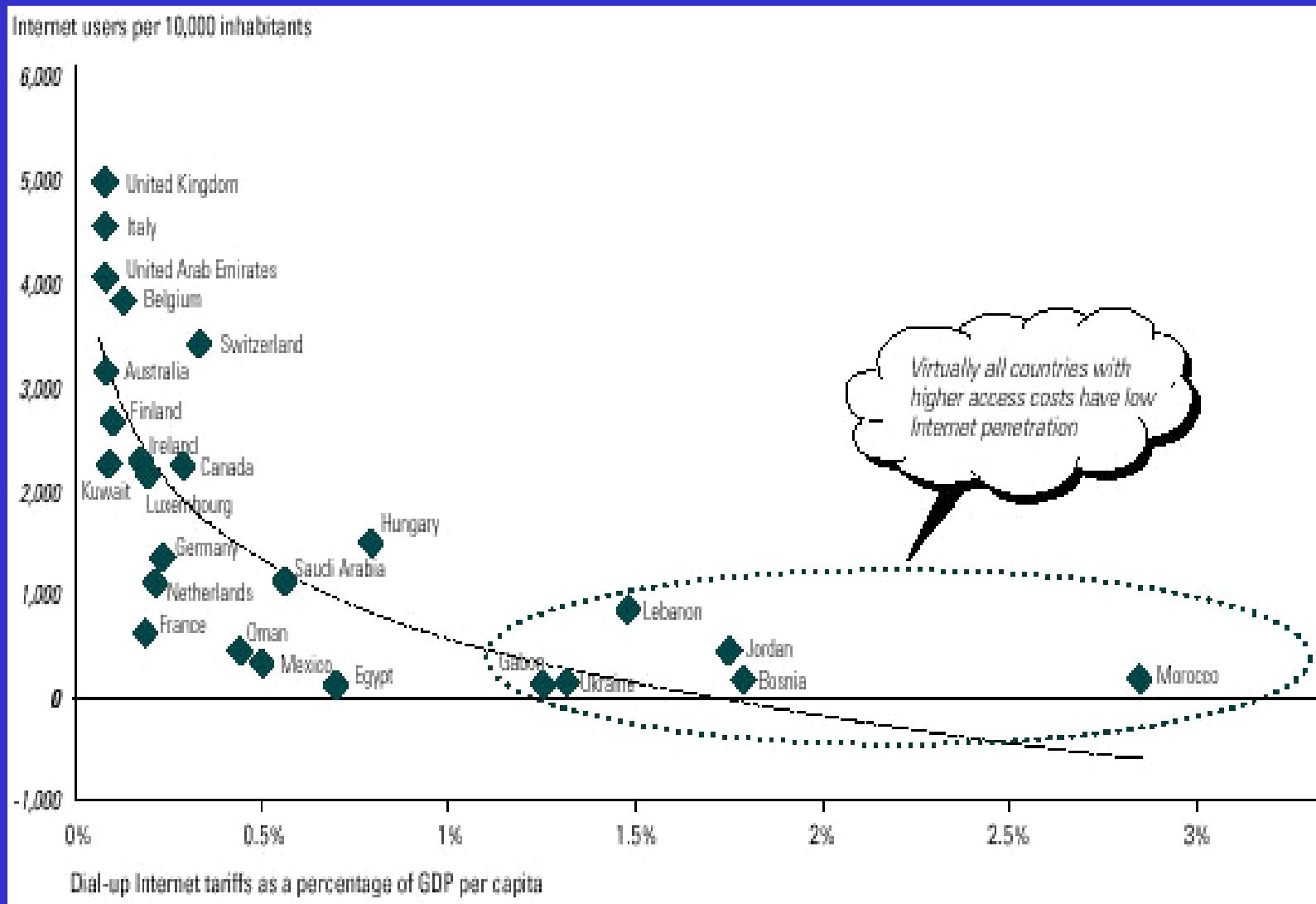
Source: Adapted from Carvin (2001).

Internet Access Rates, August 2001

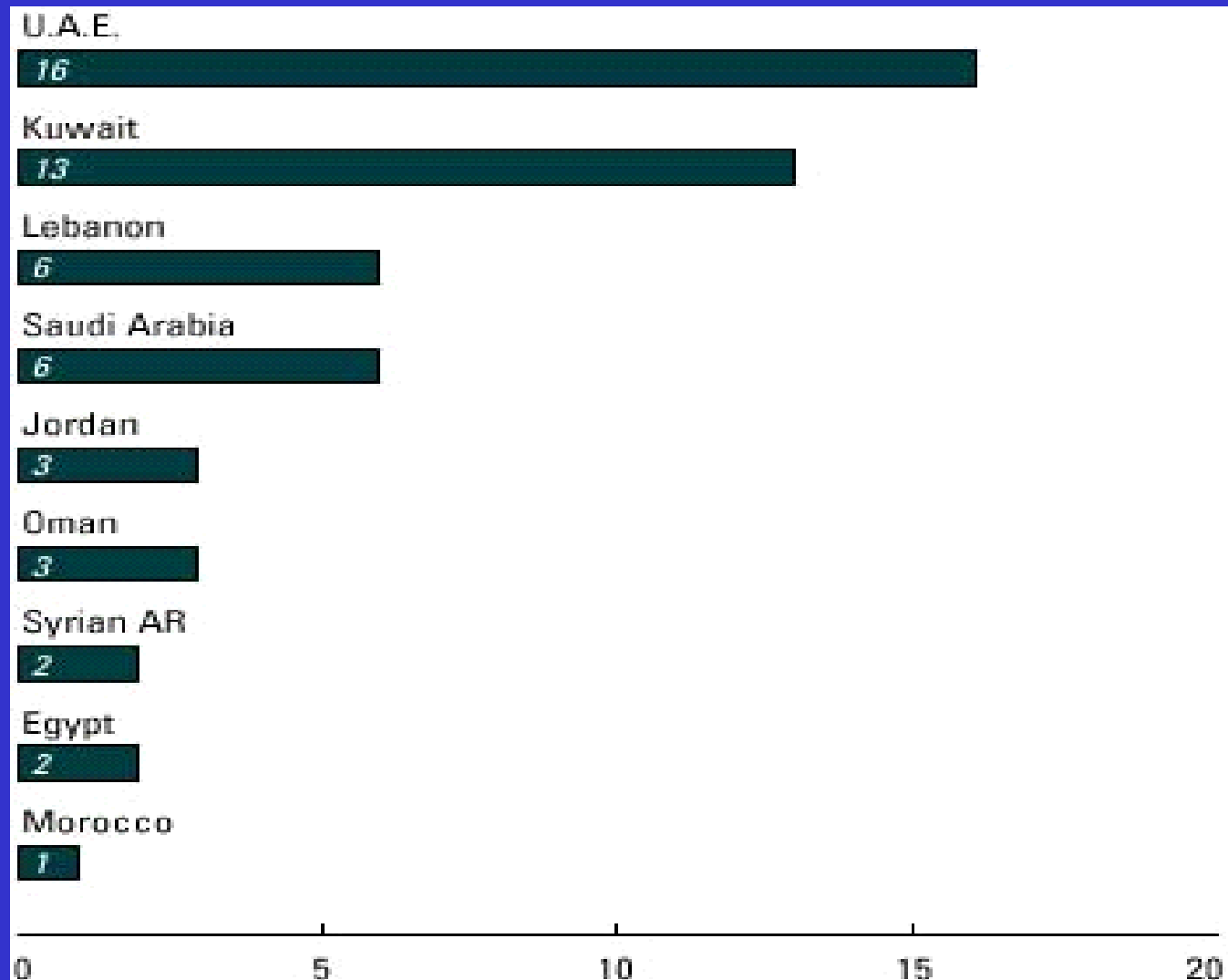
Region	No. of People with Internet Access (millions)	Percentage of Population with Internet Access
U.S. and Canada	181	57.2
Europe	155	21.3
Latin America	25	4.8
Asia	144	3.9
Middle East	5	2.4
Africa	4	0.5
World	513	8.4

Source: Adapted from “How Many Online” (2001); Population Reference Bureau (2001).

Internet Penetration vs. Connection Cost



PC Penetration



Telecom Market Competition

<i>Country</i>	<i>Local Voice</i>	<i>DLD Voice</i>	<i>ILD Voice</i>	<i>Mobile</i>	<i>Data</i>	<i>Internet</i>
Egypt	M	M	M	D	C	C
Jordan	M	M	M	P	C	C
Kuwait	M	M	C	D	C	D
Lebanon	M	M	M	D	C	C
Morocco	M	M	M	C	C	C
Oman	M	M	M	M	M	M
KSA	M	M	M	M	M	C
Syria	M	M	M	P	M	—
U.A.E.	M	M	M	M	M	M

ICT Readiness In Terms of Local Content and Knowledge

Economic Growth and Social Prosperity

Building Knowledge Capacity

Managing Data & Information

Access to Raw observation

ICT Use in Society

Social ICT Infrastructure

Business ICT Infrastructure

Government ICT Regulation & Policies

ICT Infrastructure

October 30-31

Excellent

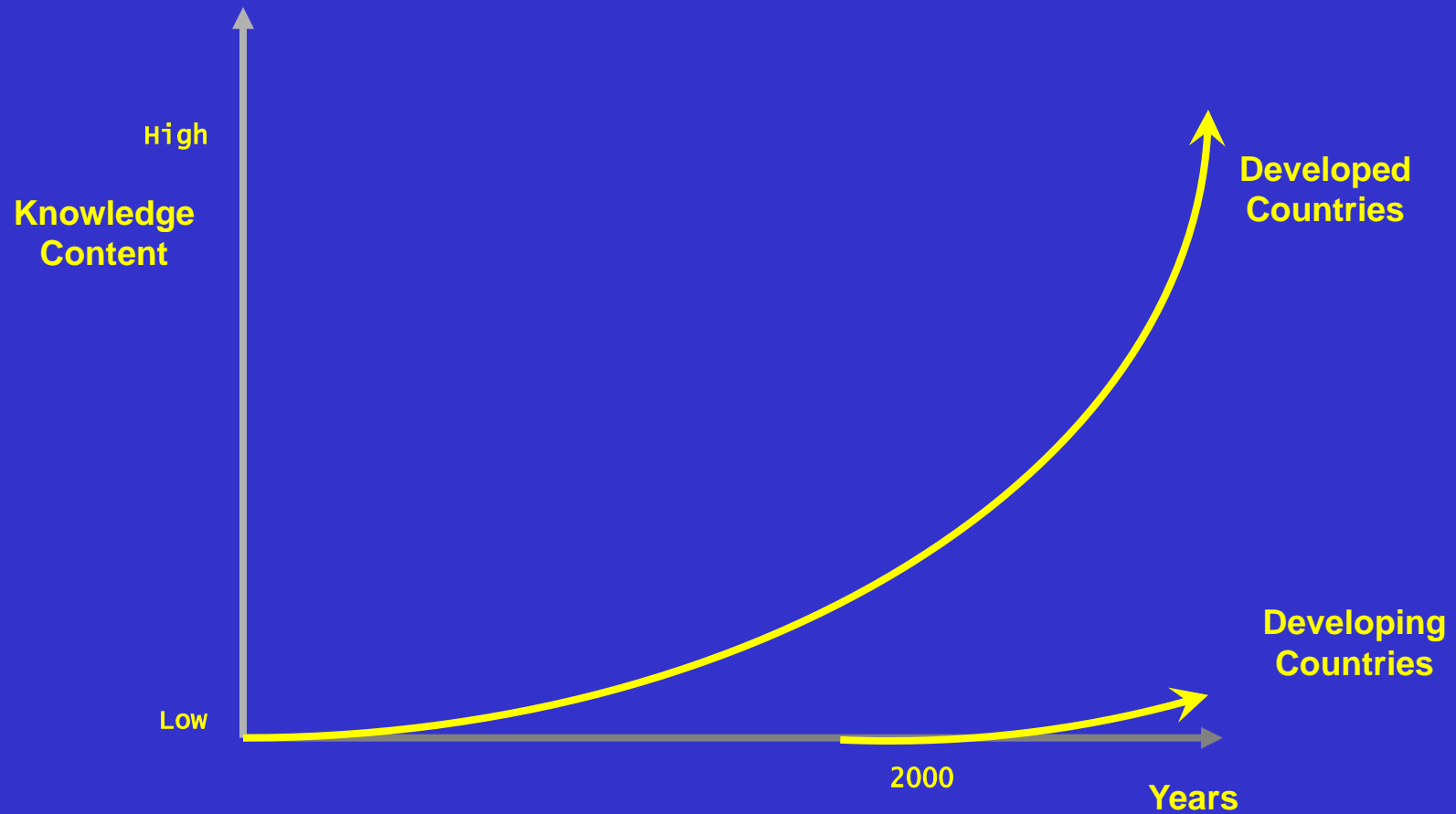
Good

Average

Weak

Poor

Local Knowledge Content On the WEB



ICT Education and Knowledge

ICT Use and Knowledge in Society

Private Sector

Government Agencies

ICT Education at Universities

ICT Education in Schools

Excellent

Good

Average

Weak

Poor

October 30-31

MIT-workshop, Knowledge
Networking & IT Development

ICT Usage

Developed Countries

ICT Use in Society

Building Local Content

ICT Education and training

Update ICT Infrastructure

Lebanon

ICT Use in Society

Building Local Content

ICT Education and training

Update ICT Infrastructure

Excellent

Good

Average

Weak

Poor

Internet Access

Household

Private Sector

Government Agencies

Universities

Schools

Excellent

Good

Average

Weak

Poor

October 30-31

MIT-workshop, Knowledge
Networking & IT Development

Beirut Declaration to be presented at WSIS

- The Region Lags in ICT applications
- Focuses on 5 points

1. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ICT POLICY & ENABLING LEGISLATIVE-REGULATORY ENVIRONMENTS

- Formulating clear national and regional policies
- Removing social and cultural barriers that impede transformation into the new information society
- Reforming legal, regulatory and policy matters
- Adopting standards and norms for Arabic language

2. ICT INFRASTRUCTURE

- Enhancing and integrating the infrastructure to narrow the digital divide
- Developing appropriate ICT indicators
- Ensuring governance of Internet and ICT resources
- Securing national domain names

3. ICT APPLICATIONS

- Implementing and standardizing e-government applications
- Promoting e-learning programs and projects
- Applying e-health
- Restructuring for e-business
- Developing e-content applications and tools
- Launching other applications

4. ICT PRODUCTION AND SERVICE SECTOR

- Developing ICT production capabilities
- Improving ICT services

5. ICT CAPACITY BUILDING

- Developing human capacity through education and training
- Building institutions

ICT PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

- ICT Policy and the creation of an enabling environment
- ICT Infrastructure
- E-government
- E-Business
- E-learning and e-education
- E-content
- ICT production and service sector
- Capacity building

Comments

- Beirut declaration is an important step toward building knowledge society but we need other reforms in order to succeed:
- Political reforms
- Economic reforms

Some low-level ICT Strategies

- **Open access to capital markets**
 - Markets must provide adequate capital instruments ranging from venture capital to funding through public offerings
- **Provide initial consulting and help-desk support**
 - Enhances initiatives driving awareness of the benefit of ICT
- **Serve ICT content in local language and translate foreign knowledge to local language**
 - Eliminate the language barrier
- **ICT strategies in different countries should be complementary and not compete.**
 - Make use of each country's strength.

Some low-level ICT Strategies (Cont'd)

- **The use of ICT for promoting social inclusion.**
 - Programs should be based on a systemic approach that recognizes the primacy of social structure and promotes the capacity of individuals or organizations using technology.
- **It is essential to understand and exploit possible catalytic "effects" of ICT.**
 - A new computer laboratory in a low-income neighborhood may also become a meeting hub for at-risk youth and college student mentors.

Some low-level ICT Strategies (Cont'd)

- **“Champions” of change should be community leaders, educators, managers, and organizers rather than computer experts.**
 - Those who are capable of managing complex social projects to foster innovative, creative, and social transformation will likely be able to learn to integrate technology into this task.

GSSD Contributions

- Used as a Benchmarking tool for other knowledge management projects
- Provide direction for Best Practices in sustainability
- Reduces barriers in knowledge sharing, provision, management and well as networking and help make evolving knowledge more accessible for decision and analysis.
- Provides connectivity among all stakeholders (local, regional and global)
- Facilitates knowledge-sharing through customized and quality-controlled methods to help reduce prevailing gaps in knowledge-discourse on development

GSSD Contributions

- Provides e-based multilingual capabilities for knowledge provision and access
- Supports ‘top-to-bottom’ & ‘bottom-to-top’ communication and contribute to critical mass, synergy, and leadership in uses of advances in ICT for development.
- “Sustainable development can best be advanced in the Information Society when ICT-related efforts and programs are fully integrated in national and regional development strategies. ICT driven productivity gains contribute to poverty eradication and sustainable development” (WSIS draft declaration principles). GSSD is a good example.

Opportunities Lost in Capacity Building in Public Sector

- Most government employees are not involved in the developing process. They are only used for processing paperwork.
- Most projects are being done (design and implementation) by International Institutions relying on local experts some of the time.

Conclusion

- Technology Leapfrogging is crucial to bridging the Digital Divide.
- A digital divide is marked not only by physical access to computers and connectivity, but also by access to additional resources that allow people to use technology well: Physical Resources, Digital Resources, Human Resources, and Social Resources
- More collaborative initiatives are needed to improve the connectivity among all the ICT Stakeholders.