INTUG

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Rural and remote telecommunications: global best practice

Ewan Sutherland

International Telecommunications Users Group
Executive Director
ewan@intug.net

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INTUG contents

- about INTUG
- politics of availability
- universal access
- aggregation of demand
- broadband
- issues

INTUG what is INTUG?

- members
  - national associations
  - corporations
  - individuals
- activities
  - ITU and WTO
  - OECD
  - APEC TEL, CITEL and EU

INTUG our aims

- real and effective competition
- genuine choice for users
- lower prices
- higher quality
- more innovative services
- constructive co-operation with
  - international bodies
  - governments
  - regulators

INTUG priorities

1. open access to global mobile networks
2. regulatory best practice
3. liberalisation
4. leased lines
5. IP telephony
6. digital divide
7. universal access
8. numbering

INTUG digital divide/opportunity

- vital role of mobile telecoms in closing the digital divide
- challenges of:
  - low-income
  - low-density
  - remote locations
- global actions include:
  - DOT Force
  - UN ICT Task Force
  - World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

INTUG politics of availability

- continuing assumptions of:
  - comparable price
  - comparable quality
- but seldom the assumption of competition
- reduced acceptance of delay in roll-out of new services
- have you built a plausible economic case?
- France – zones blanches
- South Africa – Under Service Area Licences

- accounting separation
- calculating the savings from not competing
- splitting it up:
  - geographically
  - functionally
- Chile - reverse auctions
- Internet access:
  - general reluctance to add anything specific
  - South Korea will soon mandate broadband
- the end of the payphone in developed countries

INTUG universal service funds

- who should contribute?
  - fixed?
  - mobile?
  - broadband?
- who should receive funding?
- schemes for low volume users
- United States e-rate

INTUG models for community access

- demand aggregation
- open access (wholesale provider)
- community-owned networks

Have to ensure these do
not distort competition

INTUG aggregation of demand

- collecting all the public sector demand
- inviting operators to bid for the business
- allow them into commercial activities in the same area
- used successfully in Canada
  - like Australia but colder

INTUG challenges

- declining revenues for:
  - long-distance telephony
  - international telephony
  - mobile telephony
- increasing range of technologies, but how do you decide when to make them universal?
- how much can you draw from:
  - regional development budget
  - social services budget
  - education budget

INTUG conclusions

- many positive examples
- some window dressing
- significant risks of distorting markets
- USO/USF abused by incumbents
- severe remaining challenges
  - broadband
  - broadband for those with no fixed lines

INTUG thank you

Ewan Sutherland

International Telecommunications Users Group

Boulevard Reyers 80

B-1030 Brussels

Belgium

+32.2.706.8255

http://www.intug.net/talks.html