

The health of telecommunications; a user perspective

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INTUG contents

- INTUG
- user issues
- broadband and UNE-P
- wireless
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- conclusions

INTUG what is INTUG?

- members
 - national associations
 - corporations
 - individuals
- activities
 - ITU and WTO
 - OECD
 - APEC TEL, CITELE 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. liberalization
4. leased lines
5. IP telephony
6. digital divide
7. universal access
8. numbering

INTUG user woes

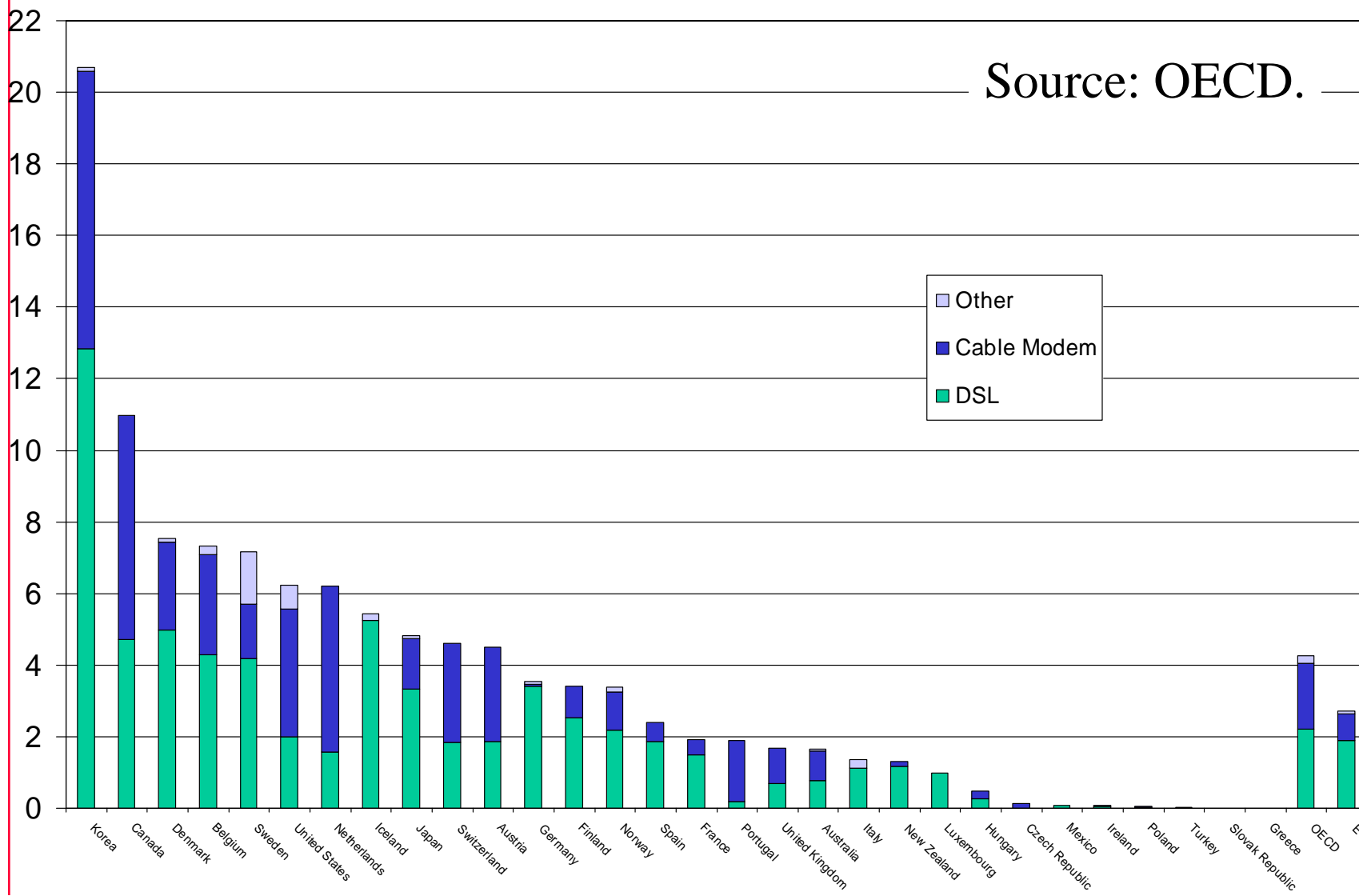
- the high price of leased lines
- the cartel that jacks up international mobile roaming prices
- the gouging of fixed-to-mobile call termination rates
- the shameless obstructionism in introducing mobile number portability
- the acquiescence in obscure taxes that get re-cycled to the industry players
- the passing off of unmetered ISDN as "broadband" by unscrupulous operators
- the strangulation of broadband data rates to protect revenues from leased lines

INTUG user woes (contd.)

- the manipulation of numbering plans to prevent Voice over IP and multi-country services
- the sulking retreat of operators to their home territories to play the only game they can win; monopoly
- the promises of "broadband to the barn" and "fibre to the farm", if only competitors could be bound hand and foot and thrown into the Potomac (since they Cherish the Chesapeake, it would only be metaphorically. If you make the terms right, they will probably offer to teach the cattle to surf the web!)
- the slamming of consumers by long-distance operators
- the list goes on

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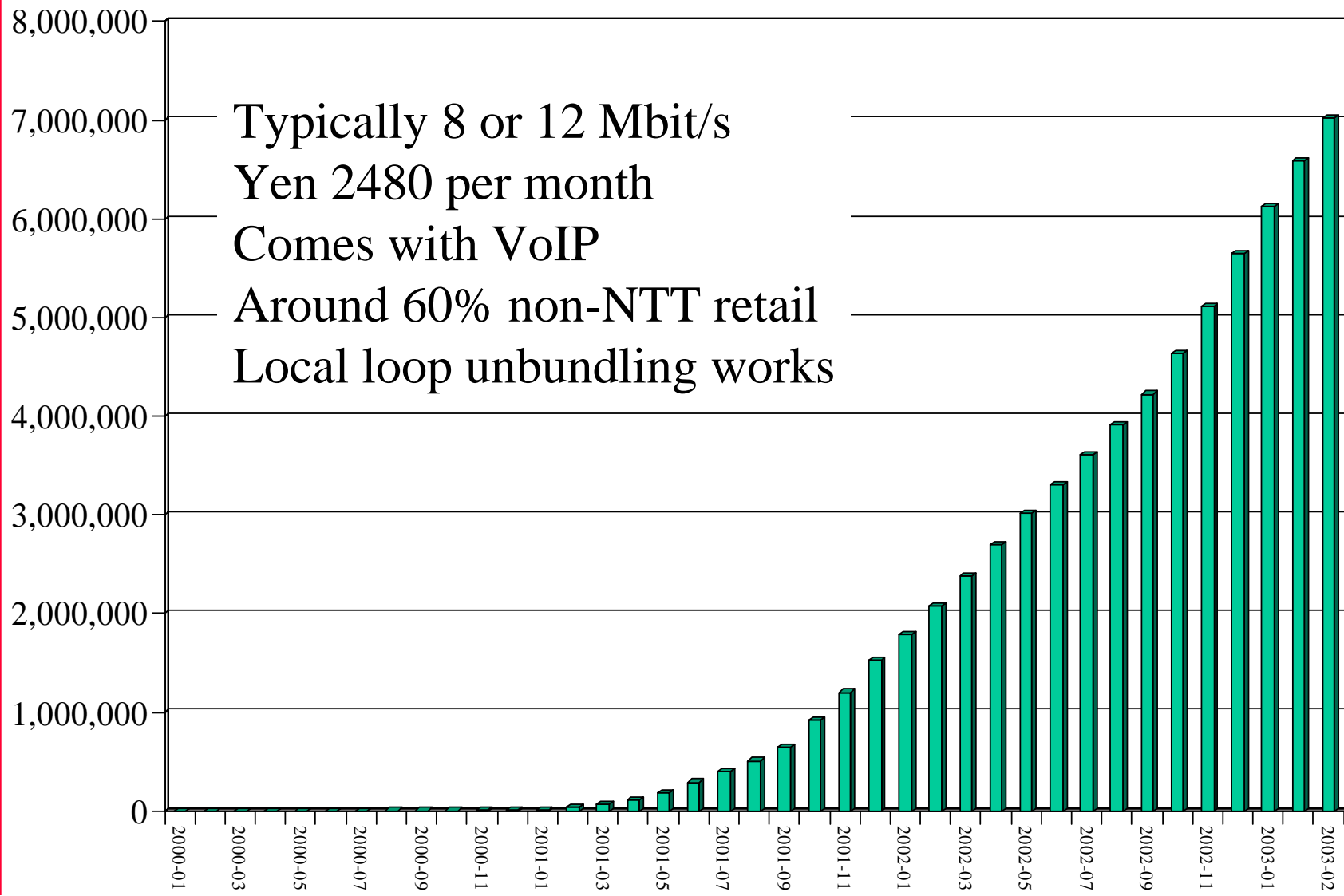
Broadband lines per 100 population, Sept. 2002



INTUG ADSL in Japan

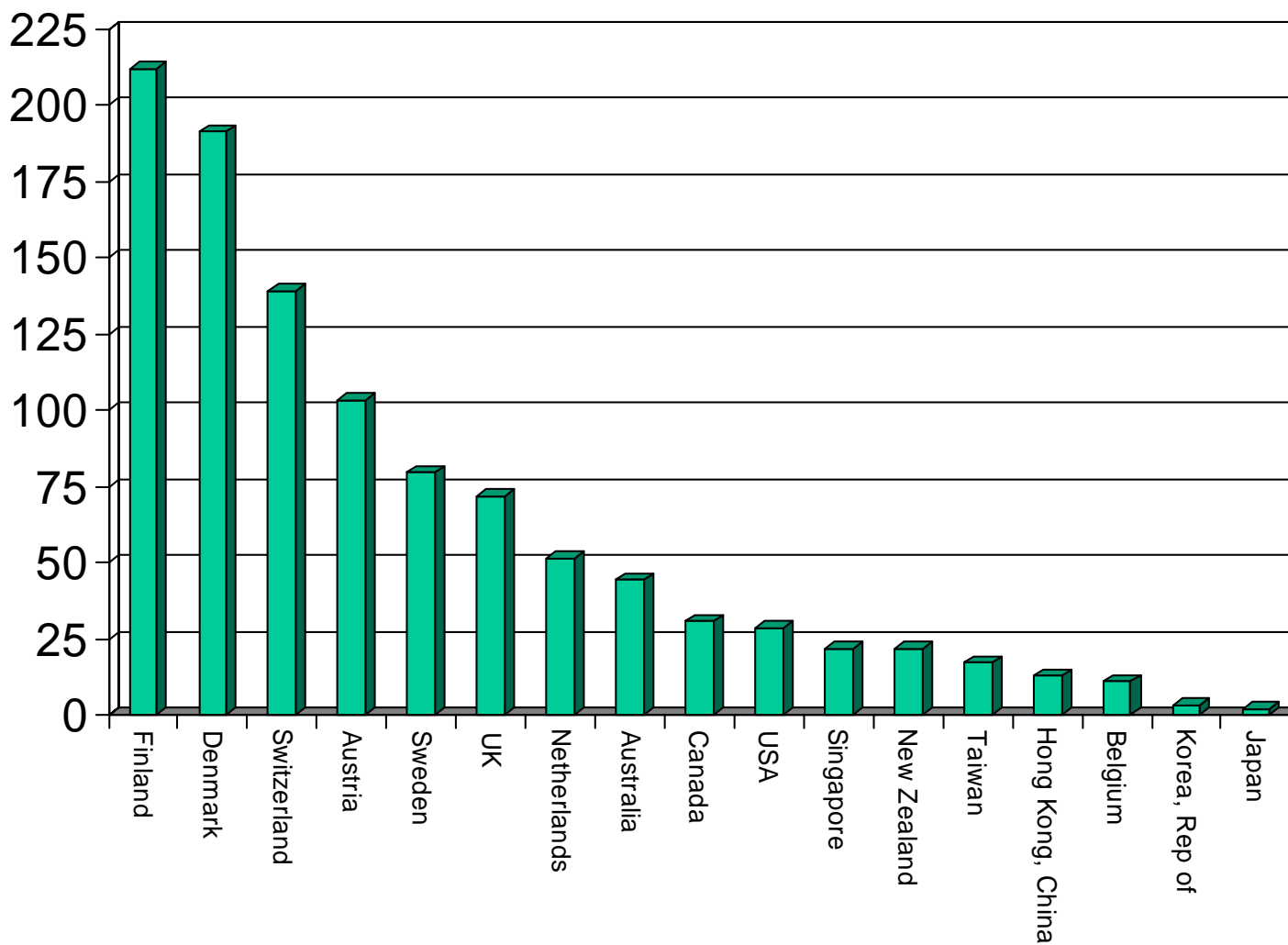
FCC, Washington DC 25 April 2003

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Price (US\$) per 1Mbit/s per month, April 2003

Source: ITU.



INTUG Hong Kong, SAR and USA

FCC, Washington DC 25 April 2003

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- Verizon
 - 320 kbit/s downstream and 128 kbit/s upstream
US\$ 39.95/month [equivalent HK\$ 311.60]
- Netvigator
 - 3.0 Mbit/s downstream and 640 kbit/s upstream
HK 298/month for 100 hours, HK\$2/hour thereafter
[equivalent US\$ 38.21 then 0.256/hour]
 - 6.0 Mbit/s downstream and 640 kbit/s upstream
HK\$ 398/month for 400 hours HK\$2/hour thereafter
[equivalent US\$ 51.03 then 0.256/hour]

nominal 1Mbit/s/month

Verizon US\$ 123 while Netvigator is US\$ 8 to 14

INTUG regulation

- sector regulation
- consumer protection
- competition law
- trade policy
- industry/innovation policy

What is the added value of a sector regulator?

INTUG slowness

- appeals to the judiciary
- competition law
- trade disputes bodies

Do any of these work
in Internet time?

INTUG conclusions

- users complain because markets do not deliver, because of:
 - pre-emption
 - failure
- liberalisation has become stuck in 3Ls:
 - legislation
 - lobbying
 - litigation
- most exciting developments are in South Korea, Japan and parts of Asia

INTUG thank you

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