

Group Discussion 2

Thailand

Vietnam

Cambodia

Country Presentation: Thailand

Play or pay principle. Telecom operating licensees have to implement USO or pay 4% of their annual revenue before expenses to the USF .

Thailand is in the state of beginning of USO fund scheme implementation. USF currently only receives fund from operators, but not disbursing it due to absence of regulations (yet). Currently only 2 operators implementing USO (they don't have to pay), 18 other operators have to pay (but some of them are exempted due to no income yet).

TOT and CAT , the 2 biggest operators are the USP now, used to be an government-owned company, . The other operators are still new, they tend to pay rather than play.

Technology is fully decided by operators e.g. Satellite , TDMA , CDMA ,Optical Fiber and also Lead Line.

Interconnection fee is need to be amend. NTC ask operators to cooperate and discuss for final solution.

Social issues: security issues (stealing the coins). Public phones are used for outgoing calls. Some Head of village's house operated as call center.

Country Presentation: Vietnam

7 companies, 6 of them pay the USO fund. Payment is based on services they offer (5%, 4%, and 3% -- see slides). Policy is pay or play (no obligation for company to implement USO).

VFT is established in 2005, to manage the fund (\$70 mio USD per year). For 2004-2010 VTF can collect USD 325 mio.

Plan is defined by Ministry of Post and Telematics. MPT ask a company (recommended by VTF) and VTF pay (basically all) the cost. MPT has full authority in payment. It is difficult to define exactly how much money have to be paid to companies (no best payment criteria yet).

Fiber optic, fixed-mobile (GSM, CDMA), satellite.

Technology is fully decided by the company (government don't have control on it). There is no standard either.

Country Presentation: Cambodia

Not yet setting up the fund, still in the stage of policy development. No specific target yet, now still concentrating on 4 provinces (see below).

All funding has to go to Ministry of Finance (central authority) → money from USO also has to go there.

Another project on telecom for 4 provinces rural areas (Output-Based Aid) funded (50%) by World Bank (the other 50% contributed by the involved companies) as prototype of USO. WB is urging the government to set up regulations (bidding, licences, etc.). Technology: wireless (GSM, CDMA), so only mobile operators are involved. However, there is a urgency to use technology-neutral solution. This project is currently still in the preparation stage (bidding procedures, etc.), and will last for 3-4 years.

Service provided: initially (but not limited to) voice. In the future, expand to Internet.

Currently Cambodia has two fixed-line operators (formely government-owned, but have been privatized), four mobile operators. Each operator can built its own network.

1.5 mio mobile subscriber (10.7% penetration). 47000 fixed line (0.3% penetration).

Public phones are not allowed for incoming calls. Initiative by the community is encouraging.