DEVELOPMENT OF ICT FOR RURAL NEPAL

Question of Sustainability

Scenario

- Rural Nepal
  - Difficult terrain – challenges of deployment
  - Low ICT literacy – less expected user base and hence less return
- From a purely financial standpoint, delivery of service to rural areas is not sustainable
- The investment made in rural areas has to be recovered in urban centers
  - High competition

Way Forward

- National policy for focus on rural areas
  - Should include incentives for investment in rural areas
  - Can be a licensing policy, for infrastructure deployment activities – service/network providers
- Computerization and automation of state and public sector services in rural areas
  - Land reform, postal services, telecom, banking, healthcare, education…
- ICT in national school curriculum.

What are we doing

- Dedicated rural services wing
- Reached broadband and cellular services to all 75 districts
- Have extensive satellite-based network for very remote areas
- Focusing on localizing the content, esp. that of Internet.
  - Very low scope for the company
  - More can be done by other small enterprises with expertise in content and application development

What more needs to be done?

- Policy of encouragement – deployment, development

- User awareness development – ICT education

- Innovation – localized services, applications …

- Basic infrastructure – power, roads, security …

Thank You