

EDITORIAL PREFACE

THE INTERNET IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, by **Rekha Jain**, Global Associate Editor, JGITM

The growth of Internet has led governments in both developed and developing countries to recognize its potential for service delivery. The Internet could enhance their administrative efficiency and effectiveness as well as bring about transparency in governance.

ARTICLES

DIFFUSION OF ELECTRONIC COMMERCE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: THE CASE OF COSTA RICA

AUTHOR : Bob Travica

Costa Rica is one of the developing countries that are making inroads into electronic commerce (e-commerce). It has achieved initial results while dealing with technological, economic, and cultural specificities that have similarities with and differences from the model of e-commerce diffusion in developed countries. A multi-phase investigation into e-commerce in this Central American country has been conducted. The main finding is that there are some favorable conditions to diffusing e-commerce in Costa Rica but the obstacles are not insignificant.

TELEDENSITY GROWTH CONSTRAINTS AND STRATEGIES FOR AFRICA'S LDCS: "VIAGRA" PRESCRIPTIONS OR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY?

AUTHORS : Victor W. Mbarika, Philip F. Musa Terry Anthony Byrd and Patrick McMullen

This study examines the perspectives or beliefs of telecommunications stakeholders of Africa's LDCs on strategies for solving the technology-oriented constraints that have been documented in the literature. The findings suggest that Africa's LDCs should adopt a self-sufficiency approach and also create regional alliances for sustainable development

of telecommunications infrastructure to spur the much needed teledensity growth in the region

GLOBAL E-COMMERCE: RATIONALE, DIGITAL DIVIDE, AND STRATEGIES TO BRIDGE THE DIVIDE

AUTHORS: Lakshmi S. Iyer, Larry Taube and Julia Raquet

The Internet revolution is sweeping the globe with such swiftness that companies around the world are trying to understand what is occurring, what it all means, where it is going, and how to leverage this new opportunity. In spite of the global nature of this new revolution, studies indicate that almost three fourths of all e-commerce (EC) is done in the United States today and that the United States accounts for 90 percent of all commercial web sites. The purposes of this study are to address several of the underlying rationales for the previous observations, to analyze this digital divide, to propose possible strategies to bridge and overcome this divide, and to propose some specific propositions based on the extensive literature search provided here. To address these questions, this paper provides a general framework including a discussion of present advantages of global EC growth, national and corporate EC comparisons, an analysis of EC limitations, and the development of strategies for global EC growth.

THE EXPERT OPINION

An Interview with **Mr. Andre Spatz**, CIO, Information Technology Division, UNICEF. The interview provides a glimpse of how IT has fundamentally transformed the way the UNICEF operates.

THE BOOK REVIEW

Roberto Vinaja reviews "Management of International Networks: Cost-Effective Strategies for the New Telecom Regulations and Services" by Floris van den Broek. The book analyzes existing theories on management and global aspects.