

Editorial

Diffusion of Internet and E-Commerce Influenced by National Conditions

The evolution of a Global Networked Economy is very much influenced by national environments and policies that determine development of the Internet and E-Commerce. It is widely accepted that the foundations of Information Societies are the underlying infrastructure and pervasive applications of ICT. However, nation states and economies, as is shown in the case studies presented in the In-Focus section, retain enormous power to determine the speed, characteristics and other dimensions of networked economies.

To effectively assess the impacts of ICT on national economies and societies requires examining local conditions, such as national income, educational levels, telecom infrastructure and other local conditions. It also involves an extensive analysis of industry sectors, such as the extent of proliferation of information technologies, impacts on financial services, retailing and other service sectors.

A research program being carried out by the Center for Research on Information Technology and Organization (CRITO) at the University of California, Irvine is examining the global diffusion of Internet-based E-Commerce, based on empirical research in a number of developing and developed countries. The program involves collaboration with experts in Brazil, Denmark, China, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Singapore, Taiwan, and the United States.

The first of the case studies, Brazil, Mexico and Taiwan, demonstrates the value of in-depth examination of these jurisdictions. I-Ways appreciates the cooperation and assistance of CRITO project directors Professors Kenneth L. Kraemer and Jason Dedrick.

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