



[HOME](#) [NEWS](#) [BUSINESS](#) [OPINION](#) [FEATURES](#) [SPORT](#) [VIDEOS](#) [EVENTS](#)

Broadband users to jump 85 per cent by 2017: minister



BRUNEI-MUARA

Sunday, May 18, 2014

THE number of Internet broadband users in the country is expected to rise in the next few years to meet the targets stated in the Brunei National Broadband Policy, the Minister of Communications said yesterday.

Under the policy, Brunei will increase [mobile broadband](#) household penetration to 85 per cent, and also provide access download speed of at least Two Megabits per second (Mbps) to 95 per cent of the population by 2017, said Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Hj Abdullah Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Hj Bakar.

The document was handed to him by Sameer Sharma, regional director of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Asia-Pacific during a ceremony to mark the World Telecommunication & Information Society Day (WTISD).

The formulation of the national broadband policy is an ITU initiative which aims to help the government set out overarching policy initiatives and goals for the development of broadband. The project started off in May 2013.

Further details regarding the policy will be released on a later date.

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE:

- [High cost main reason for low Internet subscription](#)
- [Generators for Tutong converts](#)
- ['One-on-one session of teachers and students not a khalwat offence'](#)
- [Construction industry urged to be eco-friendly](#)

ARTICLE TOOLS

[Print this article](#)

[Email this article](#)

Share this on: [Adjust font size:](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

CONNECT TO
THE BRUNEI TIMES

[Follow](#)



BOOKMARKS
What's Hot



Behind the headlines

Call of Duty

eduBT

E-PAPER



The minister in his speech also highlighted the need for the industry to overcome challenges in creating and sustaining an Internet broadband market in order to propel the socio-economic development.

He noted that while the number of broadband subscribers had risen to 51,153 in 2013, from 30,456 in 2008, this can be improved further.

One of the main barriers the Sultanate faces is a constrained market, and he attributed this to "a lack of industry [competition](#), lack of broadband wholesale access products, (and) very high retail prices".

"We are aware (of this) and are trying to find ways to develop. Due to (our) small size, we have to be careful with economic regulations... first of all, proper pricing regulations," the minister said.

In this regard, he urged Local Internet Providers (ISP) to imply service of regulation to ensure high standard of service and proper regulations on competitive pricing. A precise master plan, such as Internet [payment](#) rates, should be enough for [Internet Service Providers](#) (ISP) to have a profit level enough to invest in future networks developments, he added.

The minister reiterated the need for Brunei to establish a smart society that goes beyond infrastructure development to enhance global competitiveness and spur [job](#) creation.

Brunei's Networked Readiness Index (NRI) ranking has climbed 12 places to reach the 45th position out of 148, according to the 2013 Global Information Technology Report (GTR) published by the World Economic Forum and INSEAD.

He said achieving this feat was fairly easy — the difficult part would be in maintaining and climbing the ranks in the future.

The Chief Executive of AITI, Hj Yahkup Menudin, lauded the broadband deployment effort by the local telecommunication companies in his welcoming remarks.

He noted Telekom Brunei Berhad (TelBru) mission to [instal](#) Fibre-To-The-Home (FTTH) connections to about 45,000 homes by 2016. He also hailed Data Stream Technology Sdn Bhd (DST) for having recently launched its 4G mobile broadband services.

On the user and business adoption end, Hj Yahkup urged the consumers and industry to play an important role by developing [more](#) applications and local content utilising the broadband infrastructure.

This way, everyone will enjoy the full potential of broadband and ICT, be it improving business operation, deliver [healthcare](#), education and government services more effectively and efficiently, he said.

A sharing session was also held by two international speakers on the development of [broadband Internet](#) in their respective countries followed by discussion session themed "Broadband for All – Creating a Smart Society".

The event was jointly organised by the Ministry of Communications and the Authority for Info-Communications Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam (AITI) at the Indera Kayangan Ballroom at the Empire Hotel & Country Club.

It was supported by TelBru, DST and B-Mobile Communications Sdn Bhd (B-mobile). — *Izzuddin Basuni*

The Brunei Times

For news videos and features, visit [this page](#) and drop by next time to see the latest. View a few vids and leave a comment if you wish. We also have a site for our [interactives](#).

We have our daily web newscast. Our journalists take turns presenting our news summaries so you know tomorrow's stories even before they are printed. You may visit [this directory](#) to see when new editions are up on the site. You may also subscribe to our [Youtube](#) channel so you get the new vids once we upload them.

We've '[bookmarked](#)' the interesting stories/pages of The Brunei Times for you.

Check out our young [columnists](#). Excessive Thoughts. On The Road. Refresh. Tech Brat. If you disagree, feel free to leave a comment.

When a reader is not happy about something and wants Brunei to know about it or act on a problem or issue, [this](#) is where the complaint is posted.

Have a good day.

[VISIT our multimedia features [page](#). CLICK on this [link](#) to find pages that list some of the interesting content of the paper as well as its popular pages. FOLLOW us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).]

THE COMPANY: Advertise with us Jobs Contact Us

SERVICES: Videos Play and Learn Photo Gallery Bookmarks Subscription

Copyright © 2006 - 2014 [Brunei Times Sdn Bhd](#), All Rights Reserved.