

Expanding ICT Infrastructure for Rural Areas in Korea

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Abstract—The digital divide between urban areas and rural areas has been expanded continuously in several reasons. One of the reasons is the difference of the Information Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure between those two areas; the difference is mainly originated from the business situation where broadcasting-communication operators are reluctant to investing on the rural ICT infrastructure which seems much less profitable. Korea Communications Commission (KCC) has conducted the projects on building BcN in rural areas in cooperation with private telecommunication companies since 2010. The projects aim at eliminating the digital divide between urban and rural areas, promoting the balanced development, and enhancing the welfare in rural areas. In this paper, we analyze the current status of ICT infrastructure for rural areas in Korea and the governmental policies for expanding the ICT infrastructure. We also analyze the various convergence services on the rural ICT infrastructure, for which the pilot projects have been conducted. Based on the analysis, we propose future directions for expanding the ICT infrastructure more successfully.

Keyword— digital divide, BcN, NGN, network policy



Hyongsoon Kim has been with National Information Society Agency (NIA) of Korea, working as a policy adviser in the field of ICT infrastructure in Korea since 1997. He is currently the director of network planning department, and responsible for Giga Internet pilot projects, Rural BcN(Broadband Convergence Network) projects and Korea Research Network. He managed the pilot projects on IPv6, BcN(Broadband Convergence Network, Next Generation Network) and also worked as the chair of Service Transition Working Group of IPv6 Forum Korea. As a policy adviser, he has been involved in developing the ICT infrastructure policy, next generation network policy, e-business policy, etc.



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