AN ANALYSIS ON ICT POLICY FOR DEVELOPMENT BY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS A CASE STUDY OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

RYUHEI SANO

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Thesis
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Ryuhei Sano

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ABSTRACT

This research focuses on the positive and negative impacts of the ICT policy of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). It also examines the human rights challenge from a view of the right to development. Firstly, a comparative study of the World Bank (WB), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the IDB is conducted to picture ICT implementation by the international financial institutions. The result of this study shows that low attention is given to ICT by the WB, and the ADB cannot incorporate elements of the right to development. The analysis explains that the creation of the digital divide domestically as well as internationally can be traced from the ICT implementation of the IDB in the Latin American and Caribbean countries. In other words, the ICT policy of the IDB may affect the realization of the right to development. Secondly, some indicators relevant to human rights in ICT are introduced to scrutinize the outcomes of the ICT policy of the IDB from a human rights perspective. However, most indicators do not clarify the relevance with the outcomes of the ICT policy of the IDB except illiteracy, political stability, voting power and ICT usage. These 4 indicators demonstrate a negative correlation with the ICT implementation by the IDB. Lastly, human rights challenges of the IDB in implementing ICT are identified in terms of accountability, empowerment, participation, and non-discrimination. Findings of this research can give an idea o how the IDB should create more favourable condition for the enjoyment of the right to development among people in the member countries.

KEY WORDS: IDB / ICT POLICY / ILLITERACY / DIGITAL DIVIDE / THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CDI	Committee for Democracy in Information Technology
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
FY	Fiscal Year
GICT	Global Information and Communication Technologies
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICCPR	International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IDA	International Development Association
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
NGOs	Non Governmental Organizations
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UK	United Kingdom US United States of America
USD	United States Dollar
TNCs	Transnational Corporations
WB	World Bank
WTO	World Trade Organization

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CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

When discussing the needs for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in information society nowadays, one dilemma emerges concerning the justification of promoting ICT in developing countries. Unexceptionally, these countries have serious problems such as securing food, drinkable water, and health supplies for citizens. Therefore, there comes one question: in what ways can ICT benefit them in their unique situation? I have to mention clearly that the first priority should be given to providing population of this world with indispensable necessities, for instance, food and drinkable water. Yet, I believe that it is important and worthwhile to acquire equal access to ICT, because ICT has been proved to be a part of development applications such as education, governance, environmental monitoring and health, which relate to basic human needs. If not tackled seriously by the international society, the poverty in developing countries would never be eliminated.

One essential and concrete means for poverty reduction must be ICT as it can include the elements of competitiveness, effectiveness and cost-cutting for sustainable development. Good policies of ICT can enhance the quality of life by providing job opportunities as well as increasing human capacities as basic values in the country.

Thus, it is no wonder why international society seeks for high technologies as a development tool. Many international organizations are raising awareness about ICT and establishing a link between ICT and sustainable development on the ground that ICT can empower people. According to this study, the International Financial Organizations (IFIs) have unlocked a super-fast world; at the same time communications have globalized and information networks have decentralized. Among IFIs, regional development banks are the key players to promote ICT in reach region, besides the World Bank (WB) which has the similar role with regional development banks but funding worldwide.

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In this context, there is an interesting report called the "Meltzer Report" submitted in 2000, which recommended a fundamental reduction in the roles of the WB. According to this report, Group of Seven (G7) governments[1] agreed to examine the roles of the WB and the regional development banks in relation to changing global conditions. The report assumes that regional development banks are better qualified to cope with soft loans and technical assistance to their geographical regions as they are closer to lender and borrower governments on a daily basis than the WB.

On one hand, Lincoln (2002) argues that regional development banks are not necessary as there are alternative development agencies which also seek for good ICT policy for sustainable development in the same target region of regional development banks, for example, the WB and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in the case of the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) countries.

Based on the IDB's ICT policy which has the objective to "guide the Bank's action and increase its effectiveness in the dissemination of ICT for economic and social development" in the LAC countries, the IDB emphasizes the important role in integrating the effective use of ICT in promoting sustainable economic growth and reducing poverty while promoting equity.

Considering these aspects, some fundamental questions arise: are human rights components included in ICT policy of the IDB? How does the IDB implement its ICT policy into practices from a human rights perspective?

Accordingly, this analysis will focus on ICT policy of the IDB and its distribution, to spur the understanding and perception of position for the IDB as a regional development bank[2].

1.1. Statement of research problems

ICT is perceived as an effective tool to fight against the poverty in the LAC countries by providing target countries with human capacities and unprecedented opportunities to meet vital development goals, such as poverty reduction, employment,

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[1] Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, US

[2] The researcher is supposed to be a staff of IDB. In this sense, the policy of IDB and its

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basic health care, and education. However, the negative impact of ICT by such as the problem about the ICT distribution is not clearly mentioned in the policy. For example, there is no concrete and detailed policy against the digital divide - a gap between "information haves" and "have-nots". These negative aspects should be identified as it affects the human life of people in the LAC countries directly. At a macro level, ICT distribution can cause human rights violations based on the increase of external and internal debts and loss of sovereignty of governments and people in target countries as the funding amount of each ICT project is huge[3]. The problem is that there are no criteria to judge the efficiency of ICT distribution by the IDB in the human rights perspective.

1.2. Objectives of this study

1. To find out the positive and negative impacts of the IDB's ICT policy on human rights in target countries
2. To recognize the relationship between the IDB's ICT policy and its outcome from a human rights perspective

1.3. Research questions

1. How do other international financial institutions generally incorporate elements of the right to development in ICT?
2. Is the IDB's ICT policy compliant with the right to development?
3. What factors in target countries should be considered with the IDB's ICT policy?
4. What challenges does the IDB face while undertaking ICT projects in target countries?

1.4. Significance of the study

There are some researchers who conducted ICT related research at the international level, such as the WB or the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). However, this research will focus on the IDB which is in charge of economic growth and poverty reduction in the LAC countries. The IDB's ICT policy is relatively

[3] Funding amount of one ICT project in average in recent 10 years is 6.74 USD million.

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new, and no one has identified the outcomes of the policy from a human rights perspective. Besides, this research will make it possible to assess outcomes of ICT policy of the IDB in comparison with the WB and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and its positive or negative impacts in human rights context. Furthermore, now that regional cooperation is a "hot topic", the focus of this research will contribute to debates about the role of the IDB through ICT practices as a regional development facilitator.

1.5. Research Methodology

In my thesis, the main research instrument in data collection is the documentary method. In addition to this, a case is picked up by the researcher to examine the outcome of the policy analysis.

1.5.1. Qualitative research methods

Documentary research

Written text is a broad definition of a document. It contains those recorded by pens, printing machines and other tools on material medium such as papers. Similarly, electronic documents such as files from internet are included. Sources of documentary research are, for example, laws, declarations, statutes and people's accounts of events and periods. Also, reports based on official statistics were included, as well as governmental records, mass media, novels, plays, drawings, and personal documents such as dairies and biographies.

The researcher must concentrate on intended, received, and internal meanings to grasp the significance of documents. From a view of qualitative analysis, the researcher as a self-conscious actor addresses an audience under particular social and political situations. There needs to be some considerations on how existing documents and interpretations are constructed, how documents and interpretations are developed and employed. Meanwhile, analyzing the reader's social situation is crucial to interpreting the text.

There are issues in documentary research. Inevitably, information sources are affected by political and economic environment of which the researcher is part of.

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researcher should be aware of these influences and not assume that documents are simply neutral facts from the past.

On one hand, new technologies - especially the internet - offer possibilities for acquiring documents. The researcher must recognize that many of documents in the internet world are produced by powerful political, cultural and economic groups, who want to ensure that particular images reach to the public. Besides, it should be noted that the creation, modification, destruction and replacement of documents on the website need very little effort and cost. More generally, using documents without due consideration to the process and social context of their construction leaves the researcher being uncritical in readings, which leads to biased understanding.

1.5.2. Case studies

A particular way of qualitative research is a case study. Case study methods involve an in-depth examination of a single instance rather than many samples. It provides a systematic way of watching the case, collecting data, analyzing information, and reporting. Inevitably the researcher gain a clear understanding and picture of research topic from the case and what might be important in future research.

In this sense, nothing is as important as making a proper selection of cases. The researcher selects a case which includes some typicality and offers the opportunity to learn, for the purpose of examining outcome of the IDB's ICT policy from a human rights perspective.

1.5.3. Methodological limitations

The researcher will seek for as comprehensive and detailed information as possible relating to ICT policy and implementations of the IDB. In this regard, some websites may contain information which does not have sufficient reference, especially in terms of ICT project implementation. Besides, it is difficult for the researcher to check the accuracy of information and reference. The researcher may not be able to find some facts because of the limitation of time.

Moreover, it is sometimes difficult to decide what the final outcome of policy is in a particular area. Any public policy is subjectively defined by the readers and is

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circumstances and personal, group, and organizational influences have contributed. Besides, outcome of policy in practice may not conform to stated intentions. In health service, for example, there is a tendency to describe such items as more funds, more trained staff, and more beds as the outcomes of a policy intended to improve the quality of medical care. In fact, these are necessary but not sufficient conditions of improved medical care: they should be regarded as important contributory factors to the desired outcome, but not the outcome itself. In this sense, outcomes of policy could be described as intermediate outcomes rather than the final or ultimate outcomes.

1.6. Scope of the study

This research attempts to present mainly outcomes of the IDB's ICT policy from a human rights perspective and its positive or negative impact. Therefore, each chapter in this analysis scopes human rights issues involved in the IDB's ICT implementation, addressing important aspects such as the right to development and human rights approach to development, human rights indicators relevant to ICT, and the difference of ICT distribution among the WB, the ADB, and the IDB. Also, the research seeks for features of ICT implementation by the IDB from one case study.

Within this context, this research will:

1) review the literatures considered as necessary and relevant for the research;
2) present a case study identifying human rights components in the IDB's ICT project;
3) provide the position of the WB, the ADB and the IDB through ICT policy;
4) emphasize basic features of the WB, the ADB, and the IDB in implementing ICT;
5) show the factors which the IDB prioritizes on ICT implementation; and,
6) perceive the human rights challenges of the IDB in ICT.

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CHAPTER 2
LITERATURE REVIEW

The purpose of literature review is to identify what is already known about ICT from human rights and development perspectives, especially major trends, issues, and controversies in ICT such as the digital divide and ICT for development. To locate the ICT policy of the IDB within human rights context is also an important part of the analysis.

2.1. Definition of ICT

2.1.1. What is ICT?

ICT stands for Information and Communication Technologies. Adding the 'C' to 'IT' emphasizes that telecommunication is included in the concept (Sundén and Wicander, 2003). ICT, which has been broadly defined and facilitated digitally, means the creation, storage, management and dissemination of information. As Curtain (2004) explains, one can view ICT as a vehicle for communication rather than a means of processing information. A range of communication vehicles contains radio (analogue and digital), television, fax, computers and internet. ICT has two types, old and new. Old ICT means newspapers, radio, and televisions which are relatively low cost, requiring little skills to operate and explicitly relevant to local information in local language among users. New ICT refers to networked computers, satellite-sourced communication, wireless technology and the internet, all interlinked by massive infrastructure. Reaching into every corner of the globe is the feature of new ICT.

2.1.2. Is ICT a tool or an obstacle?

The world is a much more interconnected in comparison with a few decades ago. Various technical developments have enabled information to be sent to anywhere in this world with small costs, which is a further characteristic of globalization. In this sense, ICT is one of the most powerful forces driving globalization process which

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transforms states and affects all sectors of human activities. With ICT, “these changes hold so many promises. The convergence of technologies, its rapid rate of change and its importance in the development of the economic, social, financial and educational sectors, is opening new opportunities from e-commerce to Tele-education and Tele-medicine” (ITU, 2006). Nowadays, a large number of various organizations and authors pay tribute to the great promises that ICT provides for alleviating the social and economic problems of the developing world (d’Orville, 2000). Some international and national bodies have adopted ICT policy for development which aims to expand and accelerate the distribution of ICT to poor populations in developing countries (Rodriguez, 2000).

However, globalization is not universally welcomed. According to Nicholson (1998), a problem with globalization in terms of information is that it accentuates the plight of those who are excluded. In fact, introduction of ICT in communities in some selected part of a country heightens existing inequalities within a nation. Simply, ICT widens the existing gap between the information-rich and the information-poor (Keniston, 2002). A continuous approache to the international diffusion of ICT is likely to exacerbate the gap between ICT haves and have-nots. These growing differentials may contribute to a number of social problems including skewed economic outcomes and enhanced risk of social and political conflict. The equity problem may be getting worse in the absence of explicit policy interventions (Rodriguez, 2000). It is unrealistic to expect widespread ICT use to develop because of the low incomes in developing countries.

2.2. International human rights instruments and ICT

ICT itself is new as well as old. One of powerful ICT applications, radio has been used since early 1900 but internet usage has been popular since mid 1990s.

And nowadays, the dialogue about the responsibility of the society in using information is a hot topic. In practice, the relationship between ICT and human rights came much later after international human rights instruments were made. It is true that at this moment informational developments affect people at many different levels and these developments are shaped and governed by human initiatives. And the future

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society could be constructed in such a way as to serve people's interest (Hamelink, 2004)

Thus, people's interests have to be understood based on mutual agreement among people in this world. This seems almost impossible, given that nowadays information is free flowing in the world which is multicultural with multilayered societies. However, despite these realities, informational developments can be seen from one universally accepted peoples' interest: human rights. This is inspired by the basic moral principle of equality and the notion that science and technology belong to the common heritage of humankind (Hamelink, 2004). Human rights, therefore, provide us with legitimate normative guides for societies' response to informational developments, in particular by international human rights instruments.

There are some human rights provisions in international human rights instruments relevant to ICT. When it comes to the right of access to ICT, it is provided in Article 19 and 27.1. of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The former one says that everyone has the right to "freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers". The latter one mentions that "Everyone has the right to…share in scientific advancement and its benefits". Article 14.2 (g) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)[1] says that "States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women…to enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to...communications". Article 14 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)[2] refers to this right that every child has "right to freedom...to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds". Other relevant instruments are the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)[3] as well as the International Covenant of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)[4], the

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1 UN General Assembly, resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979

2 UN General Assembly, resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989

3 UN General Assembly, resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 1966

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Declaration on Social Progress and Development[5], the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interest of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind[6], and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention on Technical and Vocational Education[7].

2.3. The Right to development and its relevance to ICT for development

2.3.1. What is the right to development?

The notion of "generations" of human rights is problematic, as it may focus on divergences rather than convergences and could suggest that the better established sets of rights are in some way less relevant today. However, according to this view, the right to development is categorized as the third generation of human rights. This "new" right is not expressly recognized by the ICCPR and the ICESCR.

As for the emergence of the concept "the right to development", the fact that a relationship exists between human rights and economic and social developments is already indicated in the UN Charter[8]. Article 55 of the UN Charter requires the UN to promote: a) higher standards of living and conditions of economic and social progress and development nationally; b) solutions of international economic, social, health, and related problems and international cultural and educational cooperation; and, c) universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. According to Article 56, "all Members pledge themselves to take joint and separate action in cooperation with the Organization for the achievement of the purposes set forth in Article 55." Such obligations relating to international assistance and cooperation for development were taken into account in the UN Charter, even though Rosas (2001) argues it is difficult to answer what obligations states in general and international institutions may have to

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5 UN General Assembly, resolution 2542. December 11, 1969.

6 UN General Assembly, resolution 3384. November 10, 1975.

7 UNESCO General Conference, 25th session, Paris. November 10, 1989.

8 Signed at San Francisco on 26 June 1945, entry into force 24 October 1945, in accordance with Article 110

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further development, and what the reference to a right of individuals and peoples to development actually means.

Also, according to Rosas (2001), it is equally hard to crystallize into specific rights and obligations for development based on the right to a social and international order in which human rights can be fully realized as contained in Article 28 of the UDHR[9]. However, what specific impacts that UDHR can have on the policies of states and international institutions is yet to be determined.

After the right to development was mentioned in the year of adoption of the ICCPR and the ICESCR in 1966, lots of approaches for realization of the right to development have been made by developing countries. And finally in 1986 after lengthy and difficult preparations, the Declaration on the Right to Development was adopted by the UN General Assembly. In this sense, developing countries have succeeded in linking human rights to global issues such as economic and social development by picking them up in international arenas.

Article 1 of the Declaration on the Right to Development states that

"the right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized."

The right to development is not meant to cover only economic and social issues. It includes: 1) full sovereignty over natural resources; 2) self-determination; 3) popular participation in development; 4) equality of opportunity; and 5) the creation of favorable conditions for the enjoyment of other civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Not only individuals and peoples but groups are the beneficiaries of the right to development, meaning the right to development can be invoked by individuals, peoples and groups. It is to be noted that UN never mentions states as beneficiaries of the right to development, though it imposes obligations both on individual states and the international community to ensure equal and adequate access to essential resources (Rosas, 2001). Arguably, this should be understood that the international human rights laws related to development issues contain rights and obligations among states.

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[9] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948

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Besides, there are some collective responsibilities of states to ensure the realization of the right to development.

2.3.2. The right to development and its relevance to ICT for development

Equal access to resources with ICT has been the concern for developing countries as they are more likely to relate to other issues such as education, health, work, social security, hunger, political freedom, freedom of expressions which have been not solved yet. In other words, the right to development relevant to ICT links economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights. Given the right circumstances, ICT has proven capable of promoting social and economic development. This has been evident within health care, education, employment, agriculture, and trade, and also of enriching local culture. According to Kenny (2001), ICT bridges the distance between remote communities and service providers, markets, government departments and aid agencies.

From a perspective of economic, social and cultural rights, the right to development relating to ICT for development covers access to food, clean drinking water, education, employment opportunities, and health care, for example. As Kenny (2001) mentions, it should be noted that the issue is not whether or not to use new technology for poverty alleviation, but how to use it. Moreover, another important point of view in ICT for development in this context is that ICT tends to benefit groups with plenty of resources. These are educated people that most often live in urban centers. The extremely poor groups, who tend to live in rural areas, are often farmers and share a lack of formal education. Many of the poor are also illiterate. Their location and poor infrastructure leave many of them in isolation.

When it comes to the aspects of civil and political rights, the right to development relates to freedom of expression, access to information, the right to privacy, the right to communicate, and intellectual property rights. Among others, the freedom of information has been focused as a fundamental human right for long. In fact, it has been discussed at the UN level: “Freedom of information is a fundamental human right and ... the touch-stone of all the freedoms to which the United Nations is

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consecrated."[10] Also, the UN Commission on Human Rights (1995) argues that "freedom will be bereft of all effectiveness if the people have no access to information. Access to information is related to the human basic needs in life. The tendency to withhold information from the people at large is therefore to be strongly checked."

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) also focuses on the right to development relating to ICT in "A Guide to Measuring the Impact of Right to Information Programmes, Practical Guidance Note" as "fundamental in bolstering democratic principles of openness, transparency and accountability in societies and in eradicating poverty", which enables people to contribute to solve many social and cultural problems at both individual and national level.

Individuals who live in developed countries have many more possibilities in access to information than developing countries because there are many pre-conditions which are related to economic, social, cultural and political development for realizing the right to development (Yilmaz, 1998).

2.4. Digital divide in human rights aspects

The digital divide refers to the gap between those able to benefit from digital technology and those who are not (Digital Divide.org). According to Jarboe (2001), globalized information based economy has created this digital divide as new phenomenon and it can be seen from different human rights perspectives. On one hand, the ITU views digital divide as what concerns governments, private sectors, multilateral organizations, financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and everyday citizens. However, not all digital-divide experts agree to that precise definition. Yet they do agree with its main thrust: that the term refers, not merely to who has direct access to technology, but who is actually helped by technology (Digital Divide.org).

The digital divide can be seen from international and domestic view. As Bridge.org (2001) explains, some persuasive statistical examples clearly substantiate these points as such; 1) 14 million phone lines in Africa which are fewer than in New York or Tokyo; 2) One in two Americans is online whereas one in 250 Africans; and,

[10] UN General Assembly, resolution 59(I). December 14, 1946.

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3) A computer costs the equivalent of 8 years average salary in Bangladesh. In an international arena, there are two types of countries called information “haves” and “have-nots”. It is assumed that developed countries are information “haves”, increasing access and use at exponential rate. On one hand, from a domestic point of view, information “haves” are assumed to have been increasing access and use at an exponential rate within the same countries. Affordability, training, contents, participation and growth of ICT sector are common characteristics at domestic and global level usage of ICT.

Those living on less than 1 United States Dollar (USD) per day need clean water and jobs before they need computers. But any plausible and affordable effort to improve water supply, rural health and education, generate jobs or address any of the other inter-related problems of poverty, requiring information access. Eliminating the digital divide needs efforts on a large scale to poverty reduction and sustainable development.

2.5. Indictors relevant to the right to development and ICT

It depends on human basic needs to analyze ICT applications as there are various conditions which can be for or against ICT usages in the development process. The application of ICT in the development process can be exaggerated. Some people may in fact overuse ICT or may not use ICT to their best advantage according to some conditions. As a result, lack of or exaggerated ICT usage can lead to the loss of credibility of ICT for development.

The followings picked up by the researcher are some of the indicators which relate to the rights to development that are relevant to ICT, which can suggest how to create favorable conditions for the enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. These indicators must be considered to clarify realities in setting up ICT from a human rights perspective. For example, even if telecommunications systems are installed and accessible, people will have little access to ICT without essential conditions.

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2.5.1. Illiteracy

Illiteracy rate indicates how large percentage of the population is unable to read and write. The illiteracy rate in a country is vital for the usability of technology, and must be considered when introducing ICT because people who are illiterate tend to have difficulties in enjoying the benefits of ICT. Also, from a view of the right to development, illiteracy must be considered in terms of the creation of equality of opportunities and participation of the development process.

Illiteracy is relevant to the right to education. Developments in ICT are making literacy even more important. Most writing is now composed on computer and the internet is a key source of information. Such changes require and develop reading and writing skills as well as change them. The significance of the information explosion should not be under-estimated.

According to the UNESCO, a person with illiteracy means: “someone who can not, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his or her everyday life. A person who can only read but not write, or can write but not read is considered to be illiterate. A person who can only write figures, his or her name or a memorized ritual phrase is also not considered literate. This definition of literacy is widely used in national population censuses and surveys but its interpretation and application may vary to some extent among countries, depending on national, social and cultural circumstances. Furthermore, this concept of literacy includes persons who, though familiar with the basics of reading and writing, might still be considered functionally illiterate.”

Literacy is a good measure of educational achievement in developing regions such as the LAC countries. For young people in the LAC countries, literacy may be a better measure of education than enrolment since it usually reflects a minimal level of successfully completed schooling.

As for the relationship of illiteracy rates, digital access and income levels in the LAC countries, countries with digitally upper access level are likely to have low illiteracy rates than other countries. In other words, lowest access countries show the highest illiteracy rate. From a gender perspective, this trend is the same between men and women (Appendix A).

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2.5.2. Unemployment and economic activities among women

The right to development relates to the right to work in terms of equality of opportunities, and also non-discrimination. The right to work includes earning a living wage in a safe work environment, and also the freedom of employment, though it does not guarantee that every person will have a job. This right prohibits the use of compulsory or forced labor. When it comes to the relationship between right to work and ICT, it opens "new perspectives for the quality of work: creating the conditions for change in existing jobs, generating new working methods and new ways of organizing work, and allowing greater flexibility in the workplace"[11].

According to the International Labor Organization (ILO)'s resolution[12], unemployed persons consist of all persons above a certain age who (1) "do not hold a job", i.e., are neither paid employed person nor self-employed persons, (2) "can actually work", i.e., can engage in paid employment or self-employment, and (3) "look for a job", i.e., took special measures to engage in paid employment or self-employment.

In the LAC countries, the number of workers covered by unemployment insurance or other assistance is limited. Under these conditions, very few people can afford to be unemployed for any period of time. The majority of the population must be engaged at all times in some economic activity, however inadequate it may be. So, although they may also be seeking other or additional work, they will not be counted as unemployed. Women, who are engaged in activities within the household more than men, grow food in the family plot or work as seasonal agricultural workers. They are economically active and should be counted as "employed" according to the standard definition of economic activity. But their situation in terms of income, use of skills and productivity might be closer to unemployment than to employment.

It is not certain how digital access level in the LAC countries relates to unemployment among women as there is no explicit tendency identified from a gender

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11 EU, Europe's Information Society, "Economy and Work".

12 ILO, 1982. Resolution concerning statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment, adopted by the Thirteenth International Conference of Labour

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perspective. However, digital access level does not affect the economic activity rate in the LAC countries. From a gender perspective, men in lowest access countries show higher economic activity rate whereas women in these countries demonstrate the lowest rate. In other words, the gap between men and women in terms of economic activity still remains in both ICT high accessible countries and non accessible countries in the LAC region, but the gap is bigger in low access countries (Appendix B, Appendix C).

2.5.3. Income[13] and Gini index

Poverty contains a denial of fundamental human rights. To promote social progress for equality of opportunities and raise the standard of living within the wider concept of freedom, international human rights law recognizes economic and social rights with the aim of eradicating poverty. In this sense, one aspect of a country or a person's right to development relates to income level. In particular, a person's income directly affects the livelihood. Furthermore, due to low income levels, the prices for ICT devices are prohibitive. The high prices of technical equipment are considered as one of the main challenges when introducing ICT. Considering that each person is identified as the beneficiary of the right to development, as of all human rights, income level should be referred to in relation to ICT application.

In reference to income level, Gini index is known as inequality measures to which extent the distribution of income (or consumption) among individuals or households in a country differs from a perfectly equal distribution. In other words, Gini index can demonstrate the income gap among individuals or households in a country, which can be an indicator of ICT application in terms of the affordability. A value of 0 represents perfect equality whereas a value of 100 represents perfect inequality. Corrado Gini, an Italian statistician, developed this index in his paper "Variability and Mutability" published in 1912. Below provides the image of Gini index.

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13 Data on per capita income based on a country's total personal income is very difficult to find. Much more commonly used due to its availability is the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita. It should

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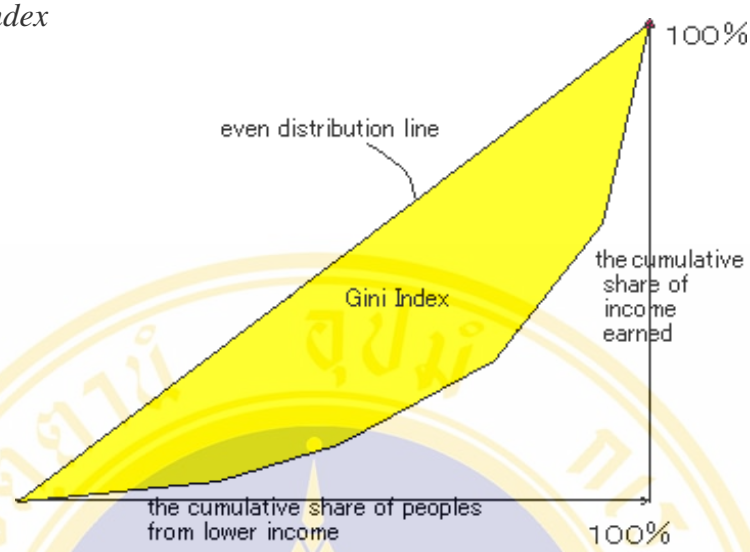
Figure 1: Gini index



(Source: Japan Seaology Promotion Organization)

2.5.4. Digital access

Access to information in the context of realizing the right to development can be described as an economic, social, cultural and political process, which aims at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals. In fact, the 1999 UN Human Development Report mentioned about a new digital divide, with poor countries facing the prospect of being further marginalized in an increasingly knowledge-based global economy. It is obvious that the more information "haves" enjoy the benefit of ICT. The more digital access affects the life of people, in particular information "have-nots" in each country. It is because in practice, the internet, the world's fastest growing ICT tool based on digital access, is largely a phenomenon among certain groups. The digital access is an important factor in promoting ICT and eliminating disparities between information "haves" and "have-nots" since the beneficiary of ICT from a perspective of the right to development, as of all human rights is every person.

2.5.5. Governance and the LAC countries

Poor governance, violence, corruption, and weak institutions have negative effects on political and economic systems of the LAC countries. Poor governance includes poorly defined property rights, high transaction costs and economic risks, corruption, and greatly reduced domestic and foreign investment. Violence and high

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crime rates are creating instability and impeding economic development, while corruption is an obstacle to development of the region, and weak institutions are decreasing the governments' abilities to provide services to their constituents. Countries with poor governance have difficulties in reducing poverty and promoting free trade and economic growth.

To help the LAC governments confront governance challenges, the IDB has allocated approximately 1,170 million USD in fiscal year 2005 to support democracy and encourage good governance. The focus of the IDB governance programs in the region is citizenship, decentralization and sub-national government, democracy and elections, fiscal issues and public finance, judicial administration and reform, legislative and legal reform, private sector promotion and investment, and public sector management and support.

Governance is relevant to the five principles of the right to development (full sovereignty over natural resources; self-determination; popular participation in development; equality of opportunity; the creation of favorable conditions for the enjoyment of other civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights). According to the WB, governance "can be broadly defined as the set of traditions and institutions by which authority in a country is exercised". Also, the WB explains that governance includes: 1) the process by which governments are selected, monitored and replaced; 2) the capacity of the government to effectively formulate and implement sound policies; and, 3) the respect of citizens and the state for the institutions that govern economic and social interactions among them, all of which eliminate the scourge upon the poor.

In more precise term, the six dimensions of governance are introduced by the WB as follows:

1) Voice and Accountability: The extent of people's participation in the selection of the government can be measurement of voice and accountability, using some indicators that measure various aspects of the political process, civil liberties, political and human rights.

2) Political Stability: The perceptions of the likelihood that the government in power will be destabilized or overthrown by possibly unconstitutional and/or violent means,

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3) Government Effectiveness: Indicators of the government effectiveness are the quality of public service provision, the quality of the bureaucracy, the competence of civil servants, the independence of the civil service from political pressures, and the credibility of the government's commitment to policies.
4) Regulatory Quality: Regulatory quality is mainly based on the policies themselves, including measures of the incidence of market-unfriendly policies such as price controls or inadequate bank supervision, and perceptions of the burdens imposed by excessive regulation in areas such as foreign trade and business development.
5) Rule of Law: The indicators for rule of law include the measurement of the extent to which agents have confidence in and abide by the rules of society as well as perceptions of the incidence of crime, the effectiveness and predictability of the judiciary, and the enforceability of contracts.
6) Control of corruption: The extent of corruption is measured by how much the corruption can be controlled based on scores of variables from polls of experts and surveys.

2.6. Requirements for using ICT and the LAC countries

It is not automatically possible to use ICT. There are some conditions to make it available. Besides, ICT tends to benefit privileged groups, who are likely to use ICT more efficiently and the paybacks are exponential. As a result, these groups become even more privileged (Bridges.org, 2001). Development projects with focus on ICT must take into account different issues such as accessibility and affordability, local content and language, and human capacity, as these synchronize basic human needs. Briefly, the LAC countries and such issues of governance from a perspective of the IDB are addressed.

2.6.1. Accessibility and affordability

The graph below shows ICT availability in the LAC countries in recent years. It explains at a macro level that the ICT use is getting higher year by year. In more details, the mobile usage is 615% more between 1998 and 2003, whereas internet 210%, PC 169%, phone 153%.

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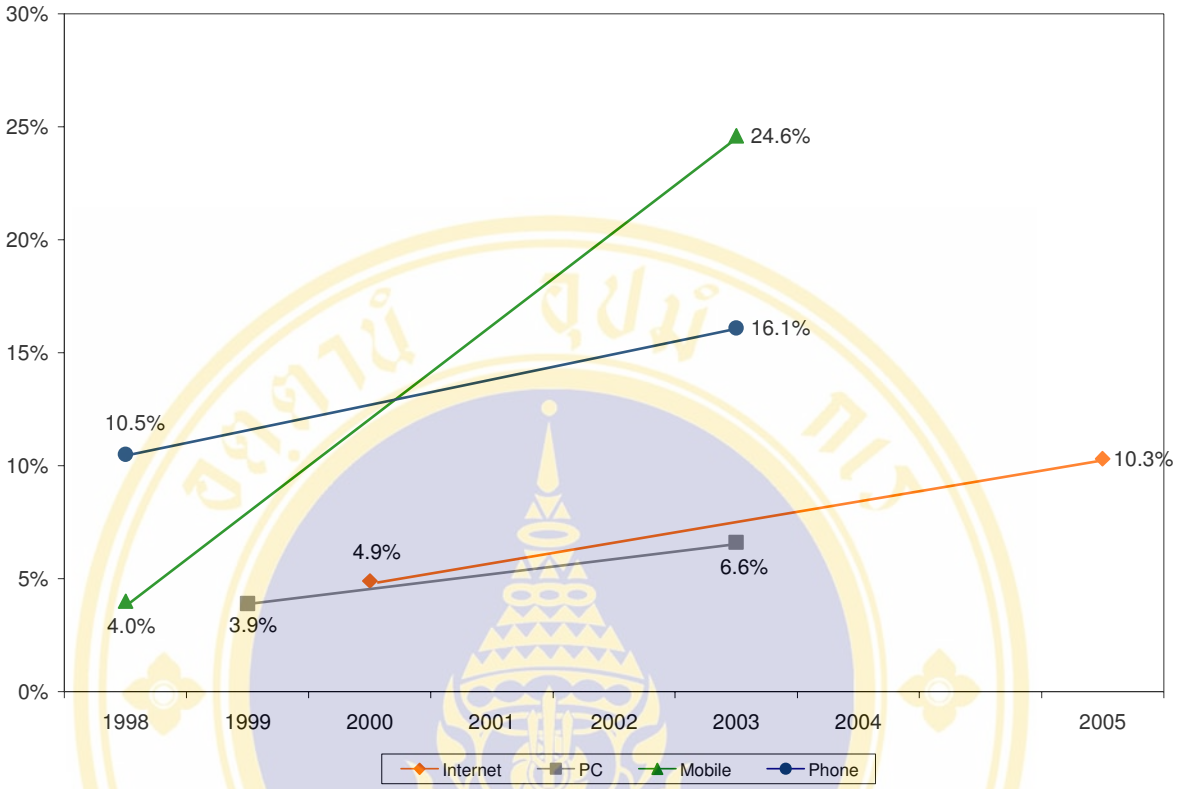
Figure 2: Evolution of the ICT penetration in LAC



(Source: IDB, ICT for Development Strategy)

It is explainable that mobile usage is the most increasing trend among others. Of evidence is the fact that Spanish and Portuguese, which are official languages in most of the LAC countries, are a growing language segment on the internet. Besides, mobile usage needs less cost than others for infrastructure. In this sense, geographical aspects in the LAC region match the usage of mobiles. For example, the Caribbean countries consist of mainly small islands which need less phone line or base. Further, those with relatively less literacy can make more use of mobile.

There are several reasons why people are not gaining access to ICT. One of them is physical lack of access to the needed infrastructure. Mainly, this is an economic problem where introducing ICT does not pay off. The cost might be too high because of terrain or other geographical conditions. Affordable technology is also one of the critical factors for introducing ICT to poor people. With high poverty levels, they can afford neither telephone subscription, nor extra expenses for computers and internet charges.

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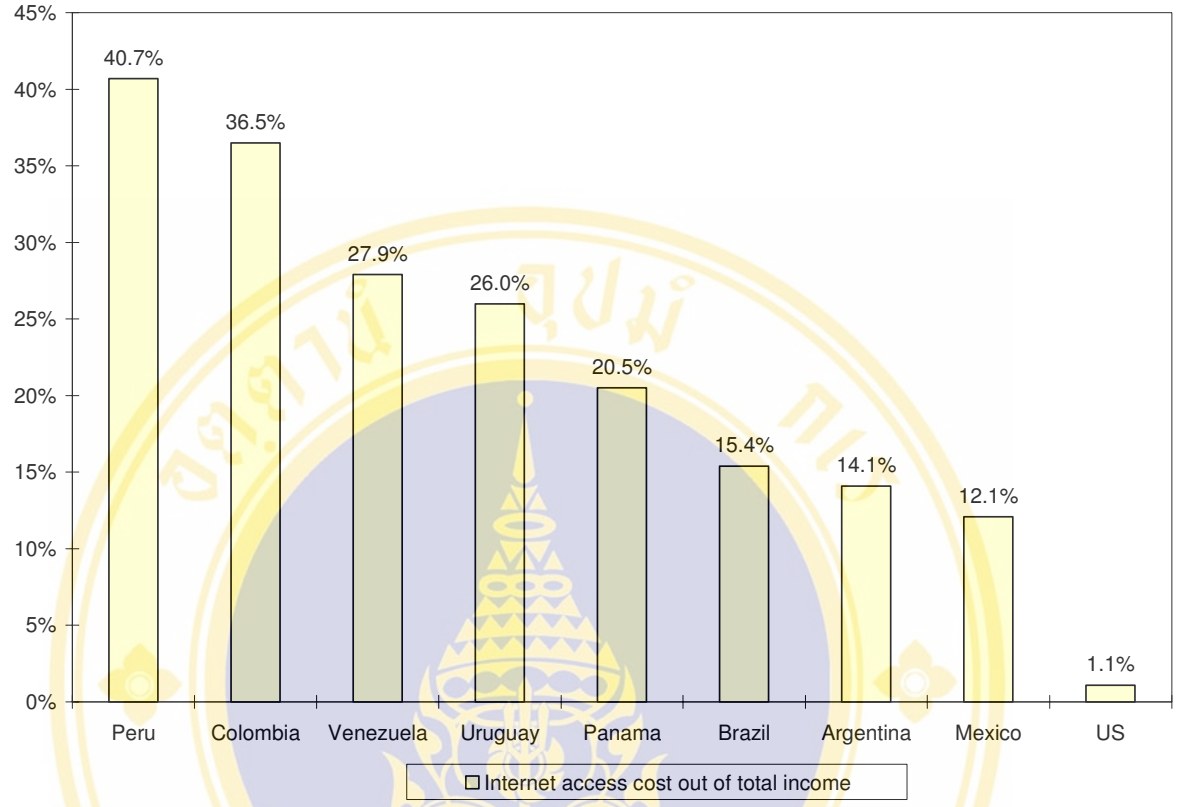
Figure 3: Internet access cost as a proportion of monthly income



(Source: IDB, ICT for Development Strategy)

In fact, ICT use is still a big hurdle for people in the LAC countries according to the graph above. For example, it costs more than 40% of the average monthly income in Peru to use internet at their house whereas it is only 1.1% of income in the US.

2.6.2. Local content and language in 2005

Surveys of internet users and providers in the LAC countries reveal that the lack of local language and locally relevant content is a major barrier to increased use. The effect of local content can be illustrated as a feedback of ICT. Increasing internet users in community makes local people expect that the contents will become more attractive, which can result in commercialism. In this sense, language can be an obstacle when using computers and the internet. As for the language used in the website, more than 30% of the contents are in English. More precisely, top ten world's languages are used in 81% of web contents. In other words, only 19% of them are not

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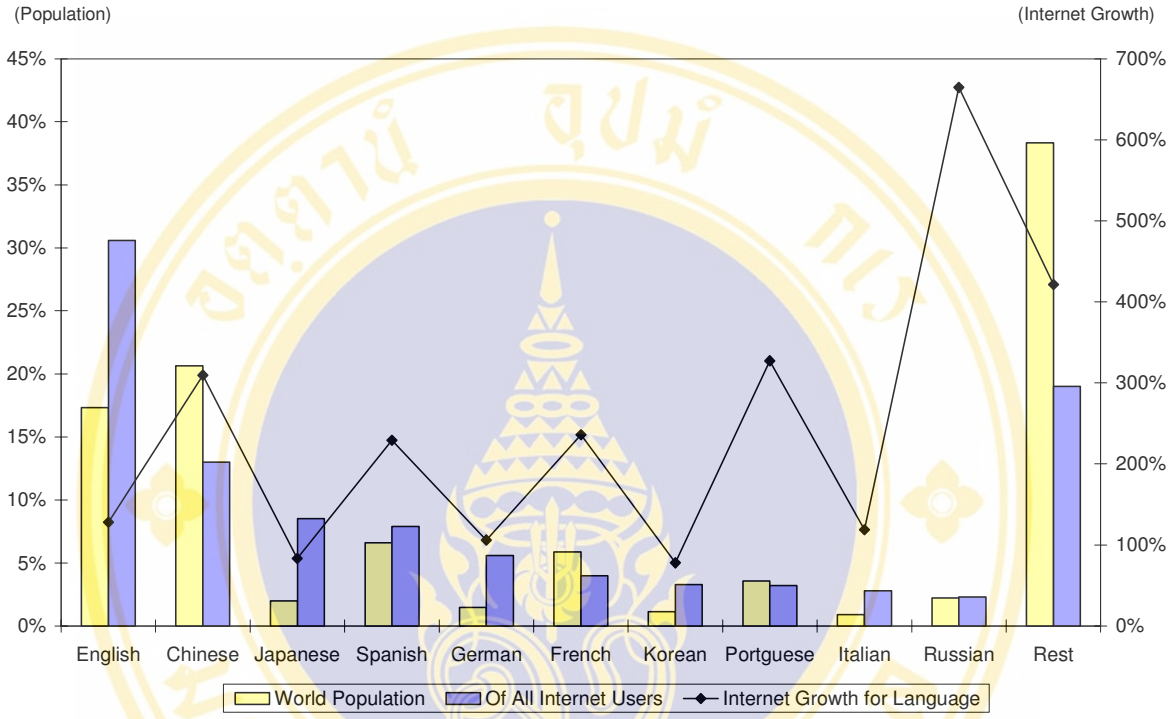
in major languages. It means people in this group anyway have to use another language, not their native language.

Figure 4: Top 10 languages used in the Web



(Source: Internet World Stats, Internet Users By Language, 2005)

2.7. Chapter summary

In this chapter, the concept of the right to development among human rights is provided as a theoretical framework in this research. Beneficiaries of the right to development will be addressed with great concern in this research. Various human rights and development topics related to the right to development and ICT are presented to understand the linkage with societies. As ICT is crucial in enabling peoples' participation in the development process, the only universal concept which links to ICT and development is human rights. When introducing ICT to human rights context practically, the digital divide is perceived as negative impact. Furthermore, some human rights indicators in ICT such as illiteracy, unemployment and economic activity among women, income and Gini index, digital access, and governance are described as index of this research.

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CHAPTER 3
ANALYZING ICT POLICY OF WB, ADB, IDB AND HUMAN RIGHTS

In this chapter, the ICT policy of the IDB will be focused based on a human rights perspective. The aim of this chapter is to identify the human rights aspects in distribution of the ICT policy of the IDB, and to clarify differences among the three banks to spotlight the ICT implementation of the IDB in human rights context. It is explicitly based on the researcher's analysis. The first section describes the overview of the WB, the ADB and the IDB to capture the picture of regional development banks and the linkages with ICT. The second section mentions about the outcomes of the ICT policy of the WB and the ADB from a human rights lens. The third section analyzes the outcomes of the ICT policy of the IDB, compared with the WB and the ADB from a human rights perspective.

3.1. Overview of WB, ADB, and IDB

There are some regional development banks in the world. According to the UNDP, 6 more banks are categorized as regional development banks besides the ADB and the IDB: the African Development Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank, and the Islamic Development Bank. On one hand, the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) consist of the WB, the IMF, and regional development banks. Unlike the WB and the IMF, regional development banks are not UN specialized agencies even though they have similar role for development supports.

Providing financing and professional advice for the purpose of development in target countries in the region is the main mission of regional development banks. Normally regional development banks have large memberships that include both developed and developing countries. Each bank has its own independent legal and operational status but with a similar mandate and a considerable number of joint

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owners. Finance projects by regional development banks are mainly three types. The first is in the form of long-term loans at market rates, which the banks borrow funds on the international capital markets and re-lend to borrowing governments in developing countries. The second is loans in a very long term (also known as credits) below market rates, funded through direct contributions of governments in donor countries. The third is a grant, which is mostly for technical assistance, advisory services or project preparation.

This section overviews the WB, the ADB and the IDB including their history, politics, economy, finance, and ICT policy. These will be described thematically to understand the background of the ICT policy of the IDB.

Table 1: Basic information of WB, ADB, and IDB

	President	Staff	Headquarter	Member Country	Voting Power
WB	Mr. Paul Wolfowitz (US)	Some10,000	Washington D.C., US	184	US 16.39% Japan 7.86% Germany 4.49%
ADB	Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda (Japan)	Approximately 2,400	Manila, Philippines	65	Japan 12.850% US 12.850% China 5.486%
IDB	Mr. Luis Alberto Moreno (Colombia)	Approximately 2,000	Washington D.C., US	47	US 30.007% Argentina10.752% Brazil 10.752%

(Source: WB, ADB, and IDB website, as of May 31, 2006)

3.1.1. WB

History

Together with the IMF, the WB group is often called the “Bretton Woods” institutions, as the UN Monetary and Financial Conference that led to their establishment was held in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire in 1944. Five international organizations consist of the WB group nowadays, and all of them are responsible for providing finance and advice to countries for the purposes of economic development

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and poverty reduction. Among others, two closely affiliated entities - the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) established in 1945 and the International Development Association (IDA) established in 1960 - provide low or no interest loans and grants to countries that have unfavorable or no access to international credit markets.

Politics

The WB is one of the UN specialized agencies, but the governance structure is different from others. For example, voting power is proportional to shareholding besides the major decision needs 85% of support from member countries. So far, the US's influence is decisive in this sense as the US has 16.4% of voting power, meaning it is impossible to make a major decision without the US's consent. A critic says that the WB is much too large and politically motivated an institution, and is too central in the structure of the US-led global capitalism (Bello, 2005). In addition to this, the presidency has been succeeded by the US citizen traditionally.

Economy

Arguably, chief exponents of the neo-liberal model are the IMF, the WB, transnational corporations, and Group of Eight (G8) countries[1]. The neo-liberal economic model demands: "rule of markets" (the removal of trade barriers, employment rights and protection, often suicidal for countries with underdeveloped industry); "privatization" (selling state-owned enterprises, goods and services to private investors, which includes banks, key industries, railroads, toll highways, electricity, schools, hospitals and even fresh water); "cutting public expenditure for social service" (drastic cuts in social spending which impacts most on the poor, as the wealthy can afford private healthcare and education); "deregulation" (reducing government regulation of everything that could diminish profits, including protecting the environment and safety on the job).

[1] Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, UK, US

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Finance

The WB focuses on developing countries, in fields such as human development (e.g. education, health), agriculture and rural development (e.g. irrigation, rural services), environmental protection (e.g. pollution reduction, establishing and enforcing regulations), infrastructure (e.g. roads, urban regeneration, electricity), and governance (e.g. anti-corruption, legal institutions development). Loans and grants are provided at preferential rates to member countries, which often link to wider policy formulation in the social and economic sector.

On one hand, there are lots of criticisms of the WB: 70% of non grant lending of the WB was concentrated on 11 member countries, with 145 other members left to scramble for the remaining 30%; 80% of resources of the WB were devoted not to the poorest countries but to the better off ones that enjoyed positive credit and could therefore raise their funds in international capital markets; and, the failure rate of the WB projects was 65-70% in the poorest societies and 55-60% in all developing countries. In short, the WB was irrelevant to the achievement of its avowed mission of alleviating global poverty (Bello, 2005).

As for the funding, the IBRD and the IDA are the principal vehicles for development projects. The difference is mainly according to the target countries for financing. The IBRD lends to creditworthy and middle-income developing countries. Interest rates on the IBRD loans are slightly below commercial rates, providing the borrower country with more favorable terms than it could have negotiated independently in international financial markets. The IDA provides highly required loans to countries that have per capita incomes of less than USD 885 and lack the ability to borrow from the IBRD. The IDA loans are interest free, charging only a transaction fee of 0.75% with 10 year period on principal repayment. While the IDA is funded by contributions from donor governments' aid budgets, the IBRD raises most of its funds from international financial markets.

The followings are lending Fiscal Year (FY)'05 of both the IBRD and the IDA by region and theme (Share of USD13.6 billion lending total). Since The IBRD focuses on middle income and creditworthy poor countries, while the IDA focuses on the poorest countries in the world. Accordingly, 45% of the IDA's commitments are in Africa whereas 1% of lending by the IBRD.

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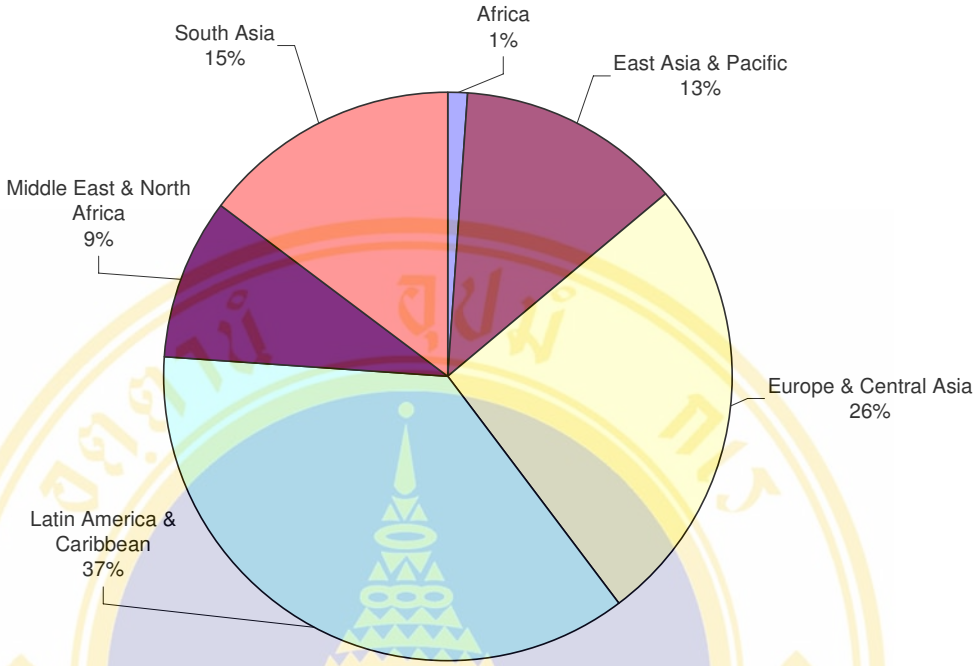
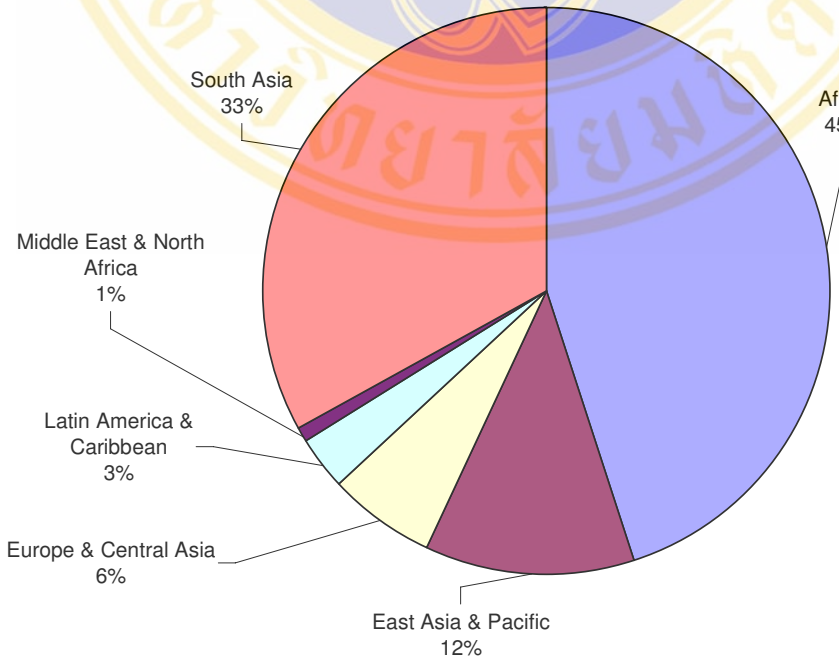
Figure 5: WB IBRD Lending FY'05 by region



(Source: WB, Bank Lending, FY2005)

Figure 6: WB IDA Commitments FY'05 by region



(Source: WB, Bank Lending, FY2005)

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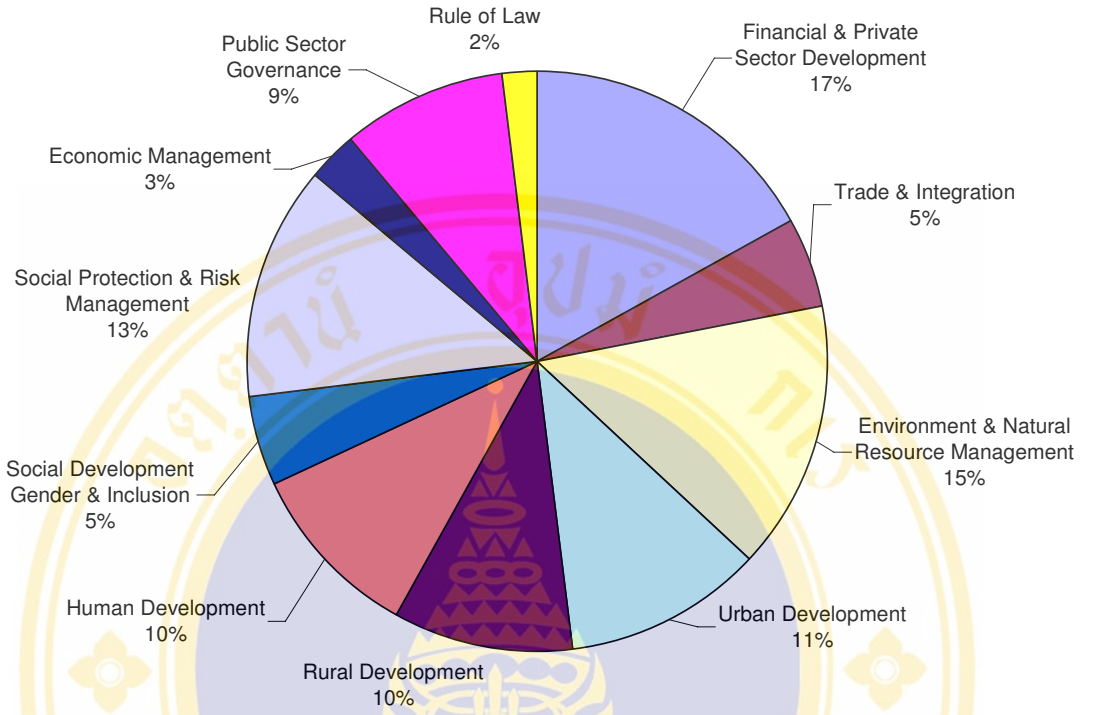
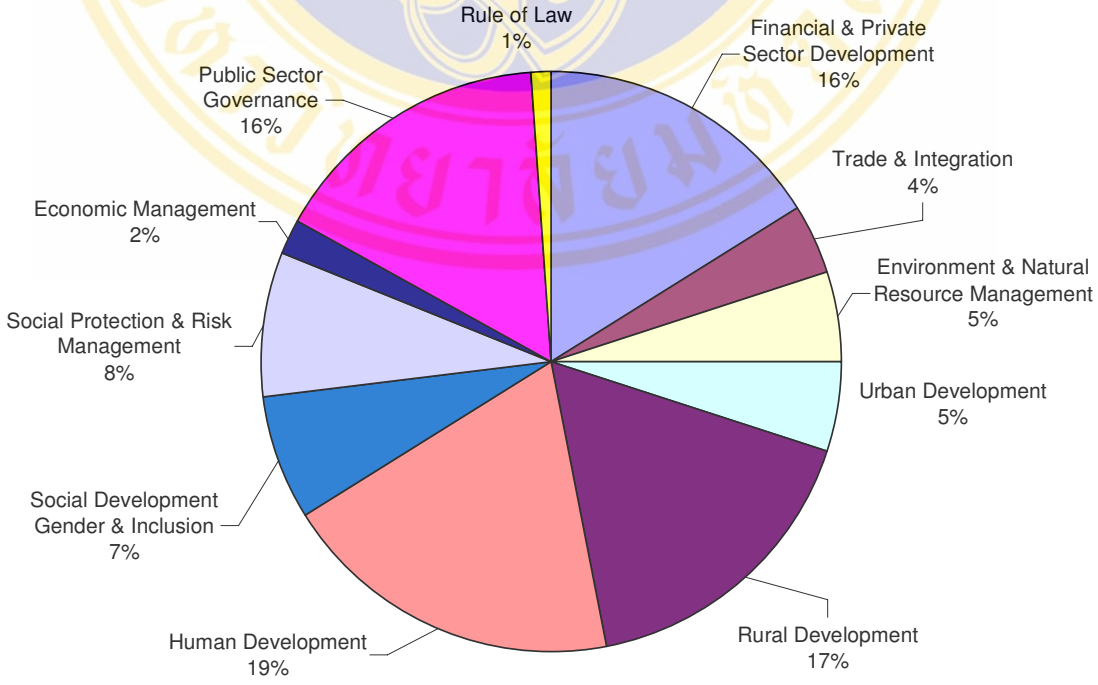
Figure 7: WB IBRD Lending FY'05 by theme



(Source: WB, Bank Lending, FY2005)

Figure 8: WB IDA Commitments FY'05 by theme



(Source: WB, Bank Lending, FY2005)

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ICT policy

The Global Information and Communication Technologies Department (GICT) under the WB group has mission and strategies for ICT, aiming the expansion of the access to a range of information infrastructure networks by supporting the development and application of information technologies generally for poverty reduction and improvement of people's lives. The GICT emphasizes 7 specific areas namely "Sector reform", "Internet, convergence, and e-strategies", "Strengthening regulatory structures", "Access", "ICT applications", "Knowledge sharing" and "Postal Service".

According to an interview[2] undertaken with a representative of the WB in terms of ICT, the benefit of member countries and their governments are emphasized as the priority of the WB through the ICT implementation. Furthermore, ICT projects cover a wide range including ICT infrastructure and ICT in education, but the approach depends on the needs of target countries. The reason is seemingly because ICT is new.

3.1.2. ADB

History

Founded in 1966, the ADB is a multilateral development finance institution dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific. Main instruments for providing support to member countries are; policy dialogue, loans, technical assistance, grants, guarantees and equity investments.

Politics

As for the voting power, both Japan and the US have 12.85% as of 2006. Voting power is proportional to shareholding like the WB. As for the presidency, the ADB accepts "by tradition, a Japanese President" like the US appoints the President of the WB.

[2] Development Gateway, Special Report, 2005

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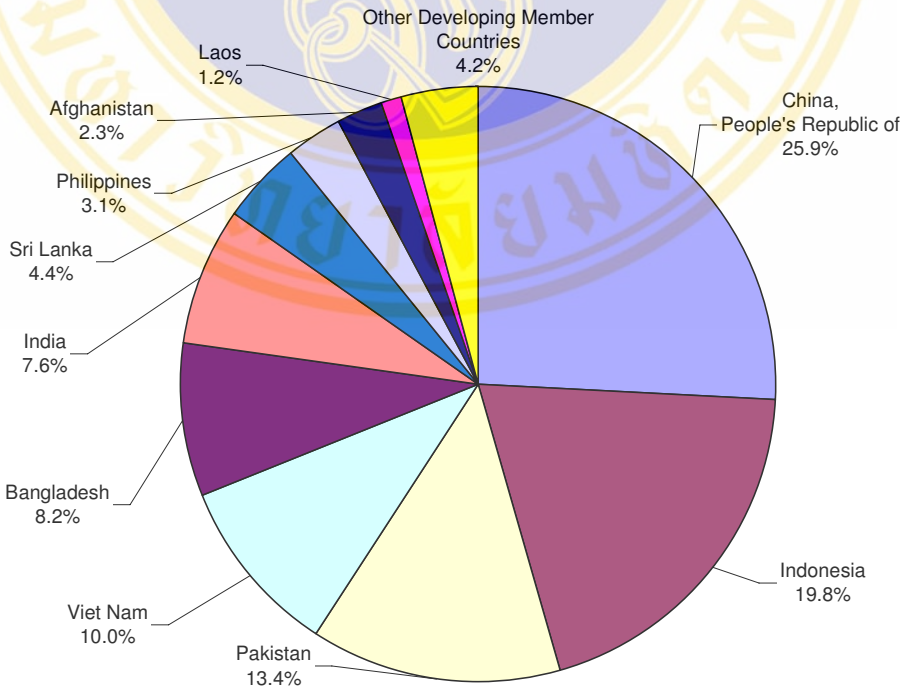
Economy

In the name of poverty reduction, the ADB has intensified privatization programmes across the Asia-Pacific, especially in the areas of essential services and natural resources. Based on this neoliberalism, the political exclusion of certain classes and ethnic and religious groups are exacerbated, and marginalize the notions of solidarity within the rich diversity of Asian societies.

Finance

Lending volume a year is typically about USD 6 billion (lending total USD 5, 797 million in 2005) whereas technical assistance is usually about USD 180 million totally a year. As for the priorities of projects and programs, the ADB emphasizes one or more of the following whether these are poverty interventions or otherwise: economic growth, human development, gender and development, good governance, environmental protection, private sector development, regional cooperation.

Figure 9: ADB Lending FY'05 by country



(Source: ADB, At a Glance)

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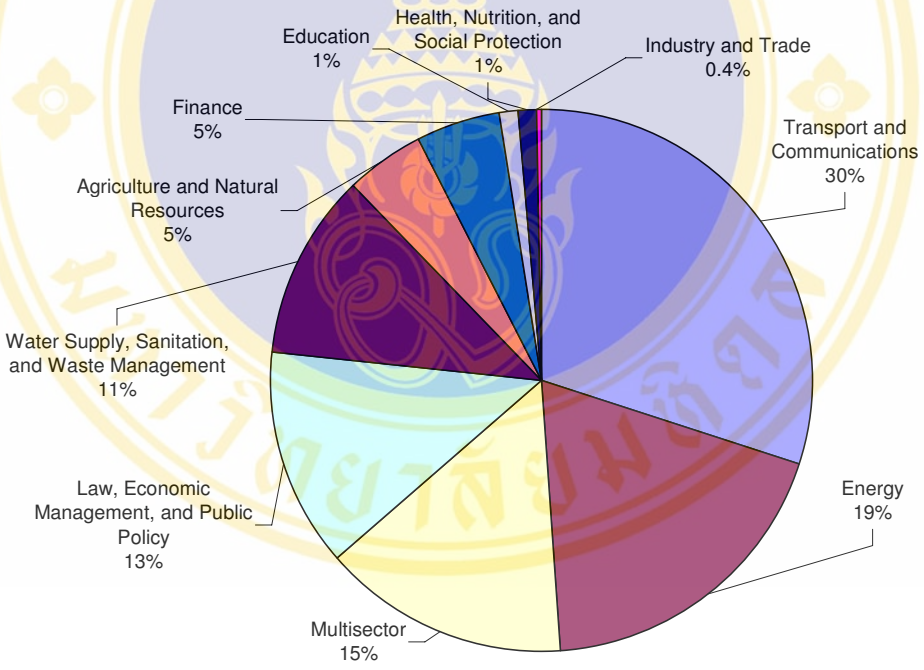
According to an interview[3] undertaken with a representative of the ADB in terms of ICT, the ADB regards ICT as something which can not be seen in isolation or applicable for only a few sectors or themes. In fact, the ADB has no ICT sector unlike the WB and the IDB. On one hand, the priority in terms of the ICT implementation is infrastructure and education, as ICT is relatively new and many governments in target countries of the ADB have not yet implemented ICT in the representative's recognition. Also, the representative argues that ICT allows greater public access to information, and can make government more accountable to citizens in member countries. However, this appears to be no priority to ICT.

Figure 10: ADB Lending FY'05 by sector



(Source: ADB, At a Glance)

Many of the projects which the ADB financed have been criticized for no implementation or lack of the implementation. These projects include transportation and communications (30%) and energy (19%), condemned for issues of corruption and lack of transparency. According to NGO Forum on ADB, NGO representatives offered strong criticisms against the new ICT policy given that the projects ironically prevent

[3] Development Gateway, Special Report, 2005

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people from the access to information. In their opinion, accountability is missing in the ADB and its partners though it is a major tool for ensuring transparency.

ICT policy

The ADB also emphasizes the importance of ICT on the ground that ICT has become a powerful tool in the fight against world poverty, by providing developing countries with opportunities to meet the demand for development, such as poverty reduction, basic health care, and education. The ADB has been committed to helping bridge the growing digital divide. Regarding ICT policy, the ADB has adopted a policy paper called "*Toward E-Development in Asia and the Pacific: A Strategic Approach for Information and Communication Technology*" which refers to the development of innovative sector policies, the strengthening of public institutions; and, the development of ICT facilities, related infrastructure and networks.

3.1.3. IDB

History

The IDB was founded in 1959 as the oldest and largest regional development institution in the world. It has since been the model for creating regional development banks in other parts of the world because the IDB is the first regional institution with its own policies and instruments for the purpose of supporting economic and social development.

Politics

Voting power, which is critically important in politics, is determined by its subscription to the Ordinary Capital (USD 101 billion). 30 % of voting power is held by the US, 50.02 % by the LAC countries altogether. In this context, the IDB is quite unique among development banks in a sense that some of its major share holders are also borrowers. It is believed by some that strict peer pressure prevents the borrowers from defaulting, even when they were under severe economic pressure, though this arrangement was first viewed as risky.

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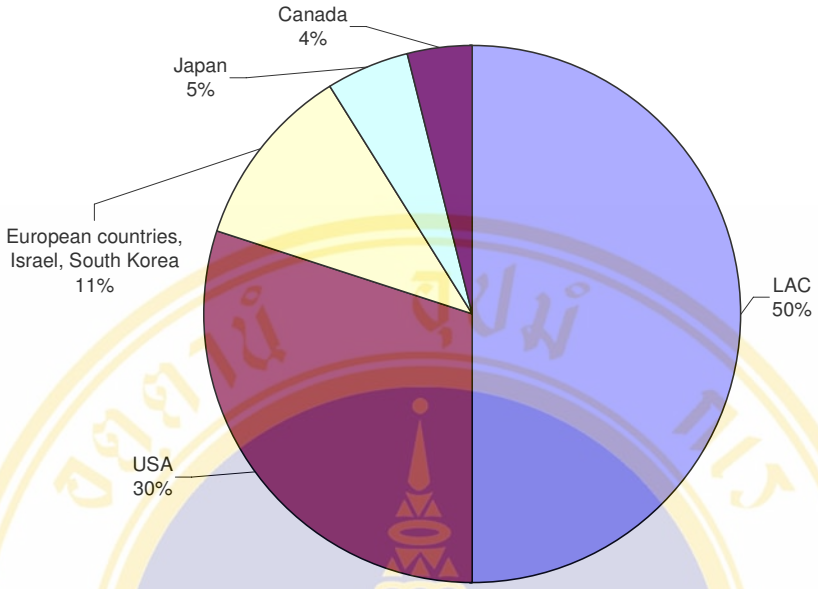
Figure 11: IDB Voting power



(Source: IDB, Ownership, Member Countries, Voting Power)

Economy

Deeply indebted to the north, the IDB attempts to coerce the LAC countries to privatize state-owned enterprises, reduce government expenditures, and open borders for "free trade". This "neoliberal" model is forced on the region's populations by the IDB, which the US dominates together with the WB. Additionally, neoliberalism is being promoted globally through the World Trade Organization (WTO) and in the Americas with agreements such as the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). Moreover, Henales (2002) argues that the structural adjustment programs imposed by the IDB required specific policies in the countries affected. In particular, education, health, and other social service policies were systematically and uniformly designed, administered, and evaluated by these same institutions.

Finance

In 2005, loans and guarantees which amounts USD 7.1 billion was approved in 2005 for financing projects. The loans by the IDB cover only a part of total cost of the projects. Three categories are in the lending of the IDB: "Competitiveness", "Social development", and "Reform and Modernization of the State". In "Competitiveness",

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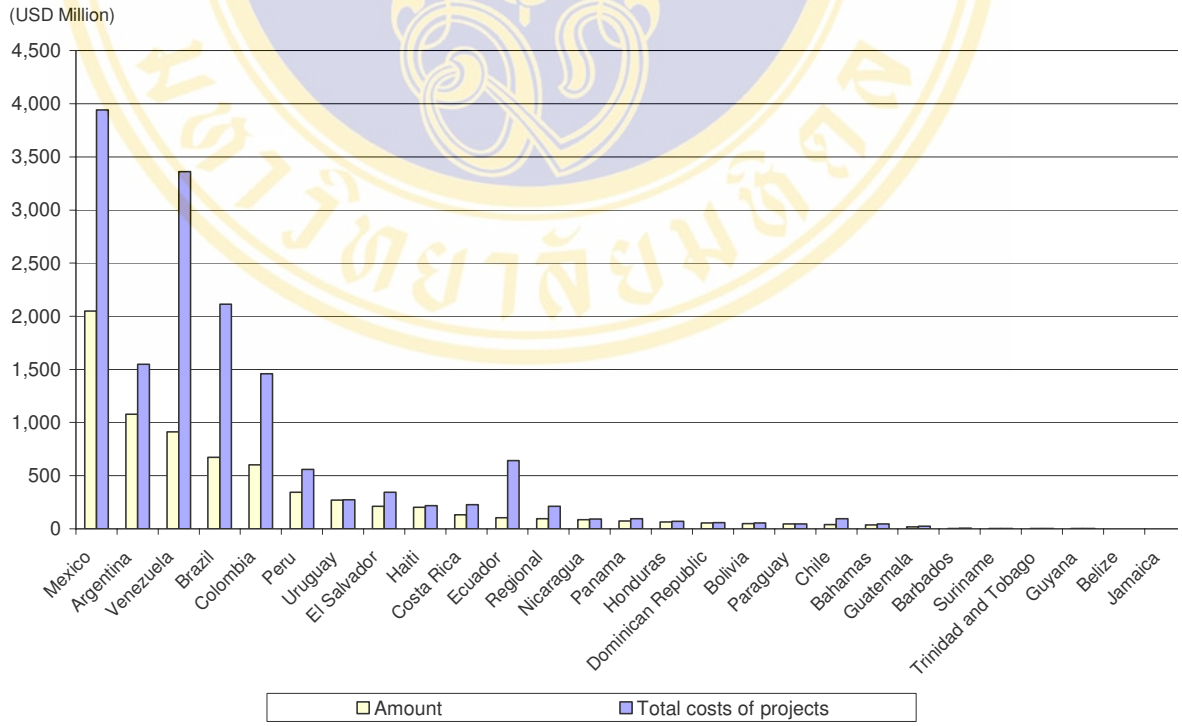
the funding is given to energy and transportation and communication largely, as is the same with the WB and the IDB. Furthermore, the funding of the IDB promotes the privatization of social services, such as health care and access to potable water, which have negatively affected the general welfare of the people of the LAC countries[4].

As for the financing method, the IDB makes several types of loans: 1) investment loans, for specific projects in sectors, such as agriculture, credit, education, energy, environment, health, planning and reform, pre-investment, sanitation, social programs, transportation, and urban development; 2) structural adjustment loans, for supporting the liberalization of a country's economy in order to adapt it to the free market and neo-liberal macroeconomic policies; and, 3) sectoral adjustment loans address the microeconomic details of structural adjustment loans, leading to the privatization of public services and the reform of public sector operations.

The followings show the total amount for funding by country.

Figure 12: IDB Lending FY'05 by country



(Source: IDB, Annual Report 2005)

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Table 2: IDB Lending FY'05

Sector	2005	%	1961-2005	%
Competitiveness	**$ 2,651.6**	**37.1**	**$ 67,765.9**	**49.4**
Energy	1,122.90	15.7	18,723.10	13.6
Transportation and Communication	568	7.9	14,844.50	10.8
Agriculture and Fisheries	74.7	1	13,334.20	9.7
Industry, Mining and Tourism	68	1	12,550.40	9.2
Multisector Credit and Preinvestment	0	0.5	3,623.10	2.6
Science and Technology	32.3	0.5	1,593.40	1.2
Trade Financing	380	5.3	2,011.60	1.5
Productive Infrastructure	227.7	3.2	842.5	0.6
Capital Markets	178	2.5	243.3	0.2
Social Development	**3,439.00**	**48.1**	**46,602.00**	**33.9**
Social Investment	2,505.60	35.1	18,857.40	13.7
Water and Sanitation	340	4.8	8,978.70	6.5
Urban Development	96.5	1.4	7,295.40	5.3
Education	250	3.5	5,500.00	4
Health	123.6	1.7	2,816.80	2.1
Environment	123.4	1.7	2,664.20	1.9
Microenterprise	0	0	489	0.4
Reform and Modernization of the State	**1,056.90**	**14.8**	**22,956.40**	**16.7**
Reform and Public Sector Support	99.5	1.4	11,283.30	8.2
Financial Sector Reform	835.2	11.7	6,551.60	4.8
Fiscal Reform	47.9	0.7	3,827.60	2.8
Decentralization Policies	51.6	0.7	720.9	0.5
Modernization and Administration of Justice	4.9	0.1	315.5	0.2
Planning and State Reform	0	0	118.1	0.1
Parliamentary Modernization	3.9	0.1	76.1	0.1
Civil Society	0	0	22	0
Trade Policy Support	13.9	0.2	27.5	0
E-Government	0	0	13.8	0
TOTAL	**$ 7,147.6**	**100%**	**$ 137,323.8**	**100%**

(Source: IDB, Annual Report 2005)

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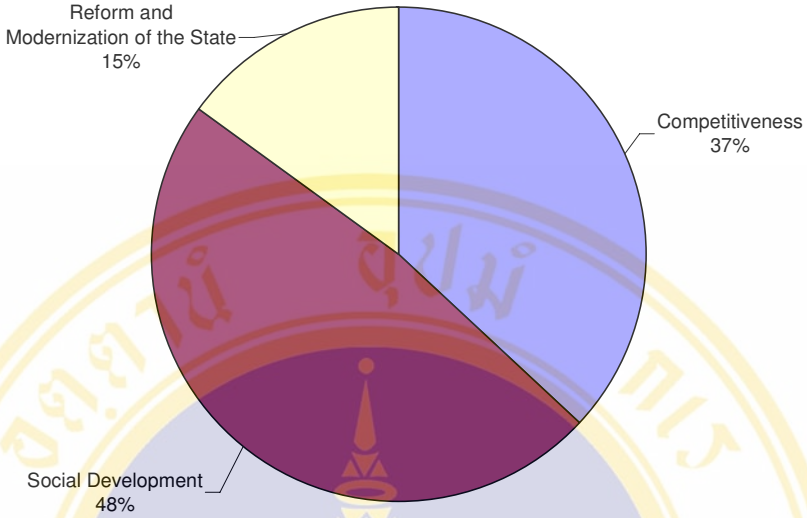
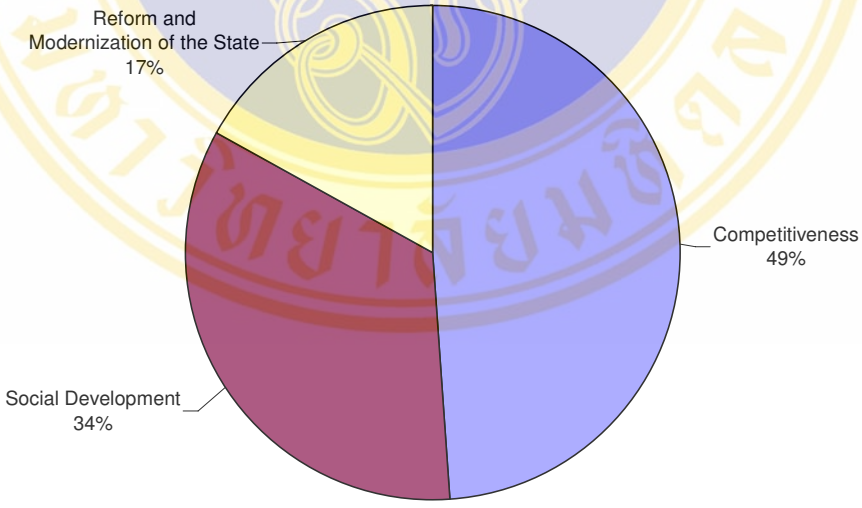
Figure 13: IDB Lending FY'05 by sector



(Source: IDB, Annual Report 2005)

Figure 14: IDB Lending between 1961 and 2005 by Sector



(Source: IDB, Annual Report 2005)

ICT policy

The IDB has three ICT policies called "Information Age Technologies and Development", "Science and Technology Policy" and "Telecommunications Policy". "Information Age Technologies and Development" is a multi-sectoral policy, which from a human rights perspective, refers to increasing the access for low income

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individuals to information and the coverage of social services to more localities and more people; making governments more efficient, accountable, and transparent; and, increasing the participation of citizens and citizen organizations in the processes of democratic regimes as objectives of the policy. “Science and Technology Policy” is in the social infrastructure sector, which promotes scientific and technological advances and for the purpose of modernizing economic activities and institutions, the aid is supposed to be financed. “Telecommunications Policy” is in the economic infrastructure sector. It aims to furnish communities with the basic infrastructure facilities for economic growth and social progress. In other words, the ICT policy of the IDB is compliant with various sectors.

As financier of ICT, the IDB has continued through time regulated by the particular sectoral polices associated with each project. The outcomes of these three policies will be in the highlight of analysis from human rights approach to development, especially in terms of the right to development.

According to an interview[5] undertaken with a representative of the IDB in terms of ICT, the priority is to promote ICT within the political agendas of its borrowing member countries. However, the representative never mentions how and to what extent the effective application of ICT fosters the achievement of social goals and economic growth.

3.2. ICT policy of WB and ADB

In this section, the following question will be addressed based on the comparative study among three banks, to get a clearer picture of the ICT implementation by the IFIs:

How do other international financial institutions generally incorporate elements of the right to development in ICT?

This analysis attempts to show clearly how the ICT implementation of the WB and the ADB between 1996 and 2005 relates to the right to development. In fact, there are several impacts on human rights from their ICT implementation.

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5 Development Gateway, Special Report, 2005

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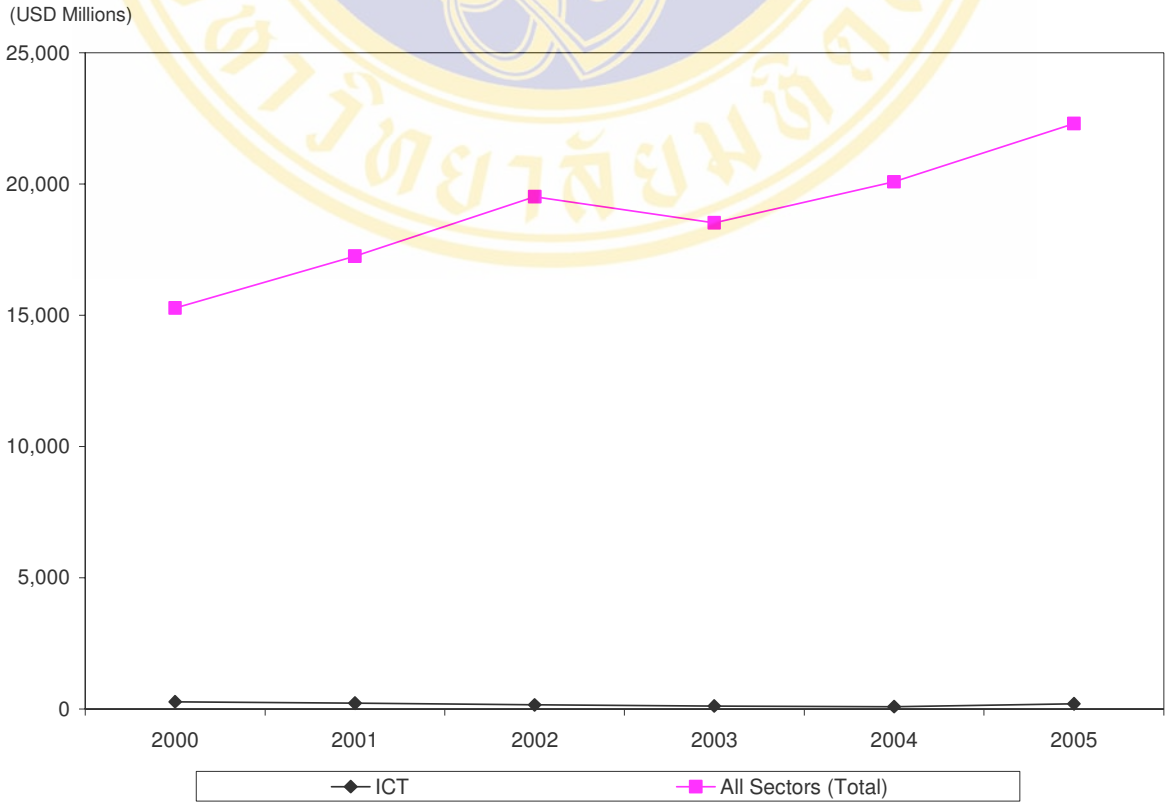
3.2.1. Low and biased priority on ICT by WB

"To accelerate the participation of client countries in the global information economy" is a mission of the GICT which is responsible for the business of the WB in ICT sector. Furthermore, the WB has ICT sector strategy based on four pillars: 1) Broadening and deepening sector and institutional reform; 2) Improving access to information infrastructure; 3) Supporting human capacity to exploit ICT; and, 4) Supporting ICT applications across a broad range of sectors. Among these, "Supporting human capacity to exploit ICT" can match the concept of the right to development as the human capacity building through ICT contributes to offering equality of opportunities for basic human needs, especially education.

The clearest finding identified from this analysis is the low priority for ICT by the WB, same as the IDB. However, considering that the failure rate of the WB projects was 65-70 per cent in the poorest societies and 55-60 per cent in all developing countries (Bello, 2005), this trend may be perceived from a positive perspective.

Figure 15: WB Funding trend compared with all sectors



(Source: WB, Global Information & Communication Technologies. Projects)

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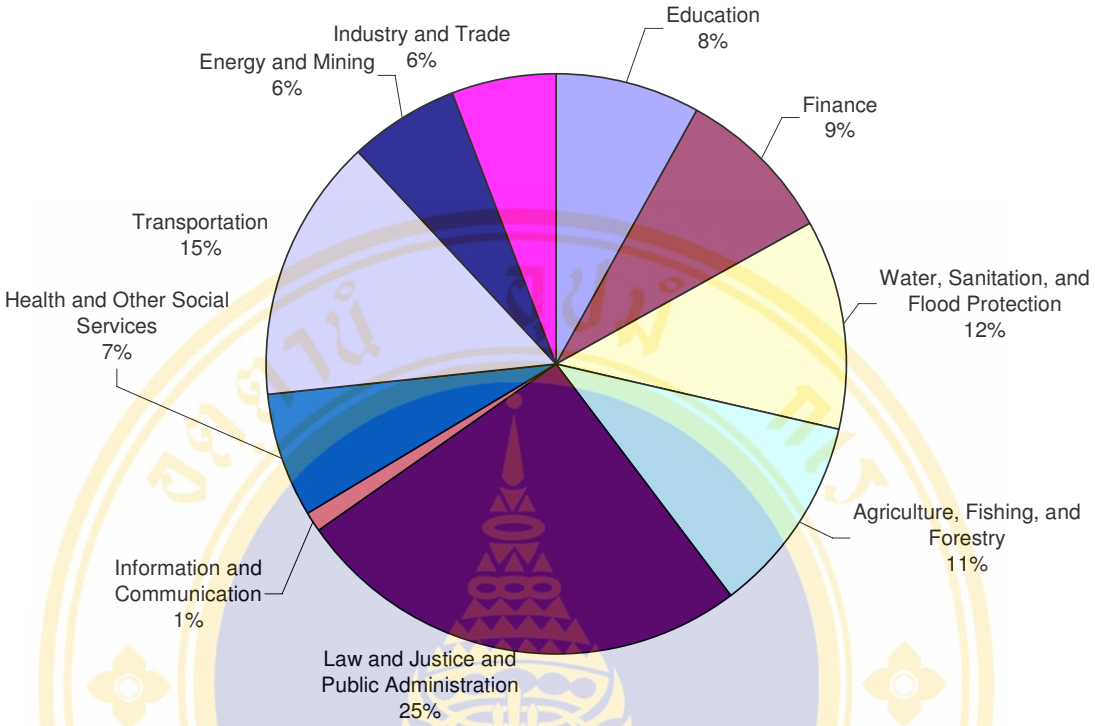
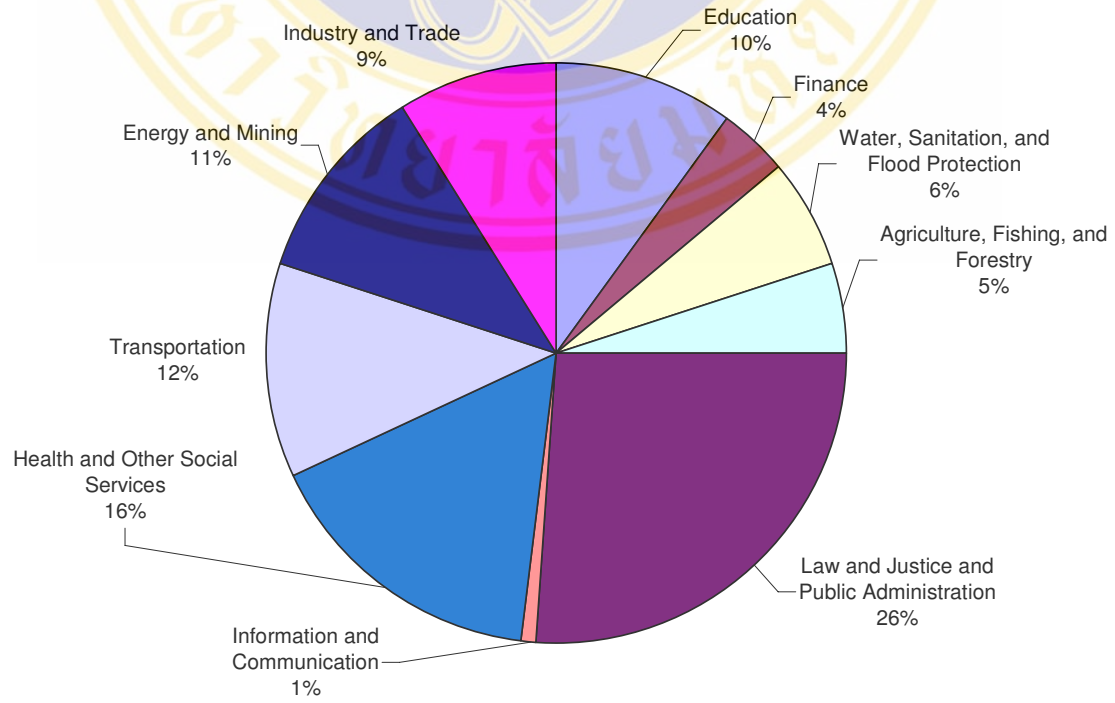
Figure 16: WB IBRD Lending FY'05 by sector



(Source: WB, Global Information & Communication Technologies. Projects)

Figure 17: WB IDA Commitments FY'05 by sector



(Source: WB, Global Information & Communication Technologies. Projects)

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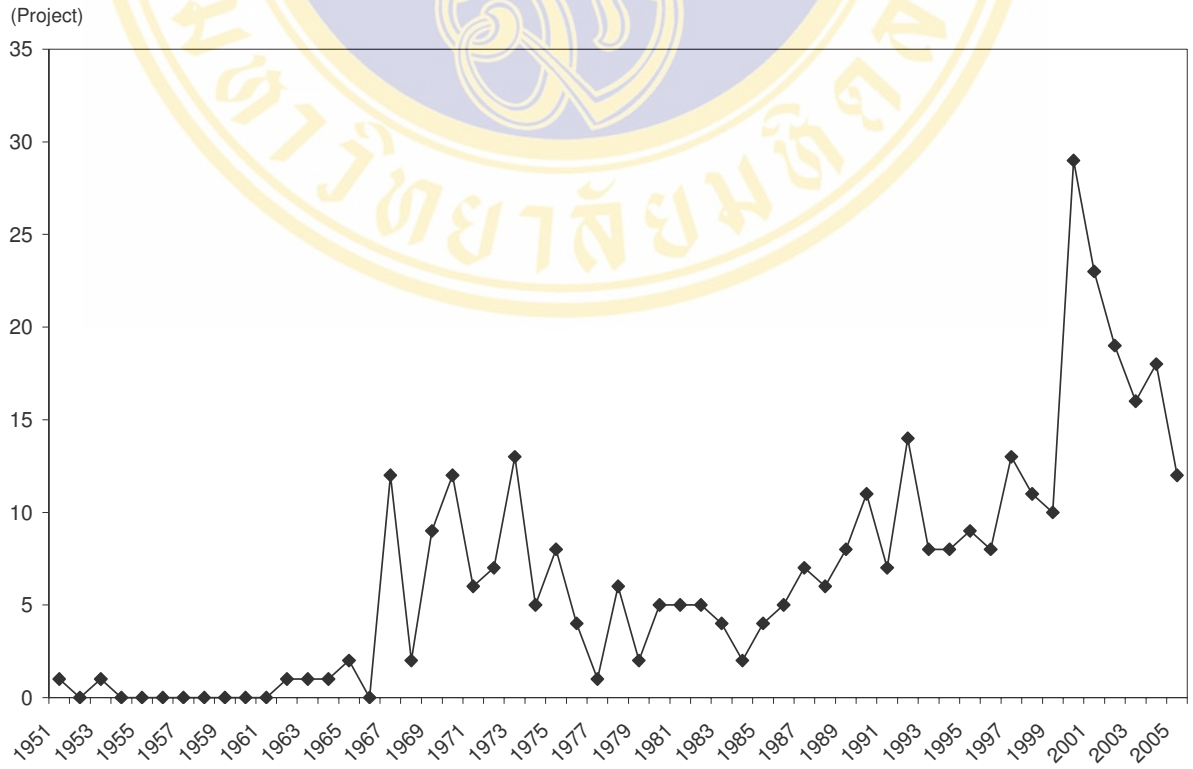
As for the number of ICT projects, the WB has 159 projects in the recent 10 years. There are three turning points identified in graph below: 1967, 1984 and 2000.

In 1967, one possible reason of this change was that the WB started to implement telecommunication projects largely in Asian region since 1967, whereas only 2 telecommunication projects were done in 1951 and 1966.

The year 1984 was recognized as the starting date for the modern history of telecommunications because it saw the privatization of British Telecom in the UK. Moreover, the same year also saw the publication of Maitland report by the ITU, which firmly established for the first time the link between access to telecommunications and development, and drew attention to the benefits of networks which could deliver to emergency operations, social services, administration and commerce. It should be noted that the US deregulation policies emerged in 1980. Concurrently, the WB started to respect the way "connecting the one billion people in the world who still have no access to basic telecom services" since 1984.

Figure 18: WB ICT projects by years



(Source: WB, Global Information & Communication Technologies. Projects)

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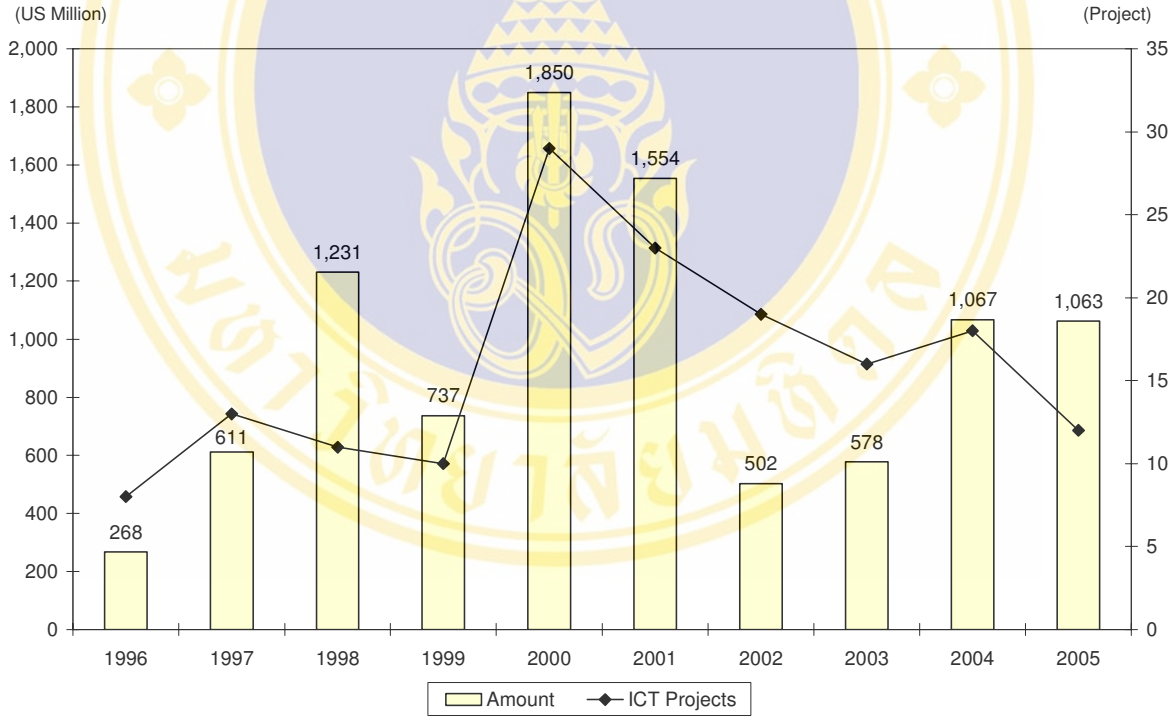
As for 2000, the WB began to focus on Africa seemingly on the background of the UN Millennium Declaration[6] which targeted poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa particularly. In actual fact, 48% of ICT projects implemented by the WB in 2000 were focused on telecommunication in Africa.

The funding trend for ICT projects in recent 10 years is highlighted in the graph below. Same as the IDB, the funding dropped down outstandingly in 2002, seemingly based on Argentina's financial crisis. Argentina's defaulted amount of a debt repayment to the WB is more than USD 800 million (BBC News, 2002). Since then the biggest amount for one project in 2002 was USD 160 million, about one-fifth of the highest amount in history, USD 759.6 million in 2000.

Figure 19: WB Funding trend for ICT projects



(Source: WB, Global Information & Communication Technologies)

ICT projects by sectors implemented by the WB between 1996 and 2005 are as follows[7]. It is obvious that the WB gave the priority to telecommunications in terms of the number of projects as well as funding. In more details, 63% of all ICT projects

6 UN General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000

7 Some projects are in more than 1 categories.

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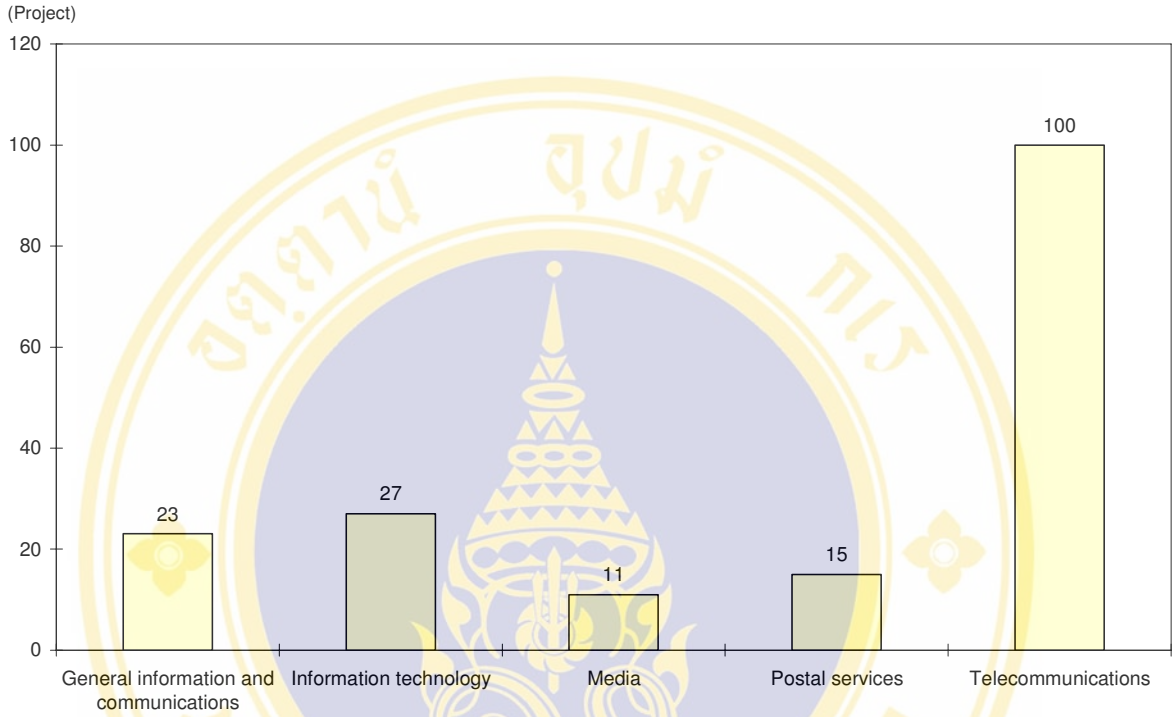
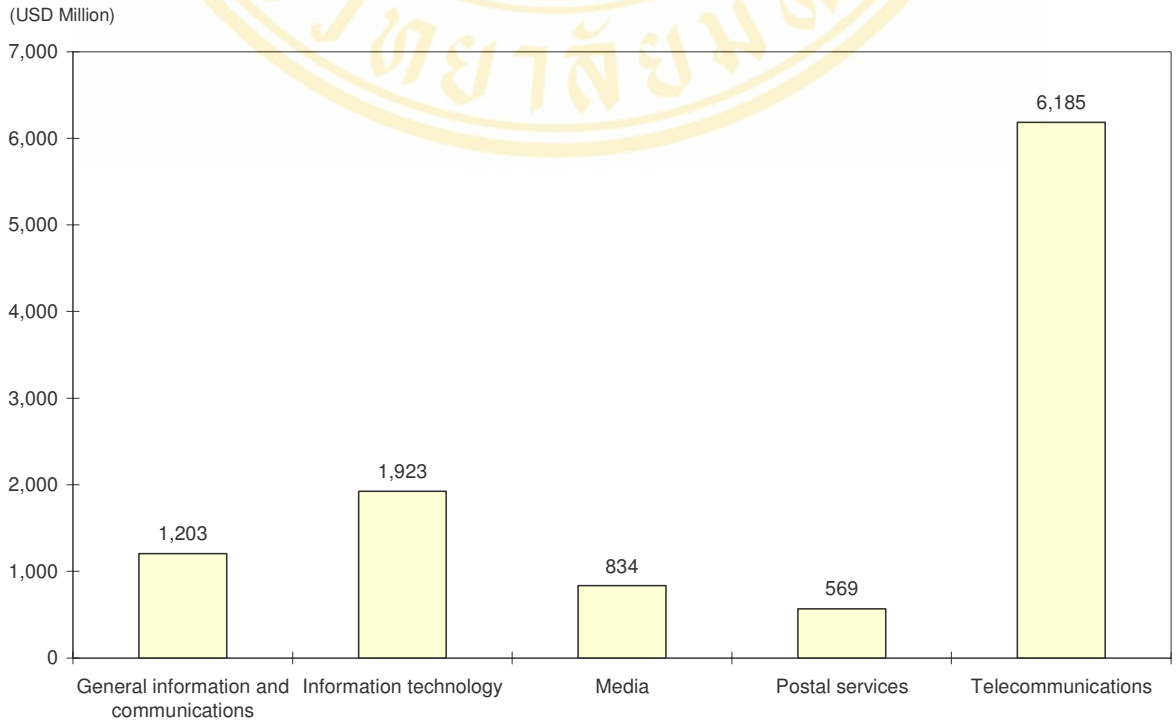
implemented in this decade were for telecommunication of which approved funding amount in total was USD 6,185 million.

Figure 20: WB ICT projects by sector



(Source: WB, Global Information & Communication Technologies. Projects)

Figure 21: WB ICT projects by sector and its funding



(Source: WB, Global Information & Communication Technologies. Projects)

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The graph above highlights the biased funding for telecommunication; this has become a serious problem in terms of self-determination, as stated in the right to development. The pressure by Northern governments and their Transnational Corporations (TNCs) are in particular dominant. After the conclusion of the Uruguay Round talks and the inclusion of services within the WTO, Northern governments stressed to prioritize the liberalization of telecommunications. The country which exerted the most pressure in this point was the US where there had emerged a string of wealthy regional telecom operators as a result of the policies of deregulation in 1980s. As the US market became saturated, these companies began to put pressure on the US government to press for the international liberalization of the telecommunications sector in target countries of the WB. The partial ICT implementation of the WB is a symbol of the US dominance, which is an obstacle to realize the popular participation to development as well as self-determination.

The next is the linkage between all ICT projects implemented between 1996 and 2005 and digital access of which variables are infrastructure, affordability, knowledge, quality, and usage. As below, 50% of ICT projects are implemented in low digital access as well as low income[8] countries.

The graph below shows to some extent that attention to the need of marginalized groups is paid to ensure access to information, which can link to equal sharing benefits of technology and self-determination of economic development. On one hand, among the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, the projects were done in countries with upper access (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovak Republic) and high access (Iceland).

[8] UN, 2005. “Measuring ICT”. Economies are divided into groups according to the following intervals: low income, USD 765 or less; lower middle income, USD 766 to USD 3,035; upper middle income, USD 3,036 to USD 9,385: and high income, USD 9,386 and above. Purchasing power parties are used.

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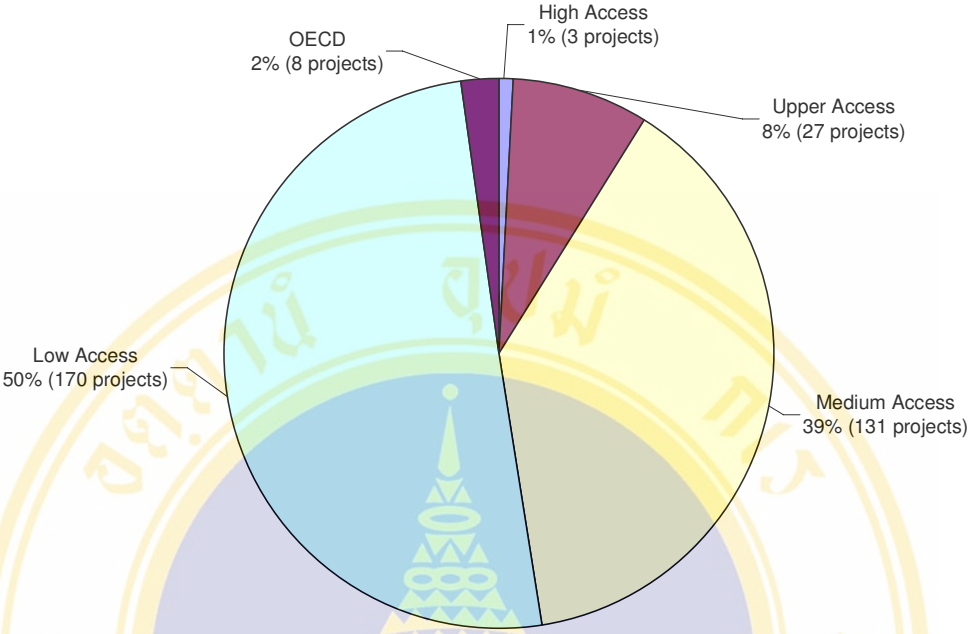
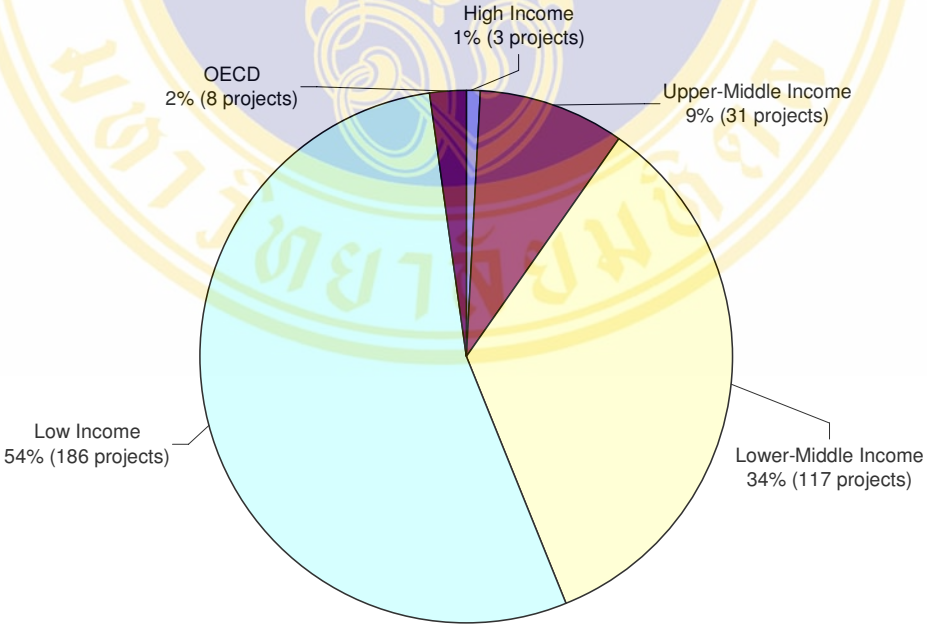
Figure 22: WB ICT projects and Digital access in target countries



(Source: WB, Global Information & Communication Technologies. Projects, UN, Measuring ICT)

Figures 23: WB ICT projects and Income in target countries



(Source: WB, Global Information & Communication Technologies. Projects, UN, Measuring ICT)

In conclusion, it is not difficult to appreciate why the WB-led ICT policies are bound to result in an impairment of the right to development. Although the WB, through the ICT implementation, aims to create favorable conditions to enjoy human

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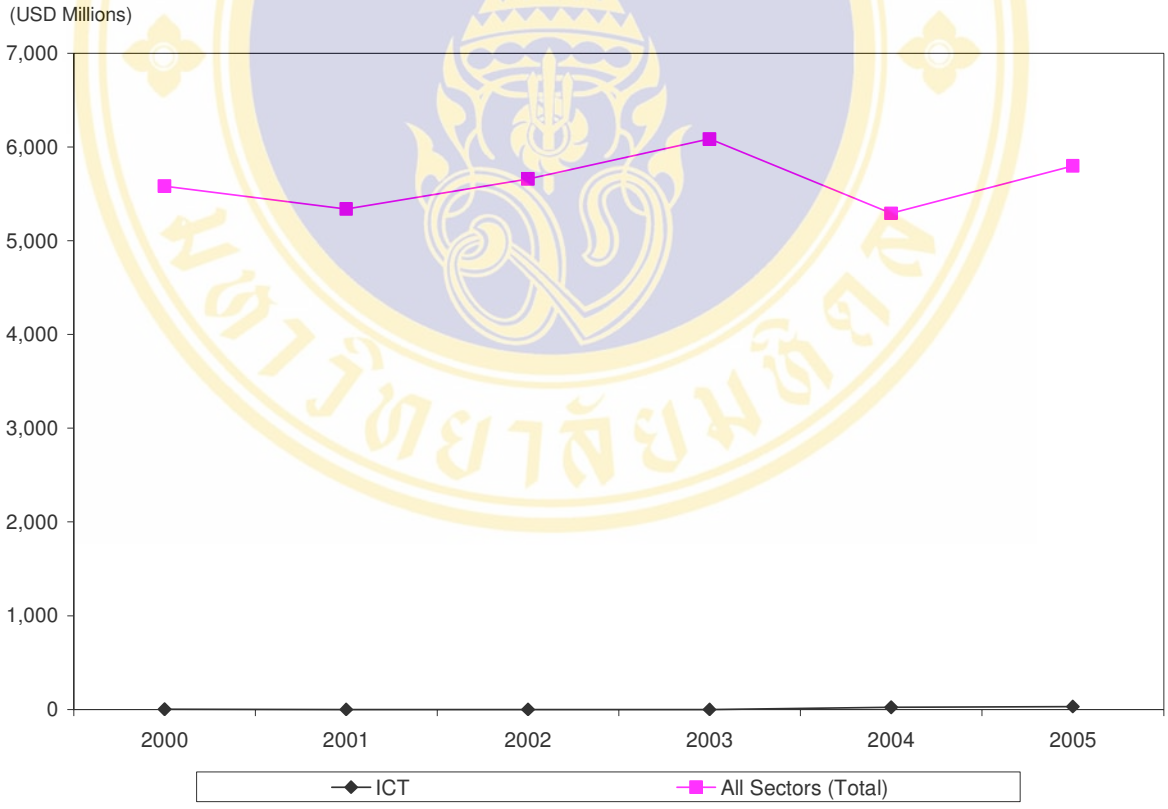
rights for countries with low digital access or low income, the total funding amount for telecommunication projects is so huge that the self-determination and popular participation to development are less likely to be achieved.

3.2.2. No preference for ICT by ADB

The mission of the ADB is to help its developing member countries reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of their citizens. This is a goal of the ADB which can totally match the principle of human rights. In accordance with the WB and the IDB, the priority to ICT is low, judging from the financing trend in comparison with other sectors.

Figure 24: ADB Funding trend compared with all sector



(Source: ADB, Project Summaries)

The ICT policy of the ADB refers to the importance of supporting ICT to promote development and close the gap between the information-haves and have-nots. It emphasizes the development of innovative sector policies; the strengthening of

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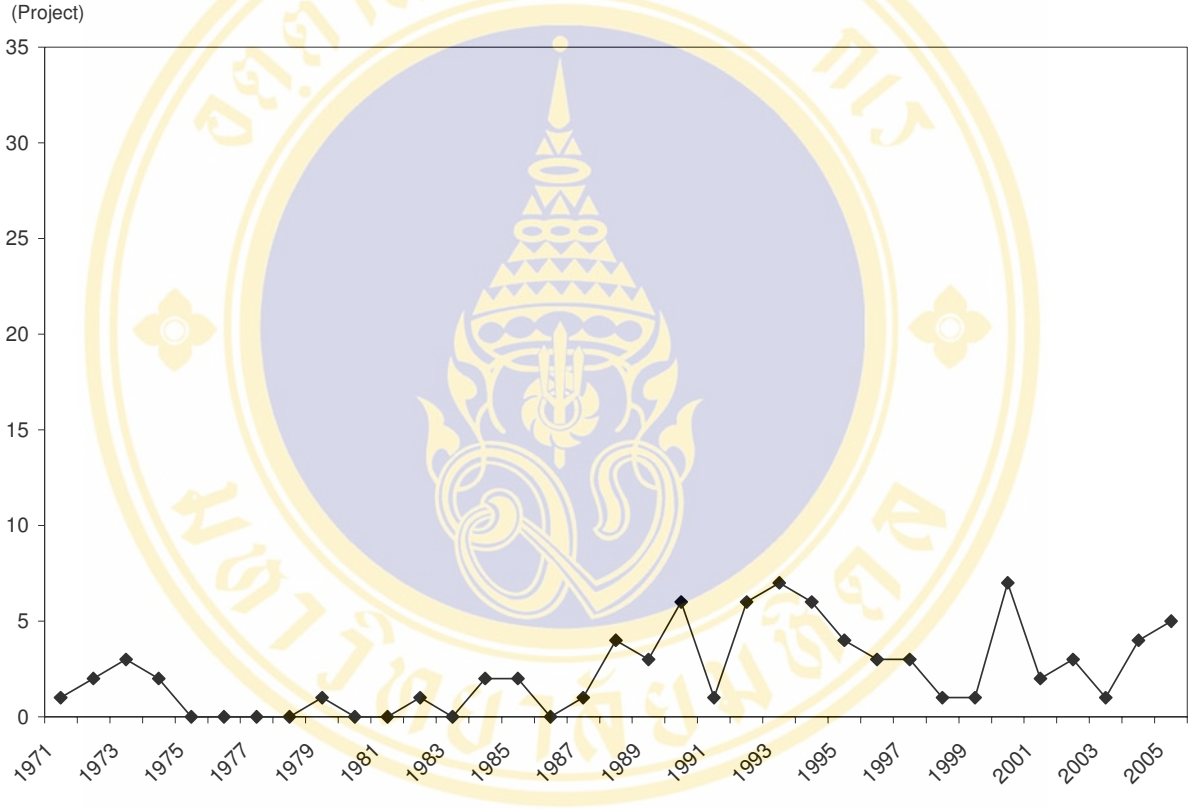
public institutions; the development of ICT facilities, related infrastructure and networks; building human resources to improve knowledge and skills; promoting ICT-literacy and lifelong learning of citizens through E-learning and awareness programs; and, the development of ICT applications and information content for the ADB-supported projects and activities, for example, poverty reduction and good governance.

Figure 25: ADB ICT projects by years



(Source: ADB, Project Summaries)

Even though the usage of internet has grown since the early 1990s, the number of projects has not particularly changed. Besides, only 47% of members in region have had ICT projects since the beginning. In other words, it is far from aiming equality of opportunities through the ICT implementation of the ADB.

As to the recent funding trend, the East Asian financial crisis in Thailand in 1997 changed the funding of the ADB for ICT, concerning affected currencies, stock markets, and other asset prices in several Asian countries. In the former decade, the average funding amount for ICT projects per year was USD 137.3 million. As for

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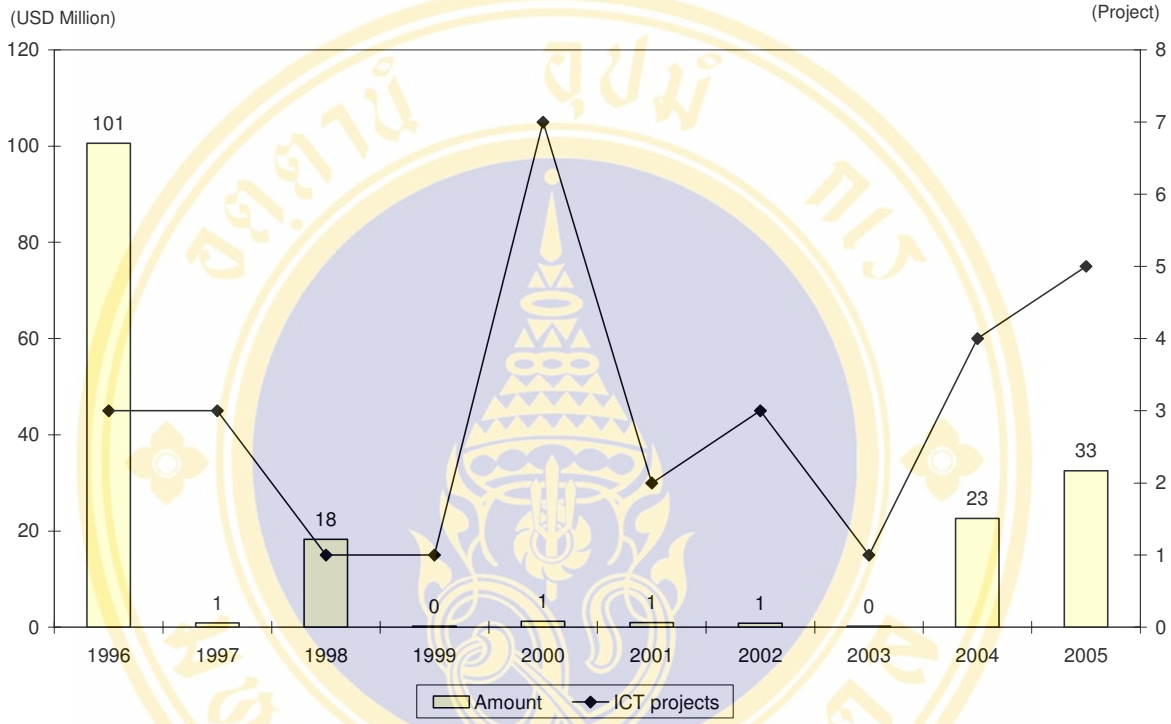
2000, which had 7 projects a year, the funding amount of projects was USD 0.1, 0.6, 0.1, 0.2, 0.1, 0.2, and 0.2 million respectively. Since the ADB adopted ICT policy in 2003, the trend shows that the funding amount is increasing.

Figure 26: ADB Funding trend for ICT projects



(Source: ADB, Project Summaries)

Looking at all ICT projects implemented between 1996 and 2005, 78% of the projects are done in medium access countries; 20% in low access countries; and, 2% in high access countries. On one hand, there are no projects implemented in upper access countries.

Nearly 50% of the projects are implemented in low income countries, which could foster the participation of citizens and citizen organizations in the processes of development. In addition, increasing the access of low income citizens can let them ensure the environments of enjoyment to human rights.

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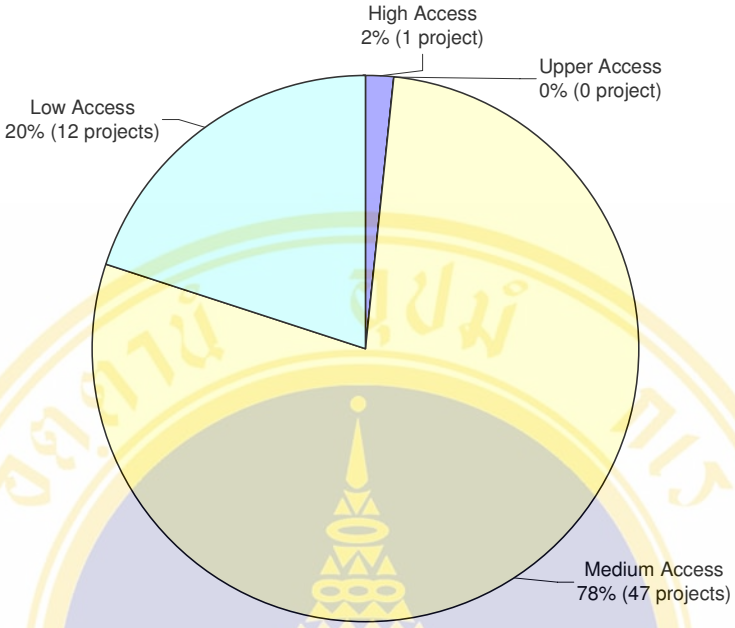
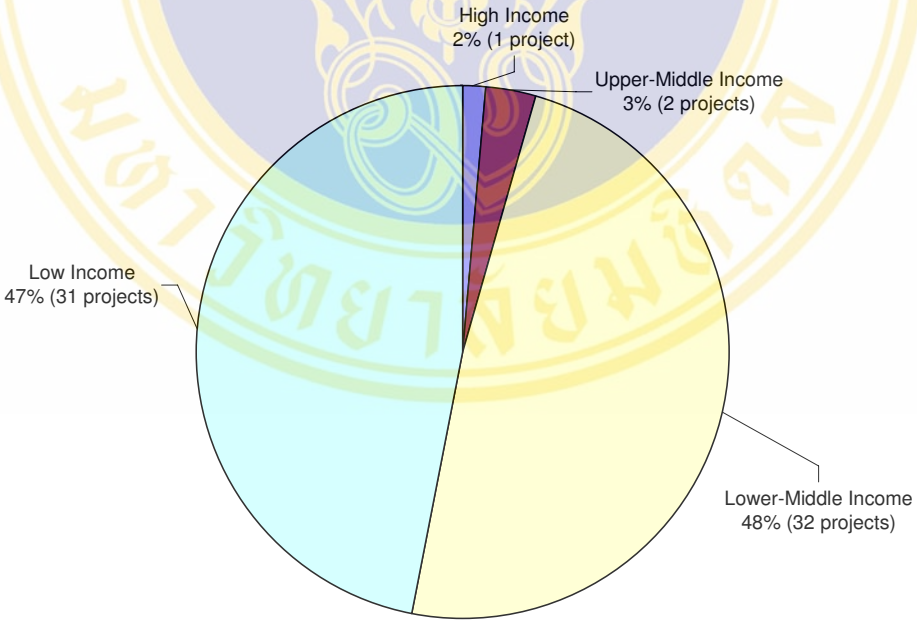
Figure 27: ADB ICT projects and Digital access in target countries



(Source: ADB, Project Summaries. UN, Measuring ICT)

Figure 28: ADB ICT projects and Income in target countries



(Source: ADB, Project Summaries. UN, Measuring ICT)

The ADB highlights ICT which they believe can enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, and transparency of the public sector, including the delivery of social services. In conclusion, however, low attention to ICT by the ADB cannot explain the incorporation of the right to development. Without highlighting the positive aspects of ICT, the creation of favorable conditions among people through the ICT

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implementation of the ADB for the enjoyment of other civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights is far from the realization on the ground.

3.3. ICT policy of IDB in human rights context

The main impact of ICT from a human rights perspective relates to development. Indeed, human rights associated with ICT have often been viewed as one of the primary indicators of democracies (such as freedom of expressions or right to communication), against the background of some broader criteria like individual civil rights, stability, and free elections with opposition parties.

Thus, the LAC countries need to strengthen the public sphere by expanding the information resources, channels of electronic communication, and the networking capacity for many organized interest groups, social movements, NGOs, transnational policy networks, and political parties with the technical know-how and organizational flexibility to adapt to the new medium. But because of the poverty or political instability, the LAC countries need some support from international society, especially its regional development bank: the IDB. Then, one question is raised:

Is the ICT policy of the IDB compliant with the right to development?

The extent to which ICT has been used to empower human rights in the LAC countries must not be underestimated. Accordingly, to examine the role of the IDB with ICT policy from the outcomes must be vital to the shaping, structuring or framing of ICT application in the LAC countries.

3.3.1. Low priority, but impartial at a macro level

The policies and strategies of the IDB govern how it conducts the business. Some of these documents are related to the operations of the IDB directly in specific sectors, or topical areas. These policies guide the IDB staff in the criteria that must be applied to project design and the implementation in ICT. Sector strategies provide a broad framework for the activities of the IDB in ICT sector. Along with implications for the institution's budget, lending, and advisory work, priorities are identified on the ground of actions by the IDB.

Indeed, the IDB believes that ICT is a tool for sustainable economic growth and social development for poverty reduction. More precisely, objectives of the ICT

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policy of the IDB refer to increase: 1) opportunities for human capital formation and for lifelong learning; 2) the access for low income individuals to information; 3) the coverage of social services to more localities and more people; and, 4) the participation of citizens and citizen organizations in the processes of democratic regimes. These can match the concept of the right to development as human capacity building through ICT contributes to empowering basic human needs, especially education.

Among those which can be identified from this research is the low priority for ICT by the IDB, showing that the funding trend in ICT sector has been unchanged, whereas all sectors in total has the increasing trend. Insufficient or impartial funding may link to negative ICT impacts, especially in terms of inequality. For example, the outcomes of the ICT policy like educating certain groups only can be main drivers of human rights violations such as digital divide which consist of a gap between information-haves and have-nots. In this sense, the key point is how the IDB can tackle the free and meaningful participation of vulnerable groups, including indigenous peoples, who are likely to be affected by mega projects. The IDB emphasizes that ICT offers opportunities for global integration, but never refer to the identity of traditional societies at the policy level as well as the outcomes. As a result, development objectives and policies, as conceived by national-level officials and processes, have not always been consistent with the views, wishes and interests of people in community including indigenous peoples.

In short, low priority to ICT may affect the principle of the right to development, in particular the creation of favorable conditions to enjoy other civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Freedom of information requires availability and affordability, but equality of opportunities in this sense is less likely to be provided through the ICT implementation with low priority.

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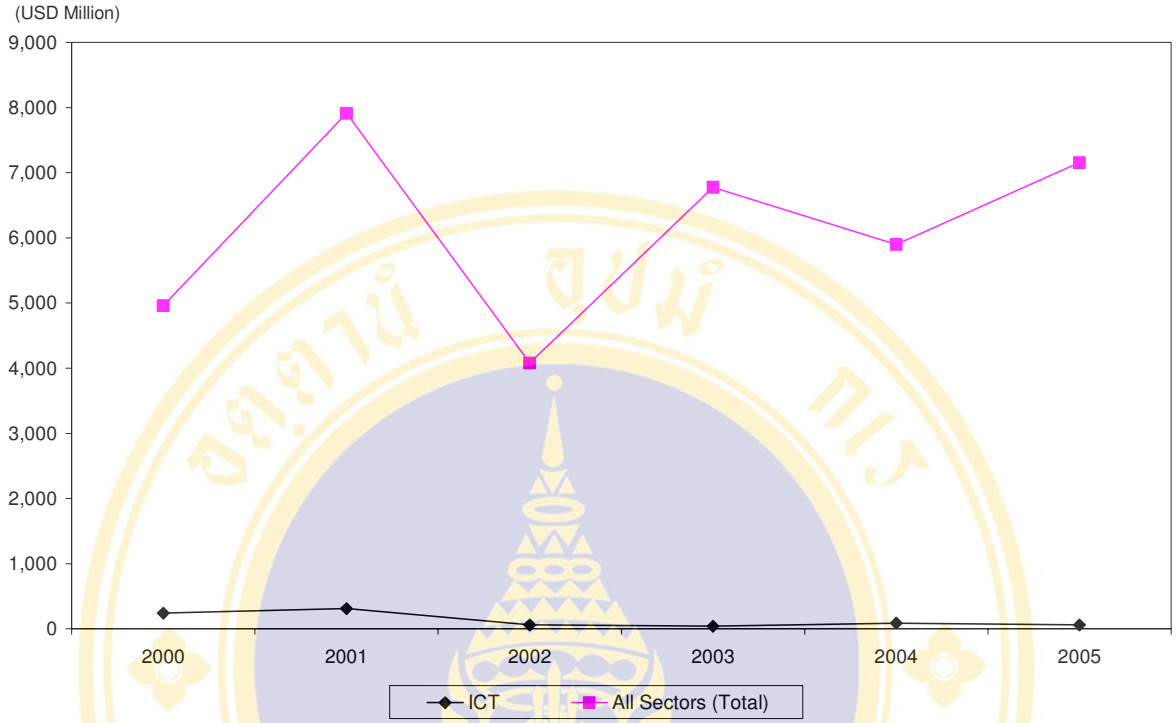
Figure 29: IDB Funding trend compared with all sectors



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway)

However, it should be noted that there is a dilemma about the low priority of ICT by the IDB in terms of funding from a human rights perspective. In a sense, low priority can be considered as one positive aspect. There are some factors in the ICT implementation by the IDB which can explain this view.

The first is that 97% of projects are funded via loans. As the IDB is a "bank", it is necessary to repay these loans. Like all debt instruments, a loan entails the redistribution of financial assets over time, between the IDB and the borrowing member countries. Only 3% is via grants which are given to governments or organizations without an obligation of repayment. In comparison with loans, grants are very small. Furthermore, one feature which can be identified is that the amount of loans has a trend of increasing.

When it comes to the number of ICT projects, it is in general an increasing trend whereas the amount of funding is the opposite. ICT projects have been implemented by the IDB for 40 years since 1966. Even though the IDB had 1.5

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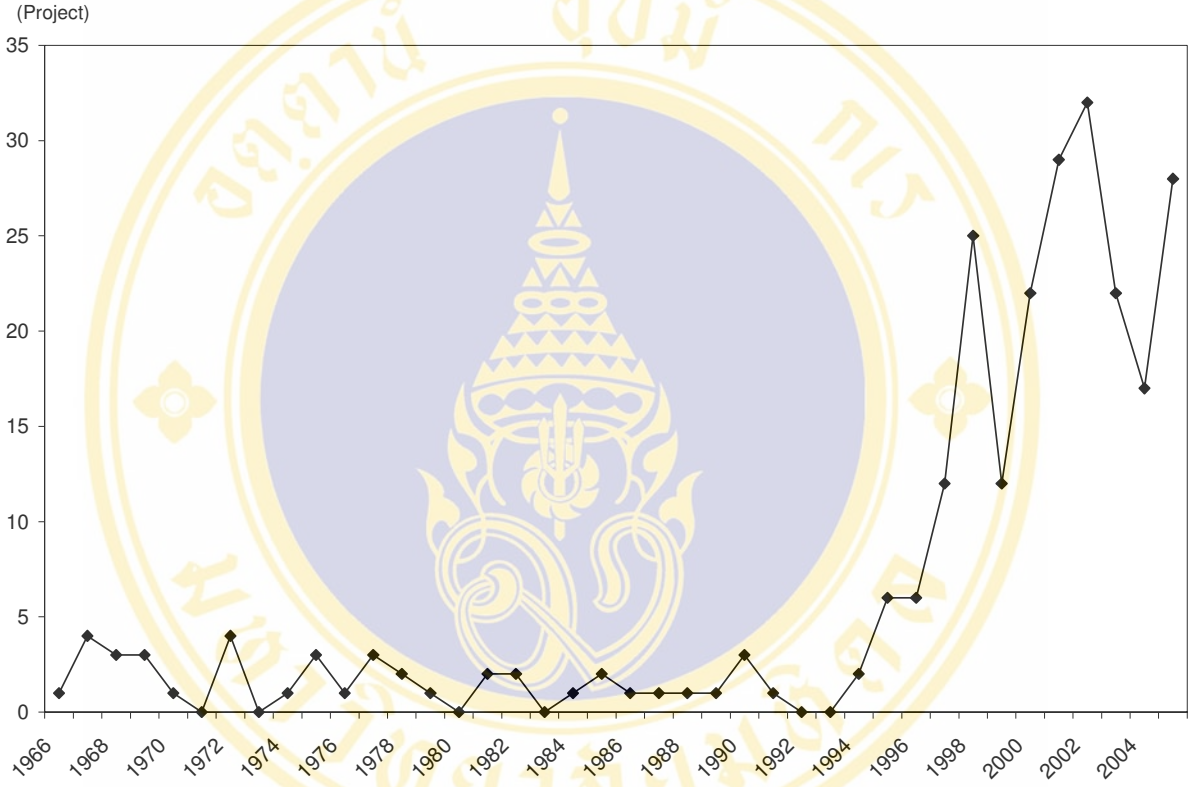
projects in average every year until 1994, the trend has changed since 1995 and the average is 19.2 projects every year. It is apparent that the main cause of this change is the spread of internet use. It is true that the IDB has been quick in responding to the mainstreaming of ICT that has occurred throughout the world.

Figure 30: IDB ICT projects by years



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway)

The peak of amount funded for ICT projects was in 2001. On the other hand, the funding amount for ICT projects dropped drastically in 2002. One possible reason to be identified is that Argentina's financial crisis happened in the same year. In fact, Argentina has defaulted on a debt repayment to the IDB, as the currency has lost more than 70% of its value[9]. Due to this, the funding amount per project was seemingly held down. The biggest funding amount for one project in 2002 was USD 40 million whereas the highest funding amount per project in the decade was USD 300 million in 2001.

9 Hausmann, 2002.

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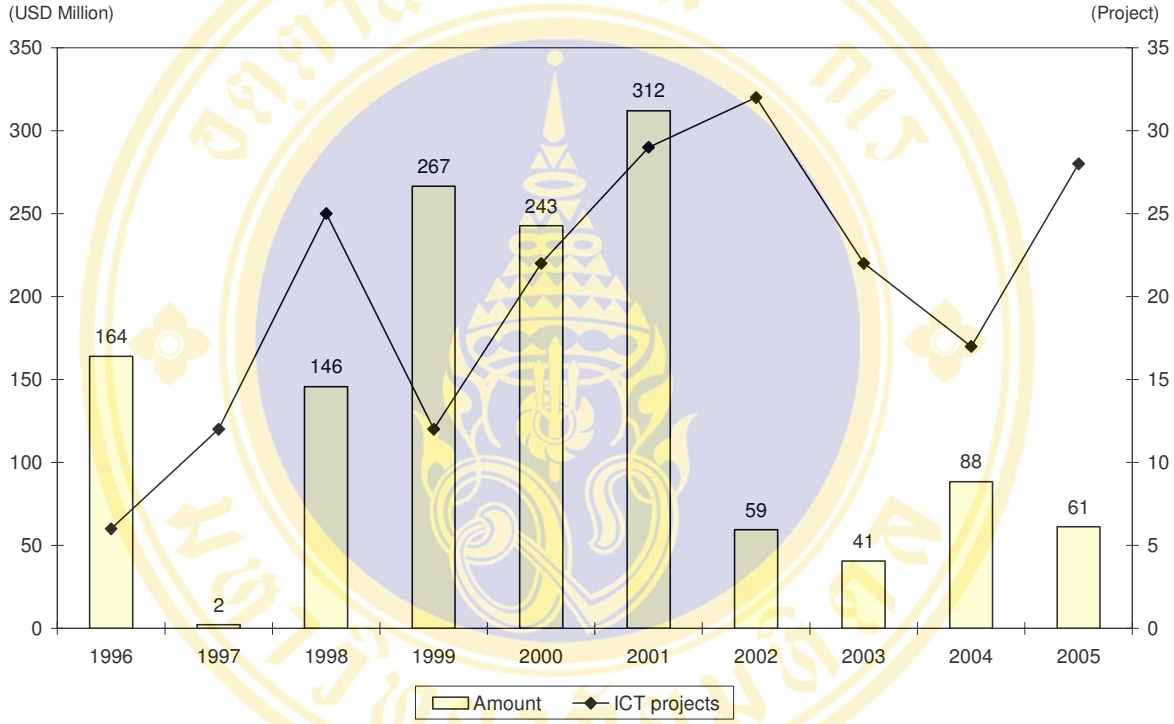
Arguable is the quality of ICT projects. Even if the funding amount is small, it is not clear whether or not the ICT implementation can ensure equality of opportunities or people's participation in development. It is not appropriate to judge these aspects from the number of projects as well as the funding at a macro level as this depends on the content of the ICT projects supported.

Figure 31: IDB Funding trend for ICT projects



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway)

As to the content of the ICT projects, the priority of the IDB in terms of sector in ICT is not given to telecommunications like the WB of which funding for telecommunication has become a serious problem. It is true that telecommunications is a sector of the world economy in which the developed countries are dominant. The pressures exerted on economic giants in Northern governments and the TNCs are clearly decisive. In this sense, the impartial ICT implementation of the IDB is in accordance with human rights in terms of equality of opportunities. In more details, the focus of the IDB is given to the content of "Information Technology & Communications", of which projects refer to, for example, "Information and Communication Technology Services for Rural Areas in Nicaragua" and "ICT

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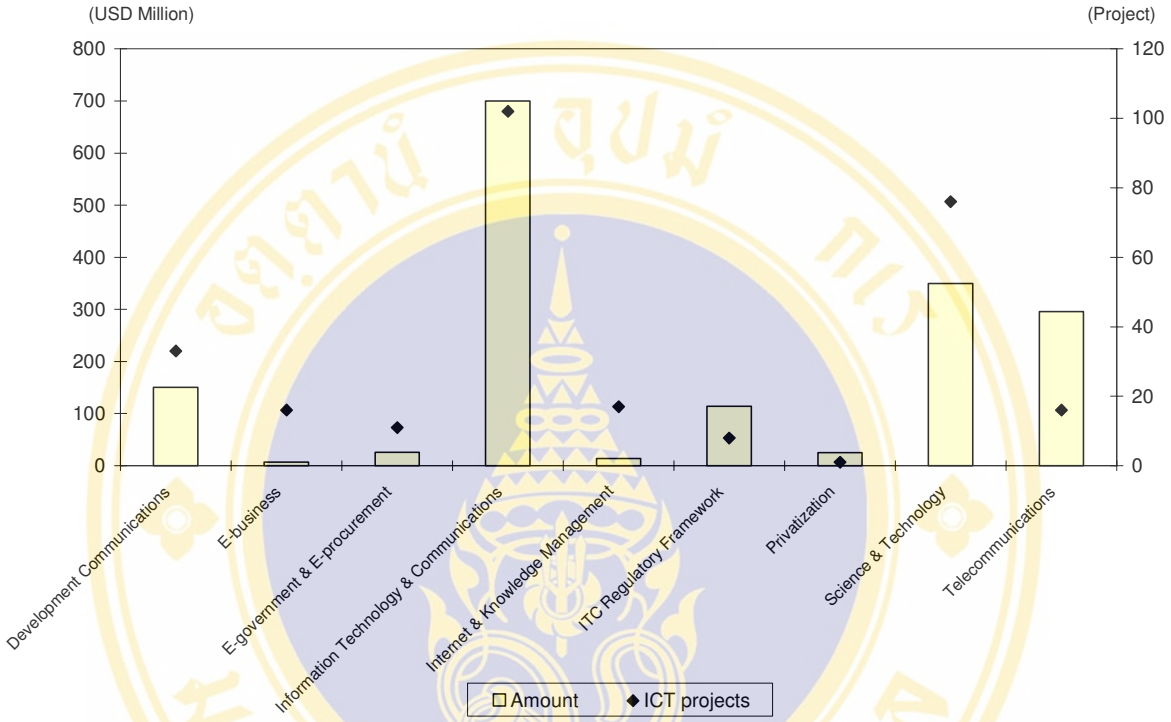
Training for Women Entrepreneurs in Costa Rica". These contents can associate with the principle of the right to development in a broad meaning.

Figure 32: IDB ICT projects by sector and its funding



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway)

Another aspect relevant to the right to development can be identified on the ground that the amount of funding for the ICT projects is proportional with digital access and income level of target countries. To assess the digital access level in each country, the ITU study has gone beyond its traditional focus on telecommunication infrastructure, such as mobile phones and fixed telephone lines, to measure the overall ability of individuals to access and use ICT, namely right to information. The index is called Digital Access Index[10] which measures "the overall ability of individuals in a country to access and use ICT. It consists of eight variables organized into five categories such as infrastructure, affordability, knowledge, quality, and usage, all of which directly relate to human rights. Limited infrastructure has often been regarded as the main barrier to bridging the digital divide, but from a view of the right to

10 ITU, World's First Global ICT Ranking.

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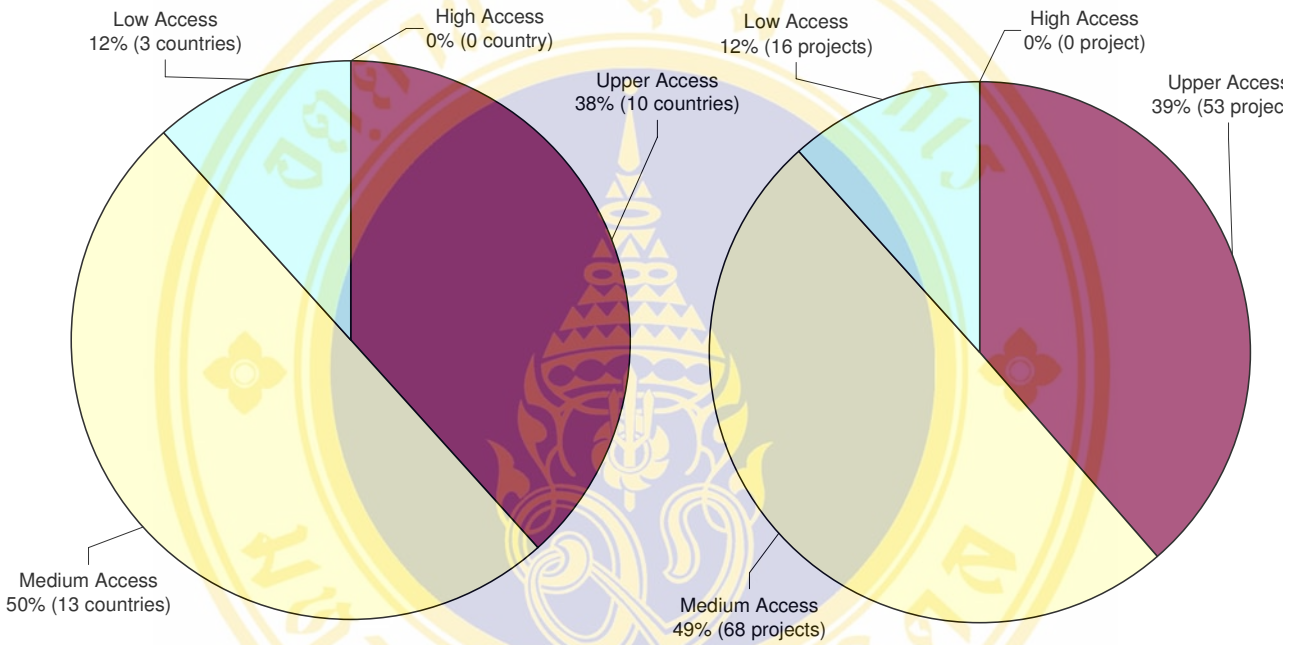
development, affordability and education are equally important factors in particular for creating the appropriate condition to enjoy human rights.

The next graph shows the linkage between all ICT projects implemented between 1996 and 2005 from a view of digital access.

Figure 33: IDB ICT projects and Digital access in target countries



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway. UN, Measuring ICT)

12% of ICT projects implemented by the IDB are for low access countries. Actually, 12% of the LAC countries are low digital access countries. This trend indicates that the right to development is respected to some extent judging from the outcomes of the ICT policy, although some more considerations would be expected to low access countries. At least it is explainable that the IDB attempts to ensure equal access to information at an international level.

The next graph above explains how the IDB considers income level of target countries in implementing ICT projects. This attention to low income countries is to ensure the right to access to information for equal sharing benefits of technology and accordingly, it can link to self-determination of economic development. Considering that the most promoted sector in ICT is information technologies and communications,

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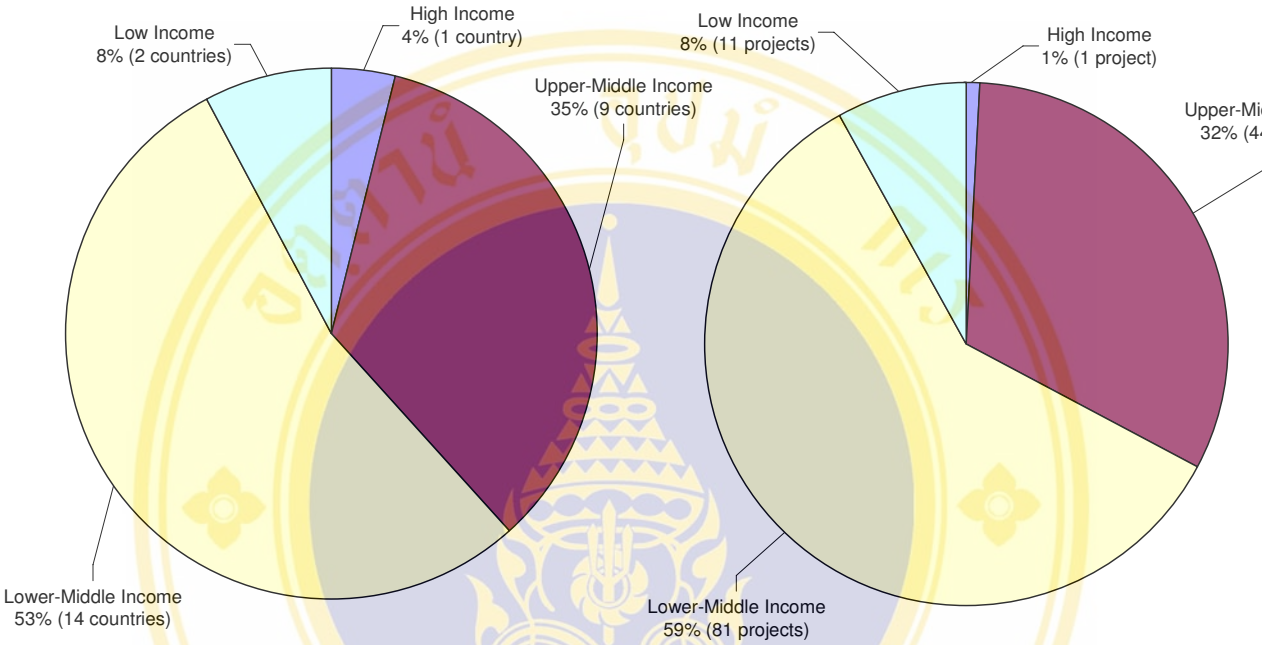
it is possible to appreciate that the IDB is compliant with the right to development, especially in terms of equality of opportunities by access to low income citizens.

Figures 34: IDB ICT projects and Income in target countries



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway. UN, Measuring ICT)

3.3.2. Widening digital gap at a micro level

According to @LIS, the Latin America is called “the region which has the fastest rate of ICT adoption in the world”. Unfortunately, the ICT implementation by the IDB does not match this trend. There are some factors in the ICT implementation by the IDB which can support this view, regarding the gap among the LAC countries where the ICT projects have been implemented.

It is true that all 26 borrowing member countries have at least 1 project implemented in the last 10 years, meaning that the IDB has paid attention to ICT in all target countries. Besides, this is different from the ADB, where only 47% of members in region have had ICT projects in the same decade. As for the number of projects per country, Brazil had the most projects (13 projects), whereas Bahamas, Barbados and Costa Rica had 1 project. The average per country is 5.3 projects.

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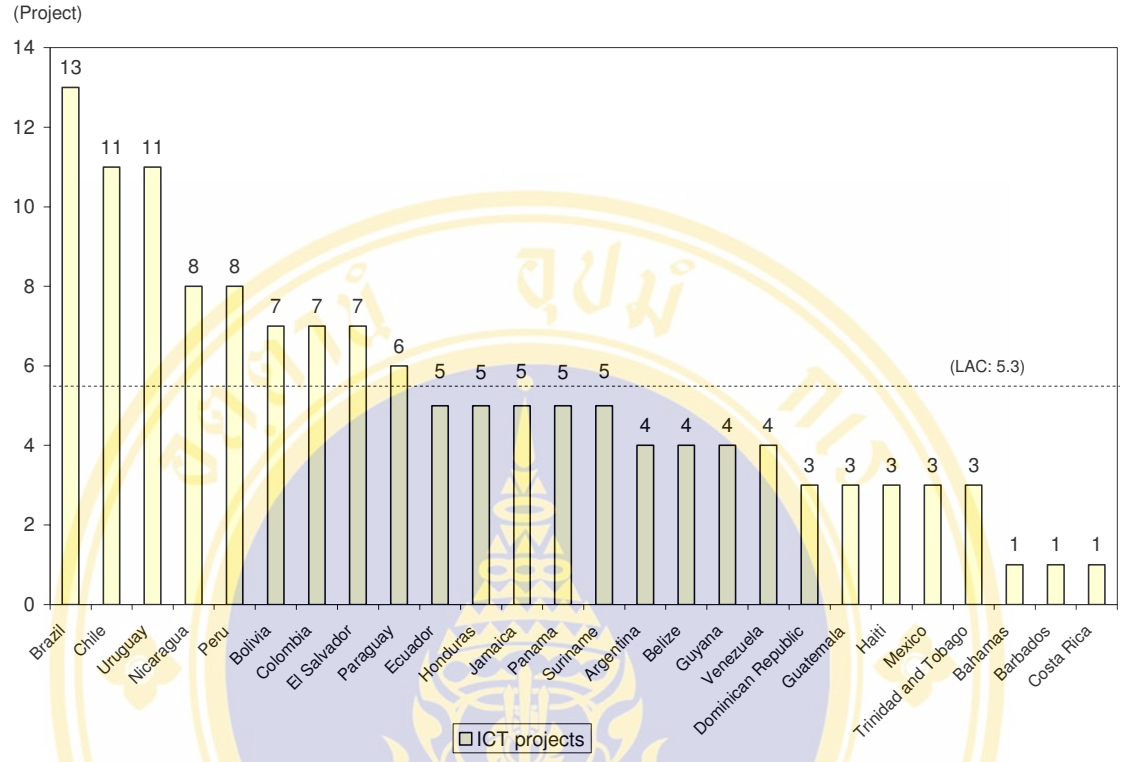
Figure 35: IDB ICT projects in LAC



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway)

When it comes to the funding trend for ICT projects in a decade, Mexico received the most financing (USD 301 million) whereas Barbados received USD 0.03 million. The gap in terms of funding amount between Mexico and Barbados is more than 10,000 times.

On the other hand, the funding amount for ICT projects per capita shows critically negative impact on people in the LAC countries. Chile received the most per capita (USD 15.14), whereas Haiti received the lowest (USD 0.01), and Nicaragua the second lowest (USD 0.03). The gap in terms of funding amount between Chile and Haiti is more than 1,500 times. If efforts by the IDB to bring ICT to the LAC countries could be tempered with a corresponding desire to address development issues, it would be a short-cut to narrow the digital gap. But in reality, the gap of the funding of the IDB per capita in the LAC countries may create the digital divide at an individual level.

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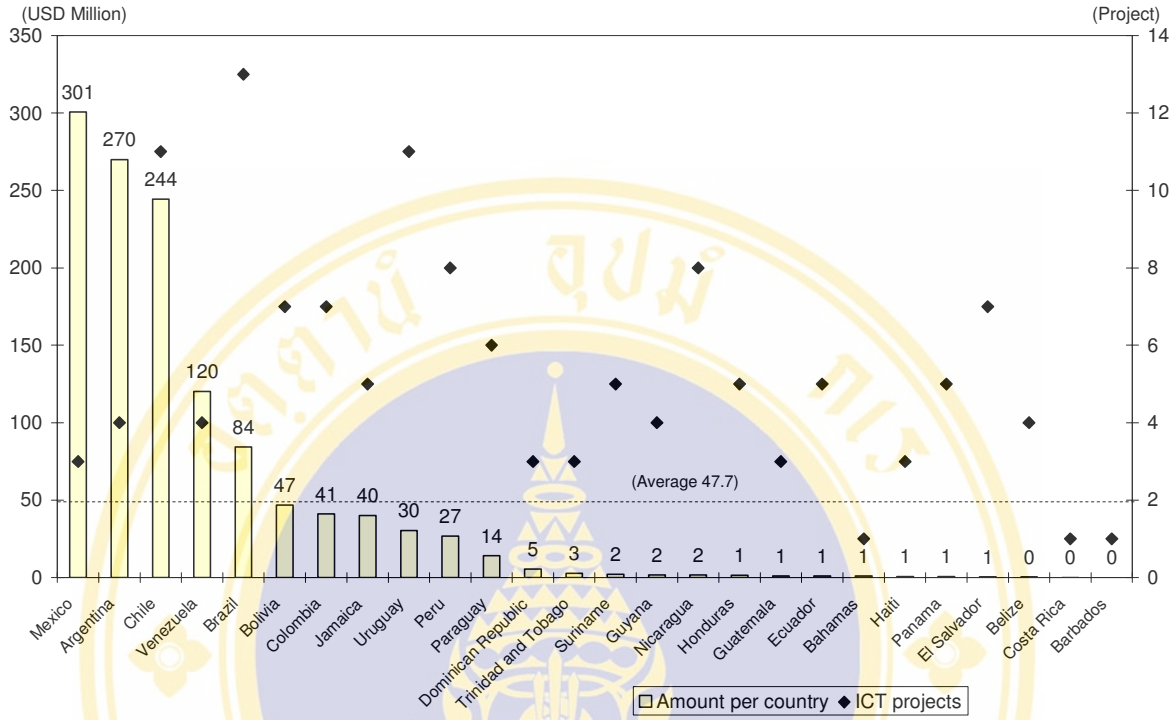
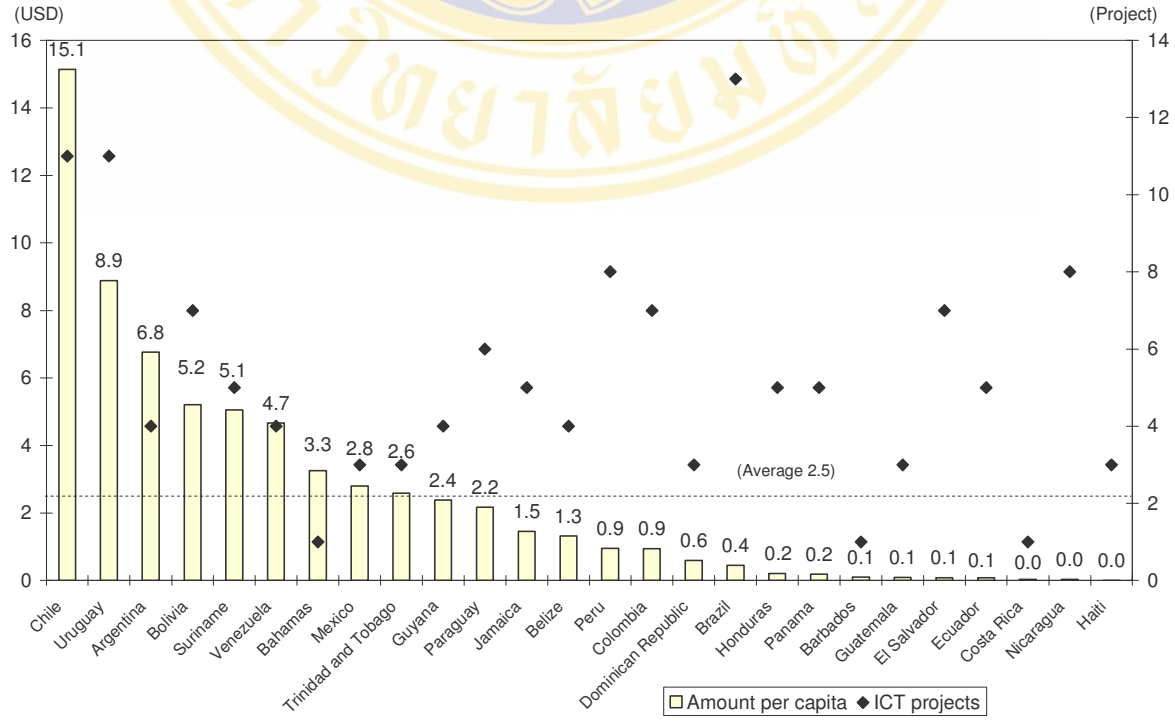
Figure 36: IDB ICT projects and funding per country for ICT projects in LAC



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway)

Figure 37: IDB ICT projects and funding in LAC



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway)

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Lending policies of the IDB are supposed to “increase the access for low income individuals to information capable of empowering them with new avenues for better lives and improved welfare; increase the coverage of social services to more localities and more people; make governments more efficient, accountable, and transparent; increase the participation of citizens and citizen organizations in the processes of democratic regimes”.

However, the top three countries in terms of funding per capita are all in the category of upper digital access as well as upper middle income. As the UNDP explained, the successful implementation as the outcomes of the ICT policy depends on the ability of countries to progressively and systematically mainstream human rights concerns into national legislation and governance programs, and bases them on human development goals. From the point of the right to development which implies the full realization of the right of peoples to self-determination including the exercise of their inalienable right to full sovereignty over all their natural wealth and resources, it is clear that, more than ever, the funding of the IDB is blind to the gap among the digitally most vulnerable people in the LAC countries. This indicates limited participation in development among these vulnerable people. It should be noted that the question is whether the ICT implementation by the IDB can support the right to development of which beneficiaries are individuals, peoples, and groups in the LAC countries. Obviously it is not possible for such countries as Haiti and Nicaragua to enjoy the right to development through the intervention of the IDB with ICT as well as to escape from the blight of underdevelopment. The only alternative way for people in these countries is to opt for the path of independent self-sustained development based on the state’s leading role. It is somewhat obviously impossible based on the lack of state’s capacity. In short, it is predictable that the gap of the funding amount per capita in funding practically remains, as the IDB through the ICT implementation is not elastic at a micro level judging from the fact that the funding per capita for ICT projects has no linkage with the number of the ICT projects of the IDB. This trend will result in least achievement of the right to development.

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3.3.3. Needs for participatory monitoring and evaluation system

The IDB is a decision-making body which can create or revise ICT policy. And the policy has been monitored by the "Office of Evaluation and Oversight", one of the internal section of the IDB, to evaluate on a periodic basis to determine their relevance and effectiveness.

The reason of monitoring the ICT implementation should be to secure civil liberties, which include the right to development and its relevant human rights such as freedom of expression. The right to development relevant to monitoring is evaluation of how the elements of human rights associate with the development process. Without proper monitoring, people's community life in the LAC countries may be threatened by governance.

On one hand, status of the member countries of the IDB for international human rights treaties and declarations may affect the ICT implementation of the IDB. The principles of these human rights treaties contain equality, equity, accountability, empowerment, non-discrimination and participation, which relates to the right to development. The following list shows status of the ratification of international human rights treaties relevant to ICT, of which most of the target countries of the IDB have been as a state of parties in these major human rights conventions. Regarding these aspects, the IDB needs to consider the interdependence of the various sets of rights in its collaboration with the human rights treaty bodies on the realization of the right to development.

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Table 3: Ratification of ICT related human rights treaties in LAC[11]

		ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CRC
1	Argentina	Sig/R	Sig/R	Sig/R	Sig/R
2	Bahamas	-	-	A	Sig/R
3	Barbados	A	A	Sig/R	Sig/R
4	Belize	A	Sig	Sig/R	Sig/R
5	Bolivia	A	A	Sig/R	Sig/R
6	Brazil	A	A	Sig/R	Sig/R
7	Chile	Sig/R	Sig/R	Sig/R	Sig/R
8	Colombia	Sig/R	Sig/R	Sig/R	Sig/R
9	Costa Rica	Sig/R	Sig/R	Sig/R	Sig/R
10	Dominican Republic	A	A	Sig/R	Sig/R
11	Ecuador	Sig/R	Sig/R	Sig/R	Sig/R
12	El Salvador	Sig/R	Sig/R	Sig/R	Sig/R
13	Guatemala	A	A	Sig/R	Sig/R
14	Guyana	Sig/R	Sig/R	Sig/R	Sig/R
15	Haiti	A	-	Sig/R	Sig/R
16	Honduras	Sig/R	Sig/R	Sig/R	Sig/R
17	Jamaica	Sig/R	Sig/R	Sig/R	Sig/R
18	Mexico	A	A	Sig/R	Sig/R
19	Nicaragua	A	A	Sig/R	Sig/R
20	Panama	Sig/R	Sig/R	Sig/R	Sig/R
21	Paraguay	A	A	A	Sig/R
22	Peru	Sig/R	Sig/R	Sig/R	Sig/R
23	Suriname	A	A	A	Sig/R
24	Trinidad and Tobago	A	A	Sig/R	Sig/R
25	Uruguay	Sig/R	Sig/R	Sig/R	Sig/R
26	Venezuela	Sig/R	Sig/R	Sig/R	Sig/R
	Party	25	24	26	26
	Percentage	96.1%	92.3%	100%	100%

(Source: OHCHR, International Human Rights Instruments)

11 A: accession, R: ratification, Sig: signature

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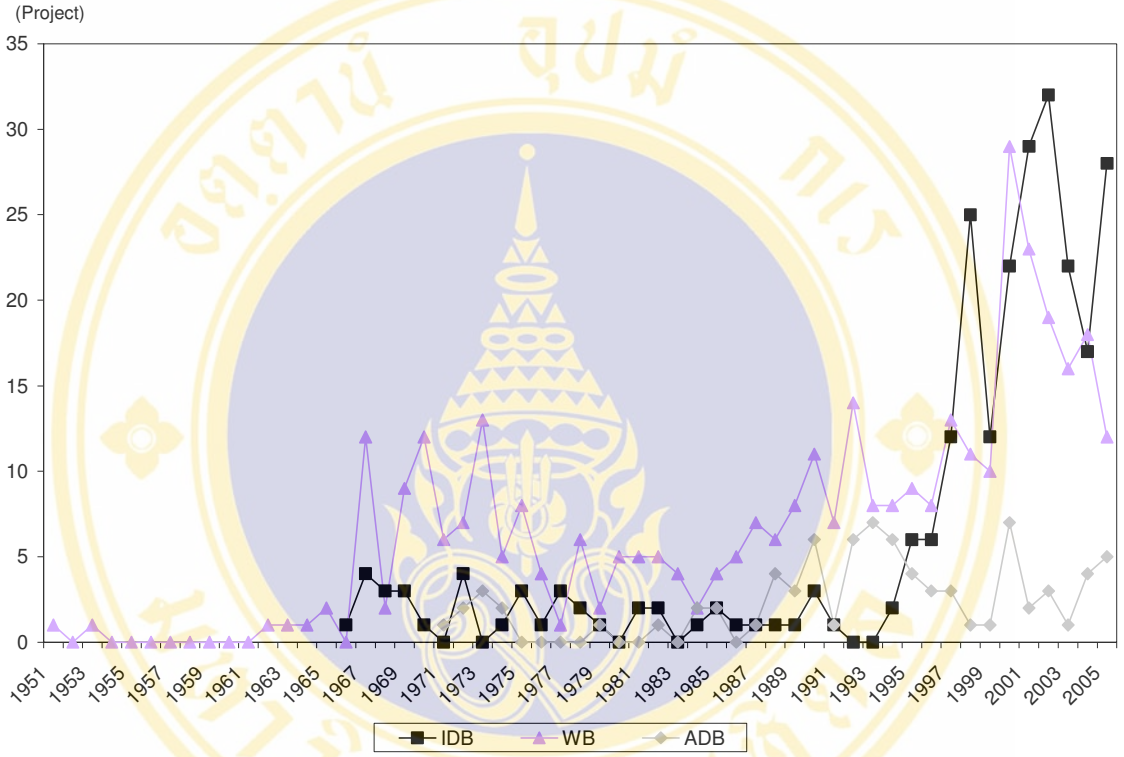
3.3.4. Comparative study explains chemistry with human rights

The comparative study shows the similarity and difference in trend of the ICT implementation of the IDB, identifying how they incorporate the right to development.

Figure 38: IDB ICT projects by years compared with WB and ADB



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway. WB, Global Information & Communication Technologies. Projects. ADB, Project Summaries)

Among the impacts on the right to development is that the number of the ICT projects of the IDB is increasing the most rapidly. The IDB had fewer projects between 1987 and 1994 than the WB and the ADB. Since 1995, the IDB started to implement more projects and as of 2005, the number of projects is more than double and 5 times as many as the WB and the ADB respectively.

On one hand, the response of the ADB to ICT is negative in terms of the number of projects; besides ICT projects have implemented in only 47% of members in region. A not widely applied ICT project reached by the ADB may affect the equality of opportunities. It may also deprive realization of other aspects of the right to development, especially popular participation in development processes and

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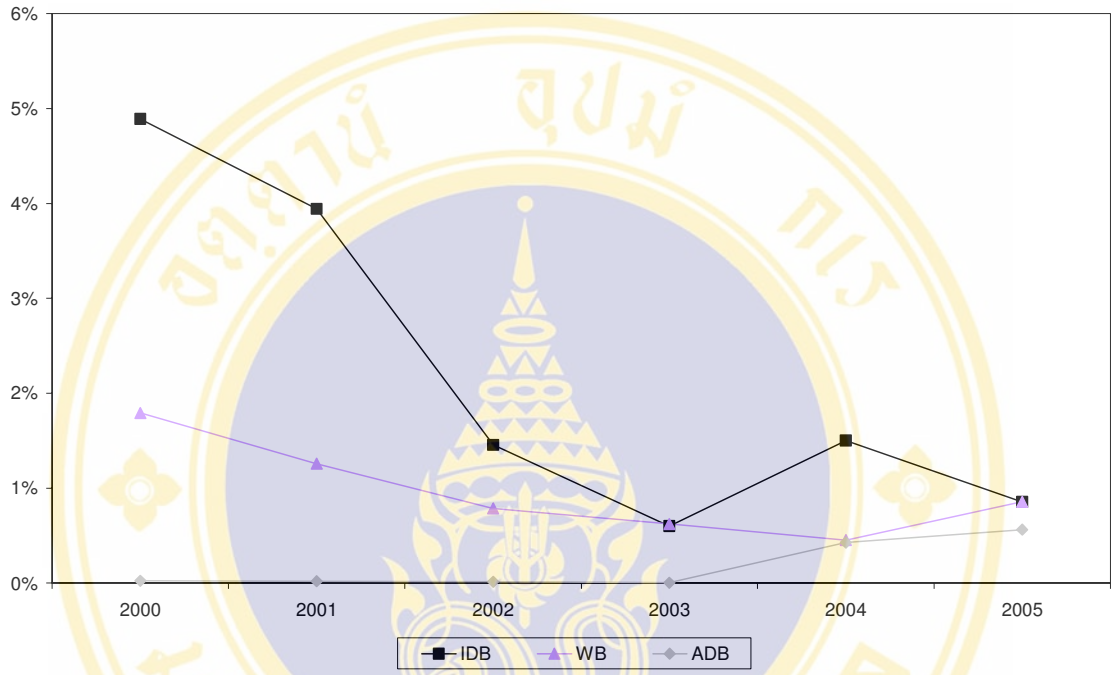
formulation of favorable conditions for the enjoyment of other civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Figure 39: IDB Funding trend compared with all sectors compared with WB and ADB



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway. WB, Global Information & Communication Technologies. Projects. ADB, Project Summaries.)

The funding trend for ICT projects in recent years compared with all sectors shows that the funding of the IDB flows decreased more than that of the WB or the ADB. The common mission of these three banks is to help developing countries reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of their citizens, which can totally match the preference of human rights. However, it should be noted that low priority has been given to the ICT implementation by these three banks, judging from the funding trend in comparison with other sectors as follow. Besides, even ironically, the gap of this ratio became narrow and the percentage among these three banks is almost the same as of 2005, which explains the same extent of priority on ICT among the three banks.

When it comes to the size of funding for ICT projects in the last 10 years, the IDB provided more than the ADB. The gap of funding among the three banks in 2005 was getting bigger compared with that of the year 1996.

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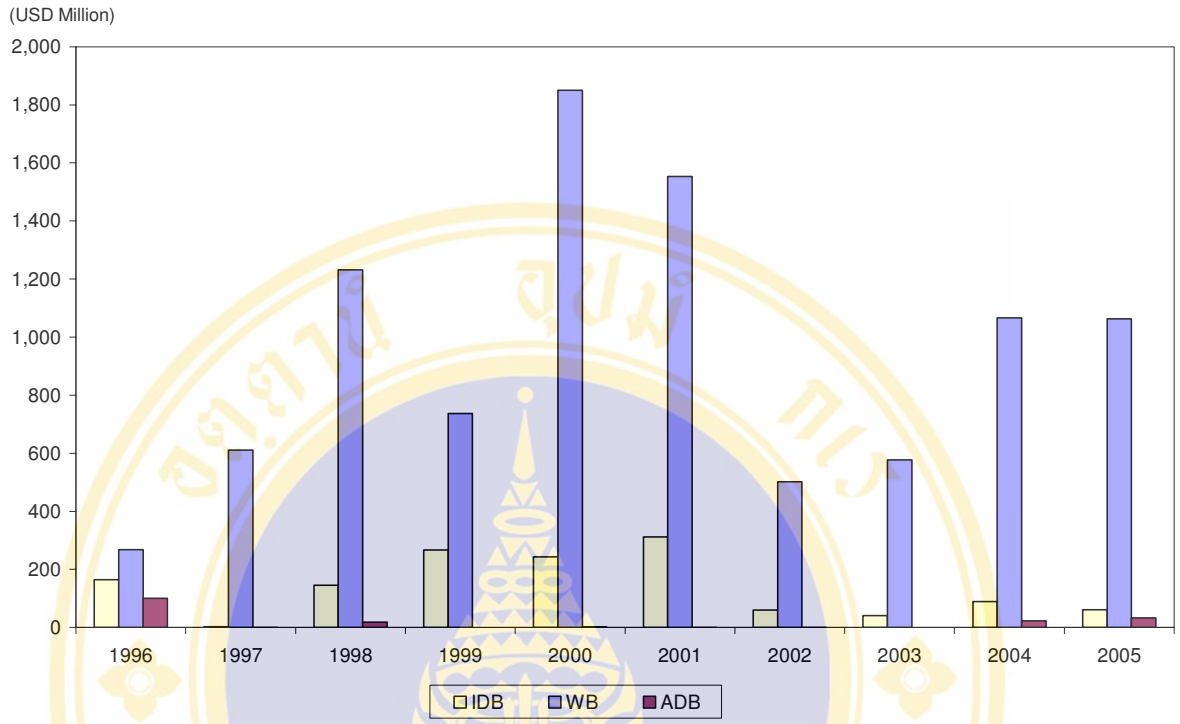
Figure 40: IDB Funding trend for ICT projects compared with WB and ADB



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway. WB, Global Information & Communication Technologies. Projects. ADB, Project Summaries)

Nonetheless, the following explains that 19% and 28% of ICT projects by the WB are implemented in the member countries of the IDB and the ADB respectively. It implies that nearly 50% of all ICT projects by the WB are implemented in member countries of these two regional development banks, even though the size of funding of the WB projects is much bigger. In this regard, the question is in terms of competition and compatibility among these three banks, with a debate whether the efficiency dictates consolidation in the WB rather than transferring its regional responsibility to the ADB and the IDB (Lincoln, 2002). Anyway, this overlap cannot be ignored to assess whether or not the WB and the ADB generally incorporate with the right to development through the ICT implementation.

Ironically, it might be possible to discuss whether or not the IDB and the WB intentionally differentiate their jobs in implementing ICT projects according to ICT sector. It means the focus of the IDB on information technologies and communications including issues relevant to the right to development such as education, rather than telecommunications is due to the overlap with the WB. In actual terms, as figure 44 explains, the average of the funding per capita for ICT projects by the IDB is lower in

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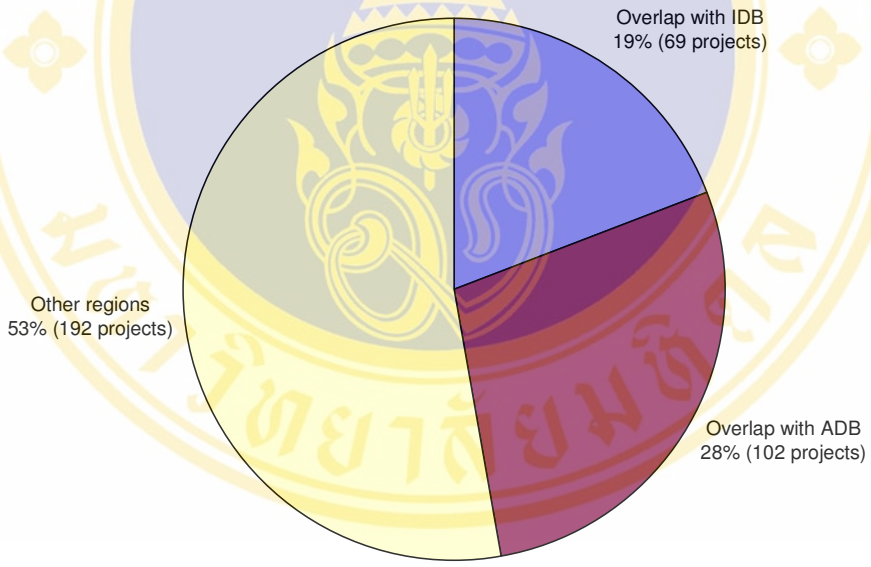
countries where the WB overlaps. If this hypothesis were true, the focal point of the IDB would depend on the discussion between the IDB and the WB.

Arguably, interesting is the recommendation in the Meltzer Report (2000) which says "slimming down the WB into a World Developing Authority managing grant aid and devolving its loan programs to regional development banks". Furthermore, there is a criticism which says that the IDB is the cause of the increase of the external and internal debt of poor countries, loss of sovereignty of governments and people, and violation of human rights and the destruction of the environment[12].

Anyway, the question as well as the challenge is how the IDB can distinguish its ICT implementation from that of the WB.

Figure 41: WB Overlap of ICT projects with ADB and IDB



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway. WB, Global Information & Communication Technologies. Projects. ADB, Project Summaries)

12 Campaign Against the Inter-American Development Bank for Life, Justice & Diversity, 2003.

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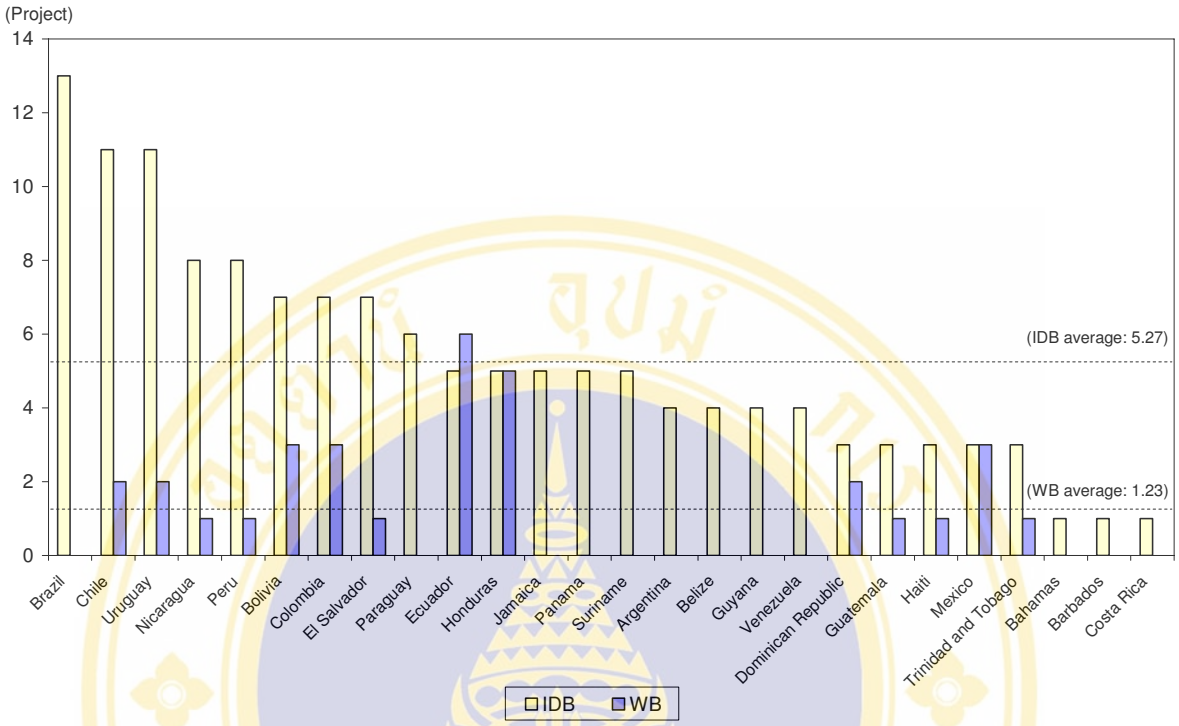
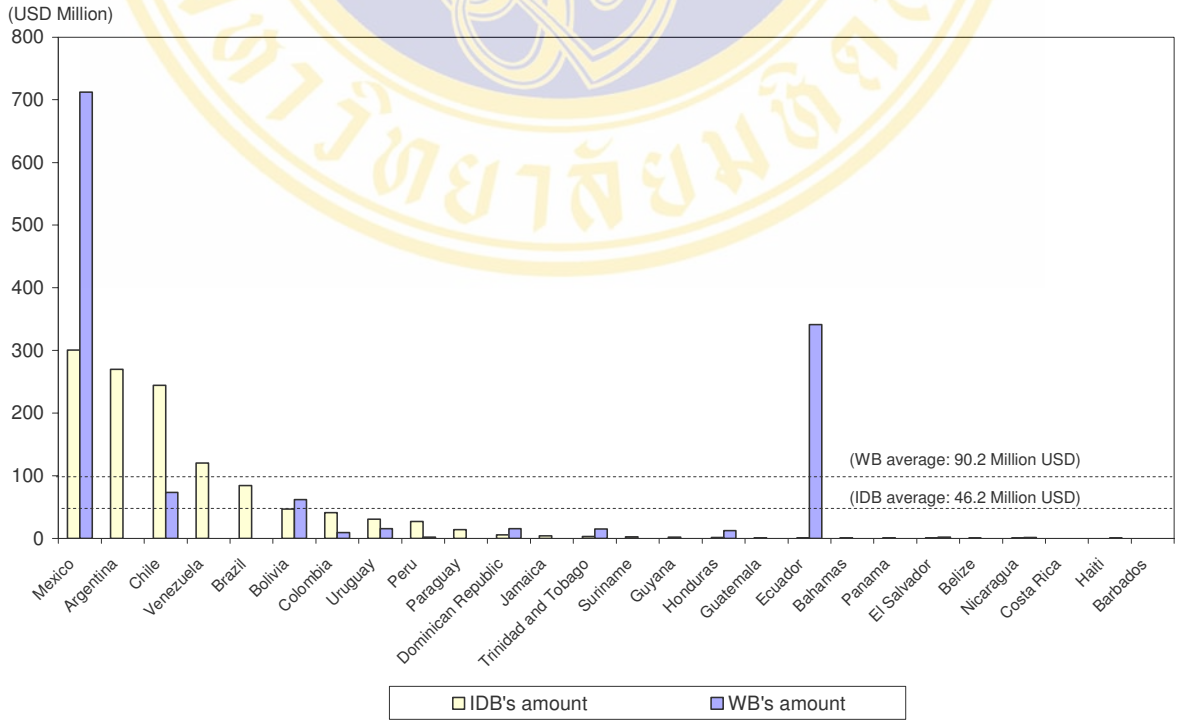
Figure 42: IDB Overlap of ICT projects with WB



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway.
WB, Global Information & Communication Technologies. Projects)

Figure 43: IDB Overlap of ICT projects with WB, and its funding per country



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway.
WB, Global Information & Communication Technologies. Projects)

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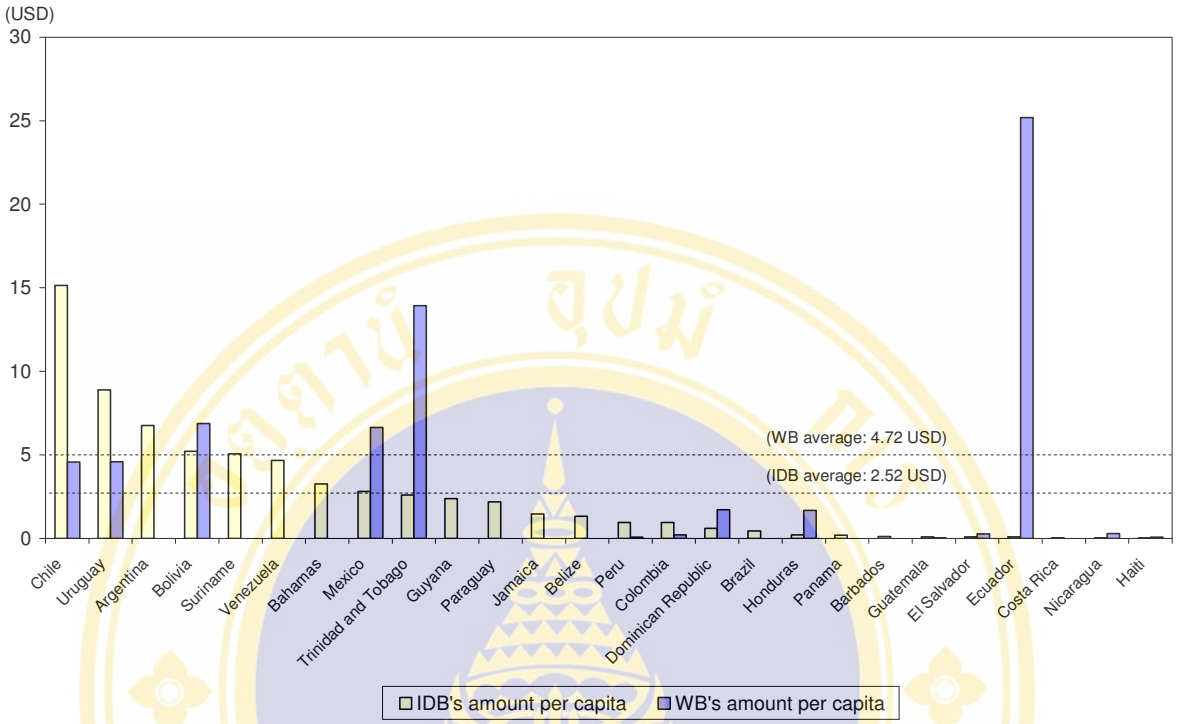
Figure 44: IDB Overlap of ICT projects with WB, and its funding per capita



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway.
WB, Global Information & Communication Technologies. Projects)

As for the beneficiaries of the ICT implementation, the graph below shows that the IDB gives less priority to low access countries compared with the WB and the ADB, whereas nearly 40% of the ICT projects of the IDB are in upper access countries. In contrast, the ICT projects implemented by the WB and the ADB are done in lower digital access countries. As mentioned, the beneficiaries of the right to development are individuals, peoples and groups. In relation to ICT, people with less access to information should be included among the beneficiaries. At a macro level, this trend of the WB and the ADB can be taken as a positive aspect.

From the view of the right to development, not only the size of funding for ICT projects but the contents in terms of equality of opportunities and participatory processes is of essence among the three banks undoubtedly. In this sense, attention to people with low income can be in accordance with the interest of people in target countries.

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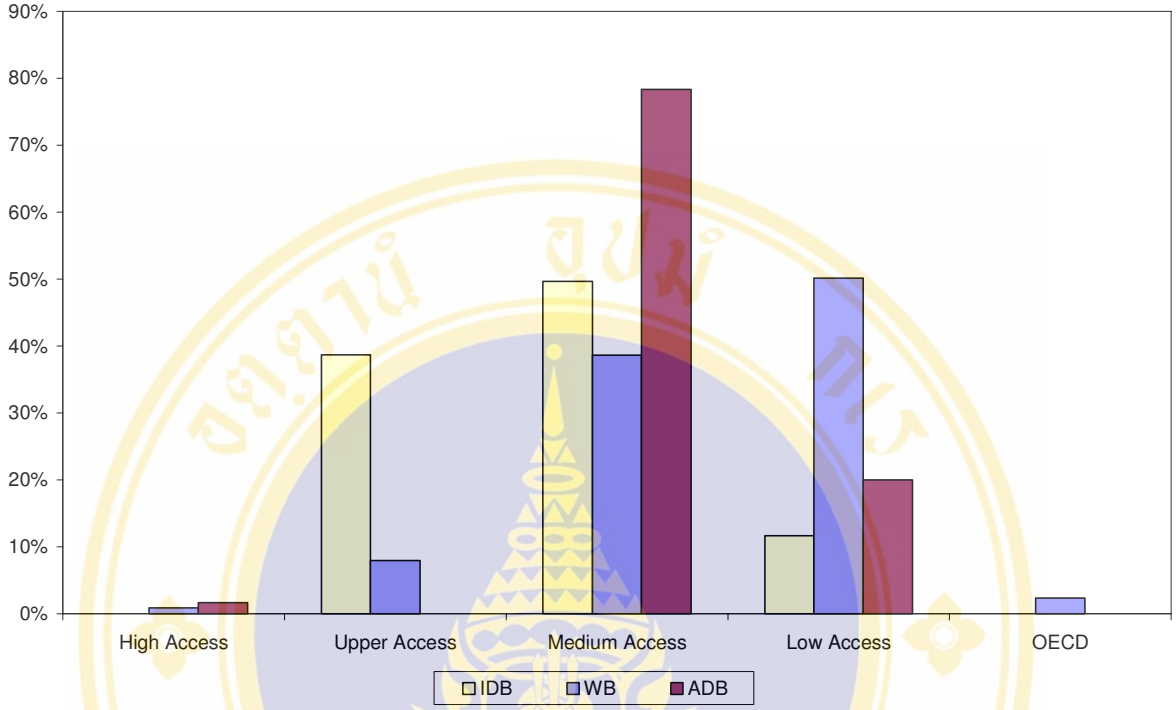
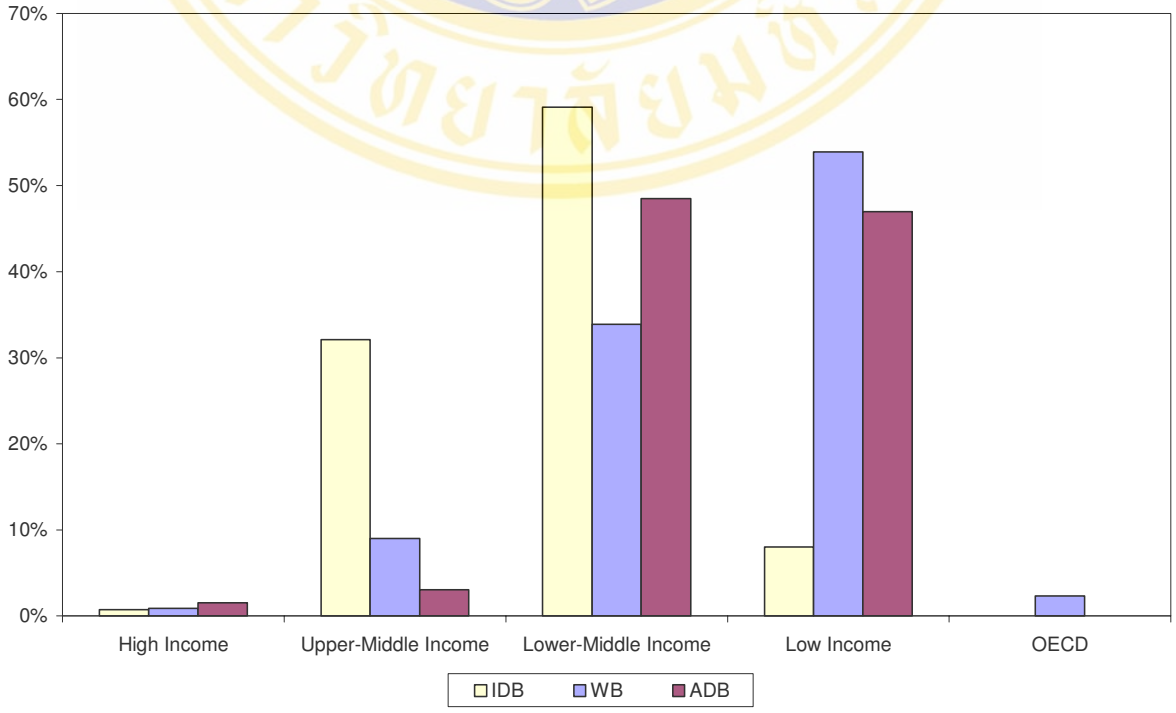
Figure 45: IDB ICT projects and Digital access in target countries compared with WB and ADB



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway. UN, Measuring ICT. WB, Global Information & Communication Technologies. Projects. ADB, Project Summaries, UN,)

Figure 46: IDB ICT projects and Income in target countries compared with WB and ADB



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway. UN, Measuring ICT. WB, Global Information & Communication Technologies. Projects. ADB, Project Summaries)

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Although ICT policy is formally put in place by the IDB, the compliance with the right to development depends on different stakeholders such as individuals, NGOs, the private sector, specialists, and governments in the LAC countries. In this analysis, the IDB through ICT has little relevance to the right to development, in particular judging from the implementation at a micro level.

3.4. A case study: Program Rio Informático

Case studies tell the story of ICT practice by the IDB in more concrete way. A practice is presented from human rights approach to development, for better understanding about the relationship between the outcomes of the ICT policy of the IDB and human rights. A case picked up in this analysis is “Program Rio Informático” in Brazil. The information resource is the project paper of the IDB written about the outline of this practice.

Human rights based approach to development

This is a tool for analysis which focuses attention on inequalities and discrimination faced by people in poverty and social isolation, which make their capacity development difficult and deny them opportunities to get them out of poverty. Furthermore, human rights approach to development is based on a coherent framework of binding legal norms and accountability, a process which is holistic, participatory, inclusive, and multi-sectoral, and the outcomes which empower individuals to achieve their full potential, and the freedom to take up opportunities. In summary, the OHCHR explains a human rights approach to development is one which: 1) puts people first and promotes human-centered development; 2) stresses liberty, equality and empowerment; 3) recognizes the inherent dignity of every human being without distinction; 4) recognizes and promotes equality between women and men, between minority and majority; 5) promotes equal opportunities and choices for all so that everyone can develop their unique potential and have a chance to contribute to development and society; 6) promotes national and international systems based on economic equity, equitable access to public resources, and social justice; and, 7) promotes mutual respect between peoples as a basis for justice and conflict prevention and resolution.

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A case of the ICT implementation of the IDB: Program Rio Informático

Project overview

The purpose is to increase the access to ICT among residents and microentrepreneurs in low-income neighborhoods in Rio de Janeiro. The concrete method that the IDB employs includes (a) strengthening of existing ICT centers by providing more advanced software, new services such as internet access, and better-trained managers and instructors; (b) the implementation of new ICT service centers that would provide local businesses with internet access, e-commerce capabilities, and other ICT-related services; (c) training partnerships with ICT companies to offer industry standard certifications and generate highly paid employment to qualified and motivated high school graduates; and, (d) institutional strengthening.

About the partner organization

In this project, the IDB collaborates on ICT practices with Both Viva Rio and Committee for Democracy in Information Technology (CDI), both of which are non-profit, non-governmental organizations. Viva Rio and CDI have many special projects, but all of them contribute to changing the lives of individuals and have a profound impact in the community development. Learning new technologies not only creates job opportunities, but also expands access to knowledge and encourages social interchange. As for other human rights issues, Viva Rio has involved in practices of disarmament, generating and fight for peace, fair trade. On the other hand, CDI has been stimulating particular interests of people in their community, such as the environment, sexual education, health and non-violence.

Linkage between ICT practice and the interest of the IDB

One of the areas of action for ICT by the IDB is to increase the access of low income citizens to the empowering elements of the information revolution. According to the policy, the IDB will intervene strategically through its financial support to ensure that information access is extended as quickly as possible to poor, remote and marginalized populations.

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Impact

Positive aspect of this project is that the objective is to support local entrepreneurs and micro enterprises, and low-income population, particularly young adults. Improving employment prospects and incomes contribute to new work opportunities. This not only reduces poverty but ensures right to work from a human rights perspective.

Challenges in human rights

The challenge which the IDB has recognized in supporting Viva Rio and CDI practice from a human rights perspective is that both organizations may create information gaps among communities. While there are growing demands for basic ICT training, some services are provided within minimum costs or even free if already funded by funding organizations like the IDB. As a result, existing centers only provide the basic level of service which is financially sustainable. If people in community require more advanced courses, they may not be able to pay because of high tuition, which can be an obstacle of participation among local citizens. More advanced courses and better services require better paid instructors and improved infrastructure. Considering there are always new technologies, keeping up ongoing problems such as the digital divide will create the gap between information haves and have-nots.

3.5. Chapter summary

An important challenge of the WB, the ADB and the IDB in terms of incorporation with the right to development is to provide safeguards as the outcomes of the ICT policy which can protect against threats to the human rights of digitally marginalized individuals and groups, even though there is no universal checklist of who are the most vulnerable in relation between the right to development and ICT. In fact, however, the mutual features among three banks are: 1) stressing the positive aspects of ICT at the policy level; and, 2) giving the low priority to the ICT implementation. Considering the full range of relevant actors including individuals, peoples and groups as the beneficiaries of the right to development, the turning point of the three banks in reference with the right to development is whether they can create

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the favorable environment to realize civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights through public participation in development. In this sense, ICT support of the IDB for Viva Rio and CDI can match the principle of the right to development to some extent, especially in terms of popular participation.

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CHAPTER 4
DECISIVE FACTORS IN IMPLEMENTING ICT POLICY OF IDB AND HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGES

This chapter identifies the human rights challenges in the ICT implementation of the IDB. To pinpoint them, the approach will be analyzed in terms of some indicators relevant to human rights such as illiteracy, unemployment, and economic activity, income (GDP per capita), digital access, ICT user, voting power and governance. Limit of the outcomes will also be referred to. The questions to be answered by the researcher are as follows:

What factors in target countries should be considered with the ICT policy of the IDB? What challenges does the IDB face while undertaking ICT projects in target countries?

As the IDB is one of the IFIs, the positive or negative factors of the target countries should be considered in terms of appropriate and the timely ICT implementation as the outcome of the ICT policy. From a human rights perspective, objectives of the ICT policy of the IDB relevant to the right to development are for example: increasing opportunities for human capital formation and for lifelong learning; increasing the access for low income individuals; increasing the coverage of social services to more localities and more people; making governments more efficient, accountable, and transparent; increasing the participation of citizens and citizen organizations in the processes of democratic regimes; creating a complete new industry offering employment to individuals; supporting institutions and activities other than those which have traditionally received support in the field of education; and, furnishing communities with the basic infrastructure facilities. Considering these objectives, human rights and ICT indicators picked up by the researcher for analysis are introduced in examining the outcomes of the ICT policy of the IDB in target country between 1996 and 2005.

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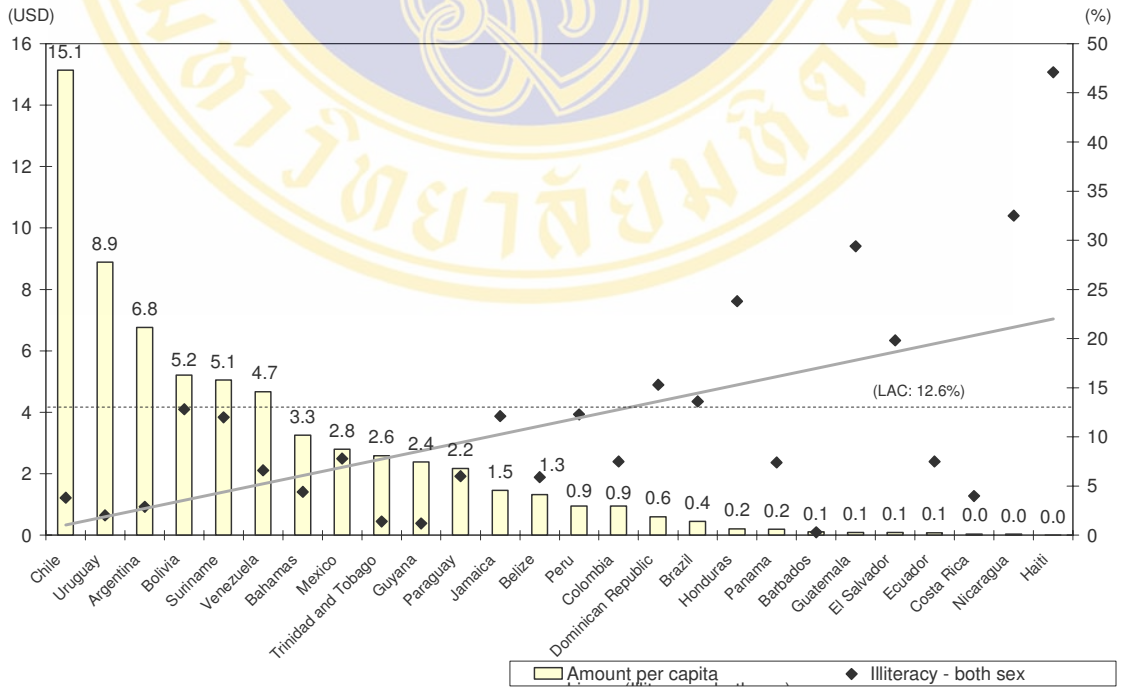
4.1. Illiteracy

Traditionally, literacy means the ability to read, write, listen and speak in their languages. Nowadays, literacy gets to mean more than just the ability to read, write, listen and speak. Everybody has right to acquire these skills of literacy from a human rights point of view, especially the right to education. It involves, at all levels, the ability to use ICT in a diverse range of technologies. Ever since the computer and the internet became main stream in 1990s, acquiring these communication skills has become more important at the global level.

Therefore, illiteracy can be one of critical factors to create poverty which causes human rights abuse. Besides, illiteracy promotes poverty, which the ICT policy of the IDB has to tackle, as it is a human condition characterized by the sustained or chronic deprivation of the resources, capabilities, choices, security and power necessary for the enjoyment of an adequate standard of living and realization of other civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights.

Figure 47: IDB Funding per capita for ICT projects and Illiteracy



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway. UN, statistic division)

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The graph above explains the stance of the IDB in implementing ICT projects. It is tangibly ironic that countries with higher literacy got more funding per capita from the IDB for ICT projects. There are seven states in the borrowing member countries of the IDB which have higher illiteracy than the average (12.6%) in the LAC countries, namely Haiti (47.1%), Nicaragua (32.5%), Guatemala (29.4%), Honduras (23.8%), El Salvador (19.8%), Dominican Republic (15.3%), and Brazil (13.6%).

In practice, this funding trend may produce more socially marginalized groups as information is poor in these countries. ICT requires people to cope with a complex mix of visual, auditory, oral, and interactive media as well as traditional text of literacy such as reading, writing, listening and speaking. While information-have people enjoy the benefits of ICT, people of lesser education or older people, meaning information-have not people, may think of themselves as falling in the informational gap in countries of this group. As a result, the outcomes of the ICT policy of the IDB are against the access for information-poor individuals based on illiteracy. Accordingly, illiteracy is a decisive factor in a negative sense in implementing ICT by the IDB.

Human rights challenges

According to this analysis, the human rights challenge through the ICT implementation of the IDB is the positive attention to socially marginalized groups because of illiteracy which may be affected in terms of the substantial increase in inequality, digital divide in this sense. Indeed, the right to development can explain how critical this finding is as education is prominent in building not only basic capabilities but also providing people with equality of opportunities.

Also, the result above raises one question “Who supports access to ICT among marginalized people?” For example, when it comes to children, parental education is an essential ingredient for breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty, for ensuring child health and welfare, and reducing maternal mortality, but illiterate parents may be deprived of equality of opportunities, besides the benefit of ICT, which relates to creating information-poor among children.

Another concern regarding the linkage between the ICT implementation of the IDB and illiteracy is the distribution of funding between urban and rural areas. People in rural areas may be less likely to use ICT, more likely to drop out the digital world

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and more likely to engage in forced labor, prostitution or domestic tasks that prevent them from ICT benefits. It is seemingly impossible for the IDB to create the best condition among people for enjoyment of benefits of ICT, but at least what the IDB can do is to make the funding per capita for ICT projects based on illiteracy and not to limit and affect the dissemination and usage of ICT as the outcomes of the ICT policy of the IDB according to illiteracy.

4.2. Unemployment and Economic activity among women

The right to development relates to employment and gender. Poverty and the lack of working opportunities among women in the LAC countries are a violation of human rights because they create social marginalization, a precarious quality of life and instability particularly among women. Labor force participation and status in employment can be used as proxies for access to employment, ownership of assets, access to credits and markets.

In the sense of the right to development, unemployment and economic activity rate among women can measure equality of opportunities to economic roles and employment arenas in the LAC countries.

Furthermore, the 47th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) affirmed the importance of women's access to and participation in ICT for empowerment. The CSW called on governments, the UN bodies, the IFIs including the IDB and civil society to continue mainstreaming gender perspectives and ensuring women's full participation in national policies, legislation, programs, and regulatory and technical instruments in all areas of communications with ICT. The session also looked into the growing sexual exploitation of women through the traditional media and through new technologies and called for more research on the impact of media and ICT on women and girls.

However, the following graphs clarify that unemployment and economic activity rate among women is not a decisive factor in the funding of the IDB for ICT projects. This finding indicates that the relationship between per capita funding of the IDB for ICT projects and working opportunities seems more elusive, although ICT appears to progress economic performance and welfare and offers more job opportunities. The reason why unemployment and economic activity rate among

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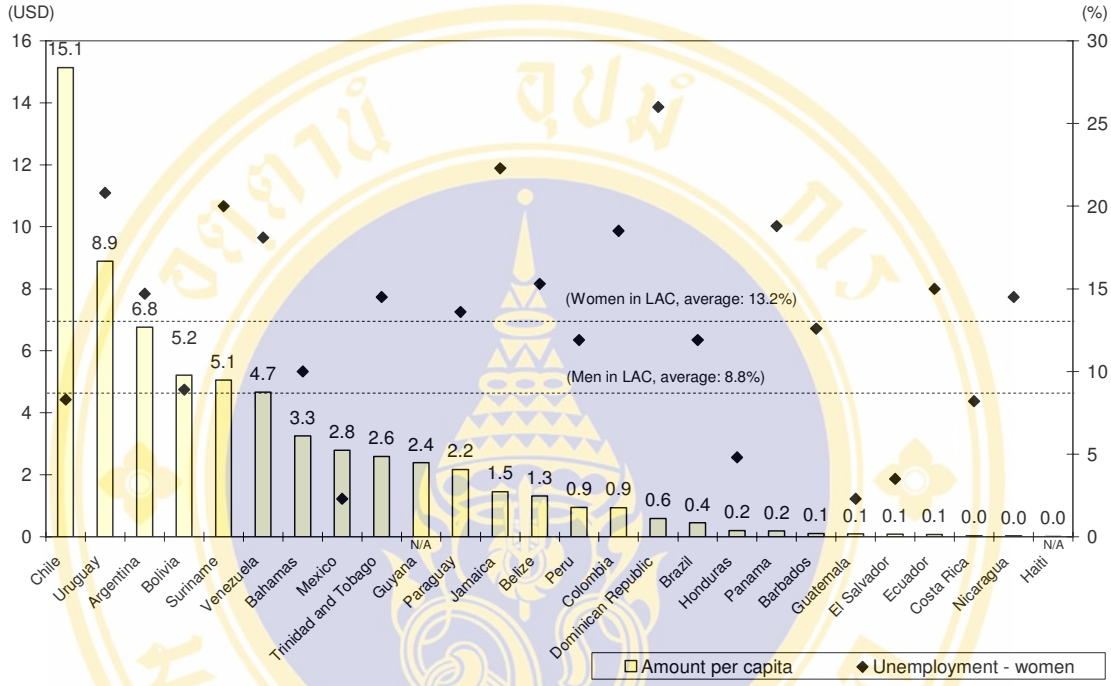
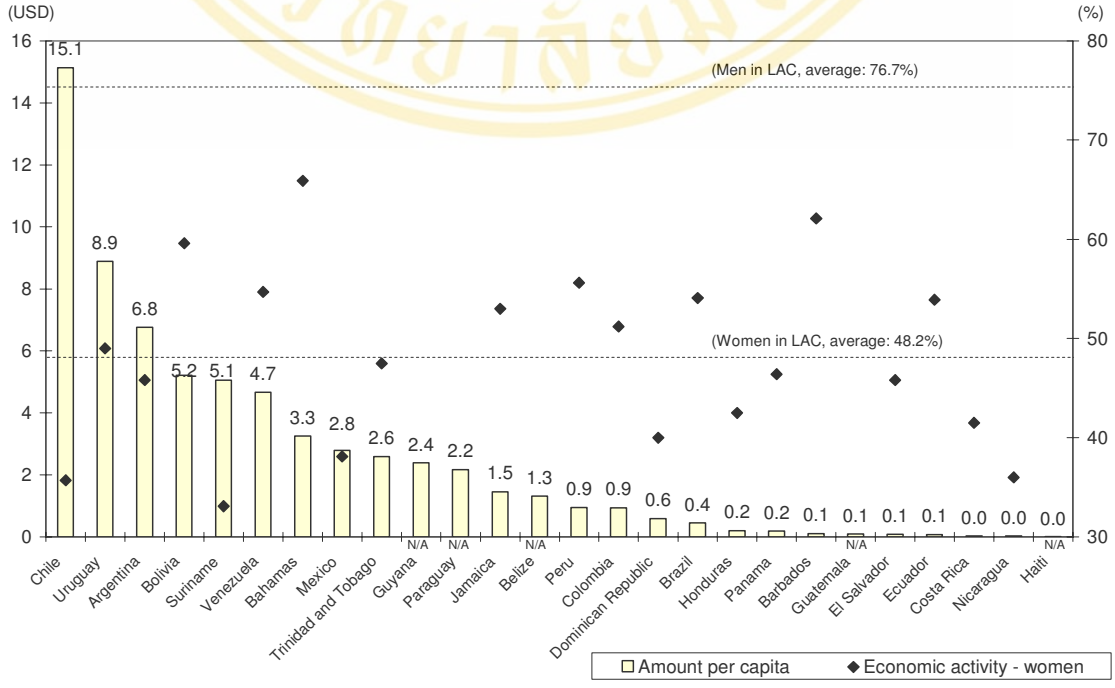
women cannot be a decisive factor is, from this research, specifically a lack of association between equality of opportunities in terms of working and the funding of the IDB per capita.

Figure 48: IDB Funding per capita for ICT projects and Unemployment -women



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway. UN, statistic division)

Figure 49: IDB Funding per capita for ICT projects and Economic activity -women



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway. UN, statistic division)

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Human rights challenges

One of the focuses of the IDB in the policy on women in development is to facilitate women's access to productive resources, services and to social and economic benefits by fostering economic activity which can be measured by the percentage of the population who are employed or unemployed. It is another practical measure of working opportunities available to local people. Normally it is expressed as a percentage of the working age population.

Again, the IDB pays attention to supporting employment as the social inclusion that addresses women's needs in both rural and urban areas, considering the women's disadvantaged position with the lower-income as well as increasing economic responsibilities for the upkeep of their families.

There is, nonetheless, no description about women's issues when it comes to the ICT policy of the IDB from a gender perspective, though the ICT policy of the IDB aims to increase opportunities for human capital formation and for lifelong learning as one of the objectives. Rather, it should be noted that countries with more funding per capita for ICT projects have relatively lower economic activity rate among women. Considering the low economic activity among women compared to that among men, the human rights challenge in the distribution of ICT can be identified in reducing social and economic constraints that depress women's ability to effectively participate in and benefit from ICT.

In other words, the challenge of the IDB in terms of equality of opportunities in working is whether ICT can advance the awareness of gender issue, especially in terms of social inclusion and equality. No ICT implementation from a gender perspective may result in widening the inequality of employment among women economically and socially.

4.3. Income

For ease of reference in global contexts, development agencies often employ quantitative measures of poverty, such as "living on one or two dollars a day". Other specific indicators concerning economic and social factors such as illiteracy rates are also employed. But in the ICT policy of the IDB, poverty from a human rights lens is not reflected in the statistical indicators.

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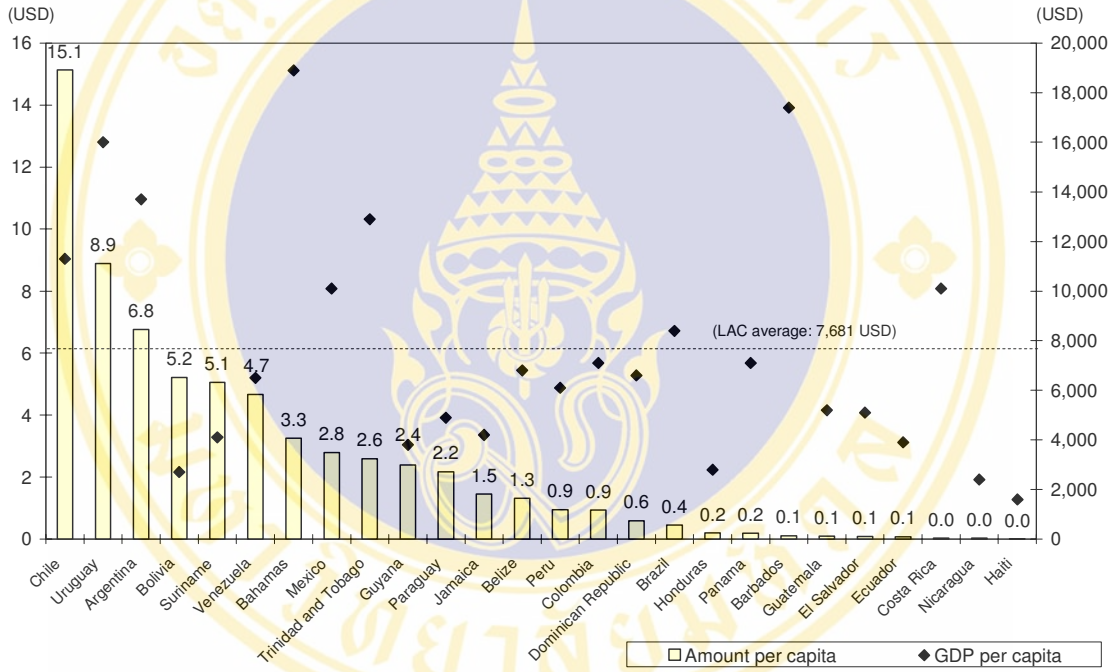
More precisely, the human rights components in one of the objectives in the ICT policy of the IDB refers to low income individuals for increasing information access and empowering them with new avenues for better lives and improved welfare. This means that particular attention should be given to discrimination, equality, equity and vulnerable groups such as low income citizens. From a human rights point of view, these groups include women, minorities, indigenous peoples and prisoners, but there is no universal checklist of who is most vulnerable in every given context.

Figure 50: IDB Funding per capita for ICT projects and GDP per capita



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway. CIA, the world factbook)

The relationship between the funding amount of funding per capita for ICT projects and GDP per capita as shown above reveals that countries with rather high amount of funding from the IDB have relatively high GDP per capita. In more details, 6 countries out of top 10 funding per capita countries also belong to top 10 GDP per capita countries. On one hand, 4 countries out of least 5 funding per capita countries also have lower GDP per capita. From the view of the right to development, the attention by the IDB is paid to somewhat higher income individuals.

The IDB emphasizes that the dissemination and appropriate use of ICT can improve the coverage of human basic needs, but the results demonstrate that low

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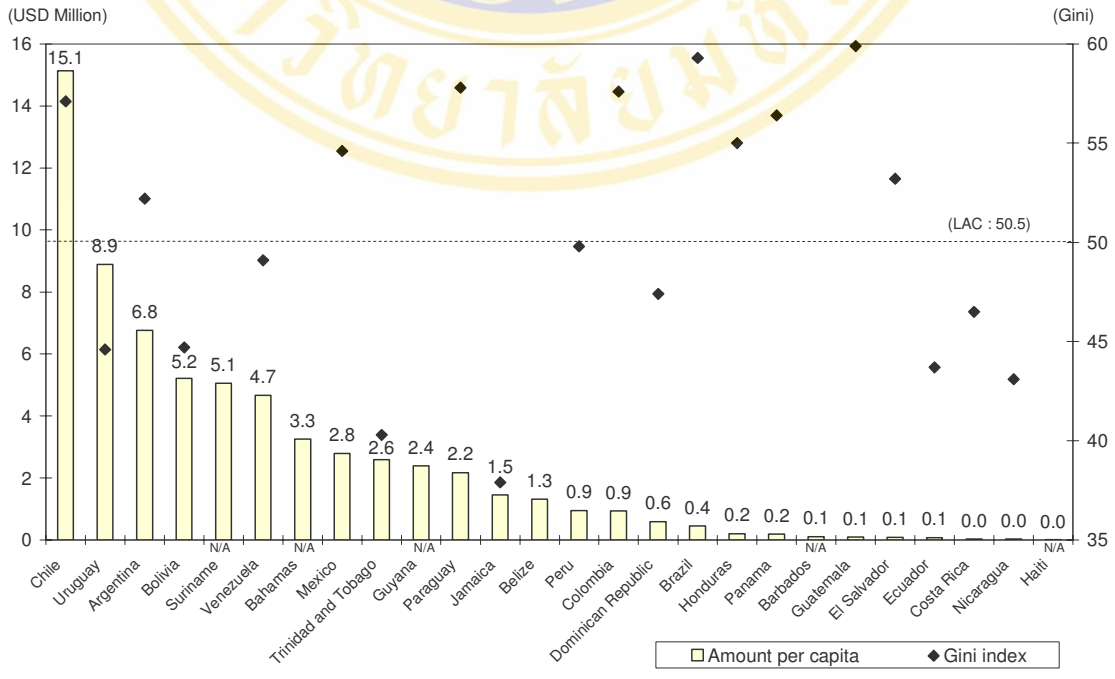
income of people in target countries is not a factor to promote the action through ICT of the IDB.

Human rights challenges

The results above raises a question which should be answered locally from a viewpoint of the right to development: Does the IDB really provide opportunities to enjoy the right to development to low income citizens through the ICT implementation as written in its policy? There is increasing polarization at a country level: poor countries do not receive funding to catch up rich countries based on support of the IDB. Countries with rather low GDP per capita have lower funding amount for ICT projects by the IDB, which can prove rather less consideration by the IDB for the full range of indivisible, interdependent and interrelated rights: civil, cultural, economic, political and social.

In this context, the Gini index, which explains the degree of income inequality in a society, can be an indicator showing the human rights challenge that the IDB has to face in terms of equality of opportunities.

Figure 51: IDB Funding per capita for ICT projects and Gini index



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway. UNDP, HDR 2005)

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Also, the above makes it clear that the countries which got more funding per capita for ICT projects are those with relatively low Gini index, whereas countries with relatively high Gini index got less funding per capita for ICT project from the IDB. This trend results in creating the barrier of the right to development among people in countries with high Gini index, meaning people who suffer from income inequality.

Furthermore, it is possible to describe from a human rights perspective that countries with both high and low Gini index have heightened existing inequalities within a nation and the introduction of ICT by the IDB widens the existing gap between the information-rich and the information-poor. The view to support this idea is that the digital gap in the LAC countries may not be able to ensure non-discrimination, a principle from human rights approach to development. It is based on information that everybody can seek, give, store, organize, make it easily available, and withhold only when it matches the best public interest. However, lack of information deprives people of the chances to enjoy their human rights and accordingly minimize their potential.

These growing differentials may contribute to a number of social problems including skewed economic outcomes and enhanced risk of social and political conflict. In short, the equity problem may be getting worse in the absence of explicit the ICT policy interventions by the IDB.

Thus, reducing the inequality in implementing ICT projects is the challenge of the IDB. It requires implementing an effective regulatory framework that fosters appropriate competition, attracts capital investments to extend and improve service coverage and quality, and adjusts access prices to levels appropriate to local conditions.

4.4. Digital access

The ITU created the digital access level[1] based on infrastructure, affordability, knowledge, quality, and usage of ICT, which are related to the right to development.

[1] According to ICT indicator of the ITU, digital access has four levels: High Access, Upper Access, Medium Access, and Low Access.

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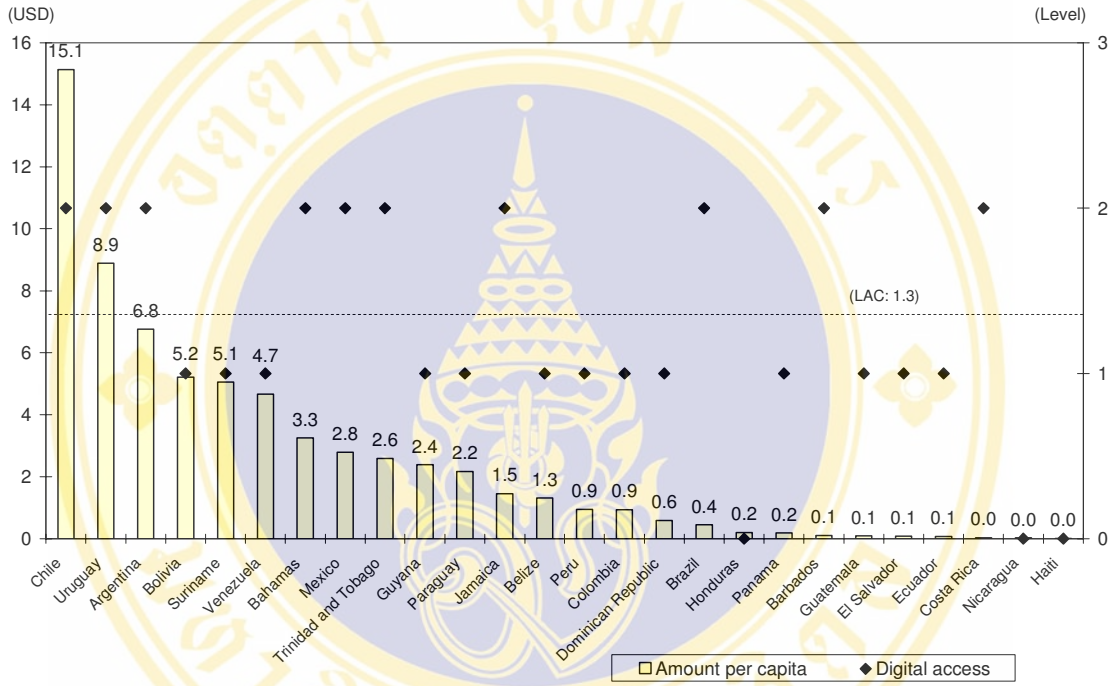
In this sense, the digital access level can be a benchmark to know whether or not there is a polarization by ICT at a country level.

The following demonstrates the relationship between the funding amount of funding per capita for ICT projects and digital access.

Figure 52: IDB Funding per capita for ICT projects and Digital access



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway. UN, Measuring ICT)

The graph above shows that relatively more funding per capita for ICT projects are provided in Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, Bahamas, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica, which have upper access level in a decade. In other words, these countries which got more funding per capita from the IDB already have better access level. On one hand, other countries which have same digital access level got much lower funding amounts for ICT projects in the same period, namely Brazil, Barbados, and Costa Rica. One possible evaluation is that the funding of the IDB was successful, as they are now in the category of upper access level countries at individual level. On the other hand, low access level countries, namely Nicaragua, Honduras and Haiti got much lower funding amount per capita. This trend explains that the IDB did not

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intervene positively to support people in low access countries, resulting in increasing polarization between higher access and lower access countries.

Judging from the analysis above, digital access is not a factor to prioritize funding for ICT projects. Rather, countries with relatively higher digital access level tend to have more funding per capita.

Human rights challenges

The results above describes that the human rights challenge of the ICT policy of the IDB is how the ICT implementation can match the basic needs per person in the development process, to prevent the creation of digital gap domestically as well as internationally.

In practice, countries with high digital access level and relatively high funding amount per capita for ICT projects, such as Chile, Uruguay, and Argentina have the prospect to enjoy the benefits of ICT. On the other hand, people in countries with low digital access level, such as Honduras, Nicaragua, and Haiti, are likely to suffer the gap through the ICT implementation by the funding of the IDB as its funding per capita is quite low without exceptions.

It is true that ICT has been shown to tackle development issues in education, governance, environmental monitoring, health, human rights promotion and other areas to some extent, as long as it is employed properly. However, there is no doubt that the individual gap of enjoyment on ICT through the ICT implementation of the IDB is widening internationally as well as domestically unless the IDB challenges the effective measures focusing on equality of opportunities for individuals in its target countries.

4.5. ICT users (telephone line, internet, mobile)

As often mentioned, one of the most influential elements in the globalization process has been the explosion of ICT. The growing communication tool worldwide, the internet in particular, has enabled people from different regions and cultures to communicate rapidly and across distances and to access information quickly. Telephone line is still used for talking directly to someone else in a different place and nowadays, mobiles are distributed the most rapidly in the LAC countries. But in spite

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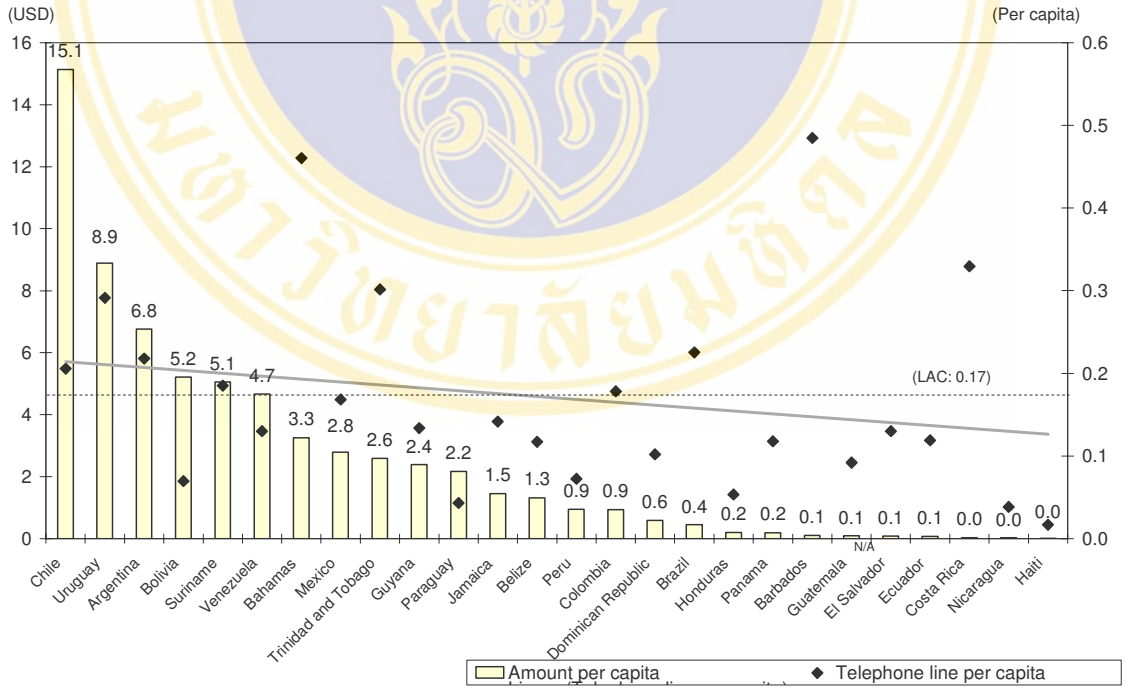
of the many benefits flowing from ICT, the uneven spread of effective new technology can result in the marginalization of some people. The technical difficulty of regulating the content of messages makes the internet a particularly effective means of misusing freedom of expression and inciting to discrimination and other forms of human rights abuses.

Considering these aspects, the relationship between the funding amount of funding per capita for ICT projects and ICT users (telephone line, internet, and mobile) are as follows. It shows that more funding per capita countries are likely to use more telephone line, internet, and mobile. In other words, ICT users are decisive factors in a negative sense; rather it interrelates with the digital gap, meaning the polarization at a country level can be based on the funding of the IDB for the last 10 years.

Figure 53: IDB Funding per capita for ICT projects and Telephone line per capita



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway. CIA, the world factbook)

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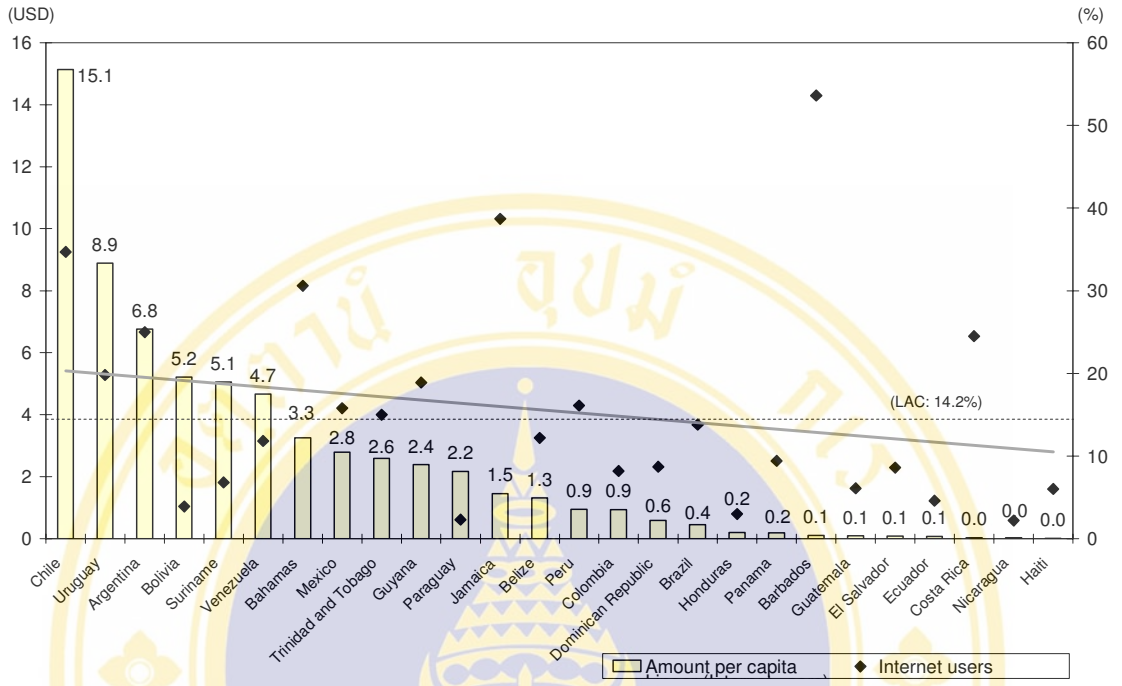
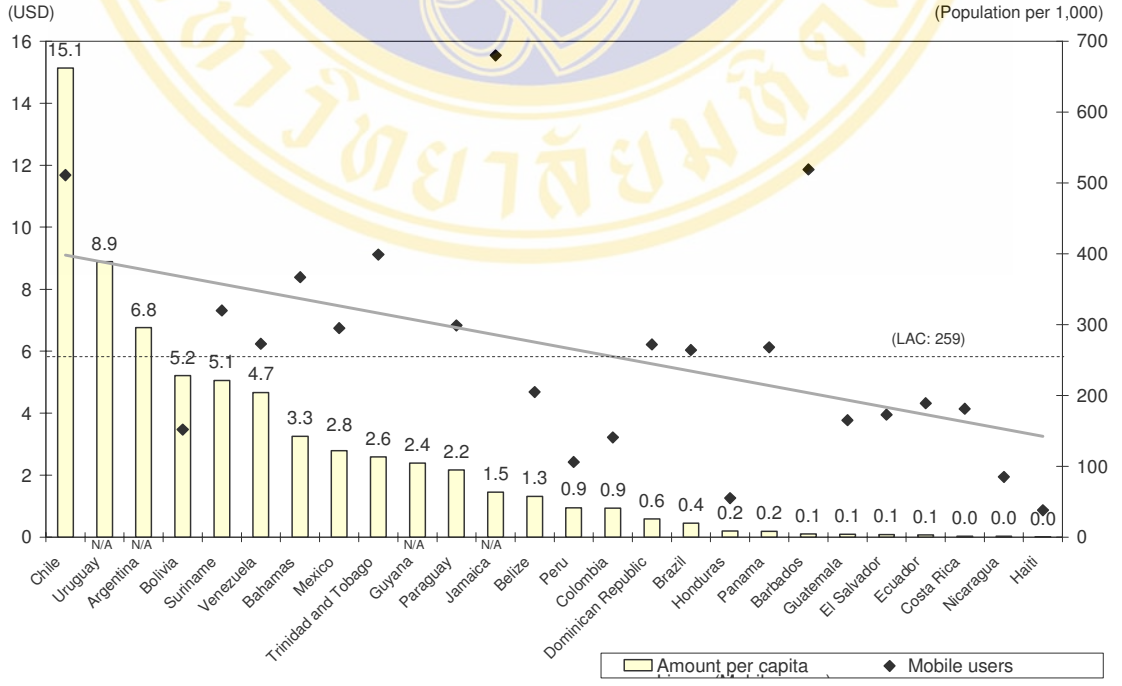
Figure 54: IDB Funding per capita for ICT projects and Internet users



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway. CIA, the world factbook)

Figure 55: IDB Funding per capita for ICT projects and Mobile users



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway. CIA, the world factbook)

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Human rights challenges

The above facts show the digital divide between the LAC countries. This disparity in the same region will become bigger unless the trend of the funding amount for ICT project by the IDB is changed. In fact, the percentage of internet users in population among 15 countries of all 26 regional member countries of the IDB is lower than the average (14.2%). Bolivia and Honduras have almost the same percentage of internet users in population, but the funding amount for ICT projects per capita of Bolivia is 26 times as big as that of Honduras. As for the number of mobile users, the mobile usage in 5 countries which received the least funding of the IDB per capita is lower than the average (259).

The international digital divide should be noted as well. Between developed and developing countries, the digital divide seems growing in terms of both availability and affordability of ICT.

On the other hand, it is possible to guess that information “haves” in one country in the LAC region are likely to enjoy increasingly the right to access and exploit ICT within the same country. Nobody can ascertain whether digital divide is growing internally between rich and poor in one country as there is still greater lack of data (Rodríguez and Wilson III, 2000). However, the ICT implementation as the outcomes of the ICT policy of the IDB may affect the digital divide in a sense that some of the LAC countries do not have appropriate support.

Now that there is no linkage between the funding amount for ICT projects and the percentage of internet users in population, the access of marginalized groups such as low income citizens is not yet given for equality of opportunities and eliminating the information gap. The human rights challenge for the IDB is, therefore, to give people capacities, capabilities and information access needed to change their own lives, improve their own communities and influence their own destinies. In a practical meaning, eliminating digital divide between internet users and non users in the LAC countries should be the most prioritized goal in taking the divergence with developed countries into account.

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4.6. Voting Power

More than 50% of voting power of the IDB is from borrowing member countries. In fact, over 71 percent of the Bank's staff is citizens of its borrowing member countries.

More precisely, the voting power of the LAC countries is as follow.

Table 4: IDB Voting power of LAC

Country	Voting Power	Country	Voting Power
Argentina	10.752 %	Costa Rica	0.433 %
Brazil	10.752 %	El Salvador	0.433 %
Mexico	6.912 %	Haiti	0.433 %
Venezuela	5.761 %	Honduras	0.433 %
Chile	2.953 %	Nicaragua	0.433 %
Colombia	2.953 %	Panama	0.433 %
Peru	1.440 %	Paraguay	0.433 %
Uruguay	1.154 %	Trinidad and Tobago	0.433 %
Bolivia	0.865 %	Bahamas	0.209 %
Dominican Republic	0.577 %	Guyana	0.162 %
Ecuador	0.577 %	Barbados	0.130 %
Guatemala	0.577 %	Belize	0.111 %
Jamaica	0.577 %	Suriname	0.089 %

(Source: IDB. "About us", as of May 31 2006)

The current distributions of voting power besides the 26 LAC countries (50.02%) are; the US (30.007%), Japan (5.001%), Canada (4.001%) and the 16 European countries, Israel and the Republic of Korea (10.975%).

The followings are graphs regarding the funding amount per capita and per country for ICT projects and voting power. Funding per capita for ICT projects cannot define the connection distinctly according to this result.

However, the graph which shows the linkage between the funding amount of funding per country for ICT projects and voting power clearly explains that there is obviously a correlation between the two indicators. Controlling interest in one organization normally would be 50% of the voting shares and the LAC countries are supposed to initiate the operation of the IDB based on their interest and needs as they have more than 50% of voting power in this sense. In actual fact, the distribution of

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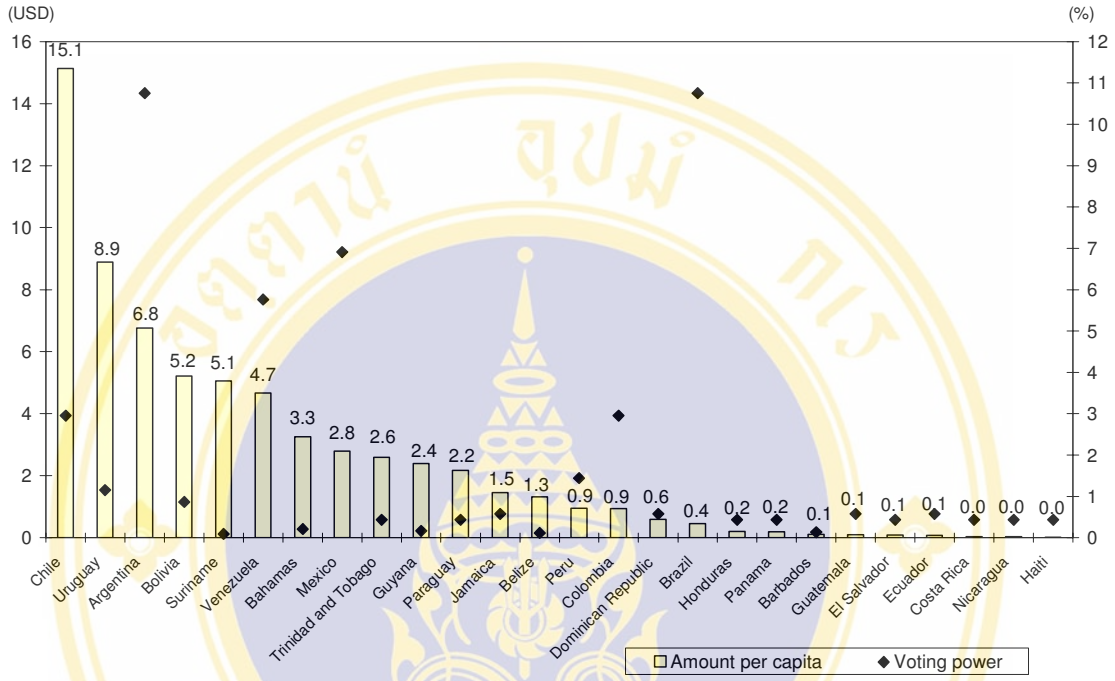
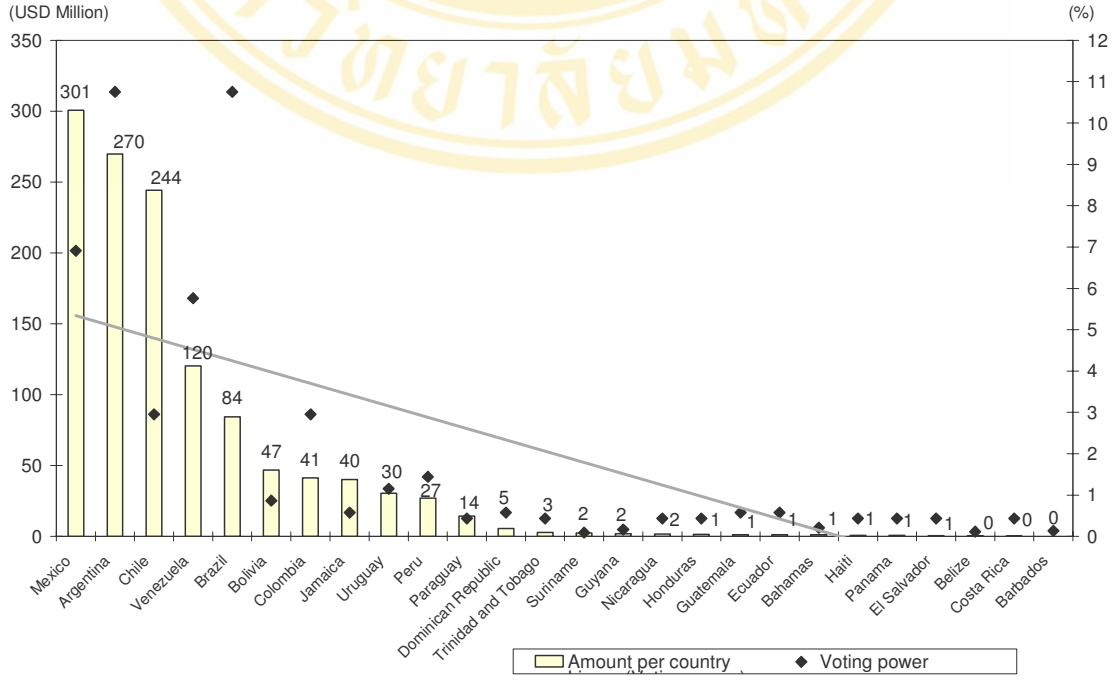
funding is proportional to voting power as a decisive factor in a negative sense, meaning countries which have more share got more funding amount for ICT projects.

Figure 56: IDB Funding per capita for ICT projects and Voting power



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway, About us)

Figure 57: IDB Funding per country for ICT projects and Voting power



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway, About us)

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Human rights challenges

Two points should be noted from a political point of view. One is that the loans granted by the IDB are always conditioned with the requirement by these dominant countries, meaning the debtor countries comply with certain policy conditions (i.e. conditionalities). In practice, if the loan type is the structural adjustment loans, the borrowing country must strictly adhere to the policy, which relates to support the liberalization of a country's economy in order to adapt it to the free market and neo-liberal economy. A standard and regular component in such a funding is that the country in question must liberalize and deregulate its economy. In human rights aspects, getting fund from the IDB for ICT projects has the same meaning of equipping the engine that fuels free-trade negotiations and policies in the LAC countries. As the funding for ICT projects is proportional to voting power, the neo-liberal economic policies of the IDB create the conditions of funding that respond to the needs of ICT in the LAC countries.

Another is the role played by the US. Normally an organization that requires a two-third majority of shares to vote in favor of a motion, can grant, in effect, veto power to a minority shareholder or block of shareholders that own essentially one-third of the shares. Thus in some cases, a single entity can essentially maintain control, with only 33.4% of the outstanding shares. In practice, the voting power of the US is 30.007%. It means that the US can find a partner to be dominant on the control of the IDB according to topics of its choice.

In other words, the ICT implementation on any development topics has no relationship with the voting power of target countries. Even though the ICT policy of the IDB refers to the participation of citizens and citizen organizations in the processes of democratic regimes as one of objectives, it is possible to describe that the ICT implementation by the IDB is decided not by participation of citizens or citizen organizations in target countries, but by the preference of some dominant countries as a decisive factor. This dominant power is the human rights challenge that the IDB has to face to implement ICT projects in accordance with the needs of target countries.

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4.7. Governance

The government and government institutions are essential in efforts to disseminate and use ICT in the LAC countries. Governance is the process whereby public institutions conduct public affairs, manage public resources and guarantee the realization of human rights. According to the WB, there are 6 dimensions in governance: voice and accountability, political stability, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, the rule of law, and control of corruption.

From a point of the right to development relevant to ICT, the IDB stresses ICT in governance as one of the strategic areas of ICT for development, as set of activities involving the effective contribution of ICT to strengthening democracy. As one of the strategic areas of the IDB, ICT in governance include ICT usage in: empowering institutional capacity and providing equality of opportunities by increasing access to public sector services; and, promoting public participation in development and the formulation and the implementation of public policies in the areas of ICT.

The key question is, therefore, whether distribution of funding for ICT projects as the outcomes of the ICT policy of the IDB pays attention to governance practically guaranteeing the right to development, to create favorable conditions for the enjoyment of other civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Again, the true test of the ICT policy of the IDB in the context of governance is to what extent the ICT implementation of the IDB can match the essence of the right to development, to ensure equal and adequate access to ICT in this case, in particular for every person who is identified as the beneficiary of the right to development.

Among the relationship between the 6 dimensions of governance[2] and the funding of the IDB in terms of funding amount per capita as well as per country for ICT projects, the relevance can be identified between the funding per country and political stability. Obviously, countries with less political stability are likely to receive more funding from the IDB.

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[2] Shown according to “Percentile” which indicates the percentage of countries worldwide that rate below the selected country (subject to margin of error).

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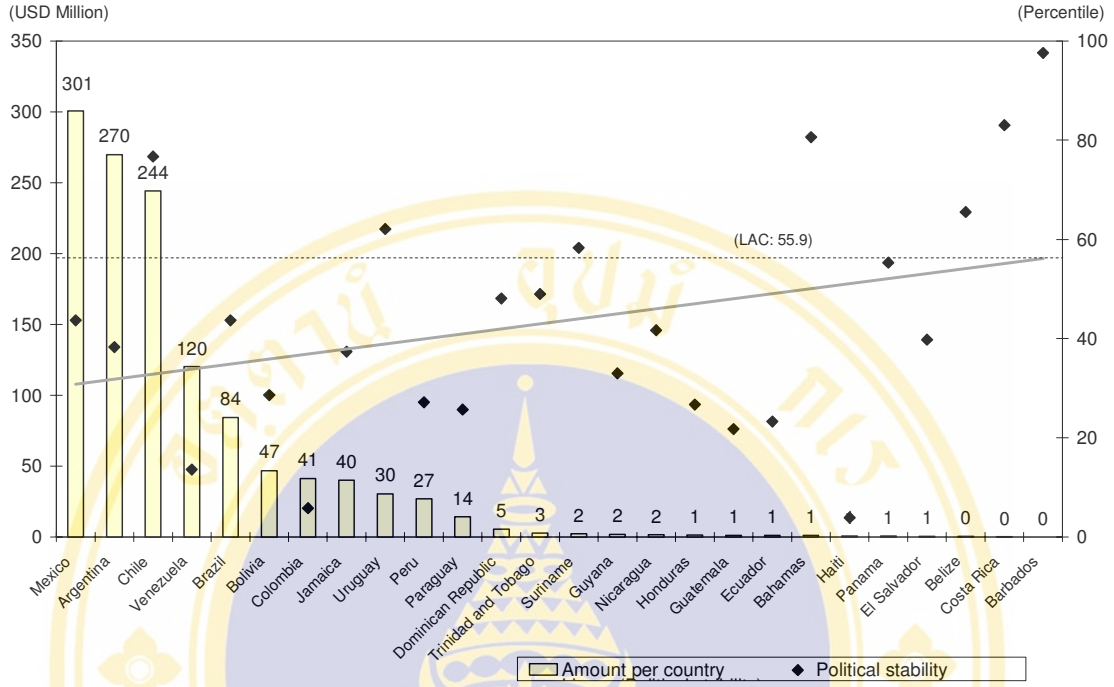
Figure 58: IDB Funding per country for ICT projects and Political stability



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway.
WB, Governance&Anti-Corruption)

The results explain that the funding of the IDB for ICT projects is seemingly not in accordance with governance generally as a decisive factor except the political stability. It cannot be helped in a sense that the institutional capacity in the LAC countries has been poor generally due to a combination of several factors. In actual fact, the relationship of the funding of the IDB amount for ICT projects with governance can clarify the reason why governance cannot be the decisive factor in the ICT implementation. Mostly it is because of a weakness of rule of law and low control of corruption which limit the outcomes of the ICT policy of the IDB.

Human rights challenges

Contributing to development through the ICT implementation requires governance and an environment that can foster the dissemination and use of ICT. In fact, all efforts for development through ICT will suffer when the governance is weak. The ICT implementation of the IDB, therefore, should be scrutinized carefully concerning governance of the LAC countries. It is also important to note that governance is a decisive factor for development in general as illicit activities flourish

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where the rule of law is weak, corruption is widespread and public institutions lack accountability and oversight.

In addition to the political stability, no dimensions of governance can be identified as decisive factors in a positive sense, though the linkage of the funding by the IDB with other dimensions of governance is not clearer than the political stability. The result explains that the countries which got higher funding amount for ICT projects are likely to have relatively less percentile of voice and accountability, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, the rule of law, and control of corruption in the same region.

The argument in terms of linkage between the ICT policy of the IDB and governance is how an increased attention from civil society to the role of the IDB in promoting ICT can be taken into account. Practically, there are some campaigns targeting the ICT implementation of the IDB from a human rights perspective, in particular the right to development[3]. Keeping transparency in implementing ICT projects is a human rights challenge that the IDB has to keep up, which could help to avoid campaigns against the IDB and to limit their impact. In other words, making governance a benchmark in implementing ICT projects is the first step in the human rights challenge faced by the IDB undoubtedly.

4.8. Chapter summary

Most indicators relevant to human rights and ICT are not in relation to the funding of the IDB for ICT projects even though these indicators are to ensure the right to development. In other words, the result of this analysis explains that equal and adequate access to ICT in the development process is not reserved in the outcomes of the ICT policy of the IDB.

The findings below identify decisive factors of the ICT implementation as well as the human rights challenges of the IDB. Without tackling any of the topics in the list below, the IDB would not be able to guarantee the equality of opportunities through ICT practices.

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[3] For example, “Campaign Against the Inter-American Development Bank for Life, Justice & Diversity”

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Table 5: IDB decisive factors in implementing ICT

Decisive (positive)	Decisive (negative)	Not decisive
None	Voting power	Unemployment and Economic activity among women
	Illiteracy	Income
	Governance - Political stability	Digital access
	ICT users - Telephone line - Internet users - Mobile users	Governance - Voice and accountability - Government effectiveness - Regulatory quality - Rule of law - Control of corruption

Table 6: IDB human rights challenge in ICT

Accountability: - making governance a benchmark in implementing ICT projects - improving service coverage and quality
Empowerment: - promoting awareness of gender issues by ICT - matching the basic needs per person in the development process
Participation: - adjusting access prices to levels appropriate to local conditions - providing people with capacities, capabilities and information access
Non-discrimination: - preventing the creation of the digital gap domestically as well as internationally - eliminating digital divide between the LAC countries and developed countries - paying positive attention to socially marginalized groups internally and internationally - being against preference of some dominant countries

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CHAPTER 5
CONCLUSION

Throughout the previous chapters, the main research questions have been discussed to gain an understanding of what the current issues and challenges associated with the ICT policy of the IDB are. In this chapter, the most important features of the thesis are summed up, followed by suggestions to future work within the research.

5.1. Summary of research

Based on the analyses, together with literature in related topics, the current issues and challenges associated with the ICT policy of the IDB as the outcomes for development have been revealed from a perspective of accountability, empowerment, participation, and non-discrimination. It should be stressed that the notion of the right to development and the ICT policy of the IDB are not necessarily synonymous.

The result of this research demonstrates that other IFIs such as the WB and the ADB cannot argue the incorporation of the right to development in general because of the low priority as a development sector. This low priority can be applied to the IDB of which the ICT implementation has little relevance to the right to development as well. Moreover, the compliance of the ICT policy of the IDB with the right to development depends on different stakeholders such as individuals, NGOs, the private sector, specialists, and governments in the LAC countries.

In this regard, the dominant power, in particular the US as the biggest shareholder, is influential. It is because funding by the IDB is always conditioned with the requirement by these dominant countries, meaning the receiving countries in question must liberalize and deregulate its economy based on the neo-liberal economic policies of the IDB which the dominant countries impose. Again, this dominant power is the challenge from a human rights perspective.

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Human rights challenges through the ICT implementation of the IDB identified from a perspective of the right to development, therefore, captures the essential findings of the thesis. For example, it is clearly described in the document of the ICT policy of the IDB that paying positive attention to socially marginalized groups internally and internationally is necessary. However, the human rights indicators in ICT do not clarify the relevance mostly with the outcomes of the ICT policy of the IDB. In particular, illiteracy, which affects the basic human needs among people in the development process, even demonstrates the negative correlation with the ICT implementation by the IDB. In addition, the analysis pinpoints that the creation of the digital gap domestically as well as internationally can be rooted from the ICT implementation of the IDB when looking at the relationship between the funding of the IDB per capita for ICT projects and ICT usage such as telephone line, internet users, and mobile users in the LAC countries. As to all 6 dimensions of governance, this analysis can demonstrate clearly that the country with low political stability is paradoxically feasible to receive more funding of the IDB as a state. In this sense, identified human rights challenges are something that should be tackled immediately as it affects the individual life of people in the LAC countries even at this moment.

It is hoped that the ICT implementation of the IDB that challenges these human rights components will become successful, in terms of the impact and relevance to human rights in particular. This may contribute to the initiatives of the IDB which provide people in the LAC countries with real access to ICT and the enjoyment of human rights.

5.2. Future work

The study described in the thesis is unique, but aspects of it could be repeated elsewhere. An interesting task would be based on statistical analysis in comparison with outcomes of policies in other fields, carried out in other regions, with other challenges of the IDB. In addition, analyzing ICT practices by the IDB continuously in the future will develop the human rights studies in terms of its impact.

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APPENDIX

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APPENDIX A
COUNTRY COVERAGE OF THE STOCKTAKING EXERCISE AND ILLITERACY IN THE LAC COUNTRIES

Income Level	Digital Access Level			
	High Access	Upper Access	Medium Access	Low Access
High Income		Bahamas (NA)		
Upper-Middle Income		Argentina (3.0, 3.0) Barbados (0.3, 0.3) Chile (4.2, 4.4) Costa Rica (4.3, 4.1) Mexico (7.4, 11.3) Trinidad and Tobago (1.0, 2.1) Uruguay (2.7, 1.9) Ave. (3.3, 3.9)	Panama (7.5, 8.8) Venezuela (6.7, 7.3) Ave. (7.1, 8.1)	
Lower-Middle Income		Jamaica (16.2, 8.6) Brazil (13.8, 13.5) Ave. (15.0, 11.1)	Belize (23.3, 22.9) Bolivia (6.9, 19.3) Colombia (7.9, 7.8) Dominican Republic (12.0, 12.7) Ecuador (7.7, 10.3) El Salvador (17.6, 22.9) Guatemala (22.7, 37.5) Guyana (NA) Paraguay (6.9, 9.8) Peru (8.7, 19.7) Suriname (NA) Ave. (12.6, 18.1)	Honduras (20.2, 19.8)
Low Income				Haiti (46.2, 50.0) Nicaragua (23.2, 23.4) Ave. (34.7, 36.7)

(Rate among males, Rate among females)

(Source: UN, Measuring ICT, UN, statistic division)

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APPENDIX B

COUNTRY COVERAGE OF THE STOCKTAKING EXERCISE AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE LAC COUNTRIES

Income Level	Digital Access Level			
	High Access	Upper Access	Medium Access	Low Access
High Income		Bahamas (10.8, 10.0)		
Upper-Middle Income		Argentina (16.3, 14.7) Barbados (9.6, 12.6) Chile (6.9, 8.3) Costa Rica (5.8, 8.2) Mexico (2.1, 2.3) Trinidad and Tobago (7.8, 14.5) Uruguay (13.5, 20.8) Ave. (8.9, 11.6)	Panama (10.5, 18.8) Venezuela (14.3, 18.1) Ave. (12.4, 18.5)	
Lower-Middle Income		Jamaica (10.3, 22.3) Brazil (7.5, 11.9) Ave. (8.9, 17.1)	Belize (7.5, 15.3) Bolivia (6.2, 8.9) Colombia (11.0, 18.5) Dominican Republic (9.4, 26.0) Ecuador (9.1, 15.0) El Salvador (9.2, 3.5) Guatemala (1.6, 2.3) Guyana (NA) Paraguay (9.0, 13.6) Peru (9.0, 11.9) Suriname (10.0, 20.0) Ave. (8.2, 13.5)	Honduras (4.0, 4.8)
Low Income				Haiti (NA) Nicaragua (8.8, 14.5) Ave. (8.8, 14.5)

(Rate among males, Rate among females)

(Source: UN, Measuring ICT, UN, statistic division)

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APPENDIX C
COUNTRY COVERAGE OF THE STOCKTAKING EXERCISE AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN THE LAC COUNTRIES

Income Level	Digital Access Level			
	High Access	Upper Access	Medium Access	Low Access
High Income		Bahamas (74.1, 65.9)		
Upper-Middle Income		Argentina (71.5, 45.8) Barbados (75.9, 62.1) Chile (71.2, 35.7) Costa Rica (79.6, 41.5) Mexico (81.1, 38.1) Trinidad and Tobago (74.6, 47.5) Uruguay (69.0, 49.0) Ave. (74.7, 45.7)	Panama (79.4, 46.4) Venezuela (83.6, 54.7) Ave. (81.5, 50.6)	
Lower-Middle Income		Jamaica (71.4, 53.0) Brazil (81.0, 54.1) Ave. (76.2, 53.6)	Belize (NA) Bolivia (82.2, 59.6) Colombia (76.1, 51.2) Dominican Republic (69.2, 40.0) Ecuador (80.7, 53.9) El Salvador (78.9, 45.8) Guatemala (NA) Guyana (NA) Paraguay (NA) Peru (75.0, 55.6) Suriname (61.1, 33.1) Ave. (74.7, 48.5)	Honduras (84.8, 42.5)
Low Income				Haiti (NA) Nicaragua (91.0, 36.0) Ave. (91.0, 36.0)

(Rate among males, Rate among females)

(Source: UN, Measuring ICT, UN, statistic division)

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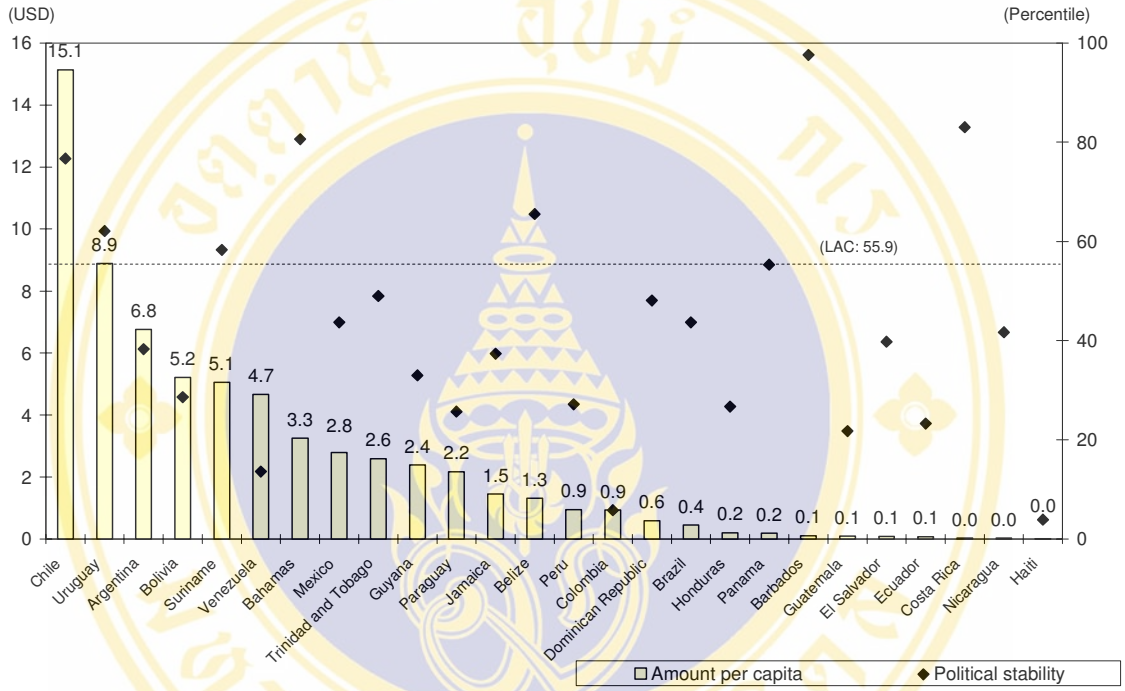
APPENDIX D
IDB AMOUNT PER CAPITA AND PER COUNTRY FOR ICT PROJECTS AND GOVERNANCE

IDB amount per capita for ICT projects and Political stability



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway.
WB, Governance&Anti-Corruption)

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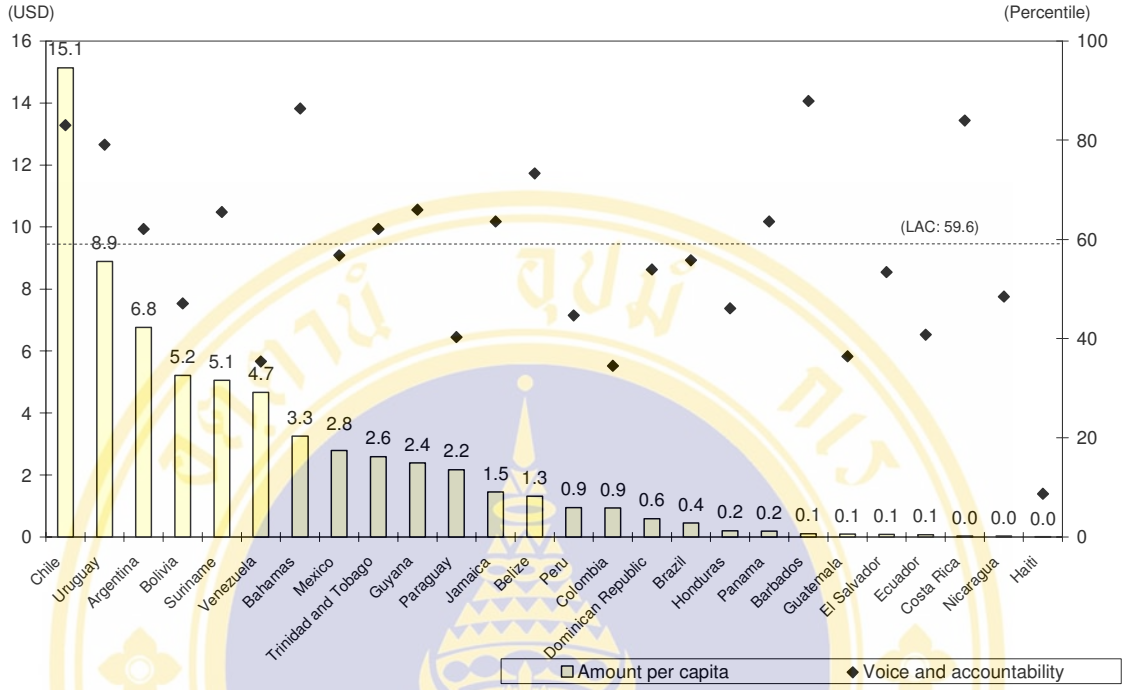
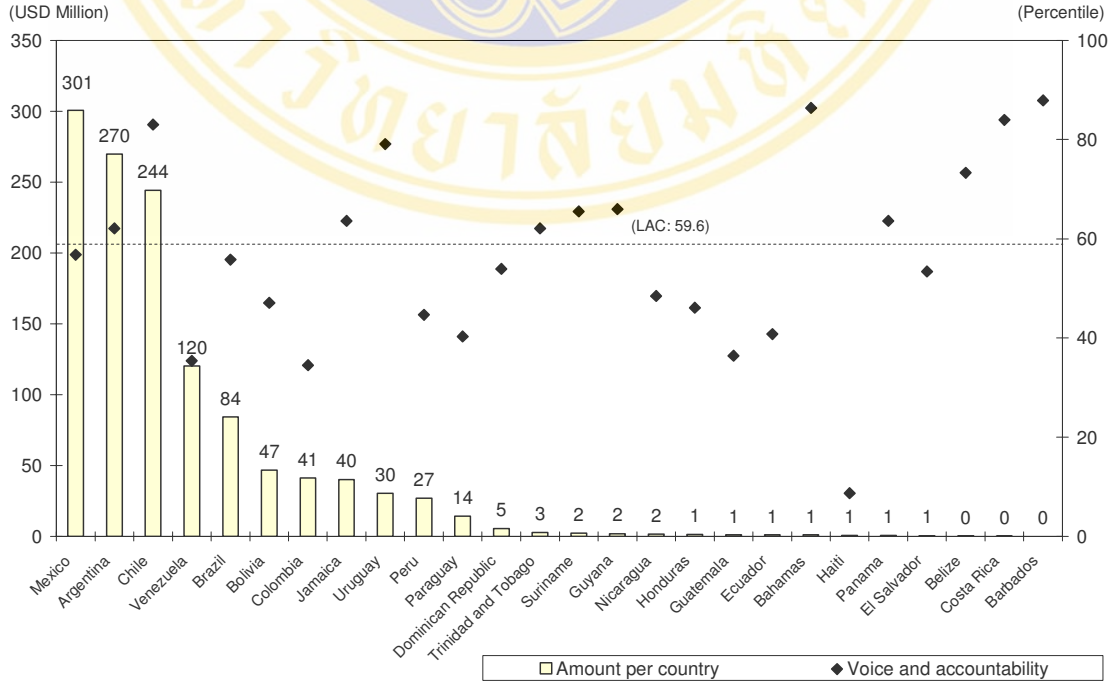
IDB amount per capita for ICT projects and Voice and accountability



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway.
WB, Governance&Anti-Corruption)

IDB amount per country for ICT projects and Voice and accountability



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway.
WB, Governance&Anti-Corruption)

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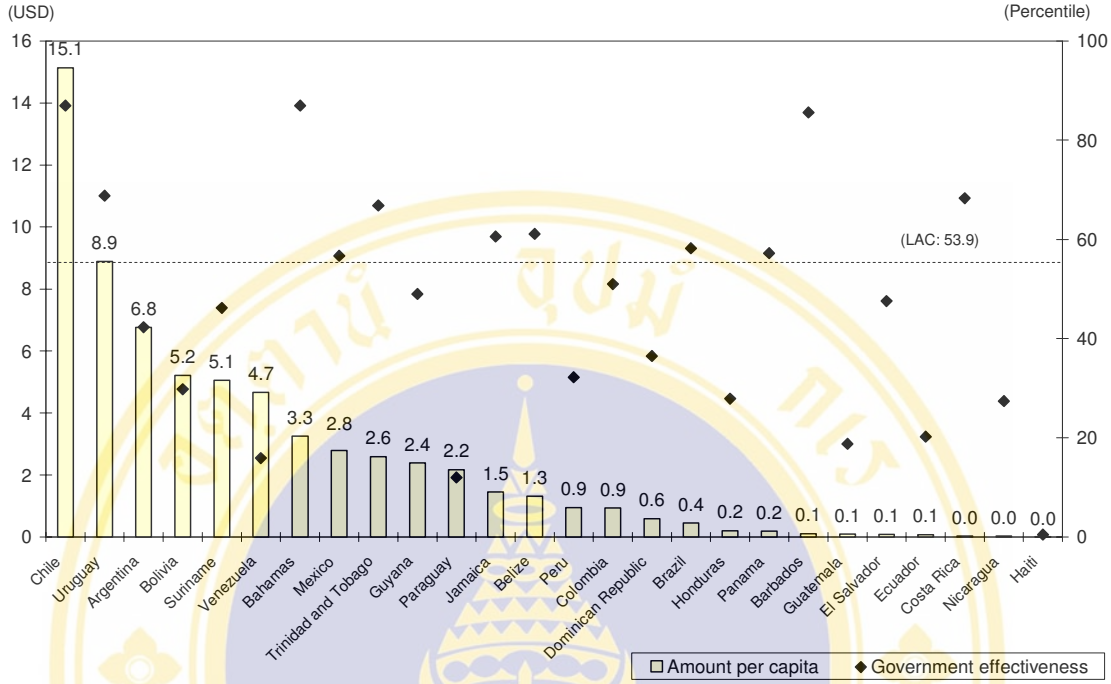
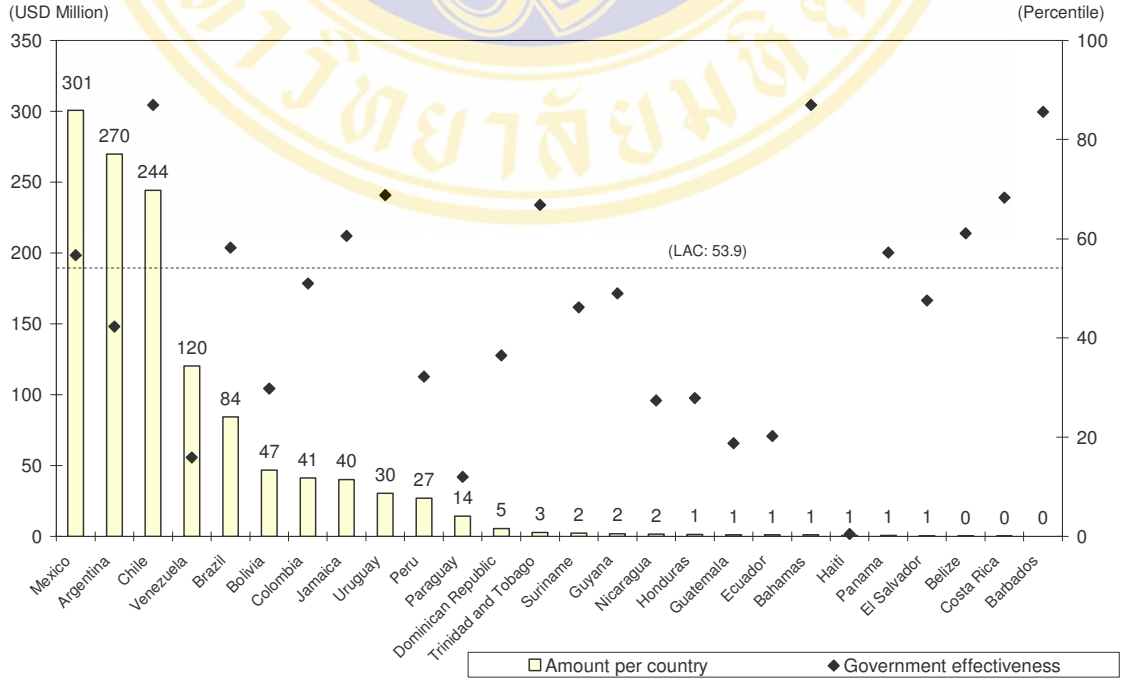
IDB amount per capita for ICT projects and Government effectiveness



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway.
WB, Governance&Anti-Corruption)

IDB amount per country for ICT projects and Government effectiveness



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway.
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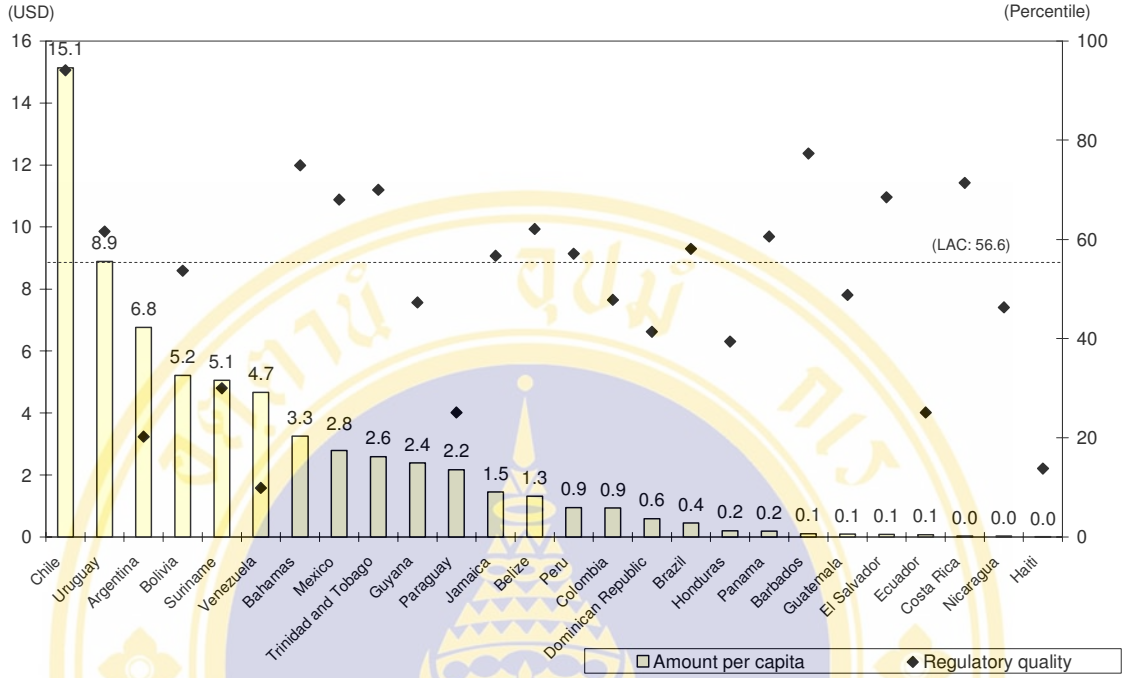
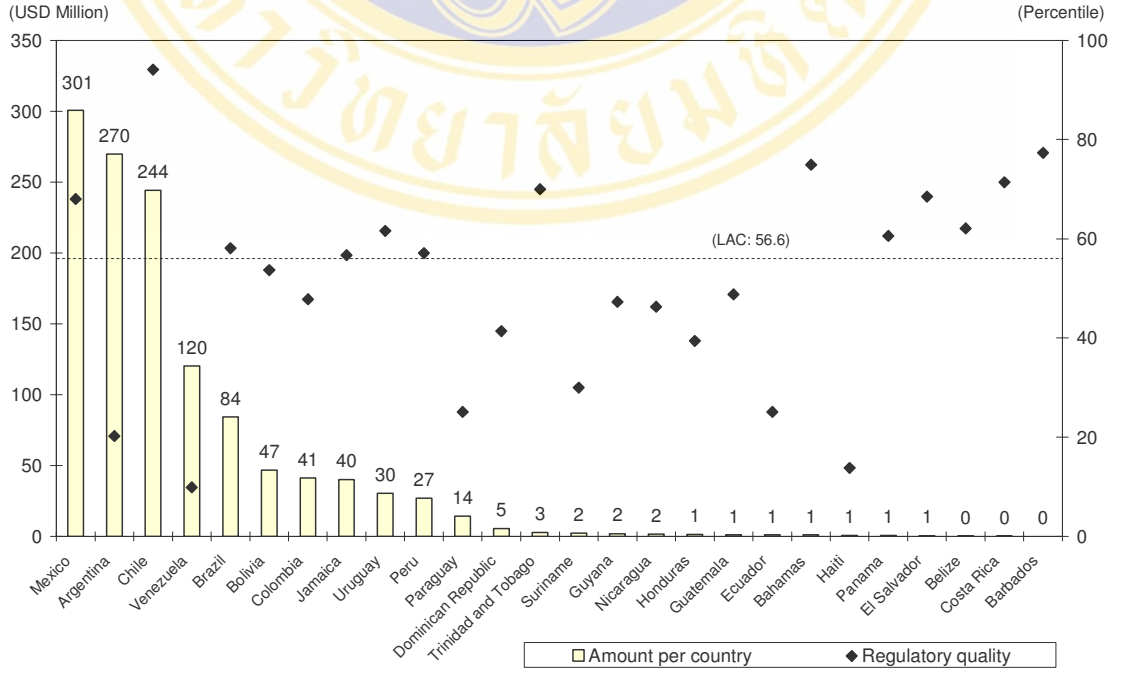
Figure 58: IDB amount per capita for ICT projects and Regulatory quality



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway.
WB, Governance&Anti-Corruption)

Figure 59: IDB amount per country for ICT projects and Regulatory quality



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway.
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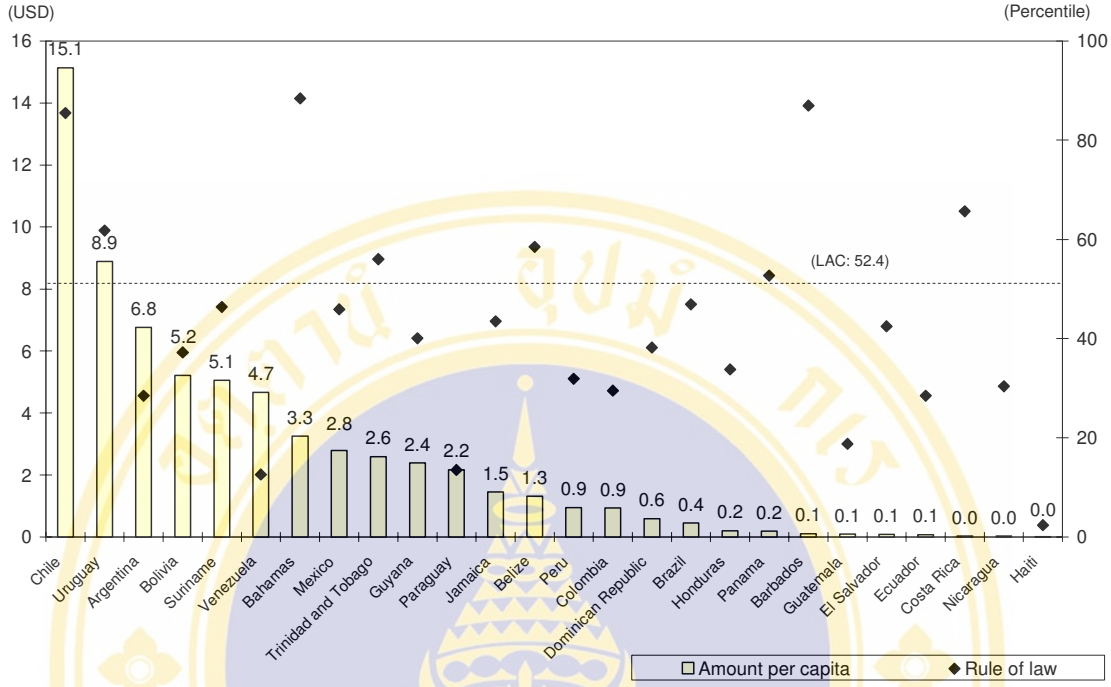
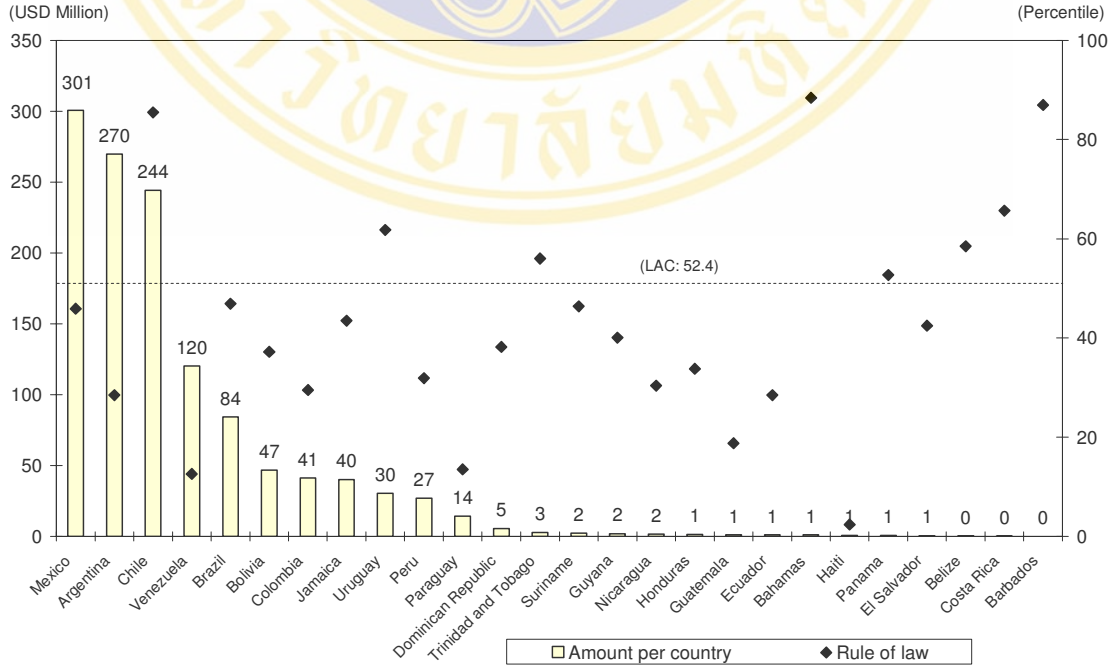
IDB amount per capita for ICT projects and Rule of law



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway.
WB, Governance&Anti-Corruption)

IDB amount per country for ICT projects and Rule of law



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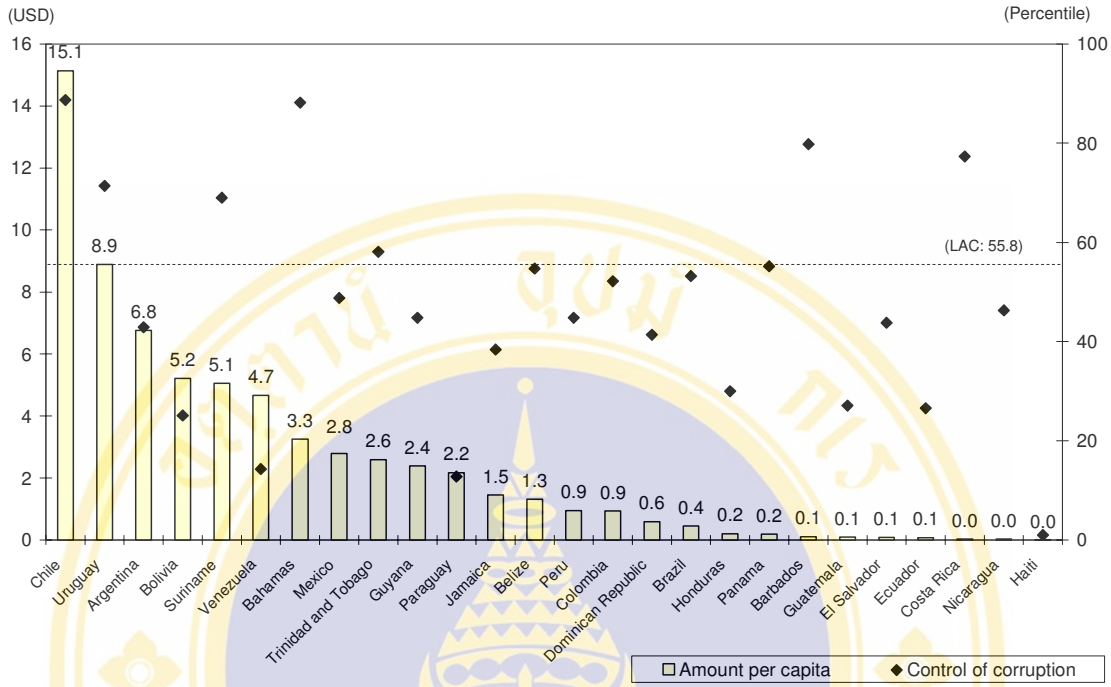
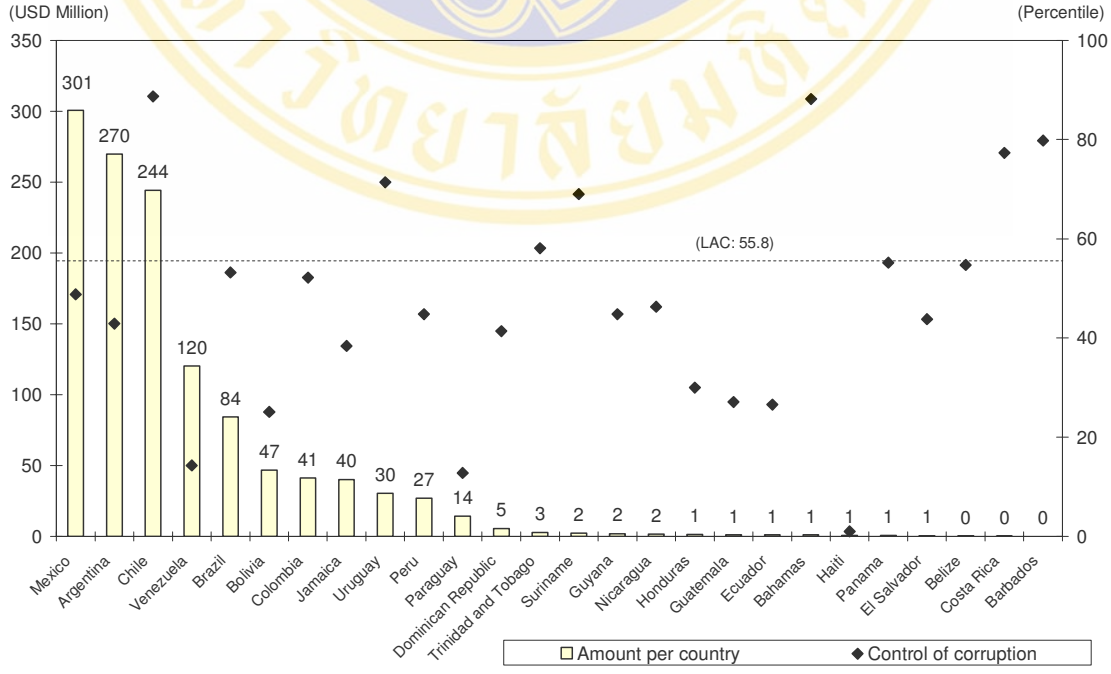
IDB amount per capita for ICT projects and Control of corruption



(Source: IDB, Information Technology & Communications, Project Gateway.
WB, Governance&Anti-Corruption)

IDB amount per country for ICT projects and Control of corruption



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