The Gender Digital Divide in ASEAN

The Bangkok Brothers, Thailand
Rationale Timeline

1990

• The UN launched MDGs.
• MDG3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
• The impact of MDG3 was measured
• Huge gender gap remained
• The SDGs was adopted
• SDG5 addresses past failure of MDG3 and emerging challenges
• Broader gender issues are now being discussed
• Including the Gender Digital Disparity
The MDG3’s gender targets were too narrow

Gender gap remained

Broader issues are now being discussed

1990 2005 2015 2017
Target 5.B: Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.

Indicator: Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex.
What is happening?

1.7 Billion females do not own mobile phones

Women in South Asia

38% Less Likely to own a mobile phone

Women are on average

14% Less Likely to own a mobile phone than men
Why does it matter?

- 60%: "mobile phones helps (or would help) make running errands either more convenient or less expensive"

- 68%: "feel safer (or would feel safer) with a mobile phone"

- 74%: "mobile phones saves time (or would save them time)"

- 58%: "feel more autonomous and independent with a mobile phone"
Key Takeaway

- South Asia has the biggest gender gap in mobile phone ownership.
- East Asia & Pacific has the sixth highest ratio.
Population of connected women in low- and middle-income countries 2015 [GSMA]

- South Asia has the highest ratio of unconnected women to total women population.
- East Asia & Pacific has the third highest ratio.

Key Takeaway
Regional Overview

Key Takeaway

- Australia and Japan's IDIs are clearly above global average.
- ASEAN's IDIs are still at/below average.
### Regional Overview

**Key Takeaway**

- Lao PDR and Myanmar are ASEAN countries that fall below average.
- Lao PDR is the second lowest in East Asia & Pacific.
Key Takeaway

- Mobile connection outweighs Total Population.
- Mobile Ownership gap still remains.
- Mobile Ownership centralized in only certain group of people.
ASEAN Snapshot

Breakdown of mobile internet, voice and text and non mobile subscribers at the end of 2014 [GSMA]

Key Takeaway

- Voice and Text is more popular across all nations.
- Singapore has the highest percentage of subscribers for both.
- Singapore's Mobile Internet's percentage is even higher than the other nations' Voice and Text percentage.
- Myanmar has the lowest percentage of subscribers for both.
Country Profiles - Myanmar

- Population: 52.885 Million
- Rural: 65%
- GDPpc: 1,140,520 USD
- Fixed telephone subscriptions (per 100 people): 1%
- Individuals using the Internet: 22%

Gender Gap in Ownership

29%

Myanmar Mobile Operator Market Share and Number of Subscriber

- MPT
- Telenor
- Ooredoo

Population: 52.885 Million
Rural: 65%
GDPpc: 1,140,520 USD
Fixed telephone subscriptions (per 100 people): 1%
Individuals using the Internet: 22%
**Country Profiles - Indonesia**

- Population: 261.115 Million
- Rural: 46%
- GDPpc: 36,125,914 USD
- Fixed telephone subscriptions (per 100 people): 9%
- Individuals using the Internet: 22%

---

**Gender Gap in Ownership**

- 10% Women
- 90% Men

---

**Indonesia Mobile Operator Market Share and Number of Subscriber**

- Telekomsel: 46%
- XL Axiata: 18%
- Indosat: 17%
- Others: 19%

---

**Indonesia Unique Subscriber Penetration**

- Males: 75%
- Females: 70%

---

**Unconnected Population**

- 0%
- 20%
- 40%
- 60%
- 80%
- 100%

---

**Unique Subscriber Penetration**

- 0%
- 20%
- 40%
- 60%
- 80%
- 100%
Barriers Outlook

- Cost (handset and credit)
- Network quality and coverage
- Security and harassment
- Operator/agent trust
- Technical literacy and confidence
- Limited Free Time
- Lack of Data

Perception of Barriers to Owning and Using a mobile phone [GSMA]

- Handset Cost
- SIM Cost
- Credit Cost
- Battery Charging Cost
- Security & Harassment
- Operator or Agent Trust
- Value

- M
- W
Causes of Barriers

Key Takeaway
- 8 out of 10 countries are significantly below average
Causes of Barriers

Sex Aggregated estimated GNI per capita (2011 PPP$) [UNDP]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Global Avg.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brunei Darussalam</td>
<td>2,600.0</td>
<td>3,566.0</td>
<td>55,402.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>4,446.0</td>
<td>3,566.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>4,446.0</td>
<td>5,696.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao People’s Dem…</td>
<td>4,408.0</td>
<td>5,696.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>4,182.0</td>
<td>5,740.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>6,843.0</td>
<td>9,919.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>6,843.0</td>
<td>9,919.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>4,835.0</td>
<td>5,845.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>12,939.0</td>
<td>16,544.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viet Nam</td>
<td>12,939.0</td>
<td>16,544.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key Takeaway

- Female’s GNIs are always lower than that of Male
- Both sexes in Brunei and Singapore and male in Malaysia are the only five groups that have above average GNI per capita
- Cambodia, Lao PDR and the Philippines have higher than average monthly cost while having lower than average GNI per capita
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
<th>Related Barriers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government/ Policy makers</td>
<td>Collect/ Gather and analyse more gender-disaggregated data</td>
<td>Lack of Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reduce tax related to mobile or internet to minimise the cost barrier</td>
<td>Cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Invest in the infrastructure of safe and accessible public access facilities</td>
<td>Network quality and coverage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Integrate ICT and technology into school curriculum in order to prepare younger generation for technological devices</td>
<td>Technical literacy and confidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Provide vocational or informal training for those who are not enrolled in formal education system to learn about technology and ICT</td>
<td>Technical literacy and confidence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
<th>Related Barriers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Operators</td>
<td><strong>Create campaign or publications that raise awareness in ICT and media literacy</strong></td>
<td>Technical literacy and confidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Offer affordable choices of device for Internet accessibility, especially to women with low income</strong></td>
<td>Cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Record details of demographic customer data especially by gender</strong></td>
<td>Lack of data</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
<th>Related Barriers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Launch attitudinal change campaign and create positive perception of owning a mobile phone among women and girls</td>
<td>Security and harassment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Raise awareness of the threats or cultural barriers that prevent women and girls from accessing mobile phone and internet</td>
<td>Security and harassment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Promote gender-roles balance in family</td>
<td>Limited Free Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academia and Research Institutions</td>
<td>Encourage more female teachers of ICT in all levels of education</td>
<td>Technical literacy and confidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research on social issues and threats regarding cultural and social norms that hinder women and girls from accessing mobile phone and internet</td>
<td>Security and harassment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>