**THE CHALLENGES**

The ITU (International Telecommunications Union) estimates that the average internet speed in Timor-Leste is 25 times slower than other countries in Asia and the Pacific.

Costs of data are extremely high in TL. Cost of 1MBPS in Timor-Leste versus other countries:

- Cambodia: 1MBPS USD 8.1
- Indonesia: 1MBPS USD 8.1
- Timor-Leste: 1MBPS USD 50
- Australia: 1MBPS USD 2.09

Only 25% of Timorese use the internet, compared to a global average of 46% and Asia/Pacific average of 41.5%.

Only 12% of mobile subscriptions in Timor-Leste include 3G internet access.

On the bright side, 3G mobile coverage reaches almost 97% of the population. This means there is huge demand potential as users in Timor start to use internet services through their mobile subscriptions.

**VALUE TO THE TIMOR-LESTE ECONOMY**

- 389,000 employed adults
- An expected increase of 4.2% in employment with faster internet
- Taking minimum wages, the total wage increase could reach $23 million per year
- The economic benefit of non-oil GDP could be double that, reaching $46 million per year
- Across a 10-year horizon, this is a total boost to economic productivity of $460 million

**IMPACT**

**Economic impacts**

- **Tourism**
  - Tourism providers have the opportunity to promote their services directly with clients in a range of real-time, dynamic means.

- **Agriculture**
  - Farmers can access information, share resources, understand markets and develop skills through greater connection.

**Social impacts**

- **Education**
- **Healthcare**
- **Government**

**FASTER, CHEAPER, MORE RELIABLE INTERNET**

Growth in employment is driven by profitable business opportunities.

Profit comes from timely and accurate information.

**OVERCOMING OBSTACLES**

- **Competition**
  - Market competition provides an effective way to protect against the power of owners/businesses.

- **Transparency**
  - Concerns about fairness, protection and operations can be alleviated if the government follows an open and transparent tender process. Transparency includes providing information to civil society, as well as giving opportunity for input from civil society and other stakeholders.

- **Shared ownership**
  - A public-private-partnership model provides a potentially helpful ownership structure for the process of building and managing a major piece of public infrastructure. The state (i.e. the citizens) benefits from profit, and also retains direct involvement in the project, allowing them to focus on protecting the public interest.

**KEY FINDINGS**

- Only 25% of Timorese use the internet, compared to a global average of 46% and Asia/Pacific average of 41.5%.
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