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Embryonic Software Industries in Developing Countries

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The Role of Government-Sponsored Institutes in IT Development in Taiwan

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Abstract

It's a debatable issue regarding whether government should play a key role in IT development. In Taiwan, two government-sponsored institutes play strong roles in information development. In this presentation, the author will examine the mechanism employed in Taiwan and the pros and cons of this approach.

IT2000: Singapore's Vision of an Intelligent Island

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Abstract

The Singapore government has long recognised the importance of IT as a key enabling technology in economic development. Since 1981, three comprehensive national plans have been formulated and implemented to promote the widespread use of IT and to develop a national core competence in producing IT products and services.

The IT2000 project, the third and latest in the series of national master planning efforts, aims to transform Singapore into an intelligent island where IT is extensively exploited for national competitiveness and quality of life. In the intelligent island, an advanced national information infrastructure (NII) will connect information appliances in homes, offices, schools, hospitals, and others. Businesses and the public will have access to vast reservoirs of multi-media information. Singapore is not alone in this quest. Many countries around the world such as USA, Canada, Europe, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan have initiated efforts to put in place an NII or information superhighway. While the motivation for doing so is similar, the approach taken differs. This paper will give an overview of Singapore's IT2000 vision, the approach and strategies that we are adopting and the progress that has been made so far.

Embryonic Software Industries in Developing Countries

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Abstract

Many national informatics plans, especially those of less developed countries, call for the creation or further development of national software industries. Such industries are often expected to be focused on exports. Yet, there are remarkably few such industries that are very successful either domestically or internationally. Why are software industries so much favored in national plans? What are the problems and pitfalls of developing such industries? What are some of the features of successful efforts? Examples will be drawn from countries in Africa, the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Latin America.