

## **Gearing Meghalaya with Information Technology for Transparent and Efficient Governance**

### **Launch of Meghalaya State Wide Area Network (MSWAN) and Meghalaya State Data Center(MSDC)**

**By Dr. Mukul Sangma, Honorable Chief Minister, Meghalaya**

Governance in the 21st century is marked by the growing opportunities that are opening up for citizens through new technologies, expanding access to essential information and knowledge which could significantly improve citizen's lives and help reduce poverty.

In recent years, India has been a region of superlatives' when it comes to information and communication technologies (ICTs). However, despite all the technological breakthroughs, access to basic communications is still beyond the reach of the common citizen, especially the underprivileged. This is more so in the North Eastern states where the benefits of advancements in ICT has yet to percolate to the citizen.

In order to bridge the this digital divide and realize ICT potentials for inclusive socio-economic development in the state, and to set priorities, enact policies, formulate legal and regulatory frameworks, allocate funds, and facilitate partnerships that promote the ICT industry sector and develop ICT skills among the citizens, the State of Meghalaya has taken a major step forward in implementing the State Wide Area Network (MSWAN) and State Data Centre (MSDC).

These two pillars of infrastructure which was hitherto unavailable will now, has put the benefits of ICT within the grasp of the citizen and especially the poor.

#### **Meghalaya State Wide Area Network (MSWAN)**

The Meghalaya State Wide Area Network (MSWAN) has been designed to establish a reliable horizontal and vertical communication corridor. This will provide an integrated backbone to the state government for the implementation of various mission mode IT projects defined by Government of India and e-governance initiatives of the state government. The network will act as a single point services delivery system across Meghalaya for voice, data, email messaging and video conferencing services across various departments of the state.

A total of 55 Headquarters (State, District/Sub District and Block HQs) along with their departmental offices have been interconnected using high speed leased lines from BSNL. With this all offices will also have internet and would be able to share information amongst each other as well as deliver government services to the citizens.

#### **Meghalaya State Data Centre (MSDC)**

Built at a cost of approximately over 14 Crores, the state-of-the-art, SDC will consolidate services, applications and infrastructure of all State Government Departments to provide efficient electronic delivery of government-to-government (G2G), government-to-citizen (G2C) and government-to-business (G2B) services. The SDC is intended to provide a central data repository,

secure data storage, online delivery of services, citizen information/services portal and service integration for all departments of the state.

**Highlights of MSWAN and MSDC:**

**Meghalaya State Wide area Network(MSWAN)**

Date of operational 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011

- Envisaged to create connectivity to bring speed, efficiency, reliability and accountability in overall system of G2G, G2B and G2C services.
- MSWAN would be used as a converged backbone network for voice, video and data communications across the state.
- The backbone thus created would provide reliable vertical and horizontal connectivity within the state administration and would facilitate electronic transactions between all the government departments.
- This network aims at increasing the efficiency of the government delivery mechanism and optimizes the performance.
- All Govt. offices connected on SWAN will also have automatic access on internet.

**MSWAN Details**

- All Points of Presences (PoPs) are commissioned
    - 106 Horizontal and 55 Vertical Points of Presence (PoPs).
    - 7 Districts HQs, 8 Sub-divisional HQs and 39 Blocks connected on high speed leased Lines.
    - Over 150 offices are connected across the state including as Collocated with PoPs.
  - Integrated Video conference facility to all district HQs and Sub divisional HQs.
  - Voice through IP telephony facility to all location including all Blocks offices.
- Internet Service, file transfer service across state

**Meghalaya State Data Center(MSDC)**

- Acting as a secure centralized repository of State related data and applications.
- Enablement of 24X7 Online Delivery of Government Services through information and citizen service portals.
- Route all G2G, G2B and G2C services through SSDG (State Service Delivery Gateway).
- Hosting of State Intranet Portal .
- Better operational & management control on state applications and data
- Minimization of overall cost of data management, IT resource management and deployment of services.
- Making available "IT infrastructure on demand" to various state departments and agencies.

**MSDC is equipped with**

- 45 nos. of High End Servers(Rack & Blade Server)
- 15 Server and Network Racks
- More than 12 TB SAN Storage
- Applications and System Servers consisting of Web Server, Application Server, Database Server, Management Server, DNS, Directory Service, Antivirus, EMS, Linux, MS Windows
- Power/Power Backups/DG Sets and Cooling System
- Surveillance CCTV, Physical Security, Fire Protection, PA system