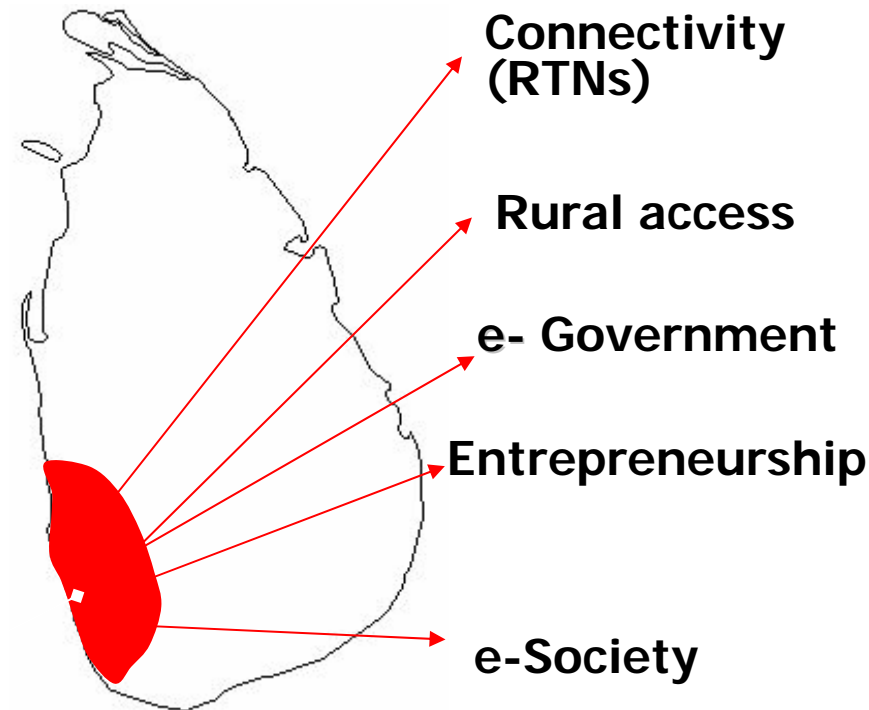


e-Sri Lanka: A Nation's plan to empower its People through ICT

“.....taking the dividends of ICT to every village, to every citizen, to every business & re-engineer the way government thinks & works....”

Why e - Sri Lanka?

- Population 19.7mn
- 23% live below poverty line
- 70% of poor live in rural areas
- Per capita GDP US\$ 1000 but 45.4% of the population live on less than 2\$ a day
(Central Bank Annual report 2005)
- Literacy 90%
- ICT literacy 10%
(Dept of Census & Statistics, 2004)



What can ICT do?



Grow the ICT Sector
AND use ICT as an enabler for socio-economic development

An Integrated e~Development Model

& Program Interdependencies



e-Society Development Initiative: purpose

Provide access to ICT amongst the most *disadvantaged groups* in Sri Lanka and ensure that the benefits of ICT development flow to these groups



How is it done?

- ❑ Raising awareness on benefits of ICT
- ❑ Enhancing stakeholder capacity
- ❑ Developing partnerships in ICT4D
- ❑ Setting up a Fund



INNOVATIVE PROJECTS

TARGET BENEFICIARY	PROJECT
WOMEN	Documenting incidences of violence against women, empowering women thro' ICT
DISABLED	Information accessibility for print disabled thro' digital talking books using DAISY software
	Sign language video for hearing impaired
RURAL CHILDREN	Interactive educational content based on school curriculum to facilitate self learning
RURAL COMMUNITIES	English teaching via Satellite
	Automated community radio
	Video audio tri lingual disaster alert system
RURAL ENTREPRENEURS	Digitized local language content for micro enterprises, creation of video content, dissemination thro' ICT
MARGINALIZED	Sinhala <-> Tamil translation software

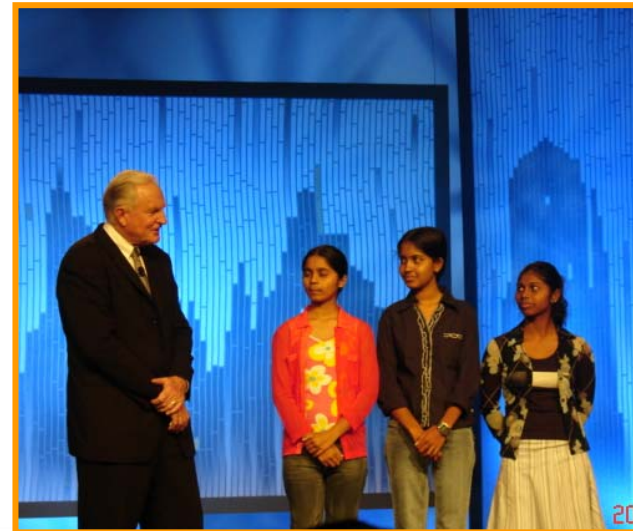
Grassroots innovation

- On line “ Inter *Nenasala* do-you-know Contest”
- Contest for local content development
- Remote medical consultations
- Single Gateway to H'tota district
- “Best Job Opportunities”
- Internet Radio
- Network of 20 farming communities

Road to Mahavillachchiya...



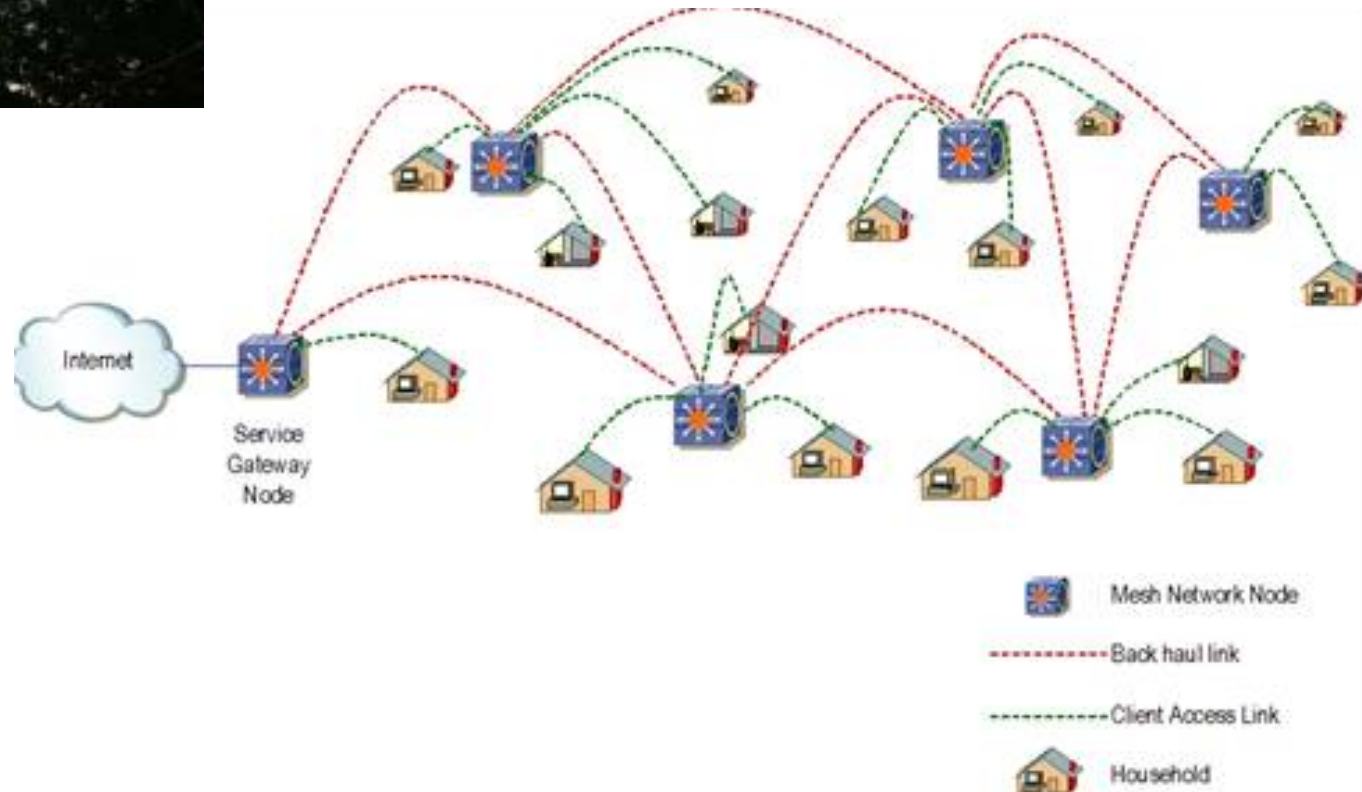
...road to Fame and Fortune !





And now....

Sri Lanka's first free access village community network!



- 28 homes
- 2 schools
- 1000 students



Thank you

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