GOVERNMENT ACHIEVEMENT AND CHALLENGES REGARDING THE ENHANCEMENT OF ICT ACCESSIBILITY FOR PWD’S IN INDONESIA

I. Background

ICTs are basically information handling tools — a varied set of goods, applications, and services that are used to produce, store, process, distribute and exchange information. They include the “old” ICTs of radio, television and telephone, and the “new” ICTs of computers, satellites and wireless technology and the Internet.

The development of technology which has been advanced recently, making ICT becomes one of prime needs of society. Mostly persons with disabilities cannot effort to reach their need of information and communication through advanced ICT nowadays.

ICT’s offer individuals the ability to compensate for physical or functional limitations, thus allowing them to enhance their social and economic integration in communities by enlarging the scope of activities available to them. However ICT have the potential for making significant improvements in the lives of PWD’s.

A. Data and Situations of Persons with Disabilities

The problems of persons with disabilities were caused by lack of ability PWD’S in
doing their social role in a common life. Besides, infrastructure limitation in social and health services and other services which were needed by PWD’s including accessibility at public services for their independence.

According to National Economic Census on 2006, the population of persons with disabilities in Indonesia is 3,063,559 persons or 1.38% of national population. The census also described percentages of persons with disabilities as shown below:
Disabilities problem will be more complex if it is connected to other social problems, such as poverty. Lack of social economic support increase the weakness of PWD’S’s and influence their ability to do activities: physically and their self esteem in doing social interaction to the community and environment.

### B. Regulations

Indonesia has regulations concerning to the disabilities issues which are Law of Republic of Indonesia No. 4/1997 concerning of Disabled People, Government Regulation No 43/1998 concerning Effort of Social Welfare Enhancement of Disabled People. Beside them, Government formulated Indonesia National Plan of Action (INPOA) of Disabled People 2004-2013. This INPOA has a forward action of

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Disability</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visual</td>
<td>59.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing</td>
<td>56.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech</td>
<td>15.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usage of hands and fingers</td>
<td>9.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usage of foot (walking)</td>
<td>40.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abnormal shape of body</td>
<td>6.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraplegia</td>
<td>11.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronicle disease</td>
<td>9.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Retardation</td>
<td>8.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Statistic Indonesia – Module of National Economic Census 2006*
Biwako Millennium Framework (BMF), and especially for Indonesia, we added one action to and it’s named International Relationship.

According to the Law of Republic of Indonesia No. 4/1997 concerning of Disabled People, the classification of PWD’s divided into three categories:

1. Persons with physical disability:
   a. Physical disability (loose or lack of human body function)
   b. Persons with visually disability
   c. Persons with hearing disability
   d. ex chronically diseases

2. Persons with Mental Disability:
   a. Persons with intellectual disability
   b. The ex psychotic

3. Both physically and mentally impaired

Law no. 4/1997 also described, that government must establish equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in all aspects of life. Those accessibilities including access to information and communication.

To realize participation in global society, Indonesia’s government has one of the countries that signed the International Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities on May, 30th, 2007. To follow up that convention government together with PWD’s community have been doing ratification process, which expected to be achieved in International Day of Persons with Disabilities of the year 2008.

II. Policies
Some policies that has been made by government in order to facilitate the needs of ICT accessibility for PWD’s in Indonesia as follows:

1. Improving the facilities and infrastructure of ICT accessibilities for PWD’s in order to maximize its capacities.

2. Enhance coordination, cooperation, as well as extended the network among sectors to better services of ICT accessibility for PWD’s.

Realizing those policies, there are some strategies to run by government and other stakeholders:

1. Conducting regular meeting between stakeholders to create similar perception about ICT accessibility program for PWD’s.

2. Creating the working groups within National Coordinating member for formulating the national program of ICT accessibility for PWD’s.

3. Empowering PWD’s through build their capacities on ICT

4. Dissemination and doing advocacies on enhancing community aware to promote the right of PWD’s on ICT accessibility.
III. Barriers and Challenges

There are some barriers and challenges in order to provide ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities among others:

1. Lack of Budget allocation in increasing the communication tools from government,

2. Limited of supporting in providing and developing structure facility and infrastructure of ICT accessibility for PWD’s

3. There has no similar knowledge of Indonesia Sign Language System, whether among persons with hearing disabilities, and officers

4. Lack of training for rehabilitation centers officers on ICT accessibility for PWD’s

IV. Efforts

According to Biwako Millennium Framework and National Plan of Action, the Government of Indonesia has established some targets to achieve the need of ICT for PWD’s such as:

a. Persons with disabilities should have at least the same rate of access to the Internet and related services as the rest of citizens in a country of the region.

b. Formulating accessibility standardization on ICT for PWD’s according to International Standard.

c. Governments should develop and coordinate a standardized sign language, finger Braille, tactile sign language, in each country and to disseminate and teach the results through all means, i.e. publications, CD-ROMs, etc.

By those targets, the achievements that have been reached are:
a. Sign Language Dictionary for Persons with Hearing disabilities has been made by government together with DPO, published to educational institutions, capacity building training for rehabilitation centre personnel, and extended Indonesia Sign Language through audio visual media, such as Compact Disc.

b. Since 2005, Ministry of Social Affairs has been developing speech therapy teaching for Persons with hearing disabilities in rehabilitation centers.

c. In the year 2008, Ministry of Social Affairs has planned to formulate practical guiding book containing special vocabularies which commonly used in rehabilitation centers, in particularly related to vocational skill guidance.

d. Indonesia Braille Printing House has conducted several efforts, as follows:
   1) Printing Braille books as well as providing talking books
   2) Performing Braille printing exhibitions in several events
   3) Giving Braille library services
   4) Producing Braille magazines script
   5) Providing internet services

e. Mitra Netra Foundation as a Social organization which has program stress on the development of ICT for Persons with Visual Disability has conducted several efforts as follows:
   1) Holding National Computer Camp for the Blind in 2006 by the aim of raising community awareness on the importance of ICT for persons with visual disability.
   2) Developing Mitra Netra Electronic Dictionary (Meldict), that enable for persons with visual disabilities can access by voices.
3) Developing Talking books, in the form of compact cassette and discs

4) Developing Digital Accessible Information System (DAISY)

5) Developing website that possible to be accessed by persons with visual disabilities

6) Cooperating with colleges and universities to established ICT Service Centers for Persons with visual disabilities with purpose to help students with visual disabilities by providing technology assistive devices.

7) Developing Mitra Netra Braille Converter (MBC). MBC is computer software that its function is to convert from print letter to Braille.

8) Developing Bahasa Indonesia Text to Speech, this can be joined to JAWS.

9) Cooperating with Ministry of National Education in providing computer catalog for the blind, and help library consumer to read books through computer software and scanner.

10) In the future, Mitra Netra foundation will launch MBC 5.0 version and Mitra Netra Tactile Graphics (MTG). MTG is software for persons with visual disabilities to draw simple geometric forms, and print it into Braille.

V. Conclusion

Principally, Indonesia has done variety of efforts to develop facilities through laws and government regulations, structure facility and infrastructure, towards ICT accessibility for PWD’s.

ICT accessibility in Indonesia which has been well developed is for persons with visually disability in one part, and for persons with hearing disability in other part.
Both applied technology and innovations has been developing and creating whether by government or community through DPOs. Mitra Netra Foundation as one of developed DPO based in Indonesia, has been done a lot of works and innovation on developing ICT for persons with visually disability.

Even though there has much developed technology applied, we still facing some barriers and challenges. That’s why we need to create some cooperation with regional countries in Asia Pacific, and to build networking to share and transferring significant and relevant policies on ICT accessibility for PWD’s.