Foreword

It has been almost a decade now since we were talking about 'fast Internet' and 'second generation Internet' as a wishful thought while now we live this reality. Broadband has been a great revolution for Internet users all over the world and it has now been characterised as 'a citizens' fundamental right'. So what were the factors that lead to this wide spread of broadband Internet? The most obvious is content, watching TV shows and films and playing interactive games is an everyday reality of people in every age today. Social networking and the media capabilities they offer is another factor making people demand and use Internet which is fast and reliable. Low prices and network infrastructure have also been heavily contributed to giving broadband Internet the commodity nature it has today.

But is this the case in every part of the world? Apparently not as the different country analysis reports in this book show that there is still a large part of the human population who has never used the Internet due to lack of available infrastructure and training. A recent report from BBC world showed the striking difference between families in South Korea who were made to go off line for a week, creating withdraw Internet symptoms to them with families in rural areas in Nigeria who have never used or heard of the Internet before. So this is where the government policies come into place to iron out these inequalities and work not only on narrow national specific settings but go out to reach into a global environment of free information sharing and communication.

So, what is the future for broadband now? The answer comes immediately to mind is mobile broadband, is it already a reality and how much we need to do in terms of infrastructure development and content to reach the levels of broadband Internet? The indications are that this won't be too far from now. What about convergence with mobile, Internet and TV? Is that something we will experience soon? This book gives answers to all these questions and includes a comprehensive account of where broadband in today and where is going in the future. Have a good reading.

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