

Proposal for Sustained, Rapid and Secure Development of the Internet

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ABSTRACT

Following the principle of ex-ante regulation, routine supervision, and ex post handling of various security issues of the Internet, MII has taken painstaking efforts and initiatives in Internet regulation, which is an urgent need as China is constantly witnessing a skyrocketing rise in ICT users. A proposal for creating a sound development environment and other specific issues for further development of the Internet are elaborated in a bid to provide valuable reference for an even more spectacular scene in China.

Key words: ICT, cyber security, Internet

I. ICT DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA

In recent years, the information and communication technology (ICT) industry in China has seen sustained and fast growth. Up to now, the total number of fixed telephone subscribers and mobile subscribers has reached 805 million. This includes 368 million fixed telephone subscribers, with a main line penetration rate of 28 lines per hundred inhabitants, and 437 million mobile subscribers, with a penetration rate of 32.7 mobile phones per hundred people. To expedite the

development of information and communication applications in rural areas, the Ministry of Information Industry has been actively implementing the Cun Cun Tong Project (telephone connection to every village) in recent two years. So far, 98% of China's administrative villages have had access to telephone service, including all the administrative villages of 16 provinces, municipalities, and autonomous regions in China.

Highlighting the whole information and communication industry is the amazing Internet development pace. This is reflected mainly in the following three aspects. First of all, the Internet has proliferated in network scale. By the end of June this year, the number of Internet users had come to 123 million, including 77 million broadband subscribers; there were 788,000 websites; 54.5 million computers were connected to the Internet; international outlet bandwidth of the Internet reached 214G. Secondly, new network technology keeps emerging. China has made significant progress in the research and development as well as manufacturing of key network equipment with proprietary intellectual property, and the technical tests and application demonstration related to next-generation Internet routing switching equipment have gone smoothly. The mutual penetration and convergence of various kinds of technologies, services, and networks bring about new

opportunities for the industry, and promote the continuous extension and gradual improvement of the industry's value chain. Thirdly, network resources as well as services and applications become more and more sufficient. Online services such as e-government, e-learning, telemedicine, e-commerce, mobile information, and online digital contents change with each passing day. E-commerce transactions grow quickly, and communications becomes more efficient. The Internet is playing an increasingly important role in promoting economic development, pushing social progress, and improving the quality of people's lives.

II. SUPERVISION WORK OF MII

In recent years, Internet security issues become increasingly widespread. Cyber crimes, hackers and virus attacks and dissemination of malicious information, just to name a few, have become more and more conspicuous. As the authority for the industry, the Ministry of Information Industry has always been paying great attention and attaching great importance to these issues.

Since last year, MII has done a lot of work to tighten up supervision over the Internet. Above all, a host of regulations and rules on domain names, IP address resources, archiving of websites, Web information services, mobile SMS, and e-mail services have been introduced, and a framework for conducting network and information security management by law has taken shape.

Secondly, by following the procedure of ex-ante regulation, routine supervision, and ex post handling, MII has gradually established and improved an array of systems, including real name system for website and domain names, market access examination, and information security supervision, and explored a set of effective policies, measures, and supervisory systems.

Thirdly, by enhancing coordination and collaboration with departments concerned, MII has gradually established and improved a host of mechanism and processes for Internet administration, such as prior examination and approval, and annual review of websites, forming resultant force in administration. All this have played an important role in regulating the network environment.

Fourthly, pursuant to the State Council's spirit and unified deployment for stepping up management of

major public emergencies in various fields, MII has worked out the Emergency Project for Internet Security, and established a relatively sound emergency management system for public Internet security.

Fifthly, through close cooperation with government departments concerned, MII has mobilized operators, Internet associations and users to take part in. With the aim of "launching websites and using the Internet in a civilized manner", MII has conducted a series of activities under the "Sunshine Green Internet Project", and organized a host of campaigns, such as archiving of websites, Spam prevention, clearing-up of mobile information service, regulation of the Web information service market, and rectification of the Internet access service market. Through concerted efforts from all sides, the network environment has been effectively purified, which gives a strong boost to the secure, healthy, and orderly development of the Internet.

III. PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Internet is a high-tech industry featuring new technologies, new services and new applications. In the Internet era, we are faced with a stringent challenge, that is, to speed up Internet development so as to bring more benefits to people while maintaining a healthy online environment and order and ensuring security and efficiency. In this new situation, the Chinese government will continue to follow the guideline of "strong support, improved governance, warding off downsides and making full use of its benefits", and take effective measures to resolve various conflicts and problems for the sustained, rapid and secure development of the Internet.

Firstly, technology and service innovations should be strengthened with a view to expanding the horizon of Internet growth. Research and development in key areas, such as NGN, ICT application and digital contents should be intensified so as to create a healthy development mechanism where application drives innovation and innovation promotes application and thus expands the horizon of Internet growth. Enterprises should be encouraged and supported in their development of new services and applications under the guidance of market demands, so as to propel the application of Internet technologies in all walks of life and promote the ICT

drive of the national economy. More studies should be carried out on critical issues and key technologies which have a great bearing on Internet development, and challenges in relation to cyber security should be addressed effectively, so as to make the Internet provide more benefit for the society and the public at large.

Secondly, infrastructure building should be enhanced to increase the wide application of the Internet. In conformity with the trend of broadband access and high-speed backbone transmission of the Internet, the network structure should be optimized and the network performance should be improved, so as to set up an information network platform to adapt to the demand of the information society. Internet development should adhere to the "people-centered" principle in expansion of network coverage, especially in building-up network infrastructures in the central, western and rural areas. Internet knowledge should be propagated on an extensive basis, and diversified information customized for farmers should be developed and offered to the extent of availability, affordability and practicality, so as to make the fruits of Internet development truly benefit all the people.

Thirdly, scientific management should be implemented and a sound environment should be created for Internet development. New cases and issues popping up on the web should be studied on a timely basis. Regulatory policies, laws and provisions should be formulated in a targeted manner and serve as the foundation for carrying out management and making scientific decisions. In accordance with the principle of "government guidance, public participation, democratic decision-making, high efficiency and transparency", a governance pattern should be brought into shape, with the government playing a leading role and industrial organizations, enterprises and Internet users playing their due parts and coordinating and collaborating with each other, so as to pool the strength of all stakeholders in safeguarding the cyber security and building a sunshine web, a green web and a civilized web.

Fourthly, industry self-discipline should be advocated to forge a civilized Internet service offering practice and cultivate a civilized on-line etiquette. We support industry associations to give full play to their role as a bridge and a tie in further strengthening industry self-discipline, proactively launching healthy and colorful cyber events as well as helping netizens protect themselves. We demand Internet enterprises to take social responsibilities,

strengthen self-discipline and offer civilized Internet services by occupying the cyber frontier with secure and diversified service portfolios. We also encourage netizens to report to administrations any form of cybercrime, and help to foster a healthy and harmonious cyber space.

Fifthly, external exchanges and cooperation should be carried out to promote fast and healthy development of the Internet in joint efforts. The Internet is an area highly demanding international cooperation. In recent years, we have comprehensively carried out effective cooperation in Internet with other countries and relevant international organizations in various scopes such as technologies, standards and specifications, resource allocation, network access and Internet governance. In the future, we will continue to strengthen our collaboration with various governments, international organizations and civil societies, and to establish an effective communication and negotiation mechanism so as to promote the fast and secure development of the Internet in joint efforts.

BIOGRAPHY

Mr. Jiang Yaoping was born in Wujin, Jiangsu province in September of 1952. He graduated in the Department of Foreign Languages of the Guangxi University for Nationalities in 1976. He received his Master Degree in Information Management from BI Norwegian School of Management in Dec. 1999, and Doctor's degree in Management Science and Engineering from Harbin Institute of Technology.



Mr. Jiang has been Vice Minister of the Ministry of Information Industry since April, 2004. He became Director General of the Department of Policy, Laws and Regulations in July, 2002. He took the post of Director of the Computer Network and Security Management Office of the National Informatization Leading Group in May, 2000. Before that, he was successive holders of directors and deputy directors in the Guangxi Posts and Telecommunications Administration, and Nanning Telecommunications Bureau.