
Building a Northeast Asian Telecommunications Network

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INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION AND CREATING INTERCONNECTIONS

In the recently emerging information society, telecommunications have become a key factor in production management, services, and daily life. There are numerous compelling connections between communications and the social economy. Information has become the determining factor in productivity, competitive ability, and the success of economic development. Thus the development of the Northeast Asian region must begin with the creation of an information network and a basis for interconnection and intercommunication.

The Northeast Asian information network should be first set up in the area of the Tumen River. The TRADP (Tumen River Area Development Programme) was established by the United Nations Development Programme in the 1990s, to develop the economy in this region and promote prosperity in Northeast Asia. Given the differing political systems and economic status of the six countries of the region—China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, Russia, and Mongolia—the first thing to do is to resolve the issues of coordination among these countries. For this purpose, it is necessary to consult the construction mode of the information superhighway in the United States. At first, the governments of the six countries must prepare for the construction of the information network, but they do not participate directly in the construction, nor do they own or operate the information network. Instead, they hand all this work to the authorized enterprises. The governments themselves take the responsibility only to promote the creation and development of the information network, by establishing appropriate policies and a standardization program.

A large amount of investment will be needed to construct the Northeast Asian network, and it would be very difficult for a single entity to bear the whole cost. Therefore, we propose that the construction of the Northeast Asian information network should be undertaken with the above mode as reference. The governments of the six countries and enterprises should invest jointly and set up a stock company that is authorized to carry out the construction and operation of the telecom network. But before doing this, each government has to assign experts to a technical commission responsible for the creation of the network and for standardization.

OVERALL STRUCTURE FOR THE NORTHEAST ASIAN INFORMATION NETWORK

It is appropriate to assign a key role to satellite telecommunications in Northeast Asia, because of the limited size of the population and the complicated terrain. The choice of satellites not only takes advantage of the unified standards of satellite communications but also fills the need for open digitalization and larger capacity in Northeast Asia in the future. This mature and reliable transmission technology will allow interconnection among the region's countries and will also contribute to the development of the information highway for the region.

Today, science and technology are developing at full speed. If the countries in the region cooperate in good faith, they can certainly achieve interconnection, exchange updated information, and thereby promote mutual economic development for each country and for the region as a whole. China Tongda has the ability to provide technological support and all-around services. We hope to do our best for the creation and development of the Northeast Asian communication network, with the promise of China's laws, regulations, and policy.

AN INTRODUCTION TO CHINA TONGDA

My company—China Tongda Network System Corporation (China Tongda for short)—is one of China's high-technology and new-technology enterprises in the electronics sector. It is capable of providing all aspects of multi-technology support and services in satellite communications, mobile communications, and integrated computer communications networking. It provides overall designs for contracted projects, management of network operations, and applications for and development of commodity trade, as well as maintenance services, technical training, and so forth.

China Tongda undertook China's first large satellite communications specialized network: the clearing and appropriating system for the People's Bank and the layout data transmission system for the *People's Daily*. Both of these systems are now playing a key role in their operations. Various state leaders—President Jiang Zemin, Zou Jiahua, and Hu Qili—have made separate inspections of these two large systems, and each of the leaders has set a high value on them.

China Tongda is in a close touch with many science and technology companies, both domestic and abroad, and has established good relations for long-term cooperation, through economic and technical alliances. The company has also jointly developed a new generation of communication products. With the United States Information System Company, for example, China Tongda jointly developed a TDAMA for China (the CTDAMA)—a satellite surface terminal

system, which has the characteristics of data compatibility and distribution according to need, as well as handling in distribution. This system is the third generation of products of the VSAT on an international advanced level and is especially suitable for markets in China and the rest of the Northeast Asian region.