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# Challenges in Telecom Regulation

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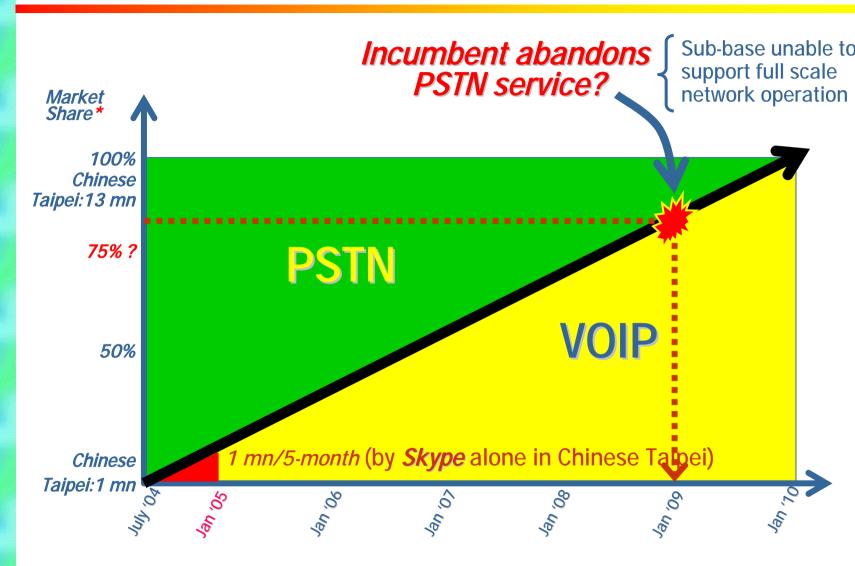
# Observations, Vision and Propositions

- Observations a perfect storm is forming
  - -PSTN-based telephony business' ever difficult position
  - -Saturating Mobile Voice Service
  - -Emerging Wireless technology disruptive innovation
  - -Regulatory regime at crossroad
- Vision A Structure Change
  - -The Convergence of Fixed, Mobile, Wireless, Broadcasting, and Information Services
  - –Industry Structure: from vertical to horizontal
- Propositions
  - -Regulatory solutions going forward

# **PSTN** --- Endangered Spicy

- Voice Empire -- Collapsing
  - Price Cap, ILD Price Competition → Shrinking pie
  - Traffic shift Fixed Mobile Substitution → 20% to 50%
  - Hi-growth VOIP business→10% to 20% evaporated, up to now
- Core Network Obsolete and Vulnerable
  - Expanding IP Network PSTN marginalized
  - Venders Maintenance Capacity divested
- Access Network -- Challenged
  - Bandwidth: Cable and Fiber vs. ADSL
  - Deployment Cost: WiFi (WiMax) vs. ADSL
- Regulation -- Unfriendly
  - Asymmetric Regulation vs. Mobile and Wireless Businesses'
    - USO, Interconnection charge, UNE (for incumbent), ...
- Business Stalled
  - Broadband VAS not taking off, no promising new revenue stream

# **PSTN's Vanishing Point?**

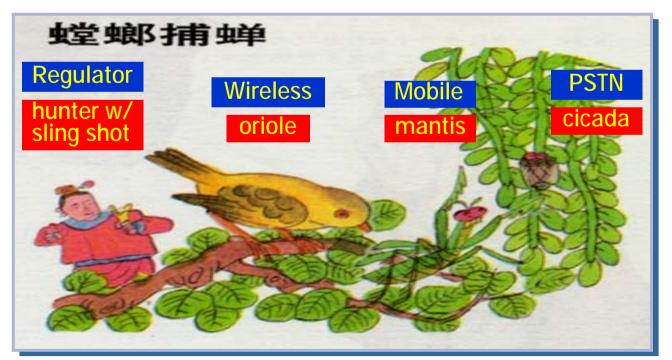


<sup>\*</sup> The fixed-mobile substitution effect not included.

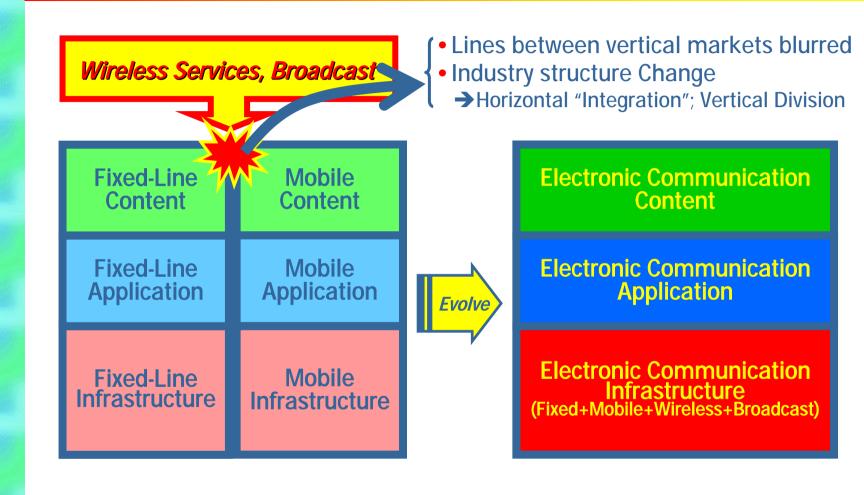
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### Interplay among Alternative Technologies

- The Game
  - The mantis is seizing the cicada not knowing the oriole just behind
- The hunter has the power to decide who wins
  - What the hunter should really do is the creation of a win-win-win situation



## Vision: Horizontal Convergence



Vertical Regulatory Regime

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Horizontal Regulatory Regime

## **Propositions for New Regulatory Policy -- 1**

- Don't work against Technological Trend
  - -It's useless to prevent a trend from happening
- Don't naively copy other countries' practices
  - -Differences in infrastructures' status, competition intensity, consumer spending, calling pattern, ...
- Set Clear Goals
  - Reconcile the interests of governments, incumbents, new entrants, and consumers
  - Provide incentives to promote investment and infrastructure-based competition, and continued development of networks and technological innovation

### **Propositions on New Regulatory Policy -- 2**

#### Policy Refocus

- Fixed-line incumbent's last mile monopoly had been broken by mobile and other wireless technologies
  - Transferring the incumbent's profit to consumer or competitor is no longer a "real" issue going forward
- Mobile, wireless, cable, fiber, and the old fixed-lines should be all put into regulatory regime's overall picture in the future
- From asymmetric to symmetric regulation, e.g., USO issue

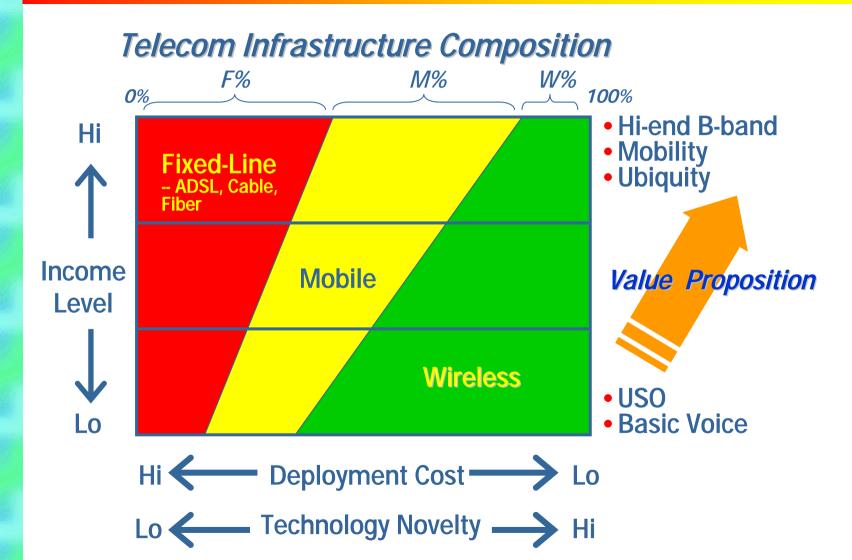
#### For Developed Economies

- Horizontal integration (interconnection) of various electronic communication technological platforms
- New form of Virtual Network Operators (VNO) and Content Providers to use new hybrid infrastructure to provide broad-band multi-media seamless services at market cost
- More market competition force than regulation power

#### For Developing Economies

- Parallel deployment of alternative electronic communication technological platform
- Watch the digital divide between urban and rural areas

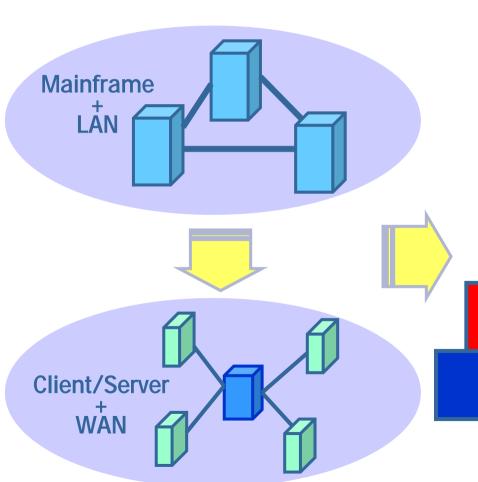
# Infrastructure Deployment Strategy



### Info-communication Service in the future

#### Machine-Centric Systems

Network-Centric Systems



Web-Based Application Systems

App App App Module Module

Domain-Specific Application Platform

**Global Web-based Platform** 

Global Electronic Communication Platform

# Thank you

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