

**PROVISION OF TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES FOR RURAL AREAS
IN MALAYSIA**

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PREFACE

Generally speaking , rural areas are characterized by a low population density , a low concentration of subscribers and therefore low and scattered circuit requirement.

The telecommunication needs of the rural community in the rural areas can only be resolved by adopting a different technology which does not have the limitation inherent in the conventional cable technology. Many options are available such as the Multiple Access Radio System , Optical fiber cable, Cellular Radio and other technologies. There is no one option that is better than the other since different situations will require different approaches.

The overall objective of this project is basically to obtain the optimum solution in providing good quality and cost-effective telecommunications services for rural community by selecting the available technologies to satisfy the service requirements for both current and future needs.

This is also to achieve the planned growth and penetration target as stipulated in the Telekom Malaysia Business Plan 1991 - 1995 and which is in line with TM's commitment to provide adequate telephone services to the rural community in support of the Government's effort to accelerate national development.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION TO TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES FOR RURAL AREAS.

1.1 General

Telecommunication development in rural areas lags behind those of urban areas. There is no willful discrimination by administration against rural communities , but purely because the administration wishes to utilise the available resources in areas of greatest benefits.

The importance of bringing telecommunications services to rural areas is more and more recognized in all countries worldwide as a means to enhance economic development. Several technologies must be employed according to the local conditions. Capital cost of equipment is a major issue ,but operation and maintenance cost is also of equal important , to which adequate attention must be paid . Modern technology and modern equipment offer the opportunity of integrated design with ensuing cost benefits due to avoidance of duplicated network functions and to integration of network supervision and maintenance.