How ICT and Big Data Can Support Green Growth and Poor Regions' Development - Asia & Europe

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- **Context**: The emergence of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Big Data, based on the Internet is pushing human society from the Industrial Era to the Internet era. This development does not only substantially increase transaction efficiency, but it also changes the definition of resources, and further fundamentally impacts on production and consumption, transactions, business organization, urbanization patterns, etc. In this new historic condition, ICT and big data are becoming a powerful engine for economic development in poor regions. To jump out of traditional industrialization thinking, it is vital to understand these fundamental changes and to seize the development opportunities in poor regions.
- **Questions**: ***First***, which ICT-based innovations are happening in finance, R&D, and learning systems, with a focus on their applications in business. ***Second***, how do ICT and big data provide new opportunities for development in poor regions and, as a result, which new businesses are emerging? For instance, without ICT, this trans-continental live-streamed video conference can never be held in a poor village. Use this example to discuss the impact of ICT on poor regions, as well as how to seize the new opportunities. ***Third***, how do ICT and big data facilitate the provision of public services, so that poor regions can share in the resources of advanced areas, such as good education, healthcare, etc.

Green Growth and Poor Regions

- We already have a lot of data available or easily accessible
  - Wash. DC WASA / Water leakage – predicting pipe bursts
  - Lloyds of London / Crop insurance in developing countries – collecting rainfall data via SMS
  - Swiss-Re + WEF / Global Risk Report
- We can extract learning from text as well as numbers
  - Ecotrust / Resilience Exchange
  - Harvesting the Bodies of Knowledge
- We can extend agriculture in marginal regions
  - Fresno County, Calif. Drought – analytics for irrigation (satellites -> drones) – fibre-to-the-farm