



USAID
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VIETNAM WiMAX ALLIANCE

DELIVERING HIGHSPEED TELECOM TO RURAL COMMUNITIES

THE CHALLENGE

Lào Cai is one of the poorest provinces in Vietnam. Its main industries are agriculture and forestry. In order to strengthen trade relationships with neighboring China and attract foreign investors to stimulate the economy, Lào Cai's inhabitants require access to modern information and communication technology. Yet even as the telecommunications infrastructures in Vietnam's major cities undergo rapid development, remote Lào Cai continues to lag far behind. Internet access in Lào Cai is available through fixed telephone lines and a broadband Internet network that rarely extend beyond town borders and is prohibitively expensive.

THE APPROACH

The Vietnam WiMAX Alliance between USAID, Intel Corporation, and the Vietnam Data Communication Company is demonstrating that it can deliver broadband Internet anywhere at a reasonable cost. The alliance brings broadband Internet to Lào Cai province. The initial deployment of WiMAX broadband to Lào Cai's provincial capital used fiber backhaul. The next deployment used satellite backhaul to bring broadband WiMAX to the village of Ta Van, bypassing any need for a wired infrastructure. The villagers of Ta Van share WiMAX workstations that now operate in a variety of settings. Teachers are making math and geography lessons more engaging by using computers and online content. Farmers are accessing critical information on crops and diseases. Visitors to Ta Van can check email, update blogs and photo-sites, and read travel guides. The success of the Vietnam WiMAX Alliance shows the educational and economic benefits of internet access and VoIP to rural communities around the world.

PARTNERS

Intel Corporation, Vietnam Data Communication Company



RESULTS

- Inhabitants of Ta Van regularly read news and download music online.
- Traffic at 12 end user stations exceeds 500 MBs every day.
- Internet and PC knowledge have not posed any problems.
- Healthcare workers have instant access to medical information.
- Ta Van villagers are telephoning friends and relatives using VoIP.

