

UN says 2.7bn people will be online by year-end

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND: Around 2.7bn people - or 40% of the world's population - will be connected to the Internet by the end of 2013, the United Nations said on Monday (7 October).



Another 250m people came online in 2012, but 4.4bn people remain unconnected, said the UN's International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Ninety percent of those not online live in developing countries.

The ITU also said there would be 6.8bn mobile cellular subscriptions - almost as many as there are people on the planet - by the end of the year.

South Korea leads the world in information and communication technology (ICT) development for the third consecutive year, followed closely by Sweden, Iceland, Denmark, Finland and Norway, the ITU said in its annual report.

"The Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Luxembourg and Hong Kong also rank high, while Britain nudged into the top 10 from 11th position last year," the report said.

The ITU's annual ICT Development Index ranks 157 countries according to their level of ICT access, use and skills.

The report also noted that mobile broadband is now more affordable than fixed broadband.

Source: AFP via I-Net Bridge