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**Session 6: Ethical Dimension of the Information Society?**

**Should access to Internet content be controlled?**

**by Awg Haji Ahmad Haji Abd Rahman,  
Deputy Permanent Secretary  
Prime Minister's Office**

**(Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2005, 10.30am – 12.15pm)**

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# **Should Access to Internet Contents be Controlled ?**

**Presented by  
Ahmad A Rahman  
Deputy Permanent Secretary  
Prime Minister's Office**

**NATIONAL SUMMIT On Information Society – NASIS  
7 – 8 September 2005**

**The internet is an important communication medium as well as a rich source of information, education and entertainment.**

**Internet access is analogous to a double-edge knife; it depends on how it is being used and it can do more good than harm.**

## **Why Should We Control the Access to Internet Content?**

**To ensure that minimum standards are set for the responsible use of the internet and restrict contents that are deemed undesirable while giving maximum flexibility to industry players to operate.**

**Undesirable contents can include websites containing pornography, sedition and social and religious discriminations.**

**There is a need to balance the regulation and development of the use of the internet.**

### **Information Access means**

**Opportunities / avenues available to individuals to seek information from different sources – such as from individuals, institutions, and public domains and data bases**



### **Information Flow means**

**The supply / availability of information within a society, Information flow may be restricted in some society and open in others.**



## **Impact of ICT in Information Access and Flow**

**The penetration of ICT is constantly changing the way people interact with other individuals and institutions, and the information they acquire from them.**



# **Impact of ICT on Information Access**

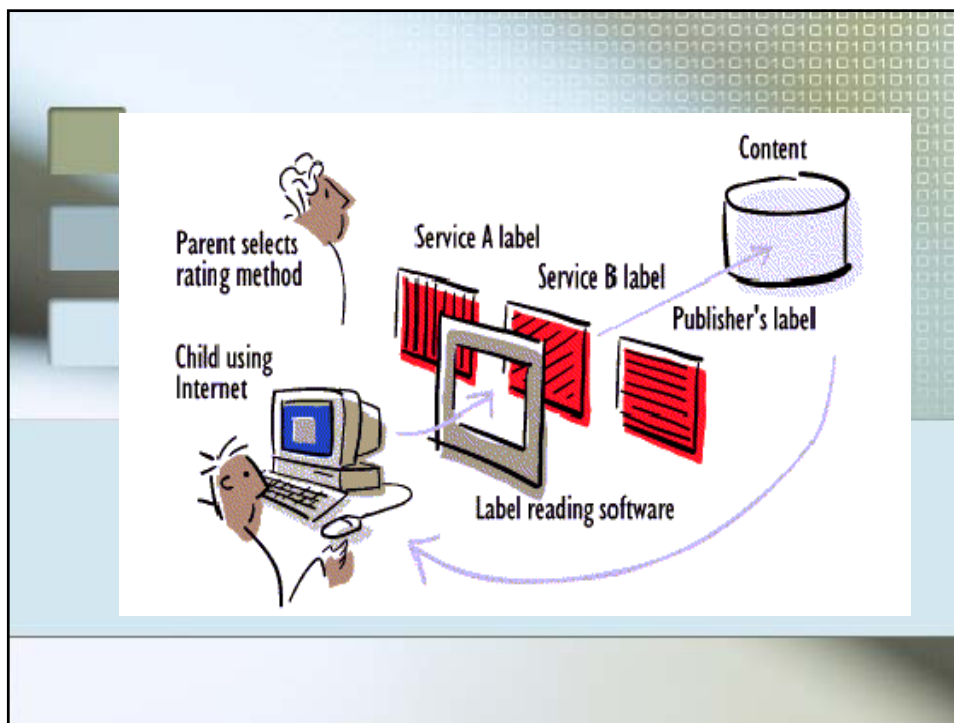
## **Dimension of Information Access**

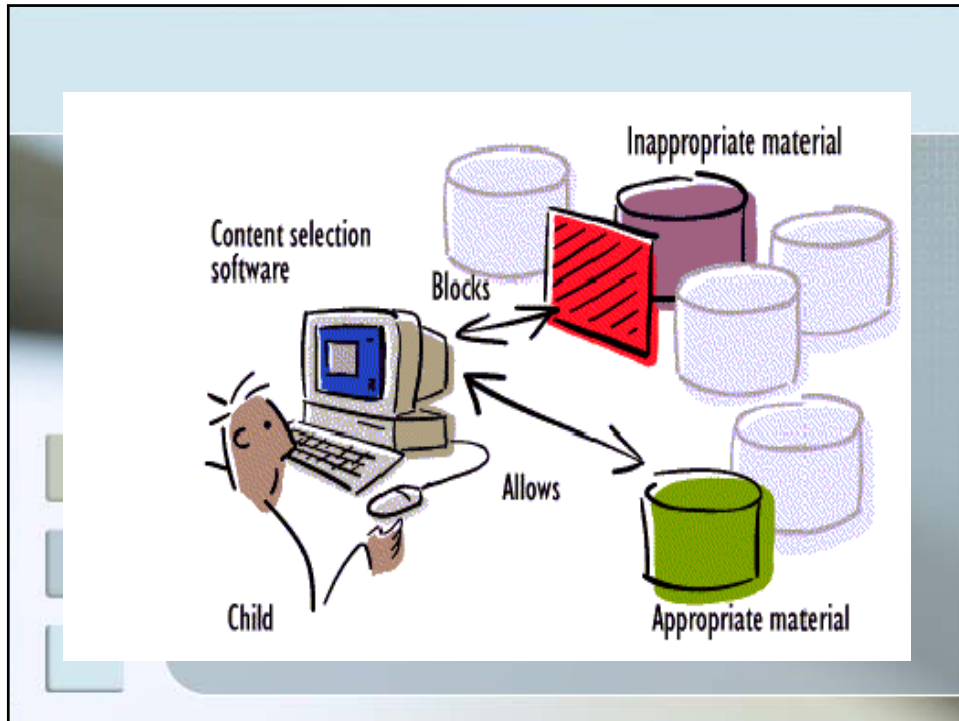
- **sources of information**
- **Intensity of interaction**
- **Information types**

**Enhancing Information Access and Flow have a significant impact of the governance processes – through catalyzing the formation of knowledge societies.**

**The knowledge societies are more aware of events and conditions in local and global domain and can use this knowledge proactively and strategically fit for their benefits – this may include – impacting the governance processes to make them more accountable and responsive to their constituencies and stakeholders.**

**In absence or weak information access and flows, impacting governance processes – information may simply be unavailable or sources to verify existing information may be non-existence**





Internet is evolving with new services and new contents always being developed and published. There is a need to maintain open channels of communication with the public and the industry. Constant feedback with the industry and the public must be sought so that the established framework can be fine-tuned in tandem to reflect both technological advances and society's concerns.

