

The initiation ceremony for local phone line and network at Jinlu and Yanglao Tribes, Xiuluan Village, Jianshi Township, Hsinchu County

Construction processes of local phone line and network at Jinlu and Yanglao Tribes:

Since its establishment in February 2006, NCC has always adhered to the spirit stipulated in Article 13 of Fundamental Communications Act - facilitate the healthy development of communications, protect the rights of the underprivileged, and provide universal service to reduce the digital divide. The completion of local phone line network at Jinlu and Yang-lao Tribes in Jian-shi Township is a fine example of its success. NCC has lived up to the expectation of tribal residents, who can finally come to enjoy their first local phone line in their life-time, and discover broadband internet to connect with the world.

From 1986 to 1990, the government worked to promote the policy goal of *Telephones for all Households*, but since Jinlu and Yanglao Tribes are located in remote mountains and confined by difficult transportation links they could not enjoy such privilege. Though local residents had applied for local phone network from telecom service providers, it was difficult for telecom service providers to construct cable works, and conduct maintenance as the limited number of household and their extreme isolation made investment costs impractical. Therefore, the issue has taken a long time to be resolved.

Since 1996, the government has been implementing a policy of liberalization of telecommunications. NCC has promulgated “Regulations on Telecommunications Universal Service” in order to ensure the fundamental communication rights of residents in remote areas as well as implement the social policy of which is to provide all of our nationals with reasonably-priced telecommunications service at a certain acceptable quality.

The construction project of local phone network at Jinlu and Yang-lao Tribe is being subsidized on project-basis by “The Telecommunications Universal Services Fund” through telecom universal service system; NCC appointed Chunghwa Telecom

Company Limited to furnish the construction for this project. Presently, Chunghwa Telecom Company Limited is considered the top fixed network telecom provider with the highest universal rate, and only Chunghwa Telecom Company Limited is capable of providing local phone network service at the locality. Therefore, NCC has, according to law, appointed Chunghwa Telecom Company Limited as the providers for universal telecommunication service in 2006 and 2007, and it is a matter of course that Chunghwa Telecom Company Limited is obligated to provide basic and necessary telecommunication service to these remote areas. Before then, Simakusi Tribe of Jian-shi Township had been furnished with local phone network construction with project subsidy from “The Telecommunications Universal Services Fund.”

The Telecommunications Universal Services Fund is a virtual funding, with about 18 operators of Type I and II telecom service providers which will, based on law, share on pro rata basis for the expenditure of universal service, and then the Commission will, according to law, subsidize the operators for loss incurred upon them for their provision of universal telecommunication services they provide to remote areas. For the completion of this project, NCC, aside from giving thanks to the construction by Chunghwa Telecom Company Limited, express gratitude to all contributions of the mobile telecom service providers, Taiwan Fixed Network Company, and some providers in operation of network phone service and voice re-sale service. Of course, Chunghwa Telecom Company is the largest sharer of telecommunication universal service for its annual business turnover amounts the top of the rest of the telecom service providers.

With the rapid development of telecommunications technology, the construction of this project has been carried out by Chunghwa Telecom Company Limited with Wi-fi broadband transmission technology as it provides integrated wireless PSTN local phone line and broadband Internet service. Of such technology, it cannot only offer the residents solutions for basic voice communication service, but also provide the need for broadband Internet, helping to achieve the objective for government to reduce the digital divide.

“I am most grateful to all of the parties concerned as we can find there are not only council representatives and administration authorities but also sponsors of

computer and charity organization to sponsor the event to accept obligations to residents in remote areas.

I would, sincerely, hope that the initiation ceremony of local phone network and this event can bring about more prosperous development to ecological tourism and travel as well as to the industry of special agricultural products from the tribe of national-level Xiakaluo antiquated pathway. Besides, it should also provide a much more effective learning environment for local students.”

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*BenQ provided 10 computers to Compassion International Taiwan (CITW), and the foundation will be responsible to provide management and teaching service. CITW was set up in 1995, which has conducted “Mission of Education and Medical Support to Vietnam” in adherence to the belief of borderless care and concern regardless of race, nationality, and religion. In view of the difficulty of life in remote mountainous areas of aboriginals in Taiwan, “Hou-shan Aborigine Service Team of Jian-shi Township of Hsinchu County” was set up in 1998. After the 921 earthquake of 1999, CITW also helped set up “Da-an Creek Tribe Reconstruction and Development of Hoping Township of Taichung County” as the disaster-stricken area in central Taiwan suffered from the devastating catastrophe.