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# Brazil smartphone sales up 33%; Vietnam Internet users up 50% by 2020

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HANOI – Some 45 to 50 percent of Vietnamese population will use the Internet by 2020, Vietnam’s state-run news agency VNA quoted a report as saying on Wednesday, while Brazil’s sales of smartphones increased by 33 percent in the first quarter of 2015 year on year, according to a report published Tuesday.

The report on Vietnam’s digital economy potential was released at a forum co-held by Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) and the Singapore-based Technology Research Project Corporate (TRPC) in Vietnam’s capital Hanoi recently.

According to the report, currently, with over 30 percent of its population using the Internet, Vietnam has been among the top 20 countries with the biggest proportion of net surfers worldwide.

Nguyen Quang Vinh, from the VCCI’s standing board, said at the forum that each job in the information technology (IT) sector will generate five to seven related jobs while every 20 percent increase in investment of IT and telecommunications will raise the gross domestic product (GDP) by 1 percent.

However, Vietnam ranks only the 45th out of the 50 surveyed countries in terms of digital economic transformation as its IT connection and application indexes are relatively low, Vinh added.

John Ure, director of the TRPC, for his part, said at the forum that Vietnam boasts vast potential to transform into a fully- digitalized economy and society.

A digital economy is a knowledge economy where people are equipped with necessary skills to design and produce digital goods and services for the community, and e-learning is a direct path to the digital transformation, said Ure.

## Smartphones in Brazil

The report by the consultant IDC Brazil said 14.1 million units were sold in the South American country between January and March 2015, more than the initial projection of 13.5 million.

However, the report predicted a sales decrease in the following months due to the current slowdown in the Brazilian economy.

For 2015, IDC Brazil reduced its prediction of annual sales of smartphones in the country from 63.5 million to 58 million units due to the current economic crisis.

The report also said the prices of the latest generation of mobile phones increased by between 30 and 70 U.S. dollars due to the U.S. dollar’s growing value against the Brazilian real.



Photo by Liu Jin/AFP/Getty Images



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