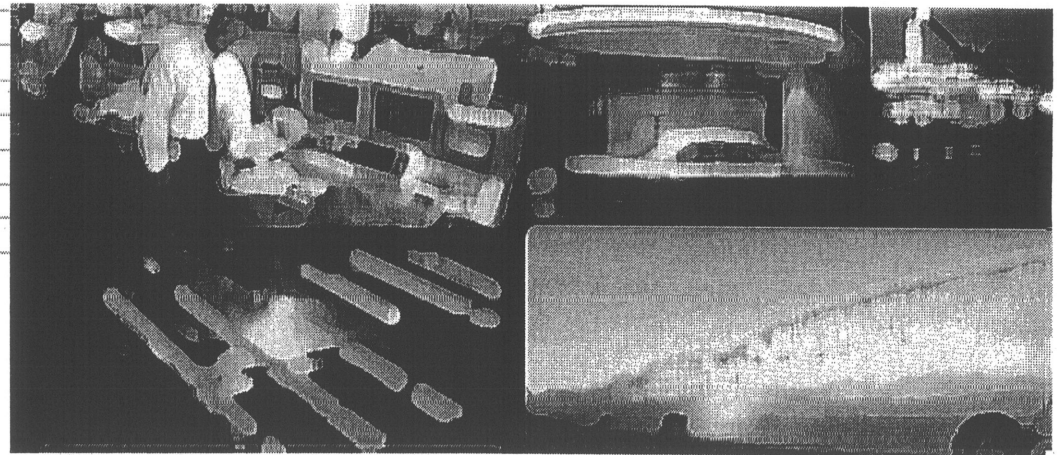




# **Gulf Cooperation Council (G.C.C): A Glimpse @ the Future**

**e-Banking Conference,  
Dubai – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2001**

**Presented by:**  
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## Presentation Map

- ➔ ■ Introduction to eBiz Solutions and SAMBA's e-Strategy
- Quick Recap of Global trends
- Uplifting initiatives across GCC. Why?
- Opportunities in GCC
- Progress ...needs continuous support
- Example: Saudi Arabia's Momentum
- Conclusions







## Introduction to e-Biz Solutions

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### ■ Strategic thinking

- *Electronic SAMBA Business Solutions is one of the strategic business / product development arms of SAMBA*
- *Work with users internally to identify business propositions.*

### ■ Facilitation

- *Is dedicated towards collaborating with regulatory authorities and local banks to create an enabling environment to support e-business..*
- *Actively pursue new partnerships & alliances locally and globally.*

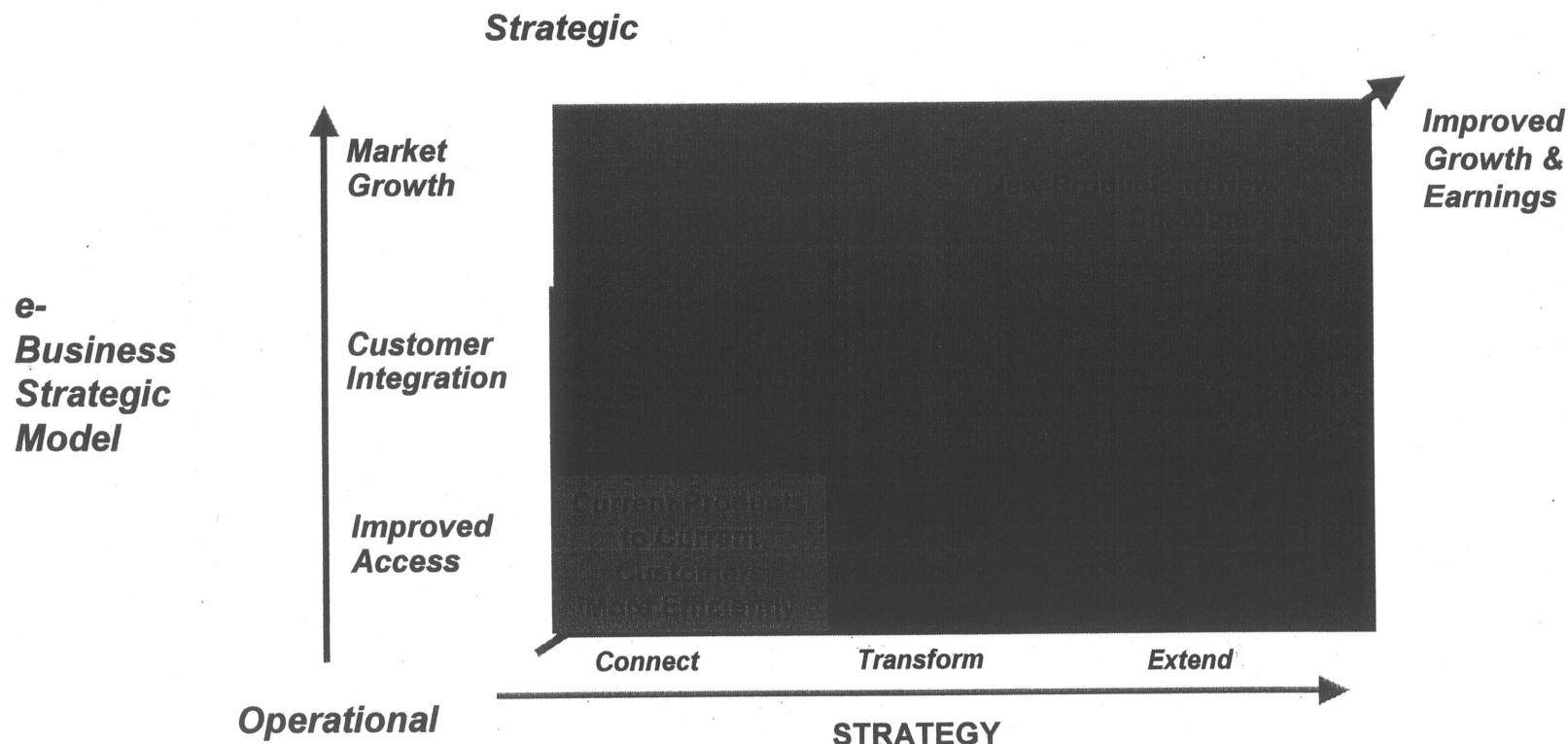
### ■ Implementation

- *Funds and develops key e-business initiatives*
- *Create new financial products and services for the local market place and regional e-arena.*



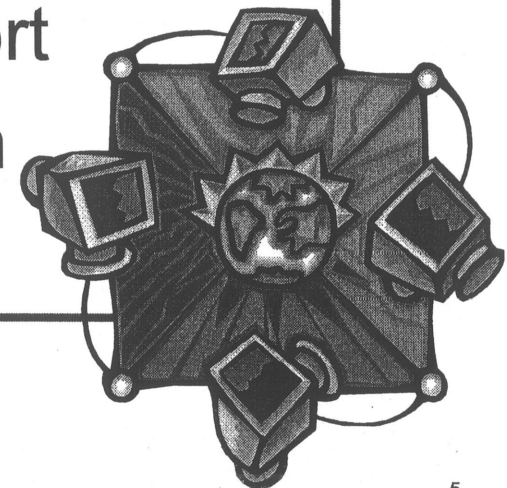
## SAMBA's "e" Strategy

To better assist / support our clients by connecting them to our web enabled services, transforming our capabilities into new internet offerings and extending our reach through new offerings.



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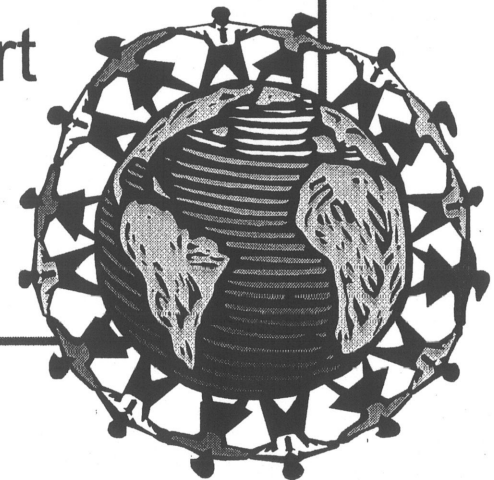
## ***Quick Recap of Global Trends***

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- 1. The cost of connecting to the internet**
- 2. Mobile telephone penetration rates have soared**
- 3. The ubiquitous internet is going to impact how business gets done**
- 4. Debate on how to narrow the digital divide**
- 5. What is working: Business Models**

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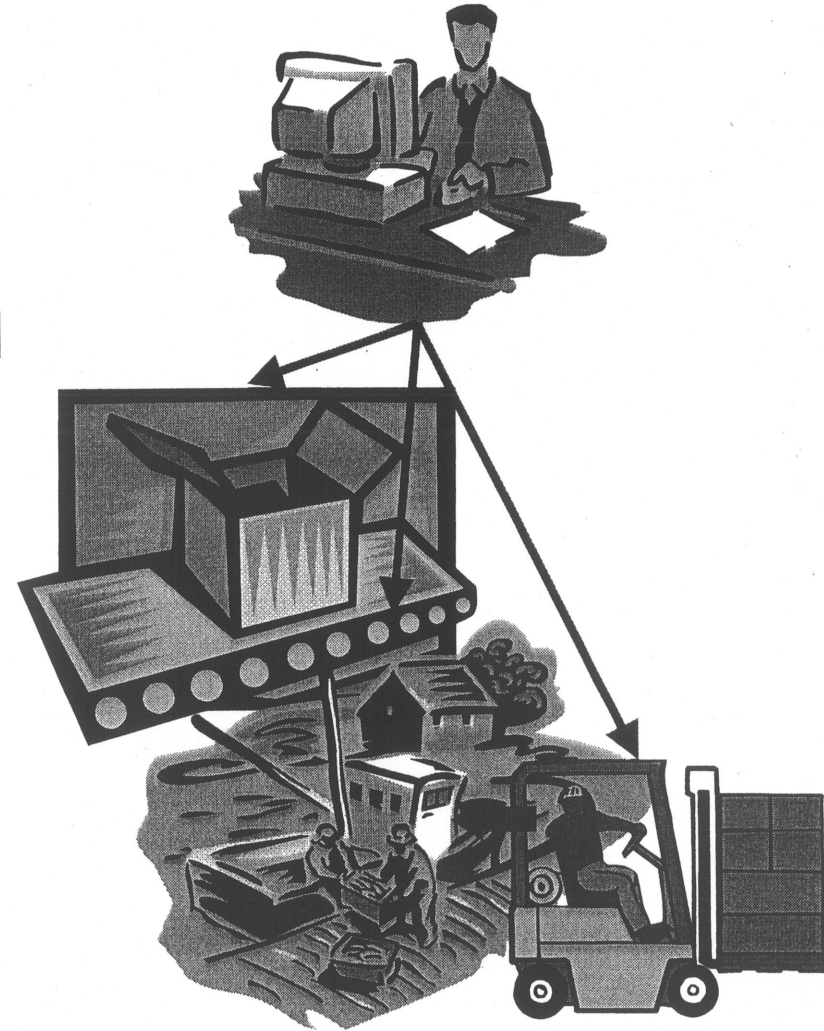




## ***GCC Initiatives***

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- **Tijari makes alliances a success**
- **MSN Arabia is coming**
- **Oman Trade Net aims to build e-biz awareness**
- **Our Gulf Kuwait**
- **SAMA leading projects in Smart Cards, PKI, and B2B e-Payments**
- **Aragon to build a B2B e-procurement services for the region**
- **Banking is dull!**



## ***GCC Initiatives: WHY?***

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- **Local job creation across GCC**
- **Globalization forces are changing business dynamics**
- **Need a non-oil contributor to GDP**
- **Development/sustainability of local expertise**



## ***GCC Initiatives: Dubai Internet City***

- IT is part of the life style
- Extensive infrastructure built
- Legal and trade laws revised for international trade to use net based services
- “e” is being supported by seniors in government
- Multinational firms started to have regional operations here.





## ***GCC Initiatives: Dubai Internet City***

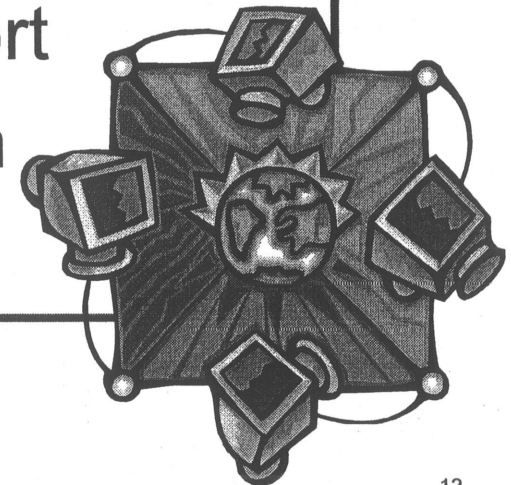
- IT is part of the life style
- Extensive infrastructure
- Low cost for new businesses
- "e" services
- Multinational firms started to have regional operations here.

**Excellent start and we all in GCC  
as a business community should  
think in these lines!**



## Presentation Map

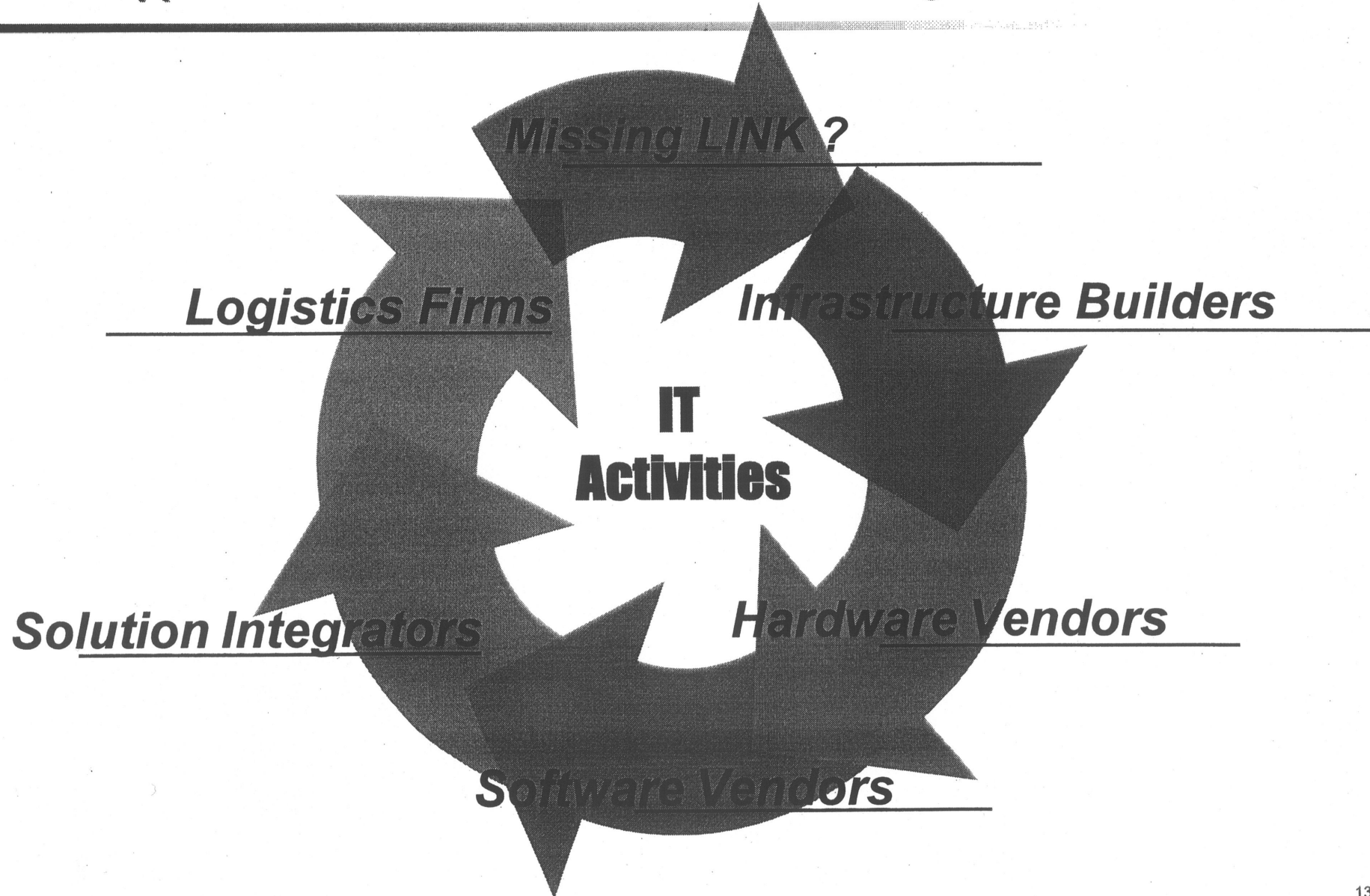
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## ***GCC Opportunities : Active IT entities in the Region***





## ***GCC Opportunities : Active IT entities in the Region***

***Infrastructure Builders***

***Solution Integrators***

***Hardware Vendors***

***Software Vendors***

These are only  
representations  
without true after  
sale support or  
R&D development

***Missing link is  
e-Awareness within the  
business community***

Does not really exist  
yet!



## ***GCC Opportunities : Active IT entities in the Region***

***Infrastructure Builders***

***Solution Integrators***

***Hardware Vendors***

***Software***

These are only  
relations  
after  
or  
oment

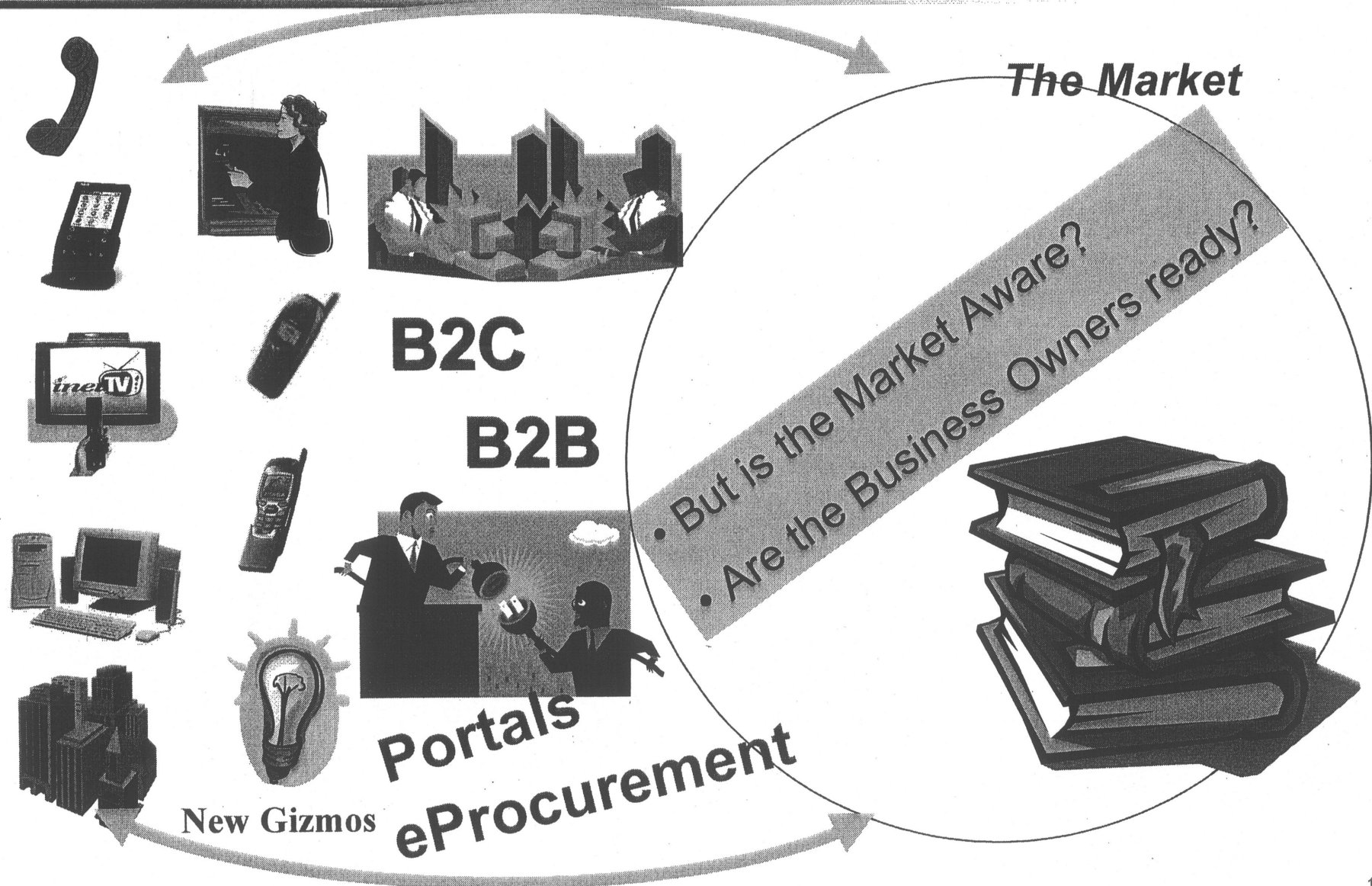
**Privatization is the key factor for all these  
to reach their potentials. It is occurring  
but very slowly.**

**within the  
business community**



**Does not really exist  
yet!**

## GCC Opportunities: Many Ideas to Start from....





## ***GCC Opportunities: Are we really that different?***

### **GCC**

- Standards are centralized
- Low IT market maturity
- Enormous IT opportunities
- Major room for productivity improvement
- Network speed is adequate
- Awareness is low
- No Digital market places
- Primitive e-Payment solutions

### **Developed Nations**

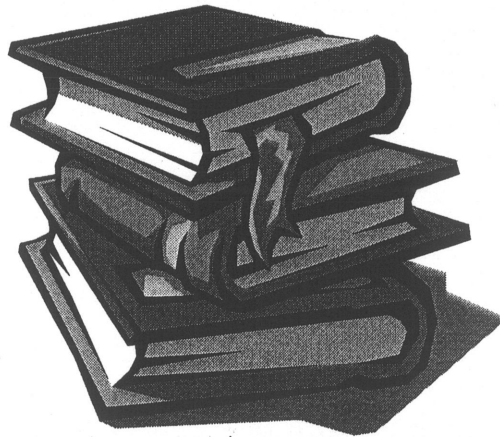
- Standards are fragmented
- High IT Saturation
- Saturated IT opportunities
- Marginal improvements on existing systems.
- Network speed is stupendous
- Awareness is high
- DMP's (in 100's)
- Fast e-payment solutions.



## GCC Opportunities: 1 of 3 IDEAS @ Work

*Low IT market maturity*

*Opportunity*



**IDEA**

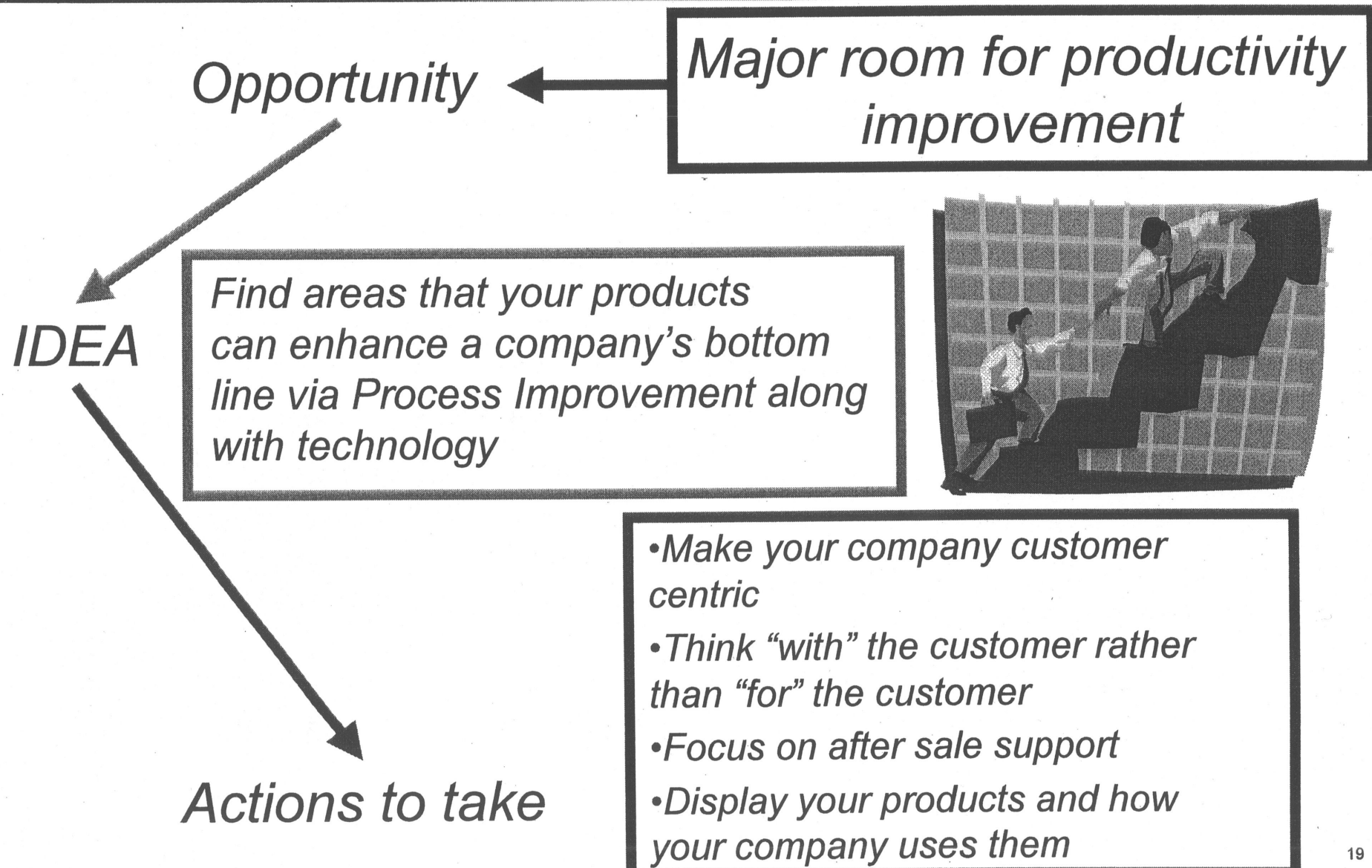
*Reach an optimal level of IT awareness and create a need*

- *Increase awareness via media*
- *Identify a need within industry*
- *Make it easier to buy & use*
- *Use tailored solutions rather one size fits all*

**Actions to take**



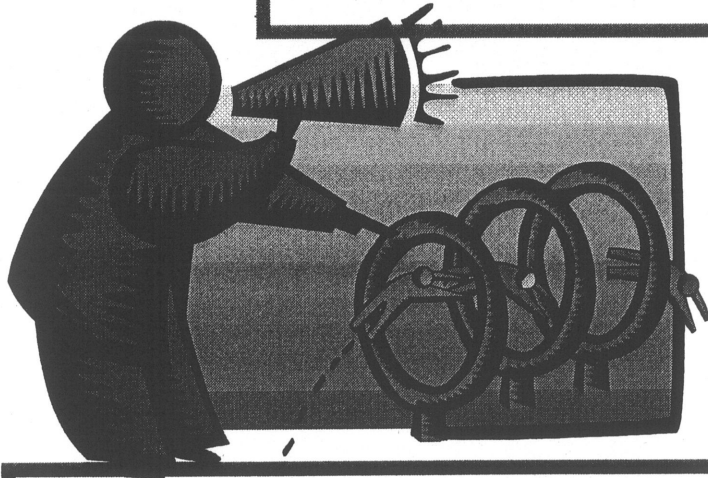
## GCC Opportunities: 2 of 3 IDEAS @ Work





## GCC Opportunities: 3 of 3 IDEAS @ Work

- *Use all the outlets for increasing e-awareness*
- *Use industry related publications to spread message*
- *Use incentives whenever possible*



*Awareness is low*

*Actions to take*

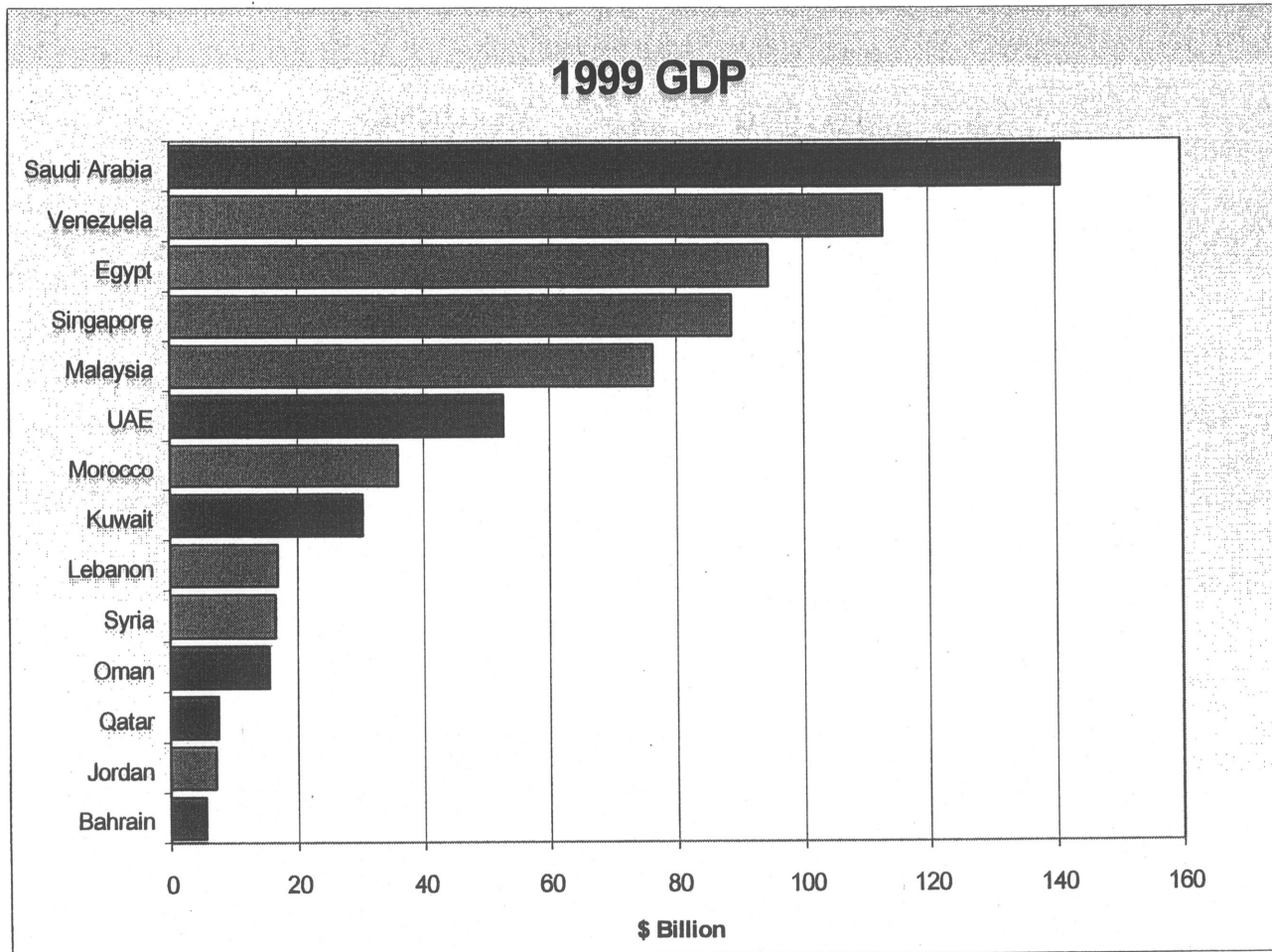
*Promote "e" as part of the culture*

**IDEA**

*Opportunity*



## GCC Opportunities: Economical Justification to move now



- Population: 30 million, < 1% of world total.
- 40% of Middle East GDP.
- Central role in global oil market: 45% of world reserves, 20% of production
- Currency stability-- exchange rates pegged to the \$.
- Low inflation, low interest rates, low taxes
- Intrinsic wealth
- Modern infrastructure
- In WTO: Kuwait, Qatar, UAE, Bahrain. Saudi Arabia and Oman in accession process.

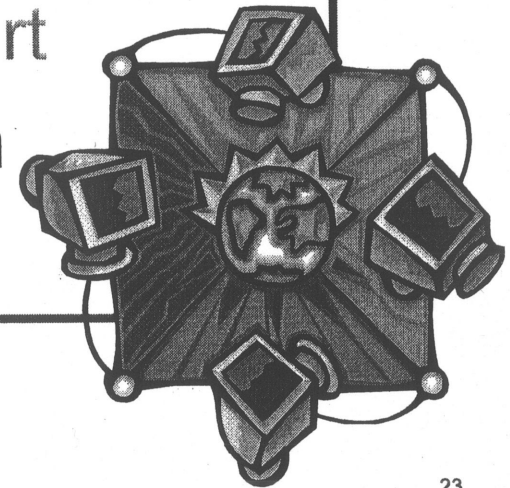


***GCC Opportunities : Current net populous*****According to eMarketer as of March 2001**

|                | <b>Subscribers</b> | <b>User per</b> | <b>Users</b>        | <b>% of</b>   |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|
|                | <b>In thousand</b> | <b>account</b>  | <b>in thousands</b> | <b>Pop</b>    |
| <b>KSA</b>     | <b>190</b>         | <b>3</b>        | <b>570</b>          | <b>2.59%</b>  |
| <b>UAE</b>     | <b>220</b>         | <b>3</b>        | <b>660</b>          | <b>22.44%</b> |
| <b>QATAR</b>   | <b>25</b>          | <b>3</b>        | <b>75</b>           | <b>10.27%</b> |
| <b>BAHRAIN</b> | <b>35</b>          | <b>3</b>        | <b>105</b>          | <b>16.67%</b> |
| <b>OMAN</b>    | <b>28</b>          | <b>3</b>        | <b>84</b>           | <b>3.36%</b>  |
| <b>KUWAIT</b>  | <b>55</b>          | <b>3</b>        | <b>165</b>          | <b>8.25%</b>  |

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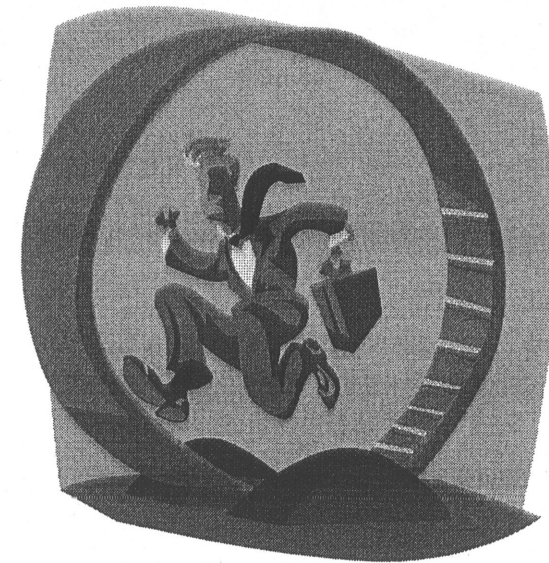






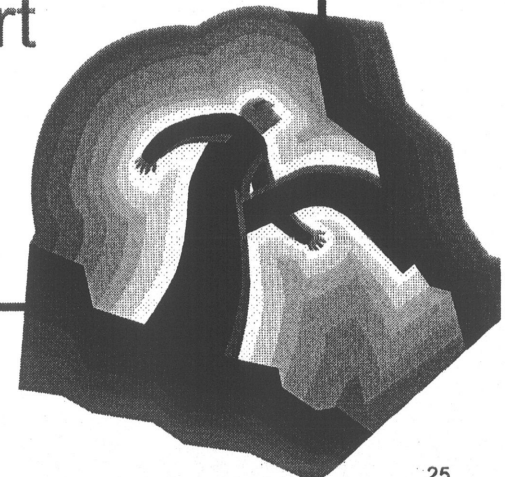
## ***Progress needs continuous support***

- Awareness via community education
- Top level government awareness
- Promote local VC and incubation similar to Silicon Valley
- Promote local R&D alliances with education institutions
- Train / recruit local talent pool
- Create R&D/ Production facilities that rival Asia pacific
- Consider Arabian Peninsula (GCC) a key geographical aspect for the Gulf



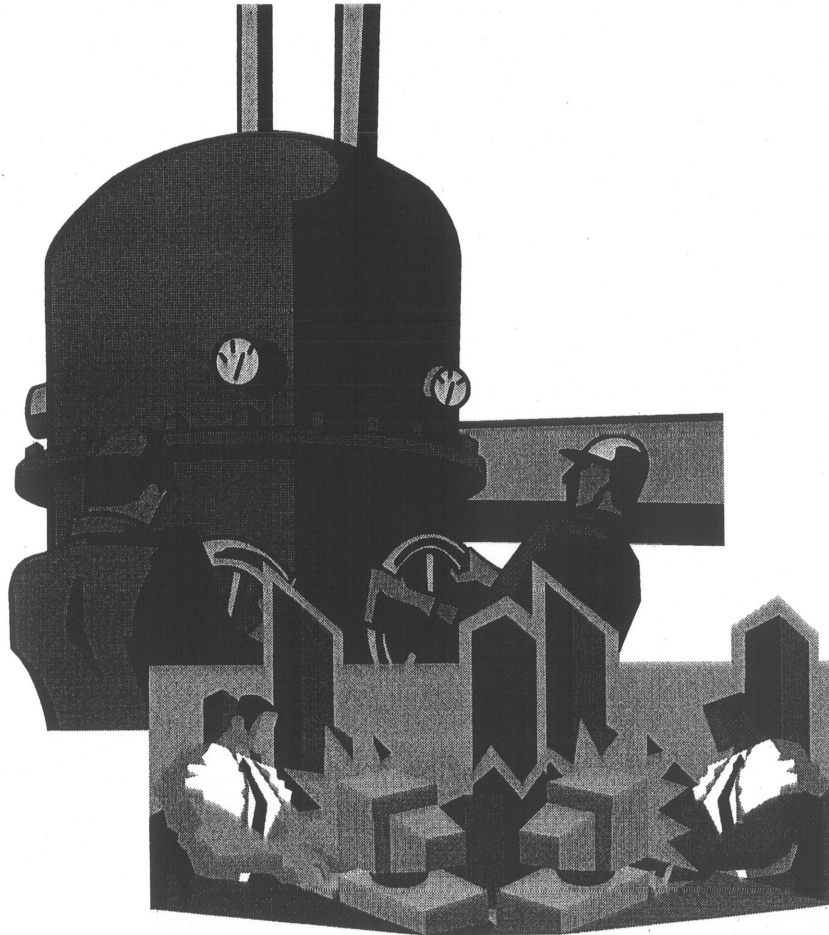
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## ***Saudi Arabia's Momentum***

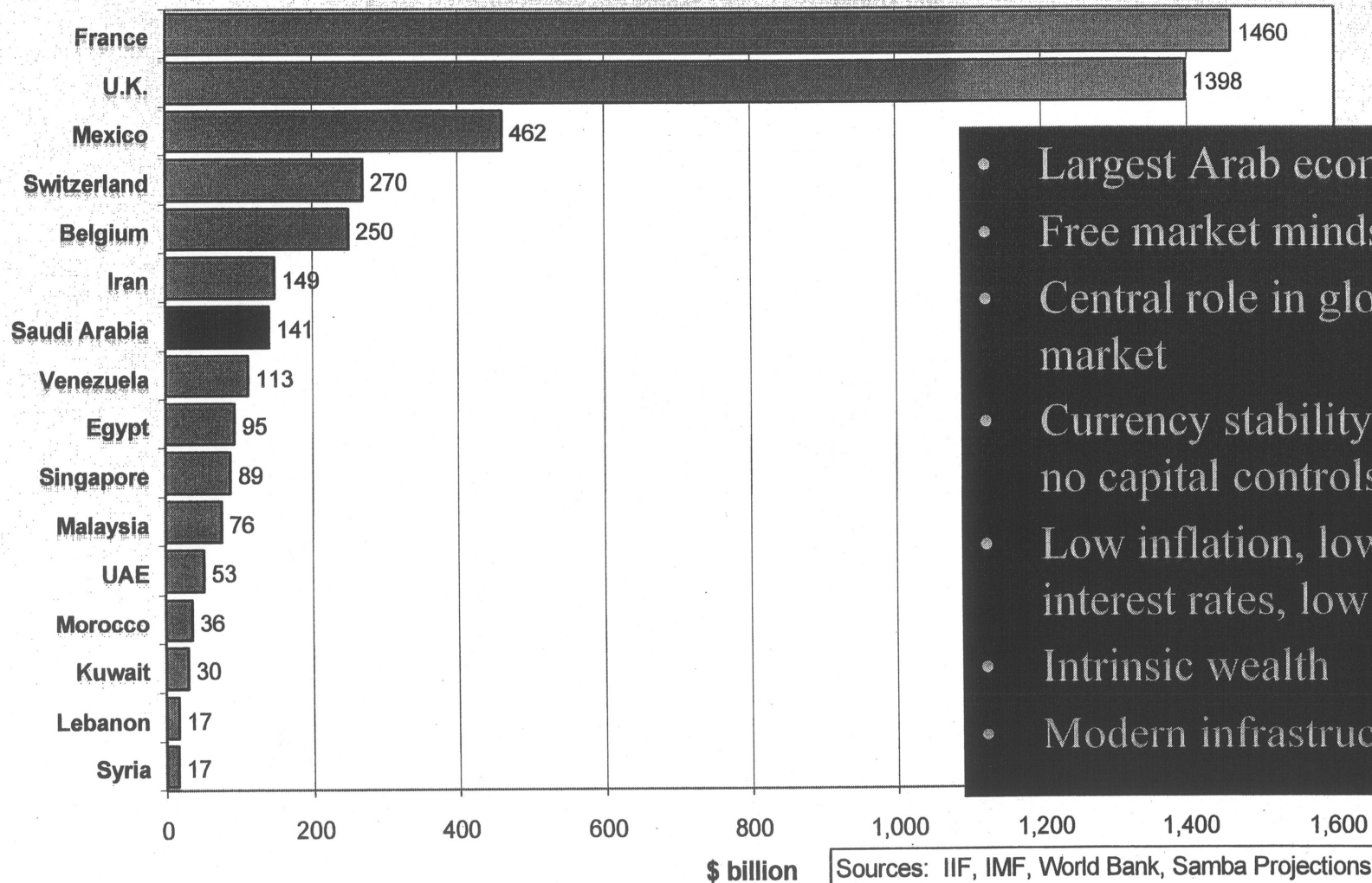


- 3 Major Industries aligning the future: Banking + Oil + Petrochemicals
- SAMA (leading banking sector to new feats)
- Awareness at the top levels
- According to STC  
3,300,000 internet users (expected) by 2004



## Saudi Arabia's Momentum

### 1999 GDP Comparison



- Largest Arab economy
- Free market mindset
- Central role in global oil market
- Currency stability with no capital controls
- Low inflation, low interest rates, low taxes
- Intrinsic wealth
- Modern infrastructure

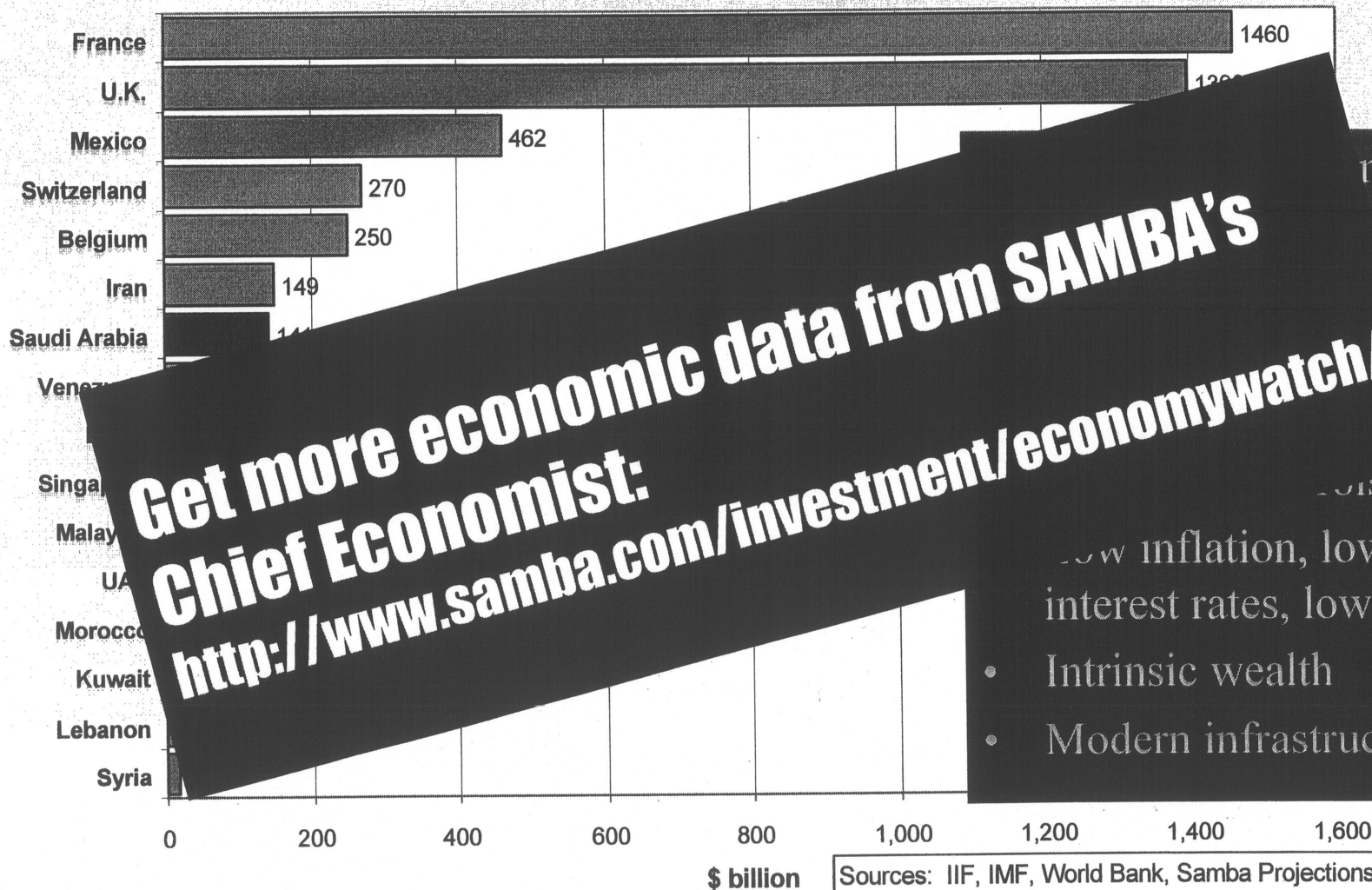
Sources: IIF, IMF, World Bank, Samba Projections





## Saudi Arabia's Momentum

1999 GDP Comparison





## Saudi Arabia's Momentum

The following charts highlight basic profile information of the KSA Internet User:

### Age Profile of the Internet User

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| ■ Below 23 years | 18% |
| ■ 23-39 Years    | 75% |
| ■ Above 39 years | 7%  |

### User Ratio by Gender

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| ■ Males   | 83% |
| ■ Females | 17% |

### Geographical Distribution

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| ■ Central | 45% |
| ■ West    | 15% |
| ■ East    | 8%  |

### Frequency of visit

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| ■ Once a week      | 20% |
| ■ 2 times a week   | 36% |
| ■ 2-3 times a week | 27% |
| ■ 4-7 times a week | 27% |

The younger generation of Saudi's are the primary drivers of growth in Internet Usage and Penetration.





## Saudi Arabia's Momentum

### Mobile Telephone Subscribers in Selected Middle Eastern Countries, 2000–2004 (in Thousands)

|                      | 2000    | 2001    | 2002    | 2003    | 2004    |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| United Arab Emirates | 878.5   | 970.7   | 1,050.1 | 1,132.0 | 1,213.7 |
| Egypt                | 1,230.0 | 1,755.0 | 2,255.0 | 2,755.0 | 3,255.0 |
| Jordan               | 194.0   | 266.8   | 336.3   | 406.4   | 476.4   |
| Morocco              | 309.2   | 449.2   | 590.9   | 735.6   | 875.3   |
| Saudi Arabia         | 1,189.2 | 1,512.2 | 1,851.7 | 2,207.6 | 2,572.4 |

Source: ITU Telecomm

## Conclusions

- Globally e-Business has evolved to become an interrelated world necessitating that it be viewed holistically in order to be best understood and deployed.
- Due to recent economic prosperity of the GCC region, IT industries can thrive and start the roadmap for a new economy.
- Sustain existing customers by meeting their needs is a key focal point.



***Thank  
You***

