

*Mobile Paradigm in Developing Countries*

Mark Jamison

Public Utility Research Center

University of Florida

**Abstract**

Developing countries have led the world in replacing the fixed-line telephony paradigm with the mobile telephony paradigm. These countries are also the sources of several innovations such as prepaid mobile and simplified auctions and of key insights, such as the substitutability of mobile service for fixed service, the importance of competition, and the importance of regulation. Empirical studies and case studies demonstrate these conclusions. However, developing countries face several challenges. Internet is expanding rapidly in these countries, but the wireline infrastructure is too poorly developed to support extensive Internet. Wireless Internet, through 2G, WiFi, or 3G is largely untested in developing countries. Spectrum management has been lacking, making it difficult to free spectrum for new technologies.