

“Axiata is changing lives. From Battambang to Bhaktapur, from Narayanganj to Negombo, from Melaka to Makassar, our digital networks are the lifeblood of everyone who uses them – farmers, students, teachers, doctors, storekeepers.”

Dr David Robert Dean

Board Member
Axiata, 2017 – Present

The digital revolution has changed the world in the space of a few years. When Axiata was born 10 years ago, the smartphone was still in its infancy and many of the services we now enjoy daily were little more than a twinkle in their founders’ eyes.

The numbers speak for themselves. In just 10 years the number of people using the Internet in the countries where we operate has increased from about 8% of the population a decade ago, to about 55% today. In Malaysia, almost 90% of the population use the Internet today, compared with 55% a decade ago.

In other words, in our footprint of countries, roughly a quarter of a billion people have started using the internet in the past decade, and now have better access to financial services, healthcare, education, and the job market. Tens of billions of dollars in additional GDP have been delivered annually. And more will come as millions more begin to enjoy the fruits of the digital revolution each year.

Today, consumers hold products from companies such as Xiaomi, Vivo, and Oppo in their hands, and benefit from services provided by the likes of Lazada, Grab, Google, and Facebook. Yet none of this would be possible without the years of investment and innovation – by Axiata and our competitors – in fast, efficient, and increasingly ubiquitous networks. And, looking ahead, a smart world built on IoT technologies and artificial intelligence, where self-driving cars operate in our towns and cities, and drones deliver urgent medical supplies, or food for the family dinner, will not be possible without continued investment and innovation in 5G networks.

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In future, these networks will also help us address humanity’s biggest challenges – including the climate crisis and other environmental threats.

As a Board Member, I am confident that Axiata will continue to touch people and change their lives for the better. I am honoured to be part of this journey.

