

GOVERNMENT OF THE GAMBIA



Department of State for Communications
Information and Technology (DOSCIT)

THE GAMBIAN ICT4D-2012 PLAN

for

Developing the Gambian Information Economy and Society
and Accelerating the Process of Transforming The Gambia
into the Silicon Valley of Africa

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ACRONYMS

AISI	Africa Information Society Initiative and Technology
CBG	Central Bank of The Gambia
CC4TP	Computer Competency for Teachers Project
CEIKs	Community Electronic Information Kiosks
CLTTP	Computer Literate Teachers Training Project
CREDIT	Curriculum, Research, Evaluation, Development and In – Service
CSD	Central Statistics Department
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DOSA	Department of State for Agriculture
DOSBE	Department of State for Basic and Secondary Education
DOSGIT	Department of State for Information Communications and IT
DOSD	Department of State for Defense
DOSFE	Department of State for Forestry and the Environment
DOSFEA	Department of State for Finance & Economic Affairs
DOSFR	Department of State for Foreign Affairs
DOSFWR	Department of State for Fisheries and Water Resources
DOSHER&ST	Department of State Higher Education, Research, Science
DOSHSW	Department of State for Health & Social Welfare
DOSI	Department of State for the Interior
DOSJ	Department of State for Justice
DOSLGLRA	Department of State for Local Government, Lands and
DOSPEMR	Department of State for Petroleum, Energy & Mineral
DOSTC	Department of State for Tourism and Culture
DOSTIE	Department of State for Trade, Industry and Employment
DOSYS	Department of State for Youth and Sports
GBOS	Gambia Bureau of Statistics
GC4A	Gambian Computer-for-All
GoTG	Government of The Gambia
GTMi	Gambia Telecommunications and Multimedia Institute
GTTI	Gambia Technical Training Institute
HRD	Human Resource Development
ICANN	International Corporation for Assigned Numbers and Names
ICT	Information and Communications Technologies
ICT4D	ICT for Development
IFMS	Integrated Financial Management System Infrastructure
ISPs	Internet Service Providers
ITAG	Information Technology Association of The Gambia
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
LDPCs	Local Data Processing Centers
LGA	Local Government Authority
LGAs	Local Government Authorities

MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NASDIS	National School Database & Information Management System
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NHRDA	National Human Resource Development Agency
NICI	National Information and Communication Infrastructure
NPC	National Planning Commission
NREN	National Research and Academic Network
NTA	National Training Authority
NWEC	National Water and Electricity Company
PIR	Project Implementation Report
PMO	Personnel Management Office
PoC	‘Phenomena of Convergence’
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PSC	Public Service Commission National Planning Commission
PSO	Public Sector Organization
PURA	Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
R&D	Research and Development
SMAS	School Management and Administrative System
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SPA-II	Second Strategy for Poverty Alleviation Training
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
WAEC	West Africa Examinations Council
WB	Women’s Bureau
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WSIS	World Summit for the Information Society
WTO	World Trade Organization

GENERAL BACKGROUND TO THE GAMBIAN ICT4D-2012 ACTION PLAN

Nations worldwide have recognized the developmental opportunities and the challenges of the emerging information age characterized by information and communication technologies (ICTs). These technologies are driving national development efforts worldwide and a number of countries in both the developed and developing world are exploring ways of facilitating their development process through the development, deployment and the exploitation of ICTs within their economies and societies.

The emergence of the information age has brought to the fore, the important role that *information, knowledge* and *technology* can play in facilitating socio-economic development. The effective use of information and knowledge is becoming the most critical factor for rapid economic growth and wealth creation, and for improving socio-economic well-being.

There is no doubt that information; knowledge and technology are increasingly becoming the key drivers for socio-economic development world-wide. A nation's capability to accelerate its socio-economic development process and gain global competitiveness and improve the well-being of its people depends very much on the extent to which it can develop, use, exploit and sell, ---- *information, knowledge* and *technology* in one form or another.

A number of African countries including the Gambia have acknowledged that: to move their industrially weak and subsistence agriculture-based economies towards an information and knowledge economy there is a need for them to develop and implement comprehensive and integrated ICT-led socio-economic development policies, strategies and plans. With the right sets of policies and action plans it will be possible for the Gambia to facilitate her socio-economic development process through the development, deployment and exploitation of ICTs within her economy and society without first going through an extensive industrialization process.

The Government of the Gambia in response to this recognition developed the nation's ICT4D (or NICI) Policy with technical support from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) under the auspices of its Africa Information Society Initiative (AISI). The Government in developing this Policy Statement did recognize that: for these policy provisions and commitments to make an appreciable desirable impact on Gambia's socio-economic development process they will need to be integrated into the overall developmental objectives, priorities and programmes of the country. Such an all-inclusive comprehensive ICT4D policy and strategies must be aimed at the implementation of initiatives that could contribute to addressing the key *developmental challenges* facing the Gambia

Gambia in acknowledging the crucial developmental potentials of ICTs set its national ICT4D Policy Statement within the general framework of meeting in the short to medium term its PRSP goals and objectives and as well as the MDGs. The longer term vision is to use these technologies and its resources to substantially transform Gambia's under-developed low-income agricultural-based, technologically and industrially weak economy into a high income information-rich and knowledge-based economy and society in the emerging information and knowledge age.