

## Meeting Report

### REGIONAL MEDIA TRAINING IN GHANA

(In collaboration with AITEC)

**Venue:** Accra International Conference Center and Kofi Annan Centre of ICT Excellence

**Theme:** Catalyzing ICT development through active media participation

**Accra (Ghana)**

**Date:** 1-3 June 2004

URL: <http://penplusbytes.blogspot.com>

#### A- Introduction

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) are revolutionizing a lot of fields including media. There is currently a drive towards new media where the power of new technologies are opening up and extending the frontiers of our media landscape.

From 1-2 June 2004, forty media people and journalists met for a two-day workshop, which took participants through various Information and Communication Technologies relevant for the media in the context of development. By the end of the workshop the participants had improved their capacity to apply new technologies in their jobs. More importantly they have started a journey as active participant in the new media landscape and started the initial process of forming an ICT4D media network.

#### B- Opening session

- Welcome remarks – Kwami Ahiabenu, II, President of Penplusbytes
- Purpose of seminar by Host country- Rayborn Bulley, GBC/Resource Persons (appendix one )
- Keynote address - Asamoah Boateng, Deputy Minister of Communications and Technologies, Ghana (appendix two)

The programme started with self-introduction of the participants. Then the facilitator announced to the participants the objectives of the workshop from the perspective of the resource persons, as stated below:

#### C- Objective

- To provide knowledge-sharing platform for the media to understand key issues in the ICT
- Understand and review New Media
- Share common challenges on the use of technology in the newsroom and how to use it.

- Provide an opportunity for the media players to develop practical skills in using the technology
- How to enhance networking and knowledge sharing among media practitioners in the sub- region
- After reviewing these objectives, each participant was given an opportunity to share with the group their objectives in participating in this workshop.

#### **D- The Workshop: Presentations**

The workshop continued with participants given the opportunity to share with the group their expectations from participating in this workshop. These expectations have being summarized below:

1. How to Research
2. Ability to question ICT issues
3. Access more information
4. Dealing with ICT security
5. How to tackle challenges
6. Online journalism
7. Update knowledge
8. upgrade knowledge
9. How to use technology effectively
10. How to inform and educate listeners
11. check reliability of sources
12. Find new tools and technologies
13. How to search for information
14. Equip with new tools, communicate better, and have efficient means of research
15. New knowledge about the Internet communication
16. Update knowledge in ICT and learn about Internet research
17. How to access relevant information
18. How to create awareness about ICT and development
19. Find out about talents in ICT space and what they are doing in the area of ICT4D. This information can be used for news or features

#### **Day 01**

##### **More on ICT4D terms, WSIS and Digital divide issues (appendix three)**

*Resource Person – Kwami Ahiabenu, II( President Penplusbytes) and Thierry Amoussougbo*

##### **From the newsroom to the Web Online Journalism. (appendix four)**

*Resource Person - Sammy Ato Afful, Choice FM, Ghana.*

**Clarification of concepts: ICT4D, Information, Knowledge, Digital opportunities**  
**Introduction of AISI framework**  
**From Millennium Developmental Goals to WSIS - Putting the media on the Centre stage(appendix five)**

*Resource Person: Thierry H. Amoussougbo, Regional Adviser Development Information Services Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa*

**Media, Elections and Technology - providing space for participatory democracy(appendix six and seven)**

*Resource Persons Rayborn Bulley & J.S.T Abbosey*

**Day 02:**

**The Highway Africa News Agency – An Overview**

*Resource Person : Chris Kwabato, Director Highway Africa (appendix eight)*

**Overview of Knowledge Management, or Information Sharing from an African perspective (appendix nine)**

*Resource Person –Kwami Ahiabenu,II*

**Closing Session**

**Way Forward:** Participants discuss various ways they can transfer skills from the workshop to their newsrooms

**General Discussion: Building regional Media Networks**

*Facilitator: Kwami Ahiabenu,II*

**Network**

- independent group with clear agenda, common interest in ICT and Media and vision. This agenda and vision must be collectively be developed by network members
- commitment from members is key to success
- regular meetings
- provide support for members such as training, skills development and capacity building
- leadership to be provided by working group
- we should avoid reinventing the wheel by learning from strength and weakness of other existing network

**Time Framework**

The network must be developed within one month from 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2004

## **Key Things To Do**

1. Develop a plan for the group

### **Leadership – temporary working group**

1. Ebenezer Osei-Kofi- Business and Financial Times
2. Justine Senuvie- Public Agenda
3. Lydia Ofori Abakah – Ghana News Agency
4. Owoo Kwateboi – Evening News
5. Eric Osiakwan – Penplusbytes

Proposed Next Meeting  
12<sup>th</sup> June 2004 at 2:00pm

- **Regional Network ( Temporary Nodes)**
- **Cote d'Ivoire**
  - ✓ Theodore Kouadio, Fraternite Matin
- **Ghana**
  - ✓ Ebenezer Osei-Kofi- Business and Financial Times
- **Nigeria**
  - ✓ Segun Oruame, IT & Telecom Digest

### **The Way Forward**

1. Each participant should write out a report and share with team at newsroom
2. Develop support mechanism such as group discussions
3. Work hand in hand with management to improve or introduce appropriate technologies in the newsroom

### **Day 03**

There were presentations in line with the Eighth Annual West African Information and Communications Technologies event based on the theme:

**“Building Public- Private Partnership and Creating Opportunities Through ICT”.**

Two main presentations have been made during this day:

- Need of the private sector and the Academia to work in synergy to improve education in Africa by introducing ICT at all levels.

- Youth and ICT and ongoing discussions on Youth and Information Society with the support of ECA, presented by Leopold Armah.

## VII- Quotes from Participants

### Quote from participants

<p>Ayitey Raymond, Royal Technology</p> <p>Knowledge about ICT will assist me in gathering news and information to feel the public</p> <p>I think that an ICT media network would permit the media community to strive ideas easily and transmit news to the public with transparency.</p>
<p>Naa Abeley, GBC TVP</p> <p>ICT in my work will help me acquire more knowledge, easy access to information, research so will enable me come with more news (stories) within the shortest time. Fast feedback , save time and energy and money .</p> <p>Media Network will enhance the production and broad dissemination of information.</p>
<p>Ebenezer Osei, Business Financial Times</p> <p>ICT can improve productivity at my workplace by improving delivery, content management etc..</p> <p>ICT4D media network can foster an inclusive information society in Africa.</p>
<p>John Kumadi, The standard (<a href="mailto:jkumado@yahoo.co.uk">jkumado@yahoo.co.uk</a>)</p> <p>ICT enables me to keep my information, preserve it and disseminate easily</p>
<p>Owoo Kwateboi, The Evening News</p> <p>ICT can make my work very easy. It can help me to collate, gather and process work easier. Delivery will be on time.</p> <p>ICT4D Media Network will be useful, because multimedia and inclusive instrument will enable information delivery easier to information consumers. This can mainly lead for society development owning knowledge and information.</p>
<p>Noelline Okene Dsan, The Statesman</p> <p>ICT will make easier and effective my work</p> <p>ICT4D is useful because it will help create an effective awareness in our society in ICT. Thus educate the public well as the media is the mouth mediator of the public.</p>

Lydia Ofori Abakah, [ghnews@ghana.com](mailto:ghnews@ghana.com), Ghana News Agency

ICT being and will still a tool that enhances professionalism, would help make a difference in my work and job as a journalist. When I am well educated and train in ICT, it would broaden my knowledge about world events, social, economic, political etc to be able to disseminate information and educate the general public.

Certainly an ICT4D media Network can help bring about an inclusive Information Society. In the sense that, when the media is brought together and is well informed and educated, it can in turn educate the public effectively about ICT and its opportunities.

ICT as I have learnt is a tool in managing work and creating better form of presentation to the listeners. It is a way of packaging your item best for the consumer.

The media now can depend on ICT and there is the need for the society to develop a scene to ask for more information related to ICT

ICT can make a difference in my work by helping me get to more audience i.e. given me a wider coverage. Also it can help get easy access to more information from other media houses or websites. It will speed up my work since I can communicate with others easily. It is quick, fast and convenient.

ICT4D Network can bring about an inclusive information society—as were among at bridging the digital gap and reaching out to everybody. i.e. the rich, e-poor, the elite or everybody.

We will get more information and get it to everybody through the media\_\_ example the radio which is a powerful tool.

Esther Lartey, The Heritage [lasetherlove@excite.com](mailto:lasetherlove@excite.com)

ICT enable me make research on the next information to produce on accurate report:

- Speed up my work on information gathering by communicating with others through the Internet
- It Can also help me get more audience by publishing my articles on the Internet which intern, attract more audience and readership

ICT4D media network can help by creating awareness the general public towards development.

Christian Agubretu, Ghana News Agency

ICT can do a lot; it will make youfaster, speed up coverage, increase readership.

ICT4D media network can generate wider and efficient news coverage. Its efficiency and effectiveness will depend on its operation and management.

Emmanuel Tandoh, Daily Graphic

The knowledge in ICT will help me to save time and money to bring development and information to the public.

ICT4D will be useful by educating more journalists who will in turn educate the public.

Abui Akrobotu, Ghana Television News (GBC)

By using Internet as a research tool, I can access a wide range of information to enhance my work. I can also manage time effectively by using ICT which impacts positively on society.

ICT4D Media Network can only be possible with the right information for the society development. It must also be geared towards the society's well being

David Agbesi A., Ghanaian Times

Knowledge about ICT will assist me in gathering news and information to feel the public

ICT4 Media Network need to promote journalists capacity building

Fred Sarpong, Channel R

ICT can help me transmit my stories access to information in other countries and also help relay information to others;

ICT4D Media network can be done when all journalists are equip with ICT knowledge. The network need to build their capacity.

Rebecca Adjei, Media Students

Getting more information