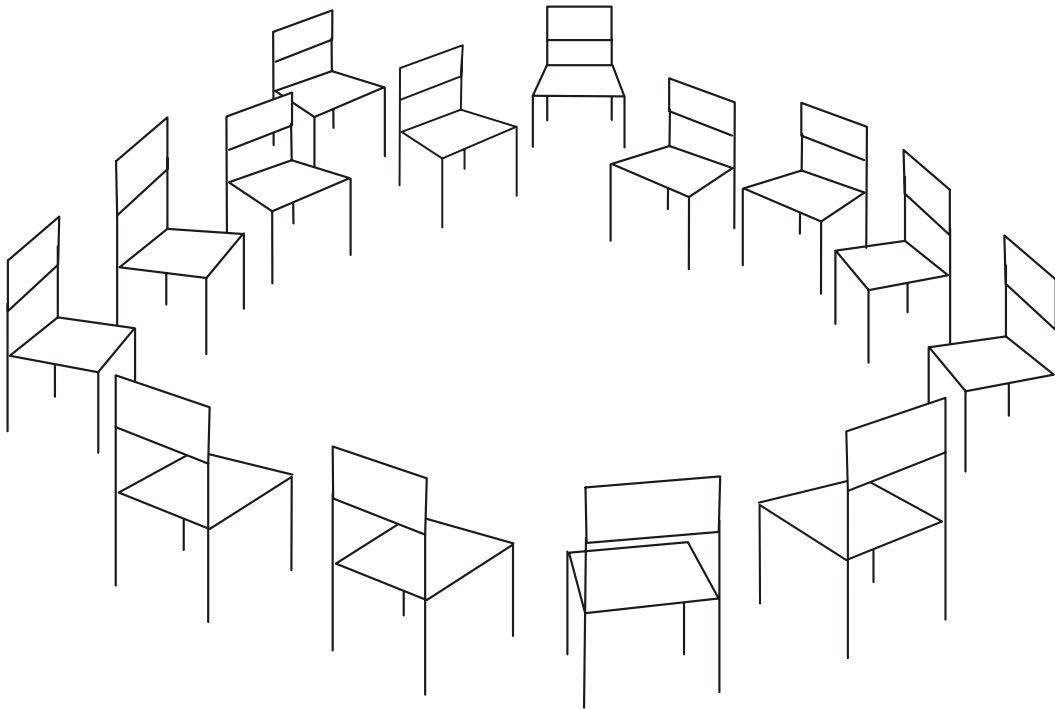


PICTA's Annual Meeting
Tunis, Tunisia
October 16 & 17, 2003

«Future Collaborations Within the PICTA Partnership »

ACTION PLANS



List of Action Plans

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Creating Awareness of ICT in Africa	4	5
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Action Plan - Priority # 5

Topic : Creating Awareness of ICT in Africa

Discussion Report number for this subject : 4

Spokesperson : John Dada

Participants : Jac, Kakuna, David, Wendy, John

Elements of the action plan : Develop a communications/marketing strategy under the auspices of PICTA

The strategy would: define the objective and conduct necessary research

Identify the target audiences – politicians, local representatives of international donors (urban centers), field personnel (rural areas)

Develop the messages for each audience

Identify champions/spokespersons for each audience

Identify venues for delivering the message(s) i.e. conferences, alternative message delivery

Define evaluation mechanisms

Resources needed: members of PICTA to assist in the development of the strategy

First Steps: Wendy to provide framework for communication strategy and work with Katherine and Aida to develop the content of the strategy

Date of next meeting of this group: by e-mail next week

Action Plan - Priority # 3

Topic : Supporting Knowledge Sharing Communities

Discussion Report number for this subject : 6

Spokesperson : Riff Fullan

Participants : Aida Opoku-Mensah, Eskedar Nega, Sarah Earl, Steve Song, Raymond LePage, Riff Fullan

Elements of the action plan :

Why is this issue a priority?

Many issues were identified in the first session, namely :

- It's a natural way to increase the effectiveness of development activities
- It's an important tool for program management intelligence
- It's a platform for sharing results a) for demonstrating impact; and, b) for adding value
- Knowledge sharing communities are the best way to deal with complex knowledge, both for capturing it and making it easier to locate
- Such communities offer an excellent opportunities for tapping into real needs

Related Topics

Knowledge sharing communities can assist in the context of all topic areas, but a couple of specific ones identified are :

Better coordination among donors
Scoping African Needs and Priorities for ICTs in Africa
Creating Awareness of ICT among politicians and local donors

What do we want to achieve?

Assist in the development of capacity among African interest groups (across various sectors) to take collective action and engage in proactive strategies to strengthen African voices in the development process

How?

Build a consortium of African practitioners to commit to a common program (that can be presented to interested donors to support).
This can be initiated by convening a workshop of interested parties to identify a way forward (Connectivity Africa will fund this).

Who?

A number of interested and potential partners were identified, such as :
APC, ECA, ENDA-Tiers Monde, FRAO, members of of IICD-supported Information
network thematic groups

Plus some non-African based orgs with complementary interests such as :

CATIA evaluation team, Eval-net, IICD, Bellanet

When?

Not discussed., but responsibility could be taken on by ECA, Bellanet and IICD?

Action Plan - Priority # 1

Topic : Scoping ICT needs and priorities in Africa

Discussion Report number for this subject : 7

Spokesperson : Laurent

Participants : Laurent, Mike, Janne, Karima, Katherine, Mohamed, Darrell

Elements of the action plan :

Related Topics are 3 and 8

What?

- Develop analytical capacity for PICTA work
- Mapping ICT needs and priorities in Africa, according to different stakeholders and regions
- Resource Gap Analysis

How?

- Need to develop an appropriate and thorough methodology (ask the right questions):
 - Focus on partners requests and submissions
 - Focus on donor program imperatives
 - Focus on African action plans (NEPAD, NICIs, etc)
- Identify the consultative processes of different partners and possibly assess the appropriateness of each one. Share needs assessment tools and indicators amongst partners.
- Look at ICT indicators (for example per capita GDP spending per country)
- Map needs by stakeholder group and country-region-continent
- Comparisons per country to gauge resources given and needs (for example Mozambique) – link to resource gap analysis

Sample

	National Govt	NGOs - CBOs	Private Sector	Other
Country X				
Country Y				
Region X				
Region Y				

Who?

Information Sources:

- PICTA members
- Other donors
- African govts
- Regional institutions - NEPAD

- NGOs-academia – CBOs
- Private sector

Coordination:

PICTA Secretariat –

When?

Before next PICTA meeting

Would be done yearly (as needs and priorities change quickly) and be presented at PICTA

Resources?

Consultant or student time to compile and analyse

Travel

Dissemination activities

Resources needed from PICTA members

- In-kind: internal info and intellectual input (methodology)
- Financial resources

First Steps:

ToRs and methodology: can be done through an on-line consultation in the next few weeks.

Report at WSIS on process

Leader: IDRC (L Elder)

Action Plan - Priority #2

Topic : Better Co-ordination

Discussion Report number for this subject : 8 (& 1 'Who does what')

Spokesperson : David Woolnough (reluctantly) – do not have a specific leader, but concrete actions for organisations.

Participants :

Elements of the action plan :

A. Speed Dating

PICTA to facilitate a series of one-to-one conversations at a forthcoming PICTA meeting (probably at the edges of another event, but not WSIS).

Bellanet to explore the practicalities of how to do this (i.e. may need a volunteer to experience a speed dating event to learn how it works and/or to search for the open source facilitatory software).

B. Accountability

ECA's brokering role as e-Pol.Net African Hub – to involve assessment of request and some intelligent prioritisation.

All to seek to move from 'wouldn't it be nice if we co-ordinated' to effective peer pressure, alongside practical tools to enable us to do so.

C. Onion Skins

PICTA to facilitate informal one-hour 'donor only' face-to-face get togethers to talk about future plans, as side events at other events.

D. PICTA 'Services'

IICD & Bellanet to transfer 'ownership' of the shared calendar to PICTA (to take to the level of peer pressure).

PICTA (possibly with Bellanet) to offer members a timely service to run specific wide open feedback/discussion lists for a short period of time on specific programmes under construction.

Bellanet, working with PICTA, to produce a survey of who is doing what in Africa (not just donors & building on what has already been done) in time for WSIS – ideally

offering those organisations featured the chance to tweak their text (which they will probably have the time/inclination to do).

E. Avoid Steering Committee Duplication

DFID & IDRC/ECA to consider merging their predominantly African steering committees for CATIA/CA – and explore how this could remain flexible/responsive.

Industry Canada, ECA and others to consider how best to use the African Stakeholders' Network (ASN) (as currently used to inform e-Pol.NET) for wider steering of ICT in Africa activities.

Action Plan - Priority # 6

Topic : Bandwidth for Higher Education in Africa

Discussion Report number for this subject : 9

Spokesperson : Liz Levey

Participants : Steve Song (facilitator), Muhammed Timoulali, John Dada, Liz Levey

Elements of the action plan :

African universities cannot fulfill their mission of teaching, learning, and research with insufficient bandwidth. Until now, the focus has been on buying more bandwidth, which is expensive, rather than assessing the economics of bandwidth and economies of scale.

The goal is to obtain more bandwidth at cheaper and sustainable rates for the African tertiary sector. This can best be accomplished if African universities were to join together by purchasing bandwidth collectively.

How?

- Identify relevant bandwidth initiatives that are already underway.
- Bring together key stakeholders by convening an African higher education bandwidth summit

Bandwidth summit

Who?

- **Universities (person responsible for negotiating/buying bandwidth, decision maker, such as vice chancellor or pro-vice chancellor)**
- **Senior representatives from ministry of higher education or other ministry/agency with responsibility or interest in this area**
- **International donor community**
- **Representatives of higher education and research networks from developing regions of the world (both regional and national consortia, perhaps)**
- **Key organizations, such as AAU, UNECA, NEPAD, UNESCO, possibly Schoolnet Africa (not higher education, but interested in more bandwidth at secondary/primary school levels)**

How many?

- **Small number of countries/institutions in order to achieve maximum results (25 people would be nice, 60 at the very most)**

When?

- **Ideally June 2004**

Preparatory work

- **Within two weeks: Liz to consult with Partnership; Muhammed to consult with ECA**
- **Within a month: formal action plan**
- **Overall: report back, closed discussion group, selection of organization to host the summit, research, funding**

Summit outcome:

- **Useful research and report**
- **Business plan(s)**
- **Deal(s)**
- **Permanent home to manage an African educational and research network**

Action Plan - Priority #4

Topic : Local Government Capacity Building for ICT-use

Discussion Report number for this subject : 10

Leader : Aida Opoku-Mensah

Participants : Jac Steinen (IICD), Laurent Elder (IDRC), Aida Opoku-Mensah (ECA), Mike Jensen (IDRC), Kakuna Kerina (OSIWA).

Elements of the action plan :

Why:

More requests are coming in to donors in this area.
Decentralisation of government is increasingly on national government agendas
ADF 2004 (4-8th of March) is on Governance

What:

Foster improved use of ICTs at local government level.
Assist local communities obtain improved access to information
Create more transparency and accountability mechanisms for communities at the local level
Need to address possible resistance at central and local government level and build the culture of access to information – break the culture of silence and rumour.

How:

Prepare publication and forums/events for ADF 2004- catalyse PICTA collaboration on preparation of a study of how ICTs can make a difference at the local level plus demonstrations and participation by champions and local partners.
This would require commissioning research and an assessment of tools for local government, compiling stories on different PICTA member partners' experiences in this area. I.e PICTA members will need to compile their experiences/activities in this area e.g ECA to do the Worida study, IDRC to do the SIUP project. The document should not only cover the successes and identify the local level champions, but also highlight the challenges and identify what didn't work.

OSIWA will identify a freelance consultant to carry out the research, editing and production of the publication which will be put on the PICTA web site before ADF 2004. PICTA members will cover the cost of sending their local govt partners to ADF 2004.

This could turn into a roadshow for other events/venues, such as CAFRAD, the African Parliamentary Union and WSIS 2005 in Tunis.

Other potential partners/contributors to the study/ADF fora include:

UNESCO/DANIDA

EDITOSA/ICLEI

When:

Start now.

First Steps:

Identification of the editor, draft the TOR for the study, identify PICTA partners who will send their local partners to ADF2004

Next Meeting:

Online, on the PICTA list.