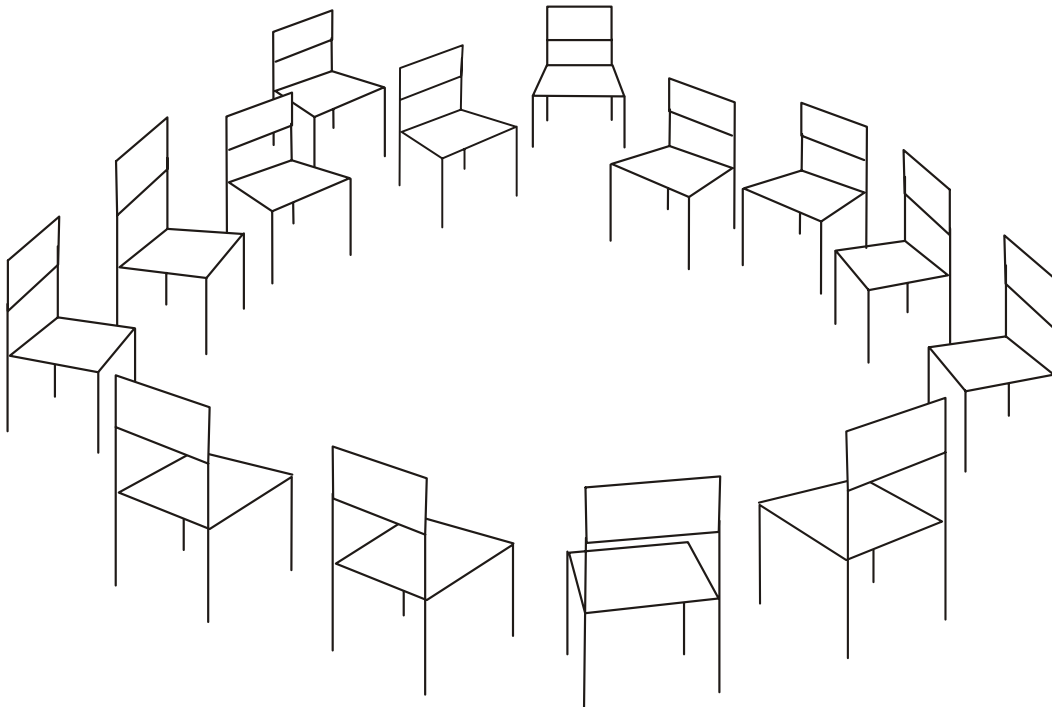


PICTA/GKP Africa Meeting
September 7-8, 2005
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**«Making Infrastructure and Access Efforts in Africa
More Effective»**

DISCUSSION REPORTS



List of Discussion Reports

| Report # | Subject |
|----------|---|
| 1 | Connectivity Options and Costs for Rural Communities Making Information Available |
| 2 | Empowerment: Making Effective Use of Access |
| 3 | Local Content and Localization |
| 4 | Scaling up of Successful Pilots for Rural and Urban SMEs |
| 5 | Reducing Costs by Sharing Resources |
| 6 | Promoting Effective Public-Private Partnership |
| 7 | Wide Area Networks For Community Development |
| 8 | Promoting Sub-regional Infrastructure |
| 9 | Affordable Broadband Access for All: How can we get current and emerging fibre providers to resell in an open access model? |
| 10 | Access to Media and Traditional ICT: what makes sense to do regionally? |
| 11 | Open Forum |
| 12 | How do you Develop a Post-Tunis Information Society Vision? |
| 13 | ICT: investing in human resource capacity to sustain technology infrastructure |

Discussion Report #1

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Subject | Connectivity Options and Costs for Rural Communities Making Information Available |
| Initiator | Meddie Mayanja |
| Participants | Rinalia Abdul Rahim Claire Sibthorpe Anriette Esterhuysen Steve Song Dorothy Okello Ben Akoh Russell Southwood |
| Key Points | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Information available is not easy to understand○ There are no case studies on how technologies are being deployed and at what cost○ Communicating options to rural communities, regulators, policy makers, financing sectors, private sectors○ Communicating rights and responsibilities of users○ Defining role and responsibility of public sector○ How technologies can support socio-economic impact within a rural development context |
| Solutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Info should be made available in technology neutral form as well as focusing deeper on specific technologies.○ Target to create consumer awareness and rights on options, technology trends and costs (regulators, community groups, ISPs, private investors, policy and advocacy networks)○ Ensure flexible information packaging and presentation○ Design info with simple-to-understand non technical language○ Be sensitive to the fact that technologies change very fast○ Approach – a mix of generic and specific case studies to demonstrate technologies, application and cost. Arrange face-to-face meetings using thematic and champion networks. Communicate to all stakeholders using multi-media.○ Possible leadership/social investment – telecentre.org, media, donors, CATIA, take advantage of local champions and thematic national networks. |

Discussion Report #2

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Subject | Empowerment: Making Effective Use of Access |
| Initiator | Jac Stienen |
| Participants | Riff Fullan, Iginio Gagliardone, M.L. Mansaray, Momeni Avis |
| Key Points | <p>Empowerment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Creating the conditions for people to decide for themselves how they will appropriate available ICTs (and identify their needs) <p>Conditions: Cost, Knowledge (the `how`), engagement, infrastructure, national policy (freedom to access all information and technology), local environment (institutional policy, culture, gender)</p> <p>Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Provision of appropriate interface between the user and the ICT environment <p>Technology (availability), skills (Cap Devt), cost, awareness (of access possibilities)</p> |
| Solutions | <p>Right Policy and Strategies in Place (National and Regional)</p> <p>Capacity Development at all levels</p> <p>Local Environment: Be aware of the social and cultural impact of ICTs (gender, schools, communities)</p> <p>Encourage access through national ICT policy supporting lower costs (regulator, privatization, competition,, new technologies)</p> <p>Raising awareness at grassroots level (about what is available)</p> |

Discussion Report #3

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Subject: | Local Content and Localization |
| Initiator | Paul G. C. Hector (UNESCO) |
| Participants | Limn Chung (GKP), Catherine Ngui (AVU), Thierry Amoussougbo (ECA), Adel El Zaim (IDRC), Nayer Wanas (MCIIT), Syrth Pelhlonan (Min. of Foreign Affairs,Finland) |
| Key Points | <p>For information to be useful it must respond to needs and abilities of users;</p> <p>Market forces may militate against development of content and technologies adapted/relevant to needs of some groups (poor, language, non-literate);</p> <p>Need to overcome negative perceptions – relevance, feasibility etc.</p> <p>Imported content faces risks/challenges of being unsustainable and irrelevant to addressing needs (local/national);</p> <p>Both the technology (interface, format etc) and the content must be adapted for the local situation (cultural norms, modes of communication etc).</p> <p>A tension exists between the global and local, at times complementary at other times oppositional. Necessary to bridge these – use of lingua franca, dual content can help. Some communities are local (remote), others at the periphery and others in a dual (local-global) environment. Players need to appreciate and understand these dynamics. Important to incorporate tools/resources that allow exchange of knowledge across languages and global/local “divides”;</p> <p>Local content and knowledge may sometimes not be readily available or easily accessible in the locale that it was produced;</p> <p>Differences in policies, systems may limit extent to which tools, resources may be localized</p> |
| Solutions | <p>Need to support R&D, enabling policy, that promotes locally adapted content/knowledge and technologies as well as their use across a variety of development fields (education, health, business etc)</p> <p>Innovative strategies and partnerships to respond to the needs of sectors not attractive to the market;</p> <p>Build local capacity to produce tools and resources and secure funds/ means to support these efforts involving the stakeholders in the process;</p> <p>Use a combination of technologies to capture and ensure access to content in a manner adapted to cultural practices, literacy levels etc (oral + written + visual);</p> <p>Establishment of networks of partners to disseminate information on projects, training, tools, resources and to share experiences, best practices, share success stories;</p> <p>Need to support harmonization/standardization to support exchange</p> |

and reuse of information/tools;
Identify champions & leaders (from CSOs, SMEs, local government,
academia, community etc) needed to promote value and importance of
local knowledge on feasibility
Glocalization!

Discussion Report #4

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Subject | Scaling up of Successful Pilots for Rural and Urban SMEs |
| Initiator | John Dada, 07 th Sept, 05 |
| Participants | Lucy Mathai (SIDAREC), Ichiro Tambo (JICA), Tuomo Raitanon (ECA), Afework Temtine (ECA), Anriette Esterhuysen (APC), John Dada (Fantsuam) |
| Key Points | <p>Too many projects freeze at the pilot stage How do you make struggling SMEs more profitable, and grow into big businesses? SMEs must be business oriented Profitable SMEs meet identified market needs They have a sustainability focus Create Jobs Reduce poverty at community level Competition is not open, transparent, or fair</p> |
| Solutions | <p>Identify the actors needed for the scale up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ SMEs▪ Governments, to provide conducive environments for SMEs growth▪ Consultative group, MSP▪ Local chambers of commerce▪ Donors, how do they ensure transparency in administration of Govt-administered grants?▪ Self employed workers association <p>Micro-operators to provide access at community level They need education and capacity to enhance entrepreneurship (skills – value added services, seed funding, etc) Create forum for sharing experiences and knowledge, also identify and explore use of traditional forums in use (well – sides, market days, etc) Identify and work with local champions, drivers of the process Create enabling environment for micro-operators through high level lobbying and advocacy Govt and Private sector to recognize infrastructure as long-time investment To roll out ensure SME is contextualized, customized, localized Donors can fund business viability studies to identify scale up and investment opportunities Identify innovative entrepreneurships</p> |

Discussion Report #5

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Subject | Reducing Costs by Sharing Resources |
| Initiator | Jac Stienen |
| Participants | Riff Fullan, Claire Sibthorpe, Ben Akoh |

“sharing is (usually) the way to go”. There are great benefits to sharing if the circumstances are right.

Resources that can be shared include:

- Technical infrastructure
- Training
- Expertise / human capacity
- Common advisory body
- Funding – financial
- Research

It is important to work together to develop the strategies around sharing resources. Planning is very important.

Key Points

Some of the issues:

- Time is required to enable sharing and collaboration – the time required to enable this to effectively happen
- Politics within organizations can be a barrier and needs to be thought through and managed
- Bureaucratic issues can cause delays

It is important to have dialogues in advance to look at sharing and assessing effectiveness and sustainability

Individuals are import in terms of sharing information about initiatives to enable identification of sharing opportunities

Solutions

Crucial to enable sharing:

- Face to face interaction / social networking
 - Planning in advance
 - Strategizing together
 - Recognition of the required time investment
 - Identifying key information to enable sharing
 - Fundamental is trust and addressing ownership issues. Also necessary for partners to understand each other
 - Expertise (including technical)
 - Equitable sharing – i.e., an equitable partnership
 - Need to recognize all available capacity.
-

Discussion Report #6

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Subject | Promoting Effective Public-Private Partnership |
| Initiator | Thierry H. Amoussougbo, Development Information Services Division Email:tamoussougbo@uneca.org |
| Participants | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Nayer Wanas, ICT Trust Fund , MCIT- Catherine Ngugi, The African Virtual University- David Woolnough, DFID- Russel Southwood, Balancing Act- John Dada, Fantsuam- Tuomo Raitanen, ECA- Paul Hector G.C., UNESCO- Mohamed Timoulali, ECA |
| Key Points | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Opportunity to move from policy to concrete achievements: PPP documents exist but actions should follow;- PPP is a key framework to build Information Society infrastructure in any Country;- Create effective win-win situation- Need change of attitude – Monopoly- to recognize the weakness and bring the Private on board;- Private sector involvement in rural infrastructure investment- Functional enabling environment regarding gap between Government and private sector attitudes- Promote trust environment;- Promote development of information resources on PPP best practices in other sectors and also ICT;- Promote inter-action and dialogue between Private and public sectors...the situation we sometimes face is that the private sector is waiting for the public to come towards it and the public is expecting the private sector to come to it.. etc- Lack of champions/Leaders to follow/facilitate policy implementation;- Inexistence of multi-competition environment- Mainstreaming PPP in Policy- Different perspectives/attitudes |
| Solutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- PICTA Private sector Members to be increased- Undertake research study on Best practices in all sectors and ICT PPP framework in Africa- Establish /promote incentive strategies to foster better dialogues between public and private- Consider framework that avoids pressure on private sector- Promotion of Good Governance;- Capacity building initiatives. |

Discussion Report #7

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Subject | Wide Area Networks For Community Development |
| Initiator | Mohammed Lamin Mansaray |
| Participants | Steve Song; Lim Cheng Soon; Lucy Mathy; Mumeni Avis |
| Key Points | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Establishing Horizontal Networks at the local, national and Regional levels2. Creating bottom-up links of such Networks to obtain regional Integration3. Provide appropriate INFRASTRUCTURE at each level4. Ensuring access at every level and defining required conditions |
| Solutions | <p>Networks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Local Area facilitated by Wireless connectivity at the village or rural level.b) National Networks by type and scope interlinking local governments and regions of a countryc) Regional Networks linking Member States to deliver integrated Information Systems. <p>Information Systems:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Provide sectoral Information Systems for socio-economic activities in key development sectorsb) Deploy tried and tested ICTs for things like Distance Learning, Business Opportunities, Health delivery etcc) Define and develop comprehensive Databases with vertical integration across Networks.d) Define and develop effective information dissemination platforms such as the Web and easy-to-use query mechanisms at the lowest and highest levelse) Design and deliver training modules for effective use. |

Discussion Report #8

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Subject | Promoting Sub-regional Infrastructure |
| Initiator | Thierry H. Amoussougbo, Development Information Services Division Email:tamousougbo@uneca.org |
| Participants | - Ichiro Tambo, JICA - Jac Stienen, IICD - Russel Southwood, Balancing Act - John Dada, Fantsuam - Mohamed Timoulali, ECA |
| Key Points | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- We like it, would see how can we really translate vision into actions-Regional policy good but sometimes does not work;- What should the role be of Regional Economic Commission within the framework of NEPAD infrastructure programme?- What should the role be of donors in promoting the sub-regional infrastructures?- How to promote partnerships & government collaboration?- How to promote a multistakeholder partnership environment?- Private sector commitment to participate- Harmonization of regulatory framework- Political stability within the region- More collaboration between the donors and commitment to promote this initiative;- Lack of information and skills;- Lack of RECs Capacity- Inexistence of multi-competition environment- Mainstreaming PPP in Policy- Different perspectives/attitudes;- Backbone as major economic issue |
| Solutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Involvement of Media at national, sub-regional and global levels to raise awareness, sensitize etc.;- Promote sub-regional policy framework for infrastructure development;- Promotion/identification of champions/leaders committed;- Involvement of Africa financial Institutions;- Reinforcement of REC capacity;- Creation of specialist network to facilitate the understanding of various models and increase policy commitment;- Promoting of enabling environment for PPP |
| | PROJECTS IDEAS |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Establish PICTA Infrastructure Group;- Undertake research Study on Models- How to involve Private Sector ? |

Discussion Report #9

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Subject | Affordable Broadband Access for All: How can we get current and emerging fibre providers to resell in an open access model? |
| Initiator | Adel El Zaïm, Anriette Esterhuysen |
| Participants | Steve Song, Ichiro TAMBO, Anriette Esterhuysen , Adel El Zaïm |

- Key Points**
- Broadband access is not only by fibre : Wireless connectivity can provide access for the last or first mile.
 - How landlocked countries can have access to the fibre networks with the same prices than other countries
 - Lack of understanding of the importance of broadband access as an enabler for economic development, citizen participation, media diversification, local content public service delivery, etc.
 - Importance of the convergence of technologies and importance to consider the technology as a neutral platform
 - Lots of dark fiber is available and not used in Africa: private, business, etc. freesat3.org.
-

- Solutions**
- Encourage building regional and national fiber networks owned by users (universities, local authorities, etc.)
 - Create an exception, bid on the academic or health sectors as a good places to start creating the breach in the regulation walls in order to demonstrate the feasibility and how easy it is
 - Open the unused capacities in dark optical fiber networks (freesat3.org)
 - Extend campus and local networks to the local governments/municipalities or offer a community access center: wireless network from the university to the local community, for example.
 - Create national and regional consortia to build networks or to buy bandwidth, etc.
-

Discussion Report # 10

Subject Access to Media and Traditional ICT: what makes sense to do regionally?

Initiator David Woolnough, DFID

Participants Catherine Ngugi, AVU
Ichiro Tambo, JICA
Dorothy Okello, various hats, Uganda

Key Points Blended modes of teaching
ICT inclusive – traditional and newer together adds value
AVU & traditional media - desire to broaden from business to arts
Community Radio WORKS – even after a tsunami
Local content – how much demand for this exists elsewhere
Positive linkages across borders
Peace building (e.g. Northern Uganda)

Solutions Sub-regional newspapers “collecting everybody’s tat”
Regional support for lots of local community radio stations
Radio scripts (and audio) made available regionally
Supporting and sharing of other good local content
Experience/models of local radio ‘lifted’ by neighbouring country
UN-ECA to help facilitate process of identifying regional media priorities

Discussion Report #11

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Subject: | Open Forum |
| Initiator | Ben Akoh |
| Participants | Steve Song, Ben Akoh, Claire Sibthorpe |
| Key Points | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Background2. Regulations3. Advocacy4. Consolidating the known |

Background

The idea behind the group is that of a need to make more information available on infrastructure related projects. Clubs/cartels exists forming strong societies withholding information of projects such as SAT3. How do we make such information more available?

Other thoughts include:

Transparency in infrastructure projects

1. How do we increase transparency?
2. Public funds should produce public goods. It is therefore the obligation by public institutions of public funds. In other words, this information should become more available. How do we create a more balanced, transparent accounting?
3. Revenue models of existing SPs are completely incomprehensible, unrealistic. For instance, what models do Mobile ops have for a 6 months ROI? There should be an open discussion about the revenue interests.
4. The difficulty in breaking into existing Consortia – However this might be possible as highlighted by initiatives in Ghana and Nigeria that are seeking to extend the reach of SAT3

Solutions

Solutions

1. Regulation: How much can regulators push for open access to information. Do regulators have the ‘teeth’ to regulate? Strengthening the capacity of national and regional regulatory bodies thereby making more information available.
 2. Increased advocacy
 - a. Freesat3.org: A satirical website with information snippets, and sneak reviews into inner workings of closed consortium activities. Site should contain but not limited to.
 - i. Hall of shame of consortium members with high prices
 - ii. Interactive map
 - b. Additional discussions in developing such portal
-

-
3. Consolidating the known. Making what is known about such a consortium, projects, etc more available. Defining also:
 - a. The impact of the known
 - b. The opportunity cost of this knowledge – ‘what has been missed that has already existed’
 - c. Case studies of existing networks – North African Universities – EUMED connect vs. West African universities with the same opportunities.
 - d. Giving people options and ideas of alternatives. The looks of an alternative open model.
 - e. The recipients of this knowledge. Who needs this information?
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Discussion Report #12

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Subject | How do you Develop a Post-Tunis Information Society Vision? |
| Initiator | Steve Song |
| Participants | Claire Sibthorpe, Sara Foryt, Jac Stienen, Adel El Zaim, Aida Opoku-Mensah, Steve Song |
| Key Points | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- we would like to avoid a WSIS shopping list- we would like to maintain momentum after WSIS without being prescriptive- a good opportunity for PICTA to demonstrate leadership |
| Solutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A visioning / scenario planning process which would identify possible information society futures- Built on the Kenyan and South African scenario planning processes- This would assist in ICT planning and enable a more sophisticated debate of options- PICTA members to help identify stakeholders to participate- It will need buy-in from multiple donors |

Discussion Report # 13

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Subject | ICT: investing in human resource capacity to sustain technology infrastructure. |
| Initiator | Lucy Mathai |
| Participants | Lim Cheng Soon, Meddie Mayanja, Nayer Wana, Momeni Avis, Sara Foryt, Eskedar Nega |
| Key Points | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• That most Donors would rather fund connectivity, equipment (technology in general) than invest in human technical know-how. Often a lot is invested in technological development without human resource capacity development.• Claims that investment in human resources is hard to account• Too much time and high costs involved in technology investment rather than in human investment.• There is a long-term undertaking to rollout among under-users.• Investment in system-wide capacity/vs individual capacity• In ICT other disciplines are ignored e.g social , cultural , religious etc which also have significant co-relation |
| Solutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Without investing in Human capacity technological infrastructure will be difficult to use and sustain.• There is need for training in optimal use of technology with a gender conscious approach.• Discussions of technology should include costs, infrastructure, use, access, human capacity and implications for other disciplines as well.• There is need to give technology a human face (to conserve the human interactions, emotional touch, outreach, etc rather than building up automated end users.• There is a correlation between Capacity, infrastructure, costs, access and use.• Dimensions of human capacity to include skills in equipment and resource management as well as creating conducive environment.• People should drive technology and not Technology driving people• Demand driven ICT will ultimately be sustainable |