



ITU/BDT Arab Regional Workshop on “Connectivity in Rural Services”

Khartoum - Sudan, 27-29 September 2010



FINAL REPORT

Introduction

Reference is made to the 2010 CoE Action Plan, which was approved during the 3rd Advisory Committee Meeting (Cairo, November, 2009), in order to build up a relevant capacity process for the professionals in the region.

ITU/ARO conducted the workshop on “Connectivity in Rural Services”, in cooperation with National Telecom Corporation (NTC) - Sudan during the period 27-29 September 2010, at the NTC premises in Khartoum.

Workshop Description

The "Connectivity in Rural Services" Workshop was organized jointly by CoE-ARB and NTC and was achieved as a part of "Rural Connectivity and Universal Service Program".

This workshop is aimed to discuss the ways of improving connectivity and access in use of ICT especially in rural areas , focused on technical scenarios , main obstacle for access in remote areas and regulation & policies issues.

The workshop materials were developed totally by two instructors, except two presentations were prepared by local instructors.

In addition to, two presentations made by the CoE-ARB Coordinator.

The workshop focused on the issues related to universal access for rural services; there were 10 sessions were approved in the agenda as follows:

- Definition and objectives of Universal Access/Universal Services and Rural Connectivity.
- Being rural in a digital age Implications within the wider rural development context and the Deployment of ICTs in rural areas.
- Radio Systems in Rural Areas.
- Wireless and Mobile Solutions.

- Benchmark on Universal Access/Services Funding from developed countries to developing countries.
- WiMAX deployment scenario. CDMA deployment scenario.
- Deployment of ICTs in rural areas: A country case study : Ivory Coast.
- Connecting local services to global consumers via the Internet.
- Developing Universal Services Funds policies.
- Universal Services Models and Costing and its development.
- Rural Network Planning Issues
- Country case study: Postwar area Connectivity –Jonglei. Southern Sudan.
- Bridging the Standardization Gap
- Country Case Study: Pakistan and Morocco.

Opening Session

The workshop was officially opened by a brief speech from Dr. Izz Eldin Kamil AMIN, Director General, NTC Sudan, who welcomed the participants. He stated that NTC will not save any effort to support the CoE-ARB activities.

Mrs. Nefertiti Ali, Coordinator of the CoE, ITU Arab Regional Office, welcomed the participants and thanked NTC Sudan for hosting the workshop and she gave a brief presentation about the activities of CoE/ARB and gave an overview about the main topics of the workshop.

Then she introduced the workshop's instructors; Dr. Hesham EL BADAWY, Mrs. Claire AUDIN, Dr. Zain Elabdian Omer and Eng. Gamal Amin Elsayed. She also thanks them for their cooperation to prepare this workshop.

Then she introduced the draft Agenda and other logistical arrangements.

Participation

The total of Eighteen (18) participants from Six (6) Countries, namely: Algeria (3), Djibouti (1), Egypt (1), Libya (2), Sudan (6) and Syria (5). See **Annex (1)** shows the Final List of Participants.

Tutors

1. Dr. Hesham EL BADAWY, NTI Egypt, focused on technical scenarios such as; Network planning, Radio Systems & deployment of WiMAX and CDMA solutions.
2. While Mrs. Claire AUDIN, Clarity France , focused on all regulations and policies aspects.
3. One presentation was given by Mr. Dr. Zain Elabdian Omer, from MTN Sudan, on case study “Jonglei. Southern Sudan.
4. One presentation was given by Eng. Gamal Amin Elsayed, from NTC/Sudan, on Bridging the standardization gap.
5. Two presentations were given by Mrs. Nefertiti Ali, the CoE-ARB Coordinator on:
 - CoE/ARB activities
 - WSIS Targets Indicators (Target 1: Rural Connectivity)

Agenda and Documents

Annex (2) shows **the Agenda**, which was adopted and contained (10) sessions, in addition to panel discussion and evaluation session.

It was clear from the open panel discussion that most of the participating countries used CDMA system.

Several important questions have been raised and the participants exchanged experience and knowledge on them during the panel sessions.

Annex (3) comprises the **List of Documents** submitted in the workshop as well as a CD-Rom of all the presentations of the workshop was distributed to the participants.

Evaluation and Concluding Session

A special evaluation form was developed and distributed to evaluate the content, the instructors and the organization before and during the workshop, for improving the future activities.

The following table shows a summary of the results of the evaluation:

(Evaluations forms)

Question	Average Answer %
Location	
The place was suitable and fully equipped	91%
The organization and the correspondences before the workshop	89%
The organization and the correspondences during the workshop	88%
Workshop Content	
This workshop has been very interesting	84%
I will be able to apply everything in my work	63%
<i>Everything</i> was new	54%
Everything was very concrete and practical	63%
I understood everything	71%
The documents and presentations aids were helpful	70%
Workshop Presentation	
The Instructors have been clear	87%
The Instructors have been cooperative	91%

Comments from participants:

The comments from the participants can be briefed as follows:

- They appreciated the work done by all instructors and interactive discussions.
- The instructors were high qualified and very cooperative.
- More Practical sessions were needed.
- Sharing successful stories of rural connectivity in Arab States.
- The workshop period needs to be longer.
- They appreciated the organization before and during the workshop.
- They need more workshops on:
 - IPv6
 - NGN, LTE & WiMAX
 - Universal Services & Cost Modelling.
 - LLU.

The closing session included a brief speech of Mrs. Shadia Makki, Training and CB Director, NTC Sudan, who thanked the participants for their active role during the workshop.

Dr. Izz Eldin Kamil AMIN, Director General, NTC Sudan, gave a brief speech and expressed special thanks to ITU Arab Regional Office and to the instructors for the successful conduct of the workshop.

Also, there was a brief speech from Mrs. Nefertiti who thanked NTC Sudan for hosting the workshop and professional organization , the speakers for the excellent presentations & cooperation and the participants for their valuable discussions. The participants were awarded participation's certificates.

All Annexes which were mentioned above (Annexes 1, 2 & 3) are available at the website on the following address: www.itu.int/ITU-D/arb/COE/2010/RuralConnectivity

CoE-ARB Coordinator

Mrs. Nefertiti Ali