

Concept Note

Title	The Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders
Organisation(s):	UN-APCICT
Theme:	Theme 6: Human Capacity Building
Speaking Duration:	15 Minutes
Background and Justification:	<p>Today, information and communications technologies (ICTs) are widely accepted as essential tools for reducing poverty, enhancing human development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, without visionary policymakers and other ICT-capable government officials the promise of a better future through the use of ICTs is unlikely to be realized.</p> <p>As part of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development's (APCICT) mission (mandated by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) to equip policymakers and other government officials with the essential knowledge and skills they need to fully leverage opportunities presented by ICTs to achieve national development goals and bridge the digital divide, the Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders was conceptualized.</p> <p>This strategic decision was guided by participants of the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on ICT Capacity Building held in Incheon, Republic of Korea in March 2007, where over 200 delegates from 49 countries in the region, as well as ICT experts from around the world, emphasized that the role of APCICT is to provide training that will help reduce the digital divide and promote socio-economic development in developing nations. Delegates from developing countries at the Forum clarified their need to receive more formal training and believed that APCICT is well-positioned to provide such training. Subsequently, in April 2007 the APCICT Governing Council, which is made up of nine nations in the Asia-Pacific region recommended the development of the <i>Academy</i> as a well-structured and comprehensive ICT for development (ICT4D) training programme.</p> <p>The Academy is comprised of eight initial modules that begin with ICT basics and build up to more advanced ICTD topics in a coherent pedagogical manner. The adoption of a participatory and inclusive approach to developing these modules and implementing the programme with ICTD experts, policymakers, development practitioners, trainers and curriculum development specialists, has not only resulted in high-quality modules, but also commitment from participating countries in customizing, translating and delivering the Academy</p>

	<p>Programme at the national level on a regular basis.</p> <p>Regional and sub-regional training of trainers Academy workshops are regularly being held, and the Centre is working in partnership with national training institutions to drive the national roll-out of the Academy. By providing a well developed curriculum and advisory services to the national partners to undertake the necessary customization and translation so that the content is both relevant and more easily understood by the national policymakers, this approach has not only enabled the Centre to build the institutional capacities of national training institutions and policymakers, but has also expanded the reach, impact and sustainability of the Academy Programme.</p> <p>Formal agreements to roll out the Academy at regional and national levels have been signed with a number of partners to date. <u>For the Academy roll-out in the Pacific region, APCICT has signed a partnership agreement with SOPAC in Sep 2008. The first Pacific Islands Workshop of the Academy was held in the Cook Island in parallel with PacINET 2008 in September 2008. Under the same partnership, Academy National Workshop in Tonga in Feb 2009 is being planned as well.</u></p> <p>Partnership agreements with the Philippines and India will be signed in February 2009, and similar agreements are being discussed with Armenia, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan. Moreover, the Centre is pursuing a south-south cooperation strategy and UN Economic Commission for Africa plans to launch the African version of the Academy in March 2009.</p>
<p>Objectives:</p>	<p>The Academy aims to equip policymakers and government officials with the essential knowledge and skills they need to fully leverage opportunities presented by ICTs to achieve national development goals and bridge the digital divide.</p> <p>The <i>Academy</i> consists of a core ICT4D curriculum with eight modules ranging from basic to more advanced topics of ICT4D that can be delivered face-to-face or as online self-study courses. These are stand-alone modules that will be released as open educational resources (OER). Open educational resources are educational materials and resources offered freely and openly for anyone to use, and under some licenses to re-mix, improve and redistribute.¹</p> <p>The <i>Academy</i> training programme aims to ensure the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a comprehensive ICT4D programme catered to policymakers and government leaders while ensuring the content will be mostly non-technical in nature; • Develop the content in a modular format to maximize flexibility to meet the needs of context-specific learning situations; • Develop the content for delivery over a variety of multimedia platforms to

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_educational_resources.

	<p>maximize learning and minimize job disruption for the participants;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate the content widely by ensuring that the course materials are developed as open educational resources, whereby trainers in developing countries can take part in the training and then have access to the resources to guide others through the training; and • Promote South-South cooperation by encouraging the utilization of the developed open educational resources to be used for ICT4D training of policymakers and government officials in other developing regions, including Africa and Latin America.
<p>Scope:</p>	<p>The initial eight modules of the Academy are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - The Linkage between ICT Applications and Meaningful Development 2 - ICT for Development Policy, Process and Governance 3 - e-Government Applications 4 - ICT Trends for Government Leaders 5 - Internet Governance 6 - Network and Information Security and Privacy 7 - ICT Project Management in Theory and Practice 8 - Options for Funding ICT for Development <p>Specific Academy modules may be selected based on the needs of the country and content of the modules can also be customized to meet training needs and increase the relevancy of the course</p>
<p>Expected Outcome:</p>	<p>The expected outcomes of the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better informed government leaders and policy makers in the case for ICTs in development and the macro relationship between the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and ICTs, and better understanding of the potential for using ICTs for social and economic progress; • Governments can measure their progress and benchmark their progress against other countries; and • Governments have a better understanding of the issues around developing and implementing ICT4D policy. • Participants be better informed about how ICT applications can help Government deliver better services; • Participants to be more aware of the ICT trends, current and emerging technologies and their impact, and be informed about key components of ICT infrastructure, and the associated policy and technical considerations. • Participants have better understanding of the history, context and issues in Internet Governance; • Participants are more ware of the political tension in the most

	<p>contentious part of Internet Governance, and the more common abuses of the Internet and the actions that can be taken.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants are better informed about current threats to ICT security, international trends of information security, understand non-technical safeguards governments need to take to ensure secure ICT systems; and understand high-level guidelines and steps involved in information security policymaking. • Participants understand basic concepts, principles and processes in ICT project planning and management, identify issues and challenges in ICT project planning and management in developing country contexts, and gain insight and experience to approaches and tools for ICT project management. • Participants have a better understanding of the various financing mechanisms for ICT4D projects, better informed about the issues that influence investment in ICT deployment with a special focus on investments in e-government, learn more about public private partnerships, and have a better understanding of the issues to consider when preparing proposals for funding ICT4D projects.
Potential Partners:	<p>Pacific Islands Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)</p> <p>University of the South Pacific (USP)</p> <p>Forum Secretariat</p> <p>Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)</p>
Project Timescale:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Academy • Feedback from Experts • Needs Assessment Survey • Expert Group Meeting – Jan 2008 • Manuscript Draft • Peer Reviews • Sub-regional Workshops – April – May 2008 • Launch of the Academy – 16 June 2008 • Localization - Ongoing • National and Regional Rollout (with or by Regional/National partners Ongoing) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pacific Island Countries : with SOPAC • AVA – March 2009 • e-Co Hub – Live since 16 June 2008
Budget (optional):	