"Information and Communication Technologies and Information Gateways"

ECOWAS/IT

Our Vision

... to become a **Knowledge organization** that spurs the knowledge revolution in developing countries and acts as a catalyst for creating, sharing, and applying cutting edge knowledge necessary for poverty reduction and economic development

Why focus on Knowledge?

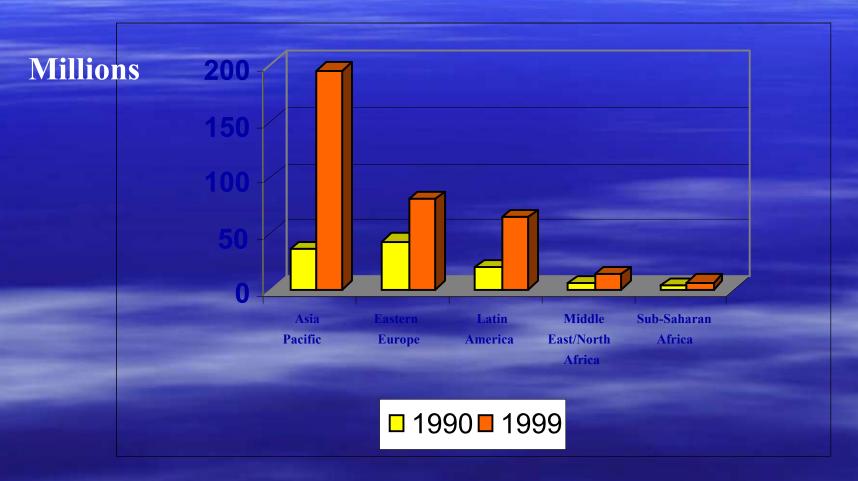
- The knowledge revolution offers a historic opportunity to redraw the global economy by:
 - enhancing competitiveness of developing countries
 - offering new opportunities for economic growth
 - leapfrogging technologies
 - increasing returns on investments in education and health
 - empowerment of local communities and the poor

But there is also the risk of a growing divide....

- both in access to knowledge
- and in access to the technologies that are powering the knowledge revolution

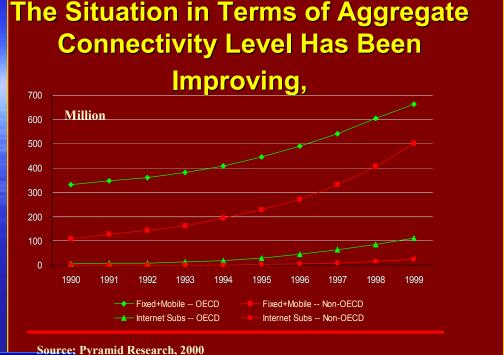
The Threat of a Digital Divide

Teledensity Evolution: Mainlines by Region



Data Source: Pyramid, 2000

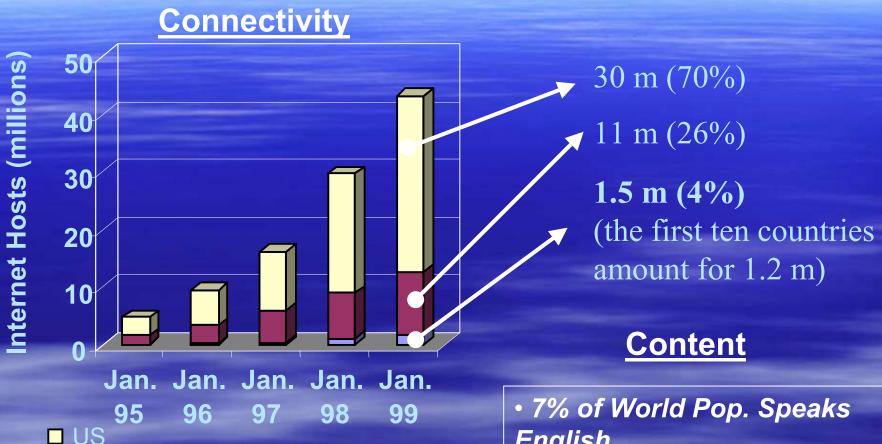
Defining the Digital Divide: how serious an issue is it?





- Connectivity is only part of the story
- Divergence in wealth creation is a major concern

Other Dimensions of the Divide

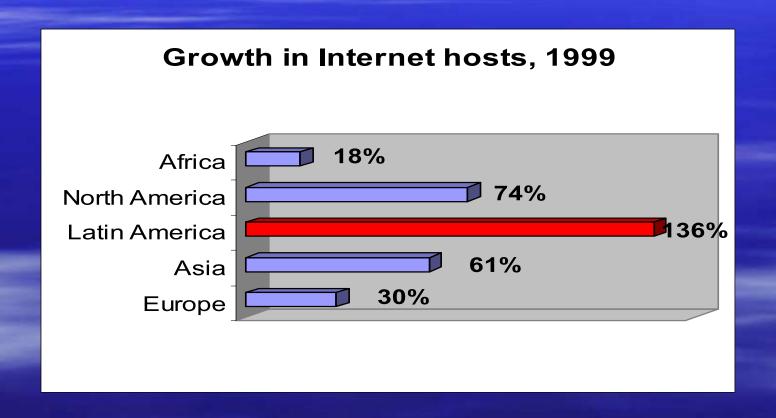


- Other industrialized countries
- Developing countries
- Jan 2000: 72.4 m Internet Hosts

English
•75% of Worldwide Web-sites
are in English

Source: Network Wizards, World Bank, 1999

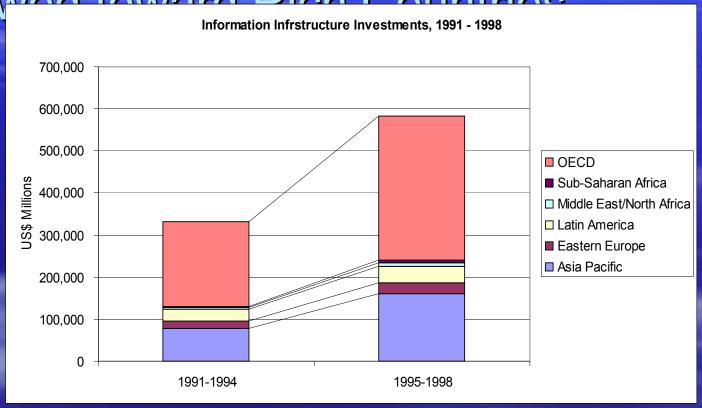
Regional Patterns of Convergence and Divergence



Data Source: ITU, 1999

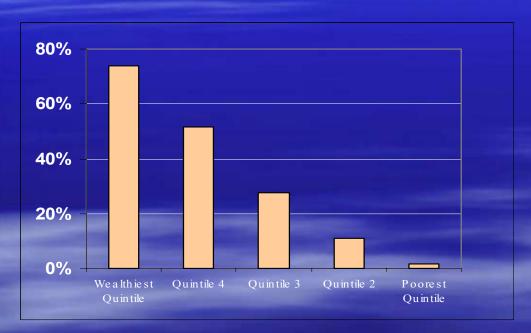
Cross-Country Inequality: Information Infrastructure Investments

Skewad toward Dich Countries



Within-Country Inequality

By Income: % of Households with Private Telephones



Panama

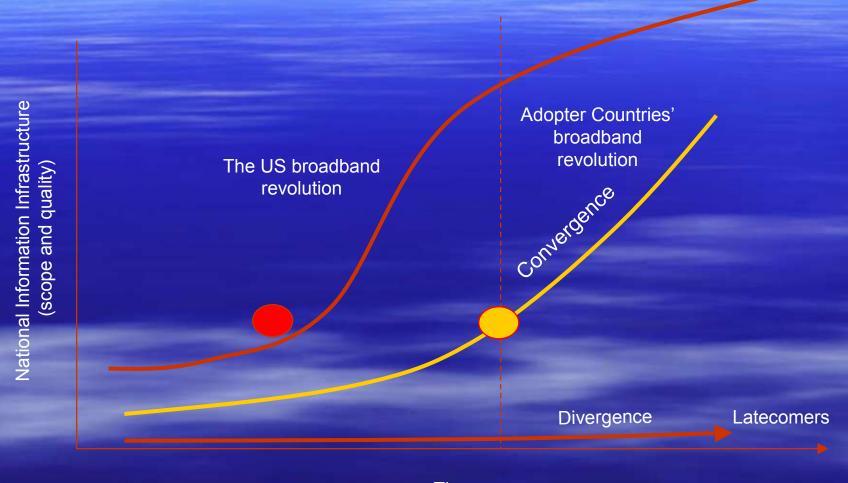
Source: LSMS, the World Bank

By Geographic Region: % of urban/rural households with telephones



South Africa

The Promise and Peril of the Networking Revolution



Time

Source: Pyramid Research, 2000

Embracing the Networked Economy: An Agenda for Action

Strategies

- Connectivity is a requirement It is next to impossible to envision markets with less than 5% voice penetration leapfrogging into Internet connectivity
- Competition is the Vehicle

Competition leads to decreased prices, subscriber growth & new technology development. We must promote competition, while supporting universal access via innovative government support, focusing on convergence issues

> Infrastructure Support Systems Are Critical

Systems and services that support and deliver information such as postal and financial services, are a vital component of public action

> Education is the Enabler

Internet has higher social entry barriers than voice, requiring literacy and ICT exposure at a minimum

Networking and Poverty Reduction

> ICTs for Economic Growth

- enhanced competitiveness
- increased business opportunities
- access to market for rural communities

> ICTs for Improved Delivery of Social Services

- better health/education/environmental services
- reducing vulnerability to natural disasters

> ICTs for Greater Transparency

- improved efficiency on government procurement
- reduced corruption
- increased civil society participation

> ICTs for Empowerment of the Poor

- allowing the poor to better communicate their concerns

The WBG Agenda

Our response is focused on

- Supporting the enabling environment for efficient creation, adaptation and dissemination of knowledge
- Building Human Capacity for the Knowledge Economy
- Expanding Access
- Supporting knowledge sharing through research, networking and communities of practice

Our Response.... A Number of Key Special Initia ECOWAN



Global ICT Department

*info*Dev

Global Knowledge Partnership **Global Development Learning Network**

Development Forum

Global
Development
Network

African Virtual University



How These Initiatives Fit Together

Supporting the ena environment



Global ICT Dept.

Building Capacity for the Knowledge Economy





- Global Development Learning Network
- World Links for Development

How These Initiatives Fit Together (cont.)

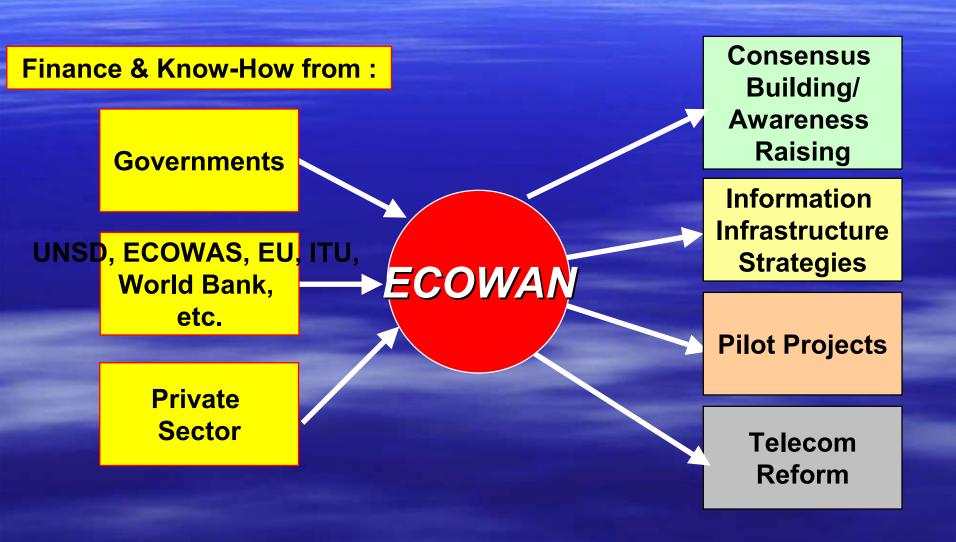
Expanding Access



Supporting knowledge sharing through research, networking and communities of practice

- Development Gateway
- Global Development Network
- Global Knowledge Partnership
- WB Knowledge Sharing Network
- Development Forum

infoDev: The Concept



Taxonomy of Funded Projects

Active and Completed Projects by Category & Main Activity

Activities & Categories	Telecoms	Internet	Education	Health	Environment	Governmen	E- Commerce	Total
Networks and Communitties of Interest	1	25	2	1	2		1	32
Policy	14	6	·				2	20
Capacity Building	12	17	4	1	4		3	41
Pilot and Demonstration	1	10	8	7	7	6	10	49
Total	28	58	14	9	13	6	16	144

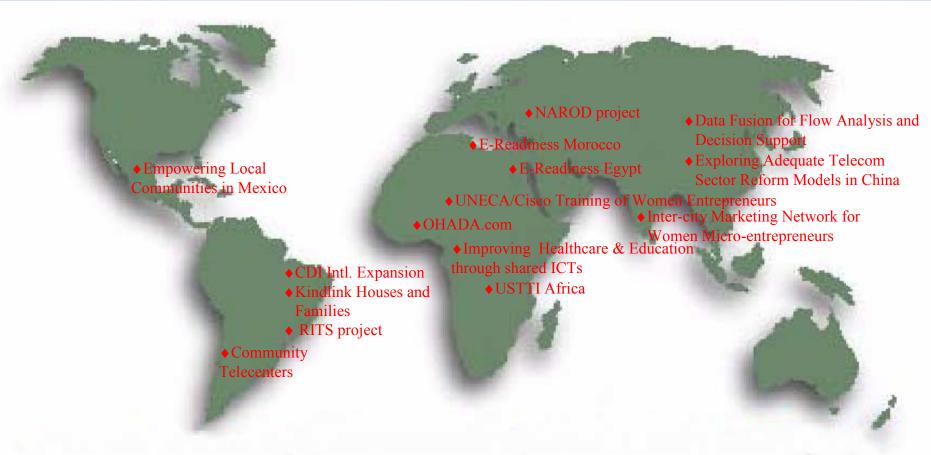
Work Program FY00



- ♦ Y2K Health Sector Coord.
- ♦ RFP/Analysis
- **♦** ICT indicators
- ♦ 15 iCSF Conferences

- ◆ PeopleLink
- ◆ Information Strategy Tool Kit/UNITAR

Work Program FY01



- **♦** Country Gateways
- ♦ Global Knowledge for Development Online Forum
- ♦ iCSF Workshops
 - ♦ ACT 2000
 - ♦ ICANN (Yokohama & LA)
 - ♦MT 2000
 - ♦ OECD Dubai

- ♦ infoDev-Motorola Visiting Fellowship Program
- ♦ Online ICT Resource Center for the Global Development Community
- ◆ Creating a Global Information Network on Distance Education
- ♦ Regulatory Colloquium

Flagship Initiatives

	EDUCATION		ECTIVITY FRICA	REGULATORY EFFORTS	E-COMMERCE			
- Y2K Initiative	 Networking for Innovation in Technology & Teacher Training MOTOROLA Visiting Scholars Fellowship CISCO Training for African Women in Internet Working Technology 	Connec	A Global ctivity for Conference ICO century Communi. Rural Telecom (DFID)	■ITU Regulatory Colloquia ■infoDev Symposia 21 ■Pyramid Report ■Analysis Report Global ICT Colloquium (RFP)	■Incubator Initiative			
	□ Country Gateways (GDG) □e-Readiness Assessments							

The Development Gateway



http:www.developmentgateway.org

Gateway Value Propositions

- Solve development problems by sharing highquality information from local, national and global sources, tailored to users' needs by topic and community, quickly and easily.
- A platform to facilitate the establishment of common standards for the exchange of information among the development community.
- Expanded opportunities for building and sharing knowledge and experience in and among developing countries.

infoDev Country Gateway Grants



For more information...





www.developmentgateway.org

www.worldbank.org/ict www.unites.org