



## Announcement:

### ***Microsoft to support ITU's Connect a School, Connect a Community Initiative***

On the occasion of the quadrennial *ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference* held from 24 May – 4 June 2010 in Hyderabad, India, and in response to an open call for partners by Mr Sami Al-Basheer, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Microsoft Corporation announced today that the company is making available the following resources to schools in interested countries participating in *Connect a School, Connect a Community* projects:

- (1) Licenses for Microsoft Windows and Microsoft Office software at nominal cost for educational institutions\*
- (2) Basic digital literacy curriculum in multiple languages
- (3) Accounts for all teachers on the Microsoft Partners in Learning Network
- (4) Mentor teachers through the Partners in Learning Network
- (5) Tools for school leaders on how to manage their school to drive better innovation
- (6) Invitations to top teachers and school leaders to the regional and/or World Wide Innovative Education Forum for professional development
- (7) And, once the program is up and running, teachers at the schools will have the opportunity to participate in the Partners in Learning Network teacher competition at the country-level and regional Innovative Education Forums

In addition, Microsoft is offering its new Windows [Multipoint Server 2010 solution](#) as an ideal solution that can reduce the cost of providing technology for projects to connect schools and communities in participating countries. This solution can make it easier and more affordable for schools to provide more students with access to computing, whether in the classroom, lab or school library. Multiple stations can be powered by a single host computer. Each user station is directly connected to the host computer and consists of a monitor, keyboard and mouse. But even though they are sharing the processing capabilities of one computer, each user experiences his/her own independent Windows computing session.

*Connect a School, Connect a Community* is a public-private partnership launched by ITU to promote broadband Internet connectivity for schools in developing countries around the world. Why focus on schools? Because connected schools can provide ICT access and education both to children and youth as well as their communities, serving as community ICT centres for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, including women and girls, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities. Together with partners, these centres will leverage ICTs to improve the economic and social development of their communities by providing ICT-based training on basic life skills (language literacy, numeracy and basic ICT literacy) along with training that develops business and ICT-specialized skills.

The Connect a School, Connect a Community [online platform](#) provides a range of resources and promotes understanding and awareness among government decision makers, donors and partners on the need for coordinated policies, regulations and practices that promote school connectivity and community benefits. This includes assisting interested governments in developing their own national school connectivity plans.

NB: ITU and Microsoft will implement this partnership each using their own resources according to their respective rules and procedures.

\* As per its existing programmes and policies, Microsoft makes available very low cost software licences, education materials and teacher and school leader capacity building programmes for eligible primary and secondary educational institutions ([www.microsoft.com/partnersinlearning](http://www.microsoft.com/partnersinlearning)). Microsoft can also donate software licenses directly to qualified NGOs through the TechSoup network ([www.techsoup.org](http://www.techsoup.org)) for the internal, operational use of the NGO. For additional information on how Microsoft partners with NGOs see [www.microsoft.com/ngo](http://www.microsoft.com/ngo).