Session 5 : Development and Promotion of Local Content over the Internet
Highlights & Conclusions

Development programmes for universal access
Desiré Karyabwite, ITU-BDT

A Digital Infrastructure enabling Multilingual Internet
Tarcísio Della Senta, UNDL Foundation

Guidelines for Terminology Policies
Christian Galinski, Infoterm

Elizabeth Longworth, Director,
Information Society Division, UNESCO

Geneva, 9-11 May 2006

o ITU works on the area for a long time, serving the human being (Conferences, Buenos Aires, Valette, Istambul, Plan of Action; most recent: Doha, March 2006)

- 6 programmes to reinforce the development of the information society

o Multilingualism aspects are present in several projects, in order to ensure access of local populations to services

- Ensure local access

o Domain names: e-government global programme (in cooperation with European Union).

o Universal access to E-services (Cameroon)

- email
- e-mandate

o Kyrgyz:
- Public internet access
- E-government web portal
- E-agriculture

o Rwanda:
- e-government in Rwanda (formulaires doivent être disponibles dans les langues locales, pour l'instant Anglais et Français)
- Literacy population: 15+ = 48%

o Swahili Language
- Project in cooperation with Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (Burundi, Congo, Tanzania et Oman) from the Arab Gulf countries)

o ARAB IP: Applications Task Force
- domain names
- e-government

o Conclusion

o Doha Action Plan covers Internet multilingualization and reinforces the ITU-D role in contributing towards information society for reduction for Digital Divide, and gives ITU-D a broad mandate

Highlights from Presentation 2
"A Digital Infrastructure enabling Multilingual Internet"

o Principles and rights: defined some time ago. Now move into action

- Universality, equity and diversity should be promoted considering language, cultures and knowledge

o Current Concerns are Mostly Monolingual: Enabling Multilingual Internet

- Defining Multilingualism on The Internet
- Building Multilingual Digital Infrastructure

o Universal networking language – metalanguage for computers, (AI) knowledge based

- Deconverter + EnConverter

o Need to develop interfaces with natural language → programme ahead

o Example: EOLSS (English Version) EOLSS UNL Version

- UNL Plaza (University of Geneva)

o The Programme Ahead 6 chapters (project also with Alexandria Library)

- System also applies to persons with impairments. www.undl.org

o UNDL is property of United Nations, patented, but the objective is to make it freely available for all.

o Importance of terminology, which complements lexicography and other elements to structure information and knowledge

o Work in ISO/TC37

- Language planning
- Terminology planning
- Communication Planning
- Term formation and its methods

o Descriptive vs. Prescriptive approach

o Formulating and implementing a terminology policy (downloadable from UNESCO website)

o Phase III: Implementation, Phase IV: Sustainability

o Provided six recommendations

- Invest in thorough preparation to Create Awareness in the whole language community

o Chairperson comments: use of terminology in digital environment and in traditional environments.

o not present

o **Digital Reading Portal Project**

o **Proposes a "linguistic ads approach"**

- advocates literacy through use browser features that are today used for ads

Quebec Government's Contribution

o   Languages should be treated on an equal footing

o   Solutions should be interoperable and based on internationally accepted standards from ISO, ITU, etc

o   Important to facilitate the use for all languages and those with special needs.

o   The Tunis Agenda has basic rules for definition of domain names

o   The principle for management of domain names should be subjected to government oversight

o Progressing universal access for development requires an integrated holistic approach where must address the interdependency among experiments with tools, building networks, developing skills and human capacities, and ensuring that awareness is there. All of these elements contribute to the development and promotion of local content on the Internet.

o To get from principles to action, we need a mix of solutions. The Universal Networking Language is one approach, with application in the domain of scientific information. But, the future agenda needs the development of interfaces with national languages.

o We need language planning with investment in developing terminology and structured content.

o The principles of developing digital content should include the requirements of linguistic neutrality, simplicity, transparency, and access for those with special needs (eg. Persons with disabilities)

NB: The multicultural dimension should be the key factor driving technical development and the cultural heritage in the form of language justifies proactive steps to feature lesser used languages and to access local digital content in a digital world.