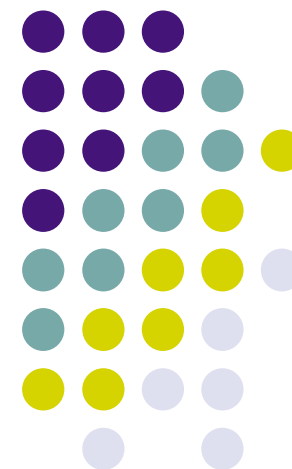


# Civil Society, Trust and Bridging the Digital Divide



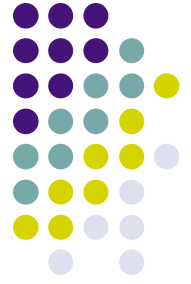
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# About the Digital Divide Network

[www.digitaldivide.net](http://www.digitaldivide.net)



- Launched in 1999 at US National Digital Divide Summit
- Internet's largest online community on the digital divide
- 7,400+ activists, policymakers private sector leaders and educators in 125+ countries
- Founded on a basic principal of multi-stakeholderism: partners from private sector, philanthropy, NGOs

# The ABC's of the Digital Divide

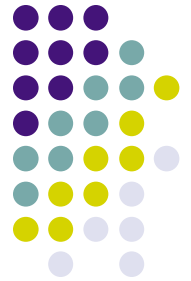
Access, Basic Skills, Content



- Access to information and communication technologies (ICTs)
- Literacy skills and ability to use ICTs effectively
- The availability and accessibility of high quality, diverse, relevant content - and the ability to create it

No one sector can tackle these goals alone

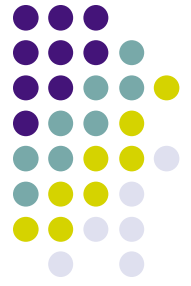
# All Sectors Have Roles to Play



- Government: National leadership; funding; encouraging competition; progressive policymaking
- Private Sector: Infrastructure/services deployment, new markets development, ICT innovation
- Academia: qualitative, quantitative digital divide research
- Civil society: local implementation; watchdog role; “the conscience” of bridging the divide
- International agencies & donors: intl coordination and convening; goal-setting

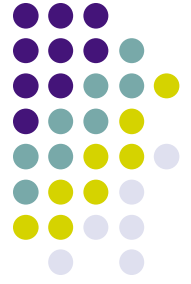
But none of these activities are mutually exclusive!

# We All Have Roles to Play: But Do We Trust Each Other Enough?



- Civil Society wariness: are we an equal partner?
- The watchdog factor: how do you partner with those you monitor or criticize?
- Civil Society isn't monolithic:
  - “We” are not of one mind
- Partnerships with private sector controversial in many circles

# Opportunities for Building Trust



- Debate is good
- Ensure meaningful participation by all stakeholders
- Recruit good moderators
- Establish clear, fair rules of order
- State clear partnership criteria
- Provide support
- Enable other partners to learn about civil society
- Use creative means to develop trust

Source: “Civil Society Within ICT Partnerships: Moving from Conflict to Confidence,” by Rik Panganiban

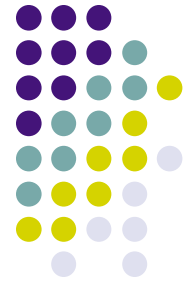
<http://rikomatic.com/work/wsis/PanganibanUNESCOconf0505.pdf/view>

# Additional Recommendations

Source: May 19 NGO roundtable, UNESCO WSIS Forum, St Petersburg



- Model partnerships with clear rules of conduct, human social capital, balanced representation, equal participation, focused workplans and evaluations.
- Encourage other stakeholders to engage civil society by initiating partnerships, facilitating support and funding, reaching beyond traditional NGO communities.
- Promote the idea that ICT content issues that matter: freedom of expression and of the media, cultural diversity, universal access to information, etc.
- Facilitate the sharing of information, analysis and best-practices among civil society networks at the local, regional and national levels.
- 5. Support a post-WSIS evaluation process through an international independent body to monitor policy development and fund people-centered research, with evaluation criteria established by civil society and the research community



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