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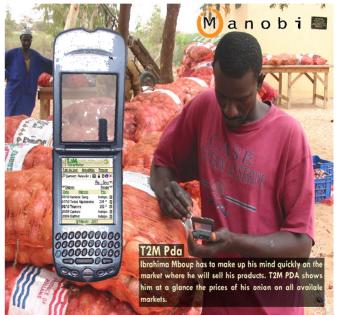
ICT Success Stories: Focus on Development

ICT Trends and Challenges in a Global Era, MSU/INT/BSL, 4 July 2005

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Overview

- Context of the ICT Success Stories Exercise

- The concept

- The criteria

- Selected case studies

- Potential of ICTs for Development

- Trends in ICT for D initiatives

- Conclusion

Context of the ICT Success Stories Exercise

- d) Recognizing the potential of ICT for development we furthermore advocate:

  ➢ developing countries to increase their efforts to attract major private national and foreign investments for ICTs through the creation of a transparent, stable and predictable enabling investment environment. (WSIS Plan of Action, Paragraph 27)

- e) Develop and launch a website on best practices and success stories, based on a compilation of contributions from all stakeholders, in a concise, accessible and compelling format, following the internationally-recognized web accessibility standards. The website could be periodically updated and turned into a permanent experience-sharing exercise. (WSIS Plan of Action, Paragraph 28)

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The WSIS Stocktaking Database

- The first Preparatory Meeting (PrepCom-1) of the Tunis Phase of the WSIS, held in Hammamet in June 2004, has confirmed that one of the three areas of focus of the Tunis Phase will be "*Follow-up and implementation of the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action by stakeholders at national, regional and international levels, with particular attention to the challenges facing the Least Developed Countries*" (Document WSIS-II/PC-1/DOC/5). This will involve undertaking a stocktaking of the implementation by governments and all other WSIS stakeholders of the WSIS Plan of Action.

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The ICT Success Stories website

- The ICTs Success Stories website is intended to be an analytic resource of projects and initiatives in the field of ICTs with a special focus on developing countries and digital inclusion enhancement for faster, harnessed & sustainable development.

- The website is aimed at raising awareness about the importance and the potential of ICTs for global human advancement as well as for the achievement of the MDGs.

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The ICT Success Stories website II

- The website is structured in comprehensive categories such as *Education, Health, Empowerment, Poverty Reduction, Local Content Creation and Valorization, Rural Development*, etc., each of whom is intended to highlight efforts and outcomes from ICT-related projects and initiatives.

- There are 4 possibilities to search the website: by theme, by cross-cutting issues, by region and by technology.

The ICT Success Stories website III

- The stories featured are a heterogeneous amalgam of ICT-related or driven initiatives - business applications, promising development solutions improving the quality of life and empowering people as well as projects generating positive impact on local, regional and international level. Partnerships, cooperation strategies and unilateral efforts to enhance welfare, freedom and future development are highlighted in order to encourage and inspire stakeholders for new challenges.

Criteria for ICT Success Story

- Based on or making use of **ICTs**

- Focus on **developing countries**

- Activities and goals emanating from the **WSIS** Plan of Action

- Activities and goals aimed at achieving the **MDGs**

Criteria for ICT Success Story II

- **Scale** of the project
- **Outcome** of the project in terms of improved social & economic status, cultural heritage & local content preservation, sustainable resources management, community development, etc.
- **Innovative** & **multi-sector** approaches
- Target at **vulnerable groups** such as women, children, indigenous people, disabled, etc.
- **Partnerships**

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Selected Case Studies

*ICTs for Participatory Health and Livelihood Skills
Training for Mon Migrants – Dot.com Alliance*

- Assistance and basic skills for migrating population

- Vulnerable groups targeted

- Human welfare enhancement

- Digital inclusion: the project goes far beyond health concerns

- Participatory approach is boosted by ICTs

- Other *feel good* projects: Mapping Malaria Risk, AIDS & Leprosy
  Prevention, Satellife, Staying Alive Global

Selected Case Studies II

Dir – Pakistan

- Education for ALL through ICTs
- Project Goals:
  - ➢ Underwrite schooling
  - ➢ Gender focus on access to basic education
  - ➢ Empowerment resources through Internet
- Partnership: the Developments in Literacy (DIL) and Khwendo Kor (KK) under the auspices of NetAid
- Project replicated in many countries, such as Afghanistan, Peru, Colombia, Zimbabwe and Haiti
- Other projects in the field: REACH Afghanistan, Community Access to Broadband – Turkey , etc.

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Selected Case Studies III

Connect the World Partnership

- International commitment to promote development and connectivity

- ITU and around 20 other partners from all the main categories of stakeholders (KADO, Microsoft, Child Helpline International and UNESCO, among others)

- Encourage new partnerships to bridge the digital divide and meet WSIS commitments by 2015

- Other projects: Fantsuam – Nigeria, Akshaya – India

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Potential for changing lives and closing the gap

- Telephone access in developing countries grew by 20% per year, 1990-2003, compared with 8% per year in developed countries

- Mobile phone networks have grown from 11 million users in 1990 to reach 2 billion by mid-2005

- Pre-pay mobile schemes have made them particularly attractive to low-income revenue

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Potential for changing lives and closing the gap

- At the end of 2003, nearly 676 million people (or 11.8 per cent of the total population of the world) had access to the Internet. This represents an increase of 49.5 million people or 7.8 per cent compared with the figures at the end of 2002. Developing countries account for more than 36 per cent of all the Internet users in the world and their share in the Internet population of the world grew by nearly 50 per cent between 2000 and 2003. However, Internet users in the developing world are concentrated in a handful of countries: China, the Republic of Korea, India, Brazil and Mexico account for 61.52 per cent of them. (UNCTAD E-Commerce and Development Report 2004)

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Trends in ICT for D initiatives

- Growing number of projects

- Greater demand for ICTs development

- Multi-stakeholders' Partnerships

- Increased e-Inclusion:

  - new actors soliciting ICT channels for D (traditional and newly valued actors)

  - new groups of beneficiaries

Trends in ICT for D initiatives

- Pluri-disciplinary and multi-sector approaches reflecting awareness of the mainstay of ICTs for enhancing overall development

- Long-term commitment & action for sustainable results and increased capacity building opportunities

- An explicit effort to harness a very extensive range of people's concerns & activities

- Innovative solutions

Conclusion: Potential benefits of ICTs for people in developing countries

- Connectivity & e-Inclusion
- e-Education & Literacy
- e-Health
- Capacity Building & Good governance
- Enhanced participation and empowerment
- Poverty reduction & economic growth
- Sustainable resource management
- Grassroots valorisation
- Creativity enhancement …

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Thank you!

The ICT Success Stories website will be shortly at:

www.itu.int/osg/spu/wsis-themes/ict_stories/index.html