"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?

More Wealth Created

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

Source: Pyramid Research, 2000
Other Dimensions of the Divide

Connectivity

- Jan. 1995: 3 m Internet Hosts
- Jan. 1996: 11 m Internet Hosts
- Jan. 1997: 20 m Internet Hosts
- Jan. 1998: 30 m Internet Hosts
- Jan. 1999: 72.4 m Internet Hosts

30 m (70%)
11 m (26%)
1.5 m (4%)
(the first ten countries amount for 1.2 m)

Content

- 7% of World Pop. Speaks English
- 75% of Worldwide Web-sites are in English

Source: Network Wizards, World Bank, 1999
Regional Patterns of Convergence and Divergence

Growth in Internet hosts, 1999

- Africa: 18%
- North America: 30%
- Latin America: 61%
- Asia: 74%
- Europe: 136%

Data Source: ITU, 1999
Cross-Country Inequality:
Information Infrastructure Investments
Skewed toward Rich Countries

Source: Pyramid Research, 2000
Within-Country Inequality

By Income: % of Households with Private Telephones

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

Panama

Source: LSMS, the World Bank
The Promise and Peril of the Networking Revolution

The US broadband revolution

Adopter Countries’ broadband revolution

Time

National Information Infrastructure (scope and quality)

Divergence

Convergence

Latecomers

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
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 Initiatives
How These Initiatives Fit Together

Supporting the enabling environment

Building Capacity for the Knowledge Economy

- ECOWAN
- Global ICT Dept.
- African Virtual University
- 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

- WB and IFC lending for ICT infrastructure
- Development Gateway
- Global Development Network
- Global Knowledge Partnership
- WB Knowledge Sharing Network
- Development Forum
infoDev: The Concept

Finance & Know-How from:

- Governments
- UNSD, ECOWAS, EU, ITU, World Bank, etc.
- Private Sector

ECOWAN

- Consensus Building/Awareness Raising
- Information Infrastructure Strategies
- Pilot Projects
- Telecom Reform
## Taxonomy of Funded Projects

### Active and Completed Projects by Category & Main Activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities &amp; Categories</th>
<th>Telecoms</th>
<th>Internet</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Environment/Government</th>
<th>E-Commerce</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Networks and Communities of Interest</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capacity Building</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilot and Demonstration</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>28</strong></td>
<td><strong>58</strong></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

March, 2001
Work Program FY00

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

- PeopleLink
- Information Strategy Tool Kit/UNITAR

- Metabase de Datos
- Empowering people with disabilities
- Guatemala MicroNet
- National Graduate Registry

- Georgia’s Demonstration projects
- Stories Exchange Net
- Sofia’s MIS

- INDEV
- India’s Rural Health Care

- Planet University IS
- Knowledge Network for Grassroots
- Information infrastructure for Asia Pacific Telecom.
- Uganda
- E-commerce Uganda and Tanzania

- African Connection-Rural Telecom

- Asia Pacific Telecom. Regulatory Forum
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

- Empowering Local Communities in Mexico
- Community Telecenters
- CDI Intl. Expansion
- Kindlink Houses and Families
- RITS project
- Data Fusion for Flow Analysis and Decision Support
- Exploring Adequate Telecom Sector Reform Models in China
- UNECA/Cisco Training of Women Entrepreneurs
- Inter-city Marketing Network for Women Micro-entrepreneurs
- Improving Healthcare & Education through shared ICTs
- USTTI Africa
- NAROD project
- E-Readiness Morocco
- E-Readiness Egypt
- OHADA.com

- Inter-city Marketing Network for Women Micro-entrepreneurs
- Exploring Adequate Telecom Sector Reform Models in China
- Creating a Global Information Network on Distance Education
- Regulatory Colloquium
## Flagship Initiatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EDUCATION</th>
<th>CONNECTIVITY IN AFRICA</th>
<th>REGULATORY EFFORTS</th>
<th>E-COMMERCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Y2K Initiative</strong></td>
<td><strong>UNECA Global Connectivity for Africa Conference</strong></td>
<td><strong>ITU Regulatory Colloquia</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Networking ▪ for Innovation in Technology &amp; Teacher Training</td>
<td>▪ ICO century Communi.</td>
<td>▪ infoDev Symposia</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ MOTOROLA</td>
<td>▪ Rural Telecom (DFID)</td>
<td>▪ Pyramid Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Visiting Scholars ▪ Fellowship</td>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Analysis Report</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ CISCO Training for African Women in Internet Working Technology</td>
<td>▪ Global ICT Colloquium (RFP)</td>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Incubator Initiative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Country Gateways (GDG)
- e-Readiness Assessments
The Development Gateway

The Development Gateway helps communities, organizations, and individuals build partnerships, share ideas, and work together to reduce poverty.

join in

- Share your knowledge
  For other insights and expertise
- Ask or answer questions
  For quick responses from the Gateway community
- Join or start a discussion
  For exchange of views on development issues
- Join the gateway
  Provide your feedback or participate in our user survey

Country Gateways

- Select a Gateway

Development Projects

- Select a topic
- Select a country

Development News

- New resources for the Development Gateway

Statistics

Columbia
Freshwater resources per capita
26,722 cubic meters

Site Updates
- Add a gateway
- Add a resource

Featured Country Gateway

Palestine
Palestine University
Recieves $5 million grant for health

Featured Topic

Arts, Crafts, Media
Globalization has created interest in distributing music and culture via a-commerce, but what about protecting property rights?

http://www.developmentgateway.org
Gateway Value Propositions

- Solve development problems by sharing high-quality 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.
As of April 4, 2001
For more information...

www.ecowas.int

www.infodev.org

www.developmentgateway.org

www.worldbank.org/ict

www.unites.org