

# Empowering Education

## in Mali



Schoolchildren in Mali's remote far north are now getting access to a vast new world of information and learning opportunities, thanks to an ITU E-Strategy project to bring the power of high-speed Internet to the classroom.

Developed and delivered in partnership with Swisscom, the project is initially providing online access for 750 children at Haidara high school in Timbuktu.

A large desert community in one of the planet's most isolated regions, Timbuktu has one of the world's lowest teledensities. Through a major E-Strategy e-Learning initiative launched in June, ITU aims to help bridge this Digital Divide by exposing young people to the exciting possibilities of ICTs.

Project components include:

- Provision and installation of computer equipment and software
- Installation of fast Internet links
- Fellowship programmes to bring Haidara teachers to Switzerland for training in ICT use
- Development of online learning
- Establishment of an ongoing online relationship between a Swiss high school and Haidara, to promote cross-cultural exchange and friendship

### Building Capacity through Youth

Just three months after the launch of the project, Haidara already had a computer lab in place providing full Internet access, offered free of charge by Swisscom.

ITU's E-Strategy project in Mali is part of a wider global project to develop local ICT skills and awareness through school programmes and the training of young people.

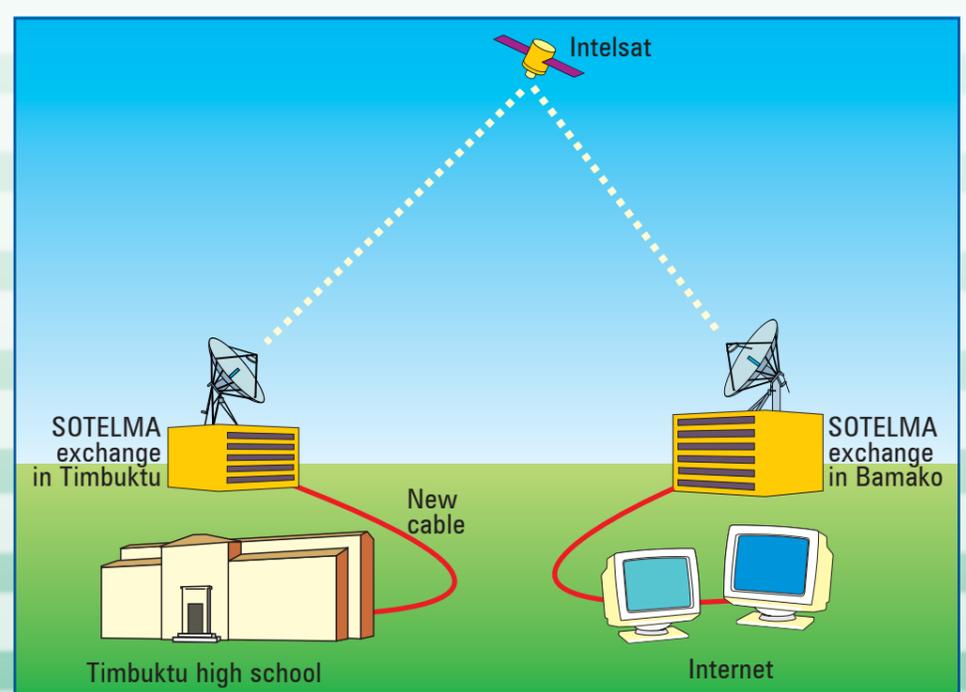
It also builds on earlier ITU efforts to improve ICT access in one of the world's poorest regions through establishment of the Timbuktu Multipurpose Community Telecentre in 1998.

### The Power of Partnership

ITU's E-Strategy project emphasizes the value of partnership in improving access to ICTs and bringing real and rapid benefits to people's lives.

Mali's Haidara e-Learning project is an excellent example of a cooperative effort by multiple stakeholders, including ITU, the Mali government, the Haidara teaching staff and Swisscom, which launched its own Internet at School programme in 2000.

ITU's E-Strategy programme already enjoys fruitful partnerships with leading private sector organizations as well as other international organizations like the World Health Organization.



Timbuktu is 100 km from Bamako

# Empowering Government Administration in Paraguay



ITU's E-Strategy programme is helping foster more efficient administration of the telecommunication sector in Paraguay.

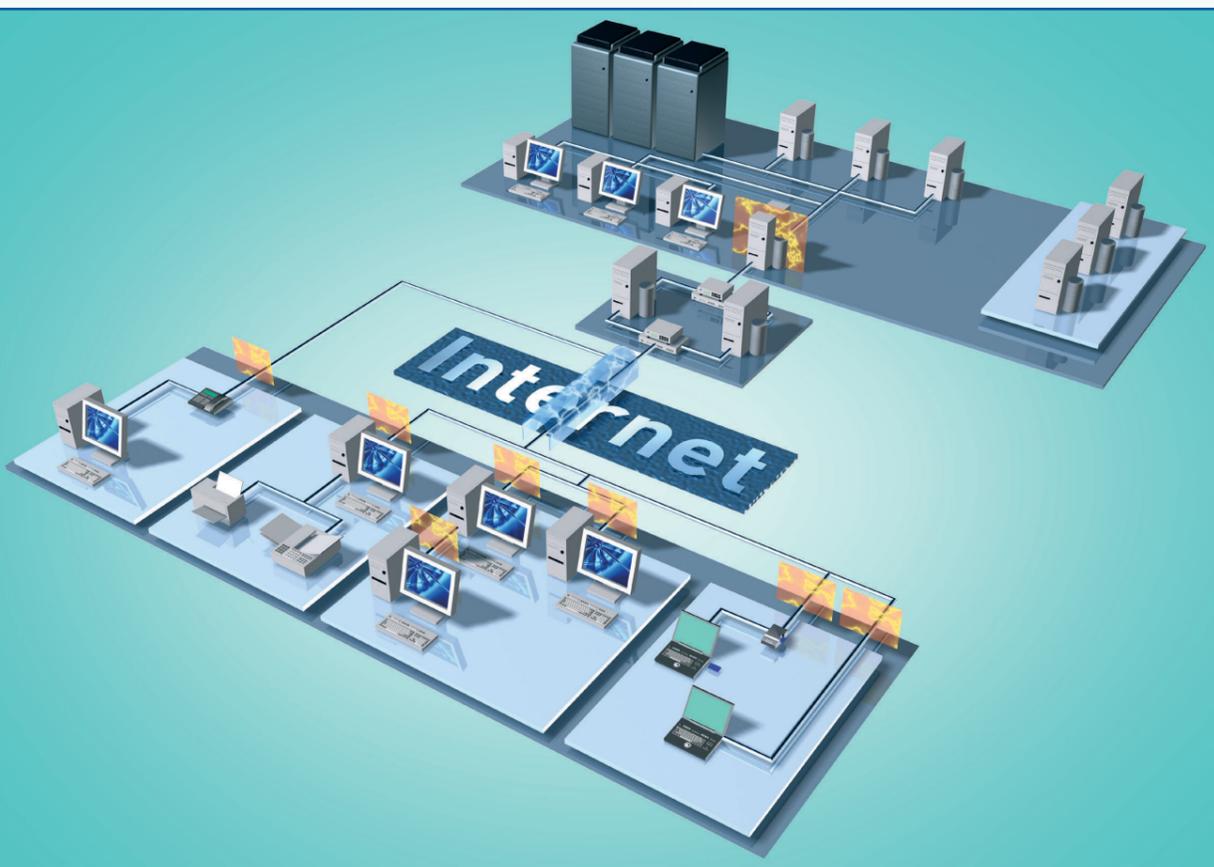
Using a range of ICTs, including innovative tailor-made e-Applications, the project is streamlining business processes at national telecommunication regulator CONATEL and improving communications and security between the regulator and its clients, who comprise local, regional and international operators and service providers.

Working in close partnership with CONATEL, E-Strategy is providing expert guidance on new technology strategies and the opportunities offered by advanced electronic services like Digital Signatures.

In addition, the E-Strategy team is currently developing a secure, trusted Internet-based platform for CONATEL that will:

- foster secure exchange of confidential documents;
- support electronic submission of licence applications;
- automate a number of manual business processes;
- allow CONATEL to electronically approve and issue licences;
- increase organizational efficiency and reduce administrative overheads.

The project also includes training initiatives to enhance awareness of the potential of advanced ICT applications, and workshops to discuss key issues such as:



- the role of the regulator in a converging service delivery environment;
- technologies and strategies for further building online security and trust;
- effective management of public Internet resources like Internet Addresses and Top Level Domains;
- evolving human resources and IT system needs to meet future challenges.

E-Strategy is providing all funding, project management and technical expertise for the project, which should be fully operational by end 2003.

# Empowering Agricultural Development in Kyrgyzstan



An ITU E-Strategy project is bringing the benefits of the Internet to remote farming communities in Kyrgyzstan, deep in the heart of Asia.

A country of rugged mountains and proud traditions, the Central Asian State is now the site of a major e-Agricultural initiative designed to spur economic development through innovative use of ICTs.

With agriculture the country's most important economic sector and some 70 per cent of the population living in rural areas, ITU is working actively with the Kyrgyz Government and local villages to develop new ways of using the latest technologies to deliver vital information and new services to remote communities. Examples include:

- commodity prices on principal markets
- online brokerage and marketplace options
- new agricultural techniques
- improved crop varieties
- advanced pest-control methods
- weather
- seasonal planting schedules
- new cropping options



## Cooperative Approach

ITU's E-Strategy projects focus strongly on developing activities in partnership with the people they are designed to benefit.

In the selected pilot village of Madaniyat in the country's Tchuyski-Tokmok region, E-Strategy team leaders met with farmers and government representatives in the local village hall to define the following priorities and deliverables:

- An ICT infrastructure and e-Commerce network aimed at helping Madaniyat farmers get a better return on their produce by providing up-to-date price information and direct access to buyers
- An Internet-equipped Multipurpose Community Telecentre to promote affordable access to online information, particularly in the areas of health and education
- A new ICT-based data collection system to help the Ministry of Agriculture more effectively gather and analyse agricultural data, and to facilitate the dissemination of farming information to local communities

## Sustainability

All ITU E-Strategy projects are based on the concept of sustainability.

ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau aims not only to empower economic development by funding initial set-up costs, but to empower communities by helping them take control of their own future through projects that eventually become self-funding.

# Empowering IP Development



## in CEE, CIS and Baltic States

E-Strategy is actively fostering IP policy development in the Central and Eastern European countries, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the nations of the Baltic region by addressing crucial issues relating to the management of Internet Domains and IP Addresses.

The programme's *IP Symposium for CEE, CIS and Baltic States*, held in Moscow in September, developed an action plan for accelerating implementation of next-generation networks, improving the management of country code Top Level Domains (ccTLDs), and developing new administrative and legal frameworks aimed at promoting access to advanced ICT services.

Under the terms of this action plan, known as the Moscow Declaration, ITU will work closely with governments and regulatory authorities to provide information on:

- The technical and policy implications of converged, IP-based next-generation networks
- Repatriation of national ccTLDs
- ccTLD dispute resolution mechanisms, in partnership with the World Intellectual Property Organization
- Adoption and deployment of next-generation IP technology, known as IPv6

The Declaration also mandates ITU to provide further assistance by:

- Preparing a number of locally-based Internet country case studies to help disseminate information on regional Internet deployment and IP network management
- Providing examples of best practice and suitable legal frameworks for the administration of ccTLDs
- Enhancing its IP address and DNS training programme
- Offering ongoing advice and assistance in the areas of regulation, tariffing and Internationalized Domain Names
- Fostering and supporting new national and regional cooperation initiatives in the area of IP development