# ICT BOOK FOR THE YOUTH FORUM

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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Technology does not do anything. People do. This is the most essential point to understand the role of people in the information society. Instead of thinking about technology as the centre of the information society we should think about people as the main players.

If a country does not have enough human and financial resources it usually can not be successful at the worldwide level. But the situation will change in the information society – when the power is in knowledge then every country has an opportunity to gain competitive advantage. And again, people are the key to success. If we want to gain and retain this advantage in the future, we should invest in young people. Young people are those who will develop the technologies in the future and young people are also those who will use these technologies every day.

What could be done in order to be successful?

First of all, there is no doubt that education is an important assumption in achieving the spread of information and communication technologies. Therefore the main question should be how to educate young people. How to exchange knowledge and skills? How to support them to learn, to research and to use ICTs? This should be the primary task of the State: to educate young people.

Secondly, always provide information about ICTs. What it is, how to use it and how people can benefit from it – knowledge is necessary for success. There is no use educating if people do not know what the technological situation is in their homeland and in foreign countries, in the past and in the future.

Thirdly, it is necessary for young people to understand the importance of ICTs. We should motivate young people to discover the possibilities of technologies. The technological changes happen so fast that nobody knows right now what we will face in the future. Let's motivate young people to discover it themselves.

Lastly, we can not guarantee success, but we can always improve the most crucial aspects of it: education, information, and motivation – all for young people.

Ms Darine Abdelahad
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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

It is astounding how the globe has shrunk dramatically in the past decade, drawing the four corners of the world together. Distances have been almost reduced into sheer nothingness, and remote areas are not linked together by virtual bridges. This revolutionary change was triggered by the rapid boom of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs), which have broken all barriers of time and space.

The importance of ICTs does not reside in their technological value as much as in the promise they hold for unprecedented social and economic prosperity. ICTs offer a wide variety of unparalleled tools; which, if used wisely and responsibly, can uplift countries in their socio-economic development. Who then is to ensure that the technological revolution is properly harnessed and truly directed for a better life?

If I were Head of State in Lebanon, I would capitalize on the creativity, idealism, and zeal of the youth in my country, for I believe that they have both the right and the duty to shape the place they live in. Their combination will breed fresh perspectives and novel ideas that are the driving engine for continual progress.

The role of the youth in developing their country through the use of ICTs has many facets. First, the swift growth in the ICTs sector stipulates a matching advance in the number and quality of experts in the field. Young people should fuel this fundamental human resource by specializing in areas that sustain and foster the ICTs market. They should master the technology through genuine and ethical professionalism. Even students specializing in seemingly unrelated fields should keep pace with the technological evolution because ICTs have become integrated in all aspects of modern life.

The ICTs market is highly lucrative, and people involved in it should consider not only greater profit but also human entitlements and rights. Because of their uneven spread, ICTs have increased the social and economic inequity, and there is real danger that the rich will monopolize information and that the poor will be denied their share of knowledge. So it is the social and moral responsibility of the youth to bridge this digital divide and crate a genuinely equitable society, which provides access to ICTs fairly and equally.

Another challenge that young people must responsibly face is being able to scrutinize the information that ICTs allow them to access from an ample variety of sources at a glimpse. ICTs provide young people with all the necessary tools that boost initiative and independent learning, but it is up to the youth to make aware judgments about the reliability of the information that ICTs bombard them with and the credibility of its sources.

As ICTs have erased borders and eliminated barricades, young people are urged to benefit from the positive aspects of globalization and participate in the international dialogue based on the virtues of openness, exchange and coexistence.

They should turn any threats to their individuality and uniqueness that this flood of media poses, into opportunities for mutual understanding, empathy with others and affirmation of identity. Through critical yet tolerant conversations, they can defy all forms of brainwashing and anonymity and diffuse destructive conflict. The youth must advocate the use of ICTs that respect and promote cultural wealth, linguistic diversity and human values.

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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

## Introduction

In the words of Dr Ahmed Zoïle, the one and only difference between the developed countries and the countries of the third world can be summed up in three words: their scientific capabilities. This is tantamount to saying that scientific ability is the mother of all exploits and progress in the political, economic, social, cultural and military fields and that any shortcoming in one field will affect the others.

Consequently, every country should adopt effective and profitable socio-economic policies by undertaking to make the necessary reforms.

This is the responsibility of governments, and in particular of presidents, who must mobilize all abilities to bring their countries to the highest possible state of development. This, however, seems unrealistic and even impossible without the help of all sectors of society, notably the lowest rung on the age ladder, youth.

Why do farmers continue to grow the same crops using traditional methods when more productive and less disease-prone varieties are made available to them? Why is AIDS spreading in spite of the dissemination of information and the mass distribution of condoms? Why have the efforts made not rolled back illiteracy rates? Why does war continue to kill innocent people in spite of the efforts made by all countries? These and other questions continue to be raised.

There is one answer to all four questions: we have failed to involve the local population in the generous initiatives launched for them. This is a problem of concern above all to developing countries. What, then, is the role of young people in socio-economic development?

If the president of a country is confronted with such a problem, should he allow young people to take command, should he consider them as mere helpmates or should he do both together, never forgetting to keep a watchful eye on them?

We must promote development of a kind that requires the beneficiaries to take charge. This is where communication becomes truly meaningful, because it allows young people to participate, with the result: communicating, the better to develop.

For the president to achieve his goals, he will have to follow the young people by stages according to their age. In my opinion, young people are between 10 and 35 years of age.

### First stage: 10 to 18 years

This is when young people discover their hidden intelligence and intellectual, innovative and creative capacity. To that end:

- Young people should be made to participate in science fairs and creative contests, even simple ones. This will help them get to know themselves and what they are capable of. Major steps that a fair number of countries have taken include:
  - introducing living languages from the first year of primary school, giving young people the advantage of mastering languages at a very young age and in the future of being able to publish their scientific work and learn about the research of others;
  - introducing computer aids into schools, for they play an important role in the education of young people, without forgetting the advantages of the Internet, chiefly that it is open to the world around the clock.

### Second stage: 18 to 25 years

This is the period of university studies, which must be much more active than the previous period and in which young people can truly choose their fields of interest.

- They must be given all the means required for their development: public libraries, research laboratories, etc.
- The competence of existing schools and training centres must be expanded and strengthened, via their training modules and programmes, and such institutes must be given the necessary human, logistical and material resources.
- Study programmes must be regularly brought up to date in keeping with new technologies, recent research results, new statistics, etc. This will help young people keep up with the tidal wave of technology reaching us from developed countries.
- The capacity of the National School of Posts and Telecommunications must be strengthened in order to emphasize in particular ongoing training for telecommunication agents and to take account of the inherent link between telecommunication development and the development of electronic media, which are tools in the service of communication for development.
- A communication technology park should be established for all schools and businesses working with new technologies.
- For me personally, as a student in telecommunications, the new technologies, in particular the Internet, truly enabled me to enhance my understanding of my specialization and to keep up with the latest developments in the field of information and communication technology.
- Encourage associations of young people in different fields in order to imbue them with the share and communicate spirit, allowing them to express their choices, their points of view and their suggestions for development. The media play an important role here, bringing the opinions of young people to the government.

All means must be used: radio, television, newspapers, meetings, conferences, etc.

Third stage: 25 to 35 years

This is a period of mature intelligence in which young people can show what they really know how to do and put it into practice at work.

The government should take a number of initiatives:

- Hire young people who have just graduated without requiring at least five years of experience. Where are the young people to acquire that experience if they are not given a first chance? Everyone has to start somewhere.
- An interesting magazine article I read spoke of a network of specialized offices, known as brain banks, that hired 3 000 young graduates every year, including a growing number of Africans. This is a remarkable and surprising figure for a developing continent; it implies that the capacity exists but is underexploited.
- The first years on the job should be replete with training courses and practical training, and young people sent to countries with state-of-the-art information and communication technologies.
- Encourage translations on new technologies, research and inventions in languages other than the national language, a clear consequence of the introduction of English in primary schools.

Our young people represent a reservoir of knowledge and know-how in terms of communication and every effort must be made to draw on that reservoir.

Towards a better future where dreams become reality.

One condition that sustainable development must ensure is support for any effort made by individuals and communities to play an active part in their own development. The first thing is not to provide people with this or that but rather to help them materialize what they have and cannot give shape to.

One thing is clear: the future is bright for all information and communication technologies. The number of users (consumers) is growing, and each one constitutes a source of motivation for companies to come up with innovative technical solutions.

Competition on the technology market is such that it seems likely that only big companies with enough money to invest will be able to make a go of it. This being said, the world of technology is relatively open and much remains to be discovered.

The markets for on-board and wireless computer technology are gradually opening, and the goal ultimately is to bring them closer, as everyone craves.

At the same time, we are moving towards a wireless world in which we will be able to call from our cell phones or our car to order the latest CD just heard on the radio.

Mr Ballah Chehem Abdoulkader

Pole Universitaire de Djibouti

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Djibouti

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

## Thesis

In the present context of globalization and the planetary village, it is vital to become a part of the community of new technologies in order to participate in development. Young people are the backbone of any country's future, and it is on them that any future-oriented policy must build. Our country, and in particular the young people of the third world, have gravely, but not irreparably, fallen behind in the knowledge sector. To redress this deficit, I would propose a three-pronged approach.

## Social aspect

Illiteracy, dauntingly prevalent in our country, particularly among the female population, can be combated with ICTs. This might take the form of introductory courses held by internet for people who are illiterate or who (as in the case of some young people) have been denied access to schooling. The government's role should include supporting community groups and, in particular, creating the right conditions for access to NICTs.

## Economic aspect

To give young people an incentive to set up their own business in the domain of new technologies, I would use the following measures to facilitate new businesses.

– People wishing to set up a business in new technologies would be exempted from social security contributions.

– The state would put at their disposal public-owned office space with reduced energy costs (low-rent arrangement, for example) to allow them to set up their business in favourable conditions.

As a parallel measure, the government should set up a specialized savings bank to facilitate the financing of upstarts.

These financial institutions would make it easier for young businesspeople to get access to financing.

Ms Asma Abdullah
University of Sharjah
Computer Engineering
United Arab Emirates

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The key to success: building technical infrastructure, learning how to use it and how to implement it in our society.

I am lucky to be living in a country that had no real technical infrastructure until about 30 years ago, but that has emerged as a regional leader in terms of development.

Traditionally our people used to live in smaller somewhat isolated communities: some were leading lives in a fixed place, whereas others chose a nomadic existence. News at the time, important events, such as the passing of a relative, the birth of a relative, events in the rest of the world would take days if not weeks to arrive. This all changed with the arrival of a fixed telephone network in the early 20s. All of a sudden people could talk to their relatives living in other villages or even those living abroad. With the subsequent introduction of terrestrial television, satellite television, mobile phones, and of course the Internet, people can now communicate with virtually anyone, at any time, everywhere: this has led to major social changes.

If I were the Head of State, I would make people aware that other than the experience we could learn from our elderly, the key to development lies with the youth: the youth embodies the future of our country.

Education of my people would be of prime importance. Not everybody can enjoy an education easily, for a number of reasons. Fortunately, having Internet, radio or TV (in short, the media) at our disposal, I would invest in having education brought to everyone using the Open University format that has proven to be very successful in Europe. This would enable people from all walks of life, perhaps as a second chance, to educate themselves. Remote areas can be reached by making use of satellite (TV) and these communities will be able to communicate by means of 2-way satellite Internet.

Part of the programme would be to have "virtual exchange students", i.e. online lectures with students from different parts of the world participating. This would not only give students the unique opportunity to, from the safe confinement of one's own society, sample other cultures, ideas and concepts: this is no doubt that this would lead to a better understanding between people and ultimately between countries.

The levels of education at primary, secondary schools and colleges will be on a par with anything that can be found in western Europe, the United States or Arabia. All schools will have "smart classrooms" where pupils will follow the classical education, but will use

access to information to study in their own time at their own pace in addition to that. Formerly “boring” experiments or perhaps history can be transformed by multimedia tools (projectors, huge screens, multichannel audio) into lively, tangible events. It’s different to read about “The Battle of Genghis Khan” or have a 3D video clip projected in front of you as a programme.

An integral part of the education process would be to make pupils aware of how to use the technical tools at their disposal. It will be a standard part of the curriculum to be educated formally to use technology in a responsible, amicable way – likewise, pupils should be invited on a monthly basis to visit companies ... to get a taste of the real world: people from the industries will be provided to carry out guest lectures. This way, the world of education and the “real world” will be integrated and tuned to each other. It will be easier to identify trends and if necessary to adapt and correct.

Slowly but surely our understanding of technology and its applications will grow: not only on an individual basis, but also as a whole society. This will lead to the development of our own science and production bases: not only will we be consumers, but we will be inventors and producers. With this, the development of our home-grown industries and job opportunities and the material well being of all of us will come.

Mr Berik Abdykadyrov

Institute of Power Engineering and Telecommunication

Electronic Systems

Kazakhstan

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Currently Informational and Communication Technologies (ICT) play the huge role on a global arena and, especially, in life of ordinary people.

Nobody can imagine the life without Internet, cell-phones, satellite television, not mentioning simple phone. In the XXI century human should be mobile because the speed of life increased enormously for the several decades E-mail and cell-service help him in this. They allow to share information for very short period of time and on huge distances. Their influence cannot be overestimated. Citizens of the country, that use all technological innovations of our time and that have access to all informational sources, respectively would contribute more to the development of the state and society.

If I were head of the government in the Republic of Kazakhstan, that in sphere of ICT I would introduce the following:

- Introduce ICT in curriculum of all primary and secondary schools in the country. This would provide future professionals with the skills necessary for using contemporary technologies. Even for those children, that are not intended to get their profession in completely different non technical sphere this knowledge would be necessary. Today every young man or woman should be able to use computer, cell-phone and other innovations.
- Organize exchange programs for students of foreign countries. Practically all developed countries use exchange programs. This would allow them to increase their level of knowledge. Moreover, educational systems change from country to country. This would give opportunity for our specialist to take the best from the foreign education.
- Give opportunity to young specialists for them to introduce achievement, building, car, heavy, light industries, and agriculture, in sphere of geology, educational, medicine, military defense, sports tourism and alpinism. Also I would allow them to use full automatization of these fields. ICT are necessary groundings for sharing of information and relief of work, which gives fast and high-quality development of all fields of government.
- To all Kazakhstan citizens I would give an opportunity of free access to Internet, which would provide direct exchange of information for the development of our people's intellect.

I think, that all this factors would help to our youth in its self-development. Also it would give chance to the new generation to use their knowledge for the welfare of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Mr Mohammed Abubakar
Bayero University Kano
Accountancy
Nigeria

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

## Introduction:

The economic and social success and thus the prosperity of any nation is a measure of its technological advancement. Technology is the primary index of economic self – reliance and power. It is also a major yardstick for categorizing nations into first, second and third worlds. This makes socialized countries guard jealously their superior technological capability which enables them to dominate the world.

Since independence in 1960, Nigeria has been striving to achieve a level of industrialization that would improve the general well?being of her citizens, but progress has been slow and far from satisfactory. Technological policies that were put in place have failed to achieve the desired impact on the productive sector of the economy. This clearly indicates that there is a lack of continuity in strategies and policies. This is also as a result of instability of governance.

## The bottom line:

As a young Nigerian with a big dream for the people of the country, the most important role I'll play to actualize a vibrant economic and social development through information and communication technologies (ICTs) are:

(i) Mass awareness of Information and Communication Technology

(ii) Incorporation of Information Technology (IT) policies

(iii) Continuity strategies

(iv) Upgrading school curriculum.

Mass awareness being the first and the most important strategy will be taken from the highest government functionaries to the lowest level at the grass roots. This shall be a two-phase cross-functional project in a vice versa approach. This is to enhance efficiency and rapid results at all levels.

With 70% of Nigeria's population in rural areas, lack of information and scientific facilities, as well as educational resources at primary and secondary school levels, are the major causes of setbacks in technological development. The tertiary institutions, especially the universities (which are the apex of economic and technological research and innovations) are not making the desired impact. Furthermore, the Government is not helping the matter much, since it has not given special priority to these issues to ensure that information technology (IT) becomes so popularized that IT becomes a way of life of the Nigerian public. It is only when such a level of awareness is attained that technology can be claimed as a veritable instrument for sustainable economic and social development in Nigeria.

Information Technology (IT) policies form the backbone of every successful economy. Third world governments often have workable policies but poor strategies for implementation. Most Nigerian policies suffer such fate of poor implementation.

Internet-for-farmers will be one of the best IT policies a young Nigerian will ever dream of for his beloved country. With the advent of e-commerce, e-education and e-cultural exchanges through simple communication systems on the Internet, it has become possible at the grassroots level to have the world at home. Through this the international dollar will definitely prop up sales and earnings. This will have a positive impact on the GDP of the nation.

The dilemma of lack of continuity in the governance of the African giant, Nigeria, is a big setback. This makes different governments to come and go with their policies. The latter not inheriting the former. A law must be made to stabilize the policies adopted by various governments. This with a view to ensuring continuity of the project, no matter the changes in government. This will go a long way to stabilize the economy and restore the confidence of foreign investors who will do more for the economy.

I will strongly recommend as follows:

– e-government, to make policies more accountable and transparent;
– e-commerce, to promote international business links for more profitable and easy access to goods and services

at international markets online;

– e-politics, to enhance and promote firsthand information to the grass roots;
– e-school, as a new generation way of knowledge-acquisition and human resources development at grassroots level.

In conclusion, technological economy and social development by its nature requires a long period of time for its impact to be felt. Although there must be positive change in the political climate of any country before the technological economy and social sector will change for the better. There is no doubt that with democracy and favourable relations with the international community, Nigeria will rapidly grow in technology and information management for a vibrant economy and enviable social development.

Mr Serguei Adjemov
Technical University of Telecommunications and Informatics
Automatic Telecommunications and Computer Science
Russian Federation

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The 21st century heralds a new era in the evolution of world civilization: the transition from the industrial age to the information age, with the globalization of production methods, the convergence of diverse social and economic systems, and the increasing irrelevance of borders to human communication.

The information society, founded on information and communication technologies (ICTs), is oriented towards the accelerated utilization of legacy information resources with the objective of making social productiveness and social progress more effective.

For this to succeed, society requires an avant-garde of educated people, capable of rapidly learning and actively applying new methods and approaches to problem-solving in public and business administration. World-wide, it is young people who form this avant-garde. It is young people in secondary and post-secondary studies who have the greatest facility in using PCs, expertly surfing the web. They are already open for virtual realities and gaming, a sign of their adaptability under the specific demands and conditions that characterize this new stage in evolutionary development.

ICTs and the world of media are crucial to maintaining the continuity and momentum of our society's evolutionary development through continuing education (self-education). Decision-making, even in the setting of a well-designed computer game, requires knowledge of the historical background and a grasp of the available tools and methodologies to devise a solution. ICTs, information resources, the internet: these make it possible to explore any library on earth and to learn about working methods and techniques, new ideas and innovative initiatives; in other words, to realize and build on the achievements of our predecessors.

Were I the president of Russia, I would, first of all, try to accelerate implementation of the government's Electronic Russia programme, which will enable our country to become a part of the information society by facilitating access to ICTs for young people and, indeed, people of all ages. Business, government, education, medicine and other domains will come to rely heavily on ICTs.

Second, I would address at the national level the problems encountered by university students. Specifically, I would increase the assistance available to students and force the national oligarchy and various organizations to create additional merit-based scholarships and grants for promising students. Likewise, I would oblige the banks to provide low-interest loans for housing, particularly for young couples.

Offering a solution to the difficult material situation of young people will allow them to turn their attention from everyday survival to their education and to ICT-aided self-education. It will contribute to a better quality of life and involve young people actively in the creation of the information society.

Ms Ramla Ahmad

National University of Sciences and Technology

Information Technology

Pakistan

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information and Communication are as old as the mankind. Though information and communication technologies travelled side by side but their existence was not felt as much as it is being felt now particularly since the last half of the twentieth century. The reason is the phenomenal growth of the communication technology and the development of personal computers which, taken together, enables us to store, retrieve, process, and communicate information in whatever form it may take, unconstrained by distance, time and volume. This revolution has added huge new capacities to human intelligence and constitutes a resource which changes the way we work and live.

The developed nations who took the lead and entered the information society at their earliest are reaping the greatest rewards. They set the agenda for all who must follow. By contrast, countries which temporized, or favoured half-hearted solutions, are, in less than a decade, finding it difficult to cope with the situation. Nevertheless, the way out for all such nations is to leapfrog with all their strength, making good for the lost time and do the following:

- Develop a national information infrastructure consisting of both the telecommunication networks and the strategic information systems necessary for widespread access to communications and information services. Deployment of this infrastructure is a task of years in terms of time and billions in terms of money but where there is a will there is a way.
- Create an information-friendly environment, characterized by coherent telecommunication reform and information policies; laws protecting investment, intellectual property, and individual privacy; open and well-regulated information and communication markets; education policies that favour a skilled labour force; and effective regulatory and standard-setting institutions. Such an environment supports availability, diversity, and low cost of information services and products.
- Educate more people. Rewards to an individual for an educational investment include more employment options, higher income, and better future prospects. Export of low-skill jobs requires primary education of good quality, including

language skills. Export of high-skill jobs requires advanced and lifelong training. Information systems have supporting roles in education – efficient administration, low-cost delivery, and production of appropriate educational materials. Computer-based training is an effective tool for learning.

- New demands for education and training must be met. Demand for specialized informatics professionals, computer literacy throughout the workforce, and lifelong training are challenges for most countries in the face of rapidly changing technology and shifts in job mixes. Meeting the demand will require the efforts of universities, private companies, training institutions, computer societies, and accreditation councils.
- Make governments more efficient, accountable, and transparent. Government business can be considered as a series of systems, such as education, health, defence, public revenue and expenditures, natural resources management, social security, etc. and well-designed information systems can become major instruments of public policy – powerful tools to implement, enforce, and evaluate policy reforms.
- Global trade and investment are increasing. International trade in goods has increased to the point where global production and sourcing prevail. International trade in services is increasing as a share of total trade, and developing countries are catching up by exporting high-skill and low-skill services.

Mr Luciano Sebastián Ahunada Fierro
Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María
Telecomunicaciones
Chile

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Ever since the beginning of time, every corner of the world has had a number of animals, some of them unimaginable for today's mind. These magic creatures have the ability to adapt themselves and evolve through time.

These days, it is impossible to imagine any evolutionary process that does not include powerful tools that serve to disseminate its ideas: information technology has come into its own, the fruit of major efforts and dedication on the part of those constructing the regional environment.

One of the key players is the Government, which has to implement a variety of policies designed to promote the study of that technology and ensure the availability of the necessary tools for its development. A basic objective within any such policy should be to ensure that young people, from their earliest years, have access to a computer and the Internet.

The rapid advance of this technology makes young people the most qualified to disseminate it.

By way of a specific initiative designed to improve access to ICTs, I would foster the creation within colleges of centres dedicated to that subject, in which university students could transmit their experience to the young. In addition to providing students in higher education with a source of work for which they would receive some remuneration, it would also provide creative young people with a place in which to develop their abilities. Within this framework, I would provide these centres/workshops with the necessary resources to enable them to compete for development projects, in addition to which they would have access to international resources or private donations.

This would make it possible to achieve the following:

- The development of a more dynamic educational system that would allow for the fostering of scientific and technological skills of benefit to the community. This would lead to an enhanced social awareness at different levels, including the economic, environmental, political and scientific levels, through the creation of communication tools that would contribute to the improvement of social relations through the efficient and rational use of information.

- The training of citizens such as to imbue them with a culture of communication. This would have the effect of attracting capital for the development of ICT companies, thanks to the availability of suitably-qualified individuals at all levels.
- The strengthening of democracy as a result of this new means of citizen participation.

When it comes to developing an action plan, the need is for fresh ideas and vibrant energy such that any obstacle along the way can be overcome. Within this context, young people are able to bring all of their determination, passion and knowledge to bear in the effort to achieve the above-mentioned goals, and are thus able to play a key role in the decision-making process.

Any initiative in which young people are players should be backed up by the experience of older people, while taking care to ensure that each individual performs those functions with which he or she feels most comfortable. The taking of risks – both by and with young people – is an approach that is bound to lead to success, since it is young people who have the greatest stake in improving the world and in giving their best to achieve that end, generating proposals, ideas and projects that only a fresh mind is able to formulate.

Ms Niki (Diana) Aird
University of Ottawa
Communications & Common Law
Canada

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Canada is one of the most "connected" countries in the world. According to a 2002 presentation by Industry Canada, 69% of all Canadians and 82% of Canadian youth use the Internet. All public schools and libraries across Canada provide Internet access and 30% of Canadians are connected at home.

For Canada's young people, the Internet and other ICT's are not a marvel to be wondered at, but a simple fact of life and part of their everyday environment.

The Canadian government has done an excellent job in their initiative to connect Canadians. To continue on the right path, however, they must ensure that youth are taught how to fully take advantage of the Internet and they must take steps to decrease the digital divide.

As stated above, 82% of youth use the Internet, although virtually 100% have access through schools, libraries and community centers. To increase this percentage, as well as to ensure that youth can use the Internet for more than just gaming and chatting, provinces across the country should add courses on information technology to the elementary and high school curricula. These courses would increase youths comfort levels with the computers and would allow them to use the Internet for research purposes in a safe environment, and to design websites and multimedia presentations.

It is equally important to ensure that everyone across the country has equal access. With a population thinly spread over a vast geography, Canada can use ICT's to bring the country closer together, strengthening our social identity. Students in Vancouver can chat with students in Montreal; business deals between Toronto and Calgary are completed with the click of a keyboard. The challenge to the Canadian government is to ensure that distant and rural communities, as well as low-income families, are included students living in inner-cities and isolated communities must be given the same opportunities as those living in affluent neighborhoods.

By ensuring that all of Canada's youth have access to computers and the Internet and that they are taught to use them in safe and structured environments, the government of Canada is contributing to the development of a highly skilled population, comfortable with ICTs, confident in their abilities and committed to continuing to learn and develop new ones.

Ms Ayman Al Fudhaili
Sultan Qaboos University
Computer Science
Oman

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

I believe that Information and Communication Technologies can contribute to the economic and social developments of a country which makes it a huge responsibility for the person who is going to lead the ICTs in his country. So I suggest that we must have a strategic plan to convert the society from the consuming State to the production State and we will end up to this result by moving step by step.

First of all, we have to ask help from the countries who are developed in ICTs, by borrowing some expert people in this domain to give use the start point in ICTs. Also, we can make a role by coordinating with the Ministry of education that we add a course in communications to qualify the students to be clearer with technology and give them the experiment to be parallel to the progress in this domain. Finally, I can say everything can be done just we need to the hard working and needing to achievement to get the best results.

Mr Jaifar Al Hinai

Sultan Qaboos University

Management Information System

Oman

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

As we all agree, the high speed of communication and transformation of information all over the world have greatly improved business processes. Moreover, the advancement in the technology has played a major role in this issue. In fact, one is really surprised of the daily improvement and advancement in the technology, especially communication technology. As a Head of State, first I should be aware of the recent improvement in the communication processes as well as communication technology. Doing so will allow me to think of the most appropriate technology and communication processes that I could implement in my country. Simultaneously with this, I should take into consideration the cost of the proposed technology, benefit from it, location of my country, the available technology, and the citizens knowledge and level of education.

Second, I should try to do my best to inform my country people about the communication technology and its importance in the enhancement of the economy. However, my country people's knowledge about the communication technology should be considered in the process of choosing the proposed communication technology.

Third, I have to give more attention to students and youth in the schools and educational institutions, because they will be the future of my country and they are the people who will deal with the proposed communication technology.

Moreover, interacting with other countries and discussing their and our experience in communication technology will give me the opportunity to avoid the problems they encounter and the improvement they achieve.

Finally, joining Telecommunication Unions and participating in technology conferences and exhibitions will enhance my country's experience in this field.

Mr Ammar Ali
University of Bahrain
Mechanical Engineering
Bahrain

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

## For a developed Bahrain

In order to reach this position (leadership position in the country), one has to work hard, to preserve and to be ready to assume responsibility.

As youth constitute the lifeblood and backbone of society; and since information and telecommunications technology (ITC) is a valid indicator of the socio-economic development of a country, a leader who aspires to the progress of his country has to pay adequate attention to these two essential factors.

If I reach that leadership position, I would initiate studies and research work to direct the attention of youth towards the vital importance of information and telecommunications technology. I would also undertake studies to identify the trends of youth in general, and their interest in this field in particular. Such studies should define ways and means of reaching youth so as to make them fully aware of the importance of this technology to them and of the need to enhance its role for achieving progress at the national level.

This endeavour should be coupled with a massive information campaign in the same direction.

This phase should be followed by the introduction of this technology in education, to teach students how to utilize this technology, and help them establish contacts with other universities across the world through it. Thus they would appreciate its relevance and value to them and to the society at large.

Students would be able, therefore, to have a full command of this technology and to harness it to the development of their country.

I would also exert efforts to help establish cultural centers for the youth to be operated on the basis of this technology, in order to propagate its use throughout the country.

Further steps should be taken to ensure the introduction of this technology in the various ministries and institutions of the State.

A follow-up committee should be set up to monitor this project and the measures taken to achieve the desired objectives. This committee may take corrective steps if necessary or propose appropriate alternative measures to ensure continuity of action towards the fixed goals.

Mr Ashraf Al-Najdawi
University of Jordan
Electrical Engineering/Telecommunications
Jordan

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

In the ever accelerating world of today; modern economy is based on a colossal amount of scientific, political, military, agricultural, educational and cultural information being used, passed, and analyzed to and from all imaginable sectors within a country, between countries, and even across continents. This crucially important information processing can never be achieved without a modern network of information and communications technology to do the job.

IT and communications technology gives a country the ability to pace up with the rest of the world, and on a local level, it should and it can make life easier.

Government department can all be connected through their databases facilitating information to be effectively and quickly passed among them, making bureaucracy a much lesser burden for government officials and the public. And where time is money, such time saving could translate to millions of dollars every year. On a personal level, information and communication technology allows the person to stay in touch with all the people of the world, literally. This would open the doors to social development, where education, awareness, and knowledge could reach further than ever and at a rate faster than ever.

That been said, I personally would never hesitate to take a few measures to "practice what I preach", that is of course, if I would ever be in a decision-making position. If I would like, for now, to pretend that I am, then I think that the best way to achieve development in my country would be through focusing on the younger generations, for the reasons that first of all, young people today have much less computer literacy problems than "old timers", and secondly, sawing the seed of a development-aware generation would reap a thriving future.

I believe that young people would be fit to take their part in their development process through two things: Development-oriented education, and directed entrepreneurship. The first means that IT – and communications-related institutes should be established an university education should focus on the practical applications of classroom knowledge, and shape up the mental preparedness of the soon-to-be worker such that he or she knows that developing and updating the IT structure in his own office, or in his own department is the key to development-something that, hopefully, would urge him or her to never lack the motivation to self-improve.

As for the directed entrepreneurship, departments of the government could make use of the expertise of young entrepreneurs, and collaborate in projects to develop, enhance,

and perhaps put those departments online. Such collaboration should not only establish those developing procedures, but should further make sure that they are periodically updated, so that “obsolete technology” is never an obstacle, and so that my development ambitions will always be sustainable.

Miss Estefania Alonso Solé
Universitat d'Andorra
Ingenieria Técnica Informática de Gestió
Andorra

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

## The future lies in new technologies

We are the young, the ones who decide, the ones who act, the one who are paving the way for a better world, a world in which there is no place for injustice. Do we not, therefore, hold the future of the world in our hands? Is it not our duty to take future generations towards a world we have created?

Since the beginning of time, the natural law is unchanged: we do not inherit the Earth from our fathers, we have it on loan for our children. We therefore have a great responsibility, namely to create a future for society. What that future is depends on us.

Our mission is no easy one. First, we must remember that our ideas and education come to us for the most part not only from our parents but also from all the people that influence our daily lives.

If some of that education were in my hands, if I were the president or head of a country, the first thing I would do would be to help young people open their minds to the world and to new technologies. If all the young people of the world united, physically or mentally, everything would be much easier. At present, however, not everyone has the means of contributing even one grain of sand.

One of the first things I would do would be to enable all young people to communicate in a simple manner, something that has already been achieved for the most part, but not entirely, by the Internet. For example, it would be a good idea to create a portal for young people in which universities (their courses, fellowships and all related material), students of all countries, various opportunities (practical work or learning languages) could offer their services and get in touch with the rest of the world.

Another major aspect is the difficulty of relations using only one language. I am not saying we should all speak the same language (as some would like to do with Esperanto in Europe, for example), but I would make it easier to learn a universal language such as English more quickly.

Ensuring that all young people know how to use a computer is simply a matter of making that service more accessible to all – something that will soon be an absolute necessity – in the schools and via the government.

The future lies in the new technologies. So if I were president of a State, would it not be my duty to introduce them to young people so that they use them for their own good and for the good of humanity?

Ms Maryam Al-Othman
Kuwait University, Electrical Engineering Dept.
Electrical Engineering
Kuwait

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Thousands of years ago, it took people years to send information from one country to another. Hundreds of years ago until the early stage of this century we had to wait for months or weeks to get a letter transferred from one place to another. But with phones and Internet evolution the time delay was shrunk from years to a few minutes. So I think this a very important reason for me as a Head of State to make use of the information and communication technologies in the development of my country.

As everybody knows young people are filled with energy and enthusiasm, so we can use this energy in developing our country. Introducing the Internet to schools is one of the first most important things. By teaching our youngsters how to use the Internet that would help them expand their knowledge, they will be able to recognize the new world by sitting behind their screens. Encouraging students to use the Internet to help them understand their subjects or use it for their projects or even for extra learning would generate a smart self-dependent and well-educated people which in return would have a very strong impact on the country itself.

The ability to sell through satellite channels, phone and the Internet would encourage young people to start new businesses. Manufacturing is one of these businesses that would be affected because, by expanding the demand area, everybody would start increasing the number of their products and try to make them better every time. This will lead to a major decrease in unemployment among our youngsters and will increase our economical status. So my job as a head of state is to encourage these young people and make their dreams become possible by giving loans and lands.

Starting a couple of channels and broadcasting them through satellite dishes would let the world know about our country from a cultural and economical point of view.

So many things can be done to develop our country, but the most important thing is to set the basic block, which are our young people. Teaching them how to use the new technologies of the Internet is not the issue, but how to use it in a beneficial way and how to use it to serve their country is the most important thing.

Mr Bardar Al-Rubian

Saudia Arabia

Computer Engineering

Saudi Arabia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Youth are the real asset of any country. Therefore the interaction between the youth and the community, both private and public sectors, leads to the genuine advancement of the country.

The cooperation between the youth, the community and the private sector may take a variety of forms:

1) The private sector can support the youth by providing them with new technologies at favourable prices.
2) Private sector can support young inventors and professionals.
3) Youth could contribute their vision and suggestions as regards market development and needs in the field of ICTs.
4) Youth need to work in the private sector to gain experience.
5) Private sector should encourage projects initiated by the youth.
6) Conferences, meetings and seminars may be organized to bring together the youth and the private sector.

The contribution of the youth in the dissemination of information and technology can make a difference in many areas that include the establishment of community associations that work in the following fields:

1) Educating the community in the benefits of ICTs.
2) Inviting the public to open meetings to discuss and experiment ICTs.
3) Organizing training courses on such technologies.
4) Publishing a periodical that is dedicated to advances in technology.
5) Educating the public on the healthy use of technology and the health hazards that may result from improper use.
6) Membership of the association should be open to all members of the community.

The youth should contribute to providing ICTs in all community service facilities:

1) Develop information and telecommunication technologies to serve the needs of such facilities.

2) Further development and enhancement of existing systems.

3) Training of ICT operators.

The youth could also contribute to the development of ICT educational curricula, through contributing their ideas and inputs.

The youth are able to contribute to the development and progress of their countries in the above and other fields and should be given every opportunity to serve their communities and their countries.

Mr Waleed Al-Rwaishan
Sana'a University
Computer Science
Yemen

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The world is a small village, but there are many countries not part of the small village. My country is an emerging democracy and ICT will strengthen its democracy by making information available and easier to obtain. If I were a Head of State, I will have international and regional agenda that will help encourage foreign investment and learn from the experiences of other countries. Not forgetting to take stronger steps within my country in facilitating the development of ICT by creating opportunities for the youth and encourage the development of more local companies working in ICT and with ICT. Although, this cannot happen in one day, but with step-by-step approach it can be reached.

This age is the age of information, but still the use of ICT is very limited in my country. Many people still relay in paper work in doing their businesses not grasping the benefits that ICT can over them. One of the reasons, the ignorance of the benefits of ICT and how it can enhance economic and social development o the country. Also, there is a fear with the use of ICT that many jobs will be lost to the computers. Yet, all these which I consider hurdles in the development of ICT can overcome by having a local agenda facilitating the development of ICT in the coordination with international and regional agenda.

The goal of the regional and international agenda is to help my country be part of the global village. There are many topics to put into consideration:

- Opening the market under a planned process in order to be beneficial to the development of the country.
- Improving education and crating opportunities for the youth to arise awareness about the importance of ICT and to get rid of technophobes.
- Share information and experience with other countries into the region.
- Help in making the region a developed region, which can produce and use information and communication technology.
- I think trying to learn from the experience of the developed countries in order not to repeat the same mistakes.

In the other hand, the local agenda emphasize in incorporating the ICT to the transfer and the processing of information. There is many issues that have to e worked on:

- Enhancing education and specifically that is related to ICT in order for my country to cover its needs of the trained professional how can work with ICT.
- Breaking up monopoly in ICT and encouraging the startup of companies working with ICT.
- Insure healthy competition and monitor the development of ICT.

Many of these issues cannot be reached without the youth because the youth is the agent of change.

In conclusion, any country that wants to develop needs the knowledgeable people who know how to operate and modernize ICT. Those knowledgeable people are the youth of that country, if any investment in making the youth prepared for a better and promising future. The youth will crate and environment that produces and uses ICT. This will help the country to be part of the world economy and rise the social and economic welfare of its citizens.

Miss Carolina Andrade dos Santos

Institut Supérieur Politecnique

Science

Sao Tome and Principe

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The subject allows us to highlight a development problem of our age, one that concerns its language and thus communication.

Primitive man, thanks to his natural animal nature, social behaviour and group life, solved problems that were encountered, in order to obtain food and protection from adverse weather.

With time, human groups underwent social and technical development, creating cultures of which the essential component was a system of communication put into use, evolving with the technologies utilized. This was the case from the time of the Stone Age, progressing through the Bronze Age and the Iron Age.

Four scientific innovations have advanced our knowledge of natural resources and made it possible to create new technologies. These involve the individual and transform his role in society. The individual enjoys changing his way of sensing, acting, learning, and thus communicating.

In our day, new information and communication technologies are the building blocks for the economic, social and cultural development of a country.

ICTs must be used to promote the democratization of social processes, accelerate political evolution and increase the effectiveness of government action in mobilizing citizens.

In this connection ICTs develop social cohesion, as they give people the sense of belonging to the same society and living in the same culture.

In order to promote the development of my country I would, if I were the Head of State, define my education policy oriented towards training the professions in ICT utilization. Next, I would ensure that technology was integrated in an education system that had as its goal the production of a quality citizen.

I would ensure that the new pedagogical methods were introduced in schools and made use of ICTs.

Television is a good example: it facilitates learning through the language of the audio-visual, appealing to the sensitivity of each individual to his own emotions and thereby creating the motivation for learning.

Mr Heritiana Andrianalisoa

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Madagascar

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Unlike traditional media, information and communication technologies (ICTs) allow information to be transferred in real time and can reach a broader public. Thus ICTs do provide an efficient tool for accelerating the socio-economic development of countries. But how is Madagascar situated with regard to ICTs? And how can young Madagascans contribute to the development of Madagascar? These are the questions that I shall endeavour to answer by first studying Madagascar's situation with regard to ICTs, and then by identifying the role(s) I would give young Madagascans with a view to ensuring that the development of Madagascar becomes a reality.

It would not be accurate to say that ICTs are not yet present in Madagascar. They are in fact developing fast, but unfortunately they touch but a small part of the population, which include the youth.

## So what can these young Madagascans do for their country?

If I were head of State, the first role I would give to young Madagascans would be to actively participate in all government decision-making. Indeed, as the young people are among those who benefit from ICTs, i.e. from access to information in real time and in all areas (political, social, economic, cultural, etc.), their opinions will be very valuable.

But their role would not stop at decision-making. As young technicians, they will be able to take charge of establishing, or at least developing, a communication network reaching out to the most remote areas, along with the accompanying infrastructures. As young trainers, they will ensure that their knowledge is shared with and passed on to all those who know nothing of ICTs and to future generations. Lastly, the young Madagascans will contribute further to the development of Madagascar by for example, participating in the establishment and dissemination over the Internet of education programmes, or by launching propaganda campaigns to combat scourges such as AIDS or malaria, using ICTs.

Obviously this would all be impossible if the young people are not trained from a very young age.

In summary, ICTs are incontestably a major factor of socio-economic growth and performance. Unfortunately, even though they develop rapidly, in Madagascar these technologies have remained new information and communication technologies (NICTs). Indeed, only a small percentage of the population benefits from them. It is therefore up to us young Madagascans to take our initiatives, to participate in government decision-making, and to ensure that these NICTs contribute to the development of the whole of Madagascar and become simply ICTs, that may be used by all Madagascans.

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Banque et Finance d'Entreprise

Benin

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

## Government policies and ICTs to promote jobs for young people in Benin

Our policy is to have young people use ICTs as a launch pad for a whole series of other activities.

### 1 Entrepreneurship

### a) Possibilities afforded by ICTs as low-level sources of income for young people

- Sale of telephone services

This government option aims to implement a microcredit programme1 enabling young people to buy cell phones so that they can earn money by providing public telephone services in rural areas.

- Young people as information intermediaries

Our government will set up grassroots agencies in rural areas. Those agencies will be run by young people who speak English and are computer literate to obtain information from a variety of international sources and transmit it to local farmers. In this way, young people will have the possibility of staying in their rural areas with a view to a career in modern agriculture.

- Electronic business in remote communities

This government approach is aimed at areas without electrical power and consists in encouraging young people to:

– Develop websites and standardized keyboards in local languages in order to collect comments from target groups on poverty reduction programmes by means of e-mail.

– Sell cultural products in digital format4 in order to finance the community's basic needs.

b) The possibilities afforded by ICTs as mid-level sources of income for young people

In order to develop leadership skills among young people and to give them the possibility of developing concepts and business plans based on ICTs, our government will promote the establishment of fullservice community telecentres and ICT resource centres in schools.

## 2 Promotion of public-private partnerships

Our government will develop cooperative arrangements6 with private businesses and NGOs in order to take advantage of extra investment in the construction of communication infrastructure to be used to provide ICT services to young people.

## 3 The potential of ICTs to help vulnerable young people

- Turning the tourist business to the advantage of the poor.

Our government's strategy for tourism is to generate greater advantages for young people in rural areas by expanding the possibilities for economic gain via the Internet.

## 4 Bridging the digital divide

The potential of ICTs to bridge the gap between the possibilities for self-employment among young people on the local markets in the informal sector and the national and international economy is a significant factor in our government establishment of an Intenet gateway enabling young people to access information on social and health services, entertainment and markets using a network of franchised cybercentres in the language of their choice.

## 5 Giving responsibility to young people

This option aims to promote young people's participation in the development of online mentors and the implementation of initiatives based on ICTs.

It also aims to provide young people with the possibility for internships in developed countries with a view to the transfer of new ICTs and the modernization of the rural areas from which they come.

Ms Lina Julieta Arauz
Universidad Tecnologica de Panama
Ingenieria Electrica y Electronica
Panama

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The socio-economic, political, social and cultural development of any country depends on countless factors, but there can be no doubt that at present, information and communication technology is one of the chief means of achieving tangible development, for these new technologies enable us to interact in society in a flexible and effective manner.

The world of telecommunications is definitely the cornerstone for a country's integral development. If I were given the opportunity to be Panama's head of State, I would not hesitate gradually but efficiently to implement new technologies in our socio-economic environment, especially in the education sector, in order to reach as many people as possible.

I think that to carry out that task, I would give young people a key role, for they have also had experience of the development of information and communication technologies (ICTs), which makes them key players in the endeavour to bring about change. If young people were to be involved, it would be much easier to develop, propose and implement ICT strategies enabling present and future generations to obtain better training in keeping with the demands of the modern world.

How are these technologies to be used to enable young people to spearhead this movement? The key is education. The objectives of education must be reoriented towards training that integrates these technologies in such a way that the knowledge acquired every day by young people in the country's schools and universities encourages them to be open to new ideas and technologies and to obtain proper schooling in this field. In addition, I would place young people in every ministry, institution and entity connected with the country's system of production, so that they put their dynamism and versatility to use with the technologies of the new world order in such a way that the strategies devised in the national development plans reach those places where they are needed and are applied expeditiously.

The technology is taking giant strides forward. It is therefore imperative that young people, with their enterprising minds and ideas, be fully aware of all the changes being generated every day in our world. That way we can play an active part in those changes and help bring about modernization in all ways, economically, socially and culturally.

No country anywhere in the world, no matter what its system of government, has modernized behind closed doors. By educating society about information and communication technologies and by implementing each technology in all fields, without forgetting the human factor, we will meet with success and obtain numerous benefits, first and foremost a much-needed rise in the living standard of our country's people.

Ms Betul Arda
Bogazici University
Physics
Turkey

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

## Being an actor and producer

We live in a vibrant world in which communication and information technologies are orienting criteria for determining the quality of life. The tremendous developments in the ICTs sector haven't been expected in such a short time. Some years ago, people did not believe or trust a technology that permits to reach any information around the world, but now Internet is commonly being used. So, who can predict the effect of new technologies in our lives in the near future?

If I have the authority to make decisions about a country, my first objective would be provide a common knowledge about ICTs and usage of it because of ICTs' contribution to the social and economic development of a country. In every case, young people determine the future, but if a bright future for a country is being desired, young people should be socially matured. To create a socially developed country, communicative individuals are required like a skeleton of a body.

First of all, if I would be a head of a state, I would utilize new and evolving forms of computer-mediated human interaction technologies for giving consciousness to young people about the importance of communication. E-training would be one of those Information Communication Technologies that gives an opportunity to distant learning. I would encourage young people to attend on-line learning centers, which are connected to universities and education units. In addition, I would introduce not only on-line education centers but also other activities that can be done by Internet and network, such that reaching worldwide databases with the help of visual media. I would open courses to teach people how to use those technologies and organize exams. Winners would be rewarded and also functional and applicable ideas would be vitalized. Despite the importance and attractiveness of the sector, there is no comprehensive policy addressing issues concerning technological convergence. I would prepare a national ICTs Policy, since it enhances the security and builds confidence in the use of public networks.

Moreover, expansion of ICTs is not a goal itself but a means to support social and economic goals. Though, ICTs have a bright future, it may be influenced by economic slow down or false investments of companies. To hinder such a slowing down, I would establish a “Business Information Center” which provides to access all national and international trade databases. This foundation would have also a role of acting as a cyber bourse. Young people who have ideas or economic strategies would perform them and take the advantage of being experienced.

Taking everything into account, ICTs are affecting daily life and social structures, work and organization, commerce and business and also education. Because of the fact that, young people should be educated and encouraged about ICTs. It should be taken into consideration that, each person can be an actor and a producer of information and communication.

Miss Vanessa Arquint
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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The progress of information and communication technologies is helping to open up all frontiers, to bring people closer in virtual terms, to obtain information quickly at any time. But it is also opening the door for a new form of criminality.

The social behaviour of people who have access to the new technologies is also evolving in the direction of greater freedom. It is certainly possible to find plenty of information online, to meet a lot of people, but all this can also have its perverse side: because people feel anonymous, the behaviour of some gets out of hand.

There is no end to the growth in pornographic sites on the Web. People have easy and often free access to all sorts of photos, videos, chatrooms, even to virtual sex – all of it without having to leave the house under the gaze of neighbours and other people. This is obviously much easier than having to go to the local sex shop and risk being seen.

In the context of such freedom, some people have lost sight of what are reasonable limits, and a number of paedophile networks are flourishing on the Internet. Most youngsters adore the technology, sometimes spending hours surfing, playing and chatting. They are a soft target for malicious people who know very well which sites to access to make contact with children. Apart from that, it is easy for people to invent different personalities and ages for themselves.

The media recently showed us the anguish of an English family whose 12-year-old daughter had left home to meet a US marine with whom she had been corresponding online for hours each day for a year.

How can parents, whose grasp of technological change lags behind that of their children, for whom the Web has no secrets, understand everything they are doing, constantly keep an eye on them and prevent this kind of offence? How can children be protected from the emergence of this new form of criminality?

If I was one of our country's policymakers, this problem would be a challenge I would want to face. I would get young people to play an active part in the future of the information society.

For example, I could imagine setting up experience interchanges within the context of training. Senior university students in various disciplines (IT, psychology, sociology, law, etc.) could form advisory groups for students at lower levels.

Miss Aichatou Arzika Lélé
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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) can be considered as all those traditional and modern resources which today provide information, communication and development of a people or of a country. This might be the media (print and voice), fixed and mobile telephone services, information sources on the Internet, or satellite telephones.

ICTs also include computers, with the development of microprocessors (computer chips) capable of storing vast amounts of information in compact form. A deficiency in ICTs can be fatal for a country's development. They are thus a factor in development, and it is important for them to achieve broad acceptance. How can young people contribute to this?

Looking at the concrete case of our country, there is a potential for promoting ICTs by facilitating access to loans or subsidizing certain organizations (NGOs) to create possibilities for young people to open cybercafés and telecentres and run independent magazines and radio and television programmes.

Thanks to the Internet, it has become possible to conduct business at a distance, to obtain information in a variety of areas (science, trade etc.) and to place advertising.

The media have a role in facilitating access to communication. For example, television and radio broadcasts serve information, awareness, advertising, entertainment and so on, frequently in local languages, thereby ensuring that virtually the entire population, including rural dwellers, can inform itself about national and international events. The print media, for their part, act to enhance comprehension and conservation of information by television or radio; information moves quickly.

Furthermore, to increase the numbers, young people must be made the motor of ICT development, by increasing school enrolment and, at the same time, incorporating in the education system training in ICTs, so that they can carry them out into society.

Naturally, sufficient financial, human and political resources will be required. For this reason, were I president of our Republic, I would create a ministry devoted to the development and sound implementation of ICT policy which, depending on the length of my time in office, would gradually permeate throughout all layers of the society (urban, rural, men, women) without any discrimination, so that together we could raise our country into the circle of winners. For the better we are informed, the better will be our chances of meeting the challenges of development.

Miss Rosario Andrea Astudillo Miranda
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Derecho
Chile

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The transmission of information via telematic media, especially the Internet, makes it clear that we are heading rapidly towards the birth of a single society sharing the same knowledge and information. The new information and communication technologies represent a major global revolution at the economic, political, social and cultural levels. This revolution has given rise to the knowledge society, the economic counterpart of which is the digital economy.

Bearing in mind these circumstances, if I were Head of State I would channel significant resources into the development of new technologies, laying emphasis on three specific aspects, namely information, education and training. Although the policies and programmes that I would initiate in that regard would be intended for all members of society, I would focus particular attention on young people, since it is they who will have a leading role to play in the society of the twenty-first century.

Where information is concerned, I would draw up and apply information and communication policies with a view to facilitating equitable access to these technologies, particularly to the Internet as the vehicle for new progress, the ultimate goal being to ensure that young people have easy access to information networks, whether from their homes, schools, municipalities or public facilities. To facilitate such access, I would implement a network of public infocentres in all of the country's municipalities.

However, it is unquestionably in the field of education that government efforts must be stepped up, with young people being given adequate tools to acquire an optimum knowledge of the new technologies and to be able fully to develop their potential in both the educational and working spheres. With an eye to this objective, I would disseminate existing programmes such as the Links Network (Red Enlaces), ensuring its expansion to all schools within the country, thereby enabling access to the network under equal conditions.

Furthermore, I would take steps to ensure the incorporation of information and communication technologies in university networks and throughout higher education in general, in pursuit of a new model of educational strategy and the use of technological resources in teaching. One example of this would be to ensure the more widespread use of videoconferencing to enable young people from different regions of the country to have access to education of the same quality, thereby providing them with equal opportunities.

I would provide grants to those students displaying outstanding ability to enable them to study in other countries, where they would assimilate the new technologies and subsequently apply their knowledge within our society.

As Head of State, I would also focus my attention on the matter of training, it being necessary for young people to be able to use the new technologies in their daily lives, including in the workplace, given the increasing incorporation of those technologies in the world of work, a clear example of this being teleworking.

The knowledge of the new generations must be made a priority if it is to raise our country to the level of the great powers.

Mr Vladimir Atanasovski
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Electronics and Telecommunications
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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Young people constitute a large proportion of a nation's population. They represent the working force of tomorrow so it is clear that they can significantly contribute to the economic and social development of their countries. Since there is no doubt that information and communication technologies (ICTs) will have an impact on everybody's life, now and in the future, I strongly believe that young people should harness ICTs by taking part in as many projects as possible.

Moreover, the penetration of ICTs in various economic and social groups depends on people's response to new visions of technology and because of their dynamic approach to life young people can play a key role in making this possible.

First of all, if I were Head of State in my country I would highlight human resources development especially targeted towards young people. I would engage myself in creating projects and project groups that involve training young people in various ICT areas and providing ICT knowledge beyond school boundaries.

The reason behind this idea is that I believe that investing in young people is an investment in the leaders of tomorrow. But, more importantly, it is my opinion that once young people grasp the possibilities of the ICTs, the rate of unemployment will start to decrease rapidly. Unemployment, especially among young people, is probably the most concerning problem in the society where I live. Furthermore, the challenges of tomorrow's inevitable IT-based economy and business will make the IT-literate generation very attractive for the employers. ICTs can provide young people chart a career path and start preparing for their future role in the society where they live as well as in the global society.

However, ICTs can provide young people with strategic information not only for long-term decision-making purposes, but also for their immediate needs. New technologies can help young people unleash their creativity and innovation by making all crucial information available at the touch of a button. This will help young people develop strong analytical and collaboration skills and make them more valuable on tomorrow's market, but most importantly, a country with IT-literate youth will surely experience economic and social renaissance in the nearby future.

In a nutshell, I believe that ICTs have the potential of providing crucial information necessary for developing a knowledge-based society which will serve as a role model for a modern future society. Young people should be encouraged to enter the world of ICTs as much as possible. Modern technologies have the power to make young people more aware of the dangers they are likely to face. By investing in its youth's knowledge of ICTs, my country will be making a strategic investment in its own economic and social growth.

Mr Kagan Ayik
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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

20TH century had gifted a lot of new terms and concepts to the world. The lifestyle of the modern age people had changed enormously. Indeed these developments are made by the help of technology. We may say that the improvements we achieved in this century had the same affects of the last three centuries. Although we used technologic improvements to kill us, some improvements like information technologies had made our life more comfortable. The people, who could not see the other continents one century ago, now go to the space's amazing undiscovered beauty. Moreover human kind started to make plans for establishing a life in space.

The improvements especially in the information and communication technologies' effects are deep enough to be examined by sociologists. In my opinion the biggest effects are seen in the youths' lifestyles. Because of being more open to the newer things, youth adapted itself to these improvements; moreover the youth liked these abilities. In this sense, the youth who are playing a major role in a country's economical and social life must be supported by the governments and private companies in this area.

If I were head of state, I would try to apply policies about the information and communication technologies' expanding the weight in social life. First of all, I want to mention that the 21st century necessitates teamwork. Any leader whether he is a genius, can not solve all problems alone so the first thing I would do is forming a team that will work and make brain storms about the subject and than form some policies to encourage the youth to find place in information and communication technologies sector. These policies would be under two main topics. First topic is the policies for explaining last technological improvements to the youth, which means education. Not only universities but also the high schools must be used for this aim effectively. The government must encourage young people exchange with other countries' youth, which will result the new opportunities for youth to learn the improvements in other countries. Moreover, there must be some international conferences and congresses, which will acknowledge the youth about the last and gifts of technology. The young people must be ready for the world's facts when they are graduated from the universities.

The second main topic is the use of the youth in the job opportunities about these technologies. The government would take some new arrangements that encourage young people to work in these areas. The tax rates for these sectors must be reduced so the new

foreign investments would come to country, which will result new jobs to the young people in this area. A silicon valley must be establish immediately by taking necessary political and economic measures which will reduce the costs of the firms in establishing silicon valley. Another thing I would do is cooperation with the private sector and taking their ideas about the subject. These policies would be a good start for establishing future for our youth.

In conclusion, 21st century will be the youth's century and all necessary precautions have to be taken for preparing youths to this new age.

Mr Ahmed Ayoub

Helwan University-Faculty of Tourism and Hotels Management

Tourism and hotel management

Egypt

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

No one can ever deny the fact that we are now in the age of communication and information technology and exchanging information between the different realms all over the Earth, so simply there is no place for the underdeveloped countries in the 21st century or they will be isolated from the rest of the world.

Most of the countries realized this fact and hurried to catch the ICT train or they will miss it forever, because the wheel of ICT progress is so quick and it won't wait for any country that will delay to enter the new century, and the question here is why it is essential to develop ICT?

The answer is that ICT contributes to economic and social development, and it is the only way for better economy and also in all aspects of life. And we are touching that everyday, especially these days because we noticed the big difference when we started to enhance our ICT and walk on the right way.

So, if I were Head of State in my country, I would not save effort to make the ICT development of my country a reality, and this development will be in two ways:

1) The first way is human power, especially the young people, because if I think about a better future I'll have to think about preparing the builders of the future and also preparing the new generation to be open minded towards ICTs. This will present new cadres that will be useful, active participants and to make a big role in ICT development, for instance:

   a) Coordinate forums for the school children in my State to inform them about the importance of computers and ICT s in an interesting way to prepare for a new generation.

   b) If I prepared the young people and taught them how they can apply ICTs in all fields of life, everyone in his career will develop the ICTs. For example, if I prepared the doctor, he will use the ICTs in his career, as will the engineer and the architect, even the employees in the public office can save much time and effort by using computers and ICTs, instead of at stores that are full of paper and long queues of people who want to fill in a form. They can do that at their home on the Internet.

c) They will use the modern way of research on the Internet instead of wasting much time and effort by travelling hundreds of miles to get information.

2) The second way for ICT development is supplying the means of ICT, like providing the schools and the libraries with PCs, also providing the public offices with computers and modern communication systems, etc.

When we do that, my State will start to spread this experience to the other States and it will be also by the young people who will be the leaders of the future after making the ICT development of our country a reality.

Miss Lizzy Azuara Herrera
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Mexico

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The relationship that exists between the individual and technology represents a complex dependency in which the use of information technologies is possible only where people have the necessary knowledge regarding the workings of those technologies. Indeed, that knowledge comes more easily where people begin using it at an early age, since with the passage of time it becomes increasingly difficult to assimilate new ways of doing things.

However, it is very often the case that families have neither the knowledge nor the means to enable the children to become familiar with and use the new technologies, this being a situation which generates a vicious cycle that can perpetuate poverty. In countries such as Mexico, moreover, there is no culture of fostering the ideas of young people regarding the use of technology, with the result that the young are very often not attracted to that sphere of activity. It is for these reasons that, were I the Head of State of a nation, I would seek to bring young people into contact with technologies through the following actions:

- Provision of a minimum number of computers to schools providing basic education.
- Regional and national competitions for the development of programs.
- Technology fairs putting forward the technological ideas of young people.
- Tax incentives designed to encourage financial institutions to grant purchase equipment loans to young people, who would repay those loans once in receipt of an income.
- Closer ties between the productive sectors and the universities in which students are developing new technologies and processes suitable for application in the company environment.
- Encouraging communication between technology development enterprises and young people by means of appropriate support.

We are currently experiencing the phenomenon of globalization, which has dissolved old paradigms and fostered the development and availability of new technologies. However, it takes only one bad decision, one contradiction, one badly placed comment or sentence, or indeed one poorly applied policy for all of the positive achievements to give way to serious crises, leading us unavoidably into political, social and economic confusion.

In our present situation as a developing country, it is necessary to maintain a constant dialogue and seek agreement with the various parliamentary groups that comprise the Legislature, in the interests of effectively disseminating and projecting a vision of telecommunications that is founded on basic, regulatory, economic and technological elements in which young people have a fundamental role to play.

It is essential that young professionals should make every effort to get to grips with the dynamics and changes occurring in the markets, which are pushing companies to assimilate and participate in new models of commercial exchange and relations. These changes call for better technologies, quality in services and products, and negotiating know-how at the international level, as well as for companies that are adaptable, flexible, competitive, innovative, efficient and profitable. All of this in turn calls for enterprising and well-trained individuals who are capable not only of reacting to change but also of understanding and anticipating it.

We are currently generating and pursuing a model whose sole objective is the globalization of capital, without taking account of the fact that the root meaning of the word global is considered as a whole, i.e. its dimension must be economic, political, social, ecological and ideological. In short, the new geography must not be solely commercial, but must encompass all the spheres of human existence, with technology serving as an element that facilitates the integration of those spheres.

Mr Rakim Baco Moingarie
Ecole Nationale d'Administration et de Commerce (ENAC)
Administration et technique commerciale
Comoros

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Around the world, in countries that are undergoing social and economic development, information and communication technologies remain among the most urgent priorities. My own country has experienced the full evolution of ICTs: from the early beginnings, with radio, dial telephones and telegrams, to modern audiovisual technology, automated voice and fax communications, and now the internet, which has allowed us to reach out around the globe. It has truly become a small world: we can be together, exchanging information and messages, quite independently of geographic separation. Against this background, I would focus on the attitude of the young generation towards new and emerging technologies, particularly in connection with the internet. At the same time, the advantages of modern communication and information, improving the everyday lives of people in all walks of life, must not be ignored.

Economic and social progress today is closely tied to ICTs. Information seen or heard provides the stimulus for further development. For this reason, were I to become head of state of my country, I would want to give young people every opportunity to familiarize themselves with new information and communication technologies. Children are like a penned-up body of water: they must be guided right from the beginning towards economic and social progress. In Martin Gray's image, childhood is a wellspring that can irrigate the shoot which will become a man, or it can drown it. Youth, then, requires careful nurturing. For how can there be any true development or progress if young people, the source of a nation's vigour, are drawn into a shiftless existence or being regimented and cynically corrupted by destructive prejudices?

Were I head of state in my country, my first objective would be to ensure that young people had affordable access to means of telecommunication, and that development in the telecoms benefited all of humanity. I would propose a working base for the engineers who are responsible for planning and developing communication networks in the country. This would involve management, methodology, quality of service and a communication policy. After all, the internet, and its multimedia element, the World-Wide Web, have come to completely dominate communication as the most modern medium of them all. Thanks to the internet, one can learn without going to school, one can buy without going to the market. We can freely consult works that make up the biggest library in the world, and we can hold real-time discussions and take part in discussion forums.

Internet access technologies are crucial, particularly in African countries suffering from a growing connectivity lag: 0.4% servers in Africa, compared with 65.6% in America, 24.3% in Europe, 7.3% in Asia and 2.4% in Oceania. With the growth in use of the internet for e-commerce, telemedicine, distance learning and real-time applications, for young people, opportunities will come within reach for my country in terms of its development, if its energy and human potential can be mobilized.

This lends urgency to the goal of training young engineers who will implement the quality services needed. At the same time, the requirements for a modern telecommunication infrastructure and the associated applications, social issues, intellectual property rights, commercial media and information security are so many challenges that must be taken up, on the basis of a common approach by government and the International Telecommunication Union.

Mr Gerelsuren Badarch
University of Science & Technology
Science and Technology
Mongolia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Today we are living in the new era of information and communication technology which is recognized to be the driving force for socio-economic development, providing an excellent opportunity to enhance the productivity of various sectors of the economy.

ICT makes a great contribution not only in the development of socio-economy, but it should change our quality of life.

Globalization is a prevalent and universal trend of today. Information and communication technologies are assuming ever greater important in the globalization process.

If I were a head of State I would realize a policy for our country to keep pace with this ceaseless movement of global development trends.

Recognizing the significance of fast development of ICT, the Government of Mongolia is focusing its attention on eliminating all of the impediments to bridging the digital divide.

In order to capture full and economic benefits of information and communication technologies, I, as a head of State, would focus on young people. Because young people are the main group of the population who have an active participation in both developing and using ICT.

It is not wrong, if I say that today a majority of the customers of ICT services is young people. Most of the attendees of any telecom centres or Internet cafés are young people.

Besides exchanging personal messages with their friends or relatives, they use ICT for improving their knowledge, receiving education and for obtaining new information. In this way people, particularly young people, play a big role in making ICT contribution in the economic and social development of the country.

The population of Mongolia is only 2.4 million, of which about 70% are young people under 35 years old. Therefore, it is essential for the successful economic and social development of the country.

In order to ensure the active participation of young people in ICT and to increase their contribution to the economic and social development of the country, it is necessary to improve and expand ICT-based services by introducing advanced technology and focus on eliminating all impediments in bridging the digital divide.

Successful integration of young people in development programmes will contribute significantly to improving their ability for using ICT, which will help the development of the country.

Ms Esra Barto
Jordan University of Science and Technology
Electrical Engineering and Communication
Jordan

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

It is well known that information and communication technologies have developed rapidly over the last few years, and had large effects on the way people live and work. People nowadays have less time but a greater need for updating their technical and professional knowledge.

Indeed with all these overwhelming challenges, reaching a skilled country in which everyone can use and benefit from up-to-date technologies is going to be a very hard job and extremely important especially when we know that countries measure their young people potential not only by their specialized skills but also by their leadership, teamwork and communication skills and ICTs is definitely the best tool to develop such skills.

To begin with we need to encourage young people to gain experience and education in the ICTs field by raising the awareness of this field importance for them to be able to adjust and deal with ongoing technological advances in all aspects of their lives. This can be done by many ways like TV shows and radio programmes, also offering scholarships in ICTs domain to experienced countries.

At the same time we need to invest heavily in computer and Internet labs in schools, universities, hospitals and community services, and in order to allow all sectors of community to benefit we should encourage competition between ICTs providers.

Our next step is to add computer and network courses to school curricula and continuously up-date it, naturally in order to ensure that students and teachers have the necessary ICTs skills to enhance the teaching and learning process we should have teacher training programmes with the cooperation of private sectors.

We can also establish a school of technology provided with the best teachers and professors and equipped with the latest IC technologies, this will enforce the community with qualified young people who will in their turn help in spreading the technologies to other society members this will result in narrowing the digital gap between these two parties. This can be done through workshops, seminars, training programmes, designing websites that provide information in different fields like economy, social science, etc.

In the end our job will be a continuous project and definitely not a separate one since ICTs is a tool among many others to achieve the desired economic and social development. These were my ideas for a brighter future hoping that my study as an electrical engineer

majoring in communication will give me the opportunity to make some of these ideas a reality.

Thank you for this opportunity which itself is a way of preparing young people to teamwork and share ideas of how to deal with the technological challenges facing their countries.

Mr Tim Beale
University of Canterbury
Computer Science
New Zealand

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) offer enormous potential for the development of New Zealand as a nation, both socially and economically; however, they can also accentuate existing problems in society. To realize the full potential of the benefits that ICTs offer, as many people as possible need to be connected to this technology.

ICTs provide New Zealanders with access to a wide range of online resources and services quickly, efficiently and cheaply. Scientists, students and rural farmers alike can all exchange ideas with peers worldwide, overcoming New Zealand's geographical isolation and its small, widely dispersed population. ICTs allow beneficiaries to access e-government and job-seeking services, and allow the sick and elderly to socialize from their homes.

By using ICTs, New Zealand businesses can compete in global markets, significantly reducing operational costs, improving marketing, and expanding their customer bases. This benefits small businesses, currently employing 42% of New Zealand's workforce, as they often lack sufficient customer numbers or adequate financing, especially in rural areas. In addition, employees with skills in ICT usually gain higher paying jobs, and technological breakthroughs can encourage industry growth.

Socially, ICTs will primarily benefit poor, disabled, elderly, and rurally isolated New Zealanders. However, the poor lack access to computers, the disable and the elderly lack the skills to use them, and rural areas lack adequate telecommunication connections. Although ICTs will stimulate New Zealand's economy, they will also cause job losses and will require retraining for staff, particularly disadvantaged or elderly New Zealanders.

To ensure that ICTs do not disadvantage those who need them most, every New Zealander needs both access to ICTs and the skills required to use them. I feel that New Zealand's greatest resource is our youth, and fortunately for our future, ICTs are already commonplace for them. I believe that disseminating the benefits of ICTs effectively requires sharing the available community resources and knowledge, which can be accomplished through our youth.

Currently, every library in New Zealand has public Internet access, but this access should be extended to include schools, marae, churches and community groups, especially in rural communities and areas with low socio-economic demographics. ICTs should be shared resources available to the entire community to ensure that no one is disadvantaged. For example, using school computers after hours for community night classes would maximize their use.

Sponsoring ICT outreach programmes that reward participating community groups with new computers and software would benefit the community and encourage ICT use. For example, schools could adopt an Internet mentoring programme that pairs technologically-savvy children with computer-illiterate senior citizens. This would develop both the children's information technology and social skills, while the elderly benefit from youth experience, and the community accumulates valuable ICT resources.

ICTs provide immense opportunities for New Zealand to develop both socially and economically; however, care must be taken that these technologies do not accentuate the existing socio-economic disparities in New Zealand's society. All New Zealanders need both access to ICTs and the skills to use them, and I believe that our youth offer an avenue to share both technological and knowledge resources for the future development of the country.

Mr Emmanuel K. Beckson
Valley View University
Computer Science
Ghana

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

## Introduction

My national ICT policy basis primarily in using the available national resources and international funds, experience to harness and create a conducive, dynamic and vibrant environment for ICT development.

A brief observation of Ghana's stand as regards to ICT reveals that if something radical is not done this country will suffer isolation and poverty.

As the president of Ghana I see it imperative to advance ICT now. You will read in this easy the state of Ghana.

## In the Past

ICT developments were minimal:

1 Focus placed on processing of primary product to secondary product and manufacturing.

2 Educational facilities at all levels not geared towards ICT resulting in few professionals.

3 No national ICT policy drawn. In fact, ICT was largely neglected.

## The Present

Thanks to globalization, Ghana has come to realize the importance of ICT. An overview of Ghana's ICT state shows:

1 A national recognition of ICT weakness has led to an all out quest for ICT education and investments.

2 ICT training centers localized in very few communities in Ghana. These training centers are also very expensive and it requires huge sponsorship.

3 Computer science courses in some public and private universities use old technologies and give little practical lessons.

4 High cost and scarce computer equipment and books.

5 Few lecturers available to teach ICT related courses. Also there is the problem of the average age of a full time lecturer being very close to retirement.

## Technologies

– Computer Assisted Learning (CAL)

Learning in Ghana and beyond is facilitated by ICT. The Internet is gradually replacing the traditional library. Ghana has to get abreast with current ICT development or our educational system will become inefficient.

– Computer Ascribed Manufacture (CAM)

With the coming of ICT, delay in production and manufacturing will be solved.

I want to preview the nations Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats.

## Strength

1 People willing to work when given the skills and inputs materials.

2 Excellent international relations and a stable government.

3 Human and material resources available.

## Weakness

1 High illiteracy rate.

2 High poverty level.

## Opportunities

1 Exposure to futuristic technologies in learning.

2 Globalization and its attendant benefits.

## Threats

1 Competition against international agencies.

2 The attendant disadvantages of Globalization.

3 Brain drain.

It will be irresponsible and almost suicidal if foreseeing such impending dangers does nothing. Ghana has an option to move all out embracing ICT.

## The Future for Ghana

## Blueprint

Development of ICT in Ghanaian's case does not have only to do with infrastructure layout but an attitudinal shift, a paradigm shift and a socio-cultural adaptation both on the part of government and the populaces. More than getting this goal, one has to think of how it would be done. As the president of Ghana, I shall seek to implement the following:

a) Subsidize ICT literature and equipment.

b) Institute national "Talent hunts" for the youth to stimulate creativity and to resource good ICT materials.

c) Encourage computer fairs.

d) Encourage nation-wide computer seminars at all level of education.

e) Send students for training abroad so they come back work for the nation.

f) Pump funds in the manufacturing of computers locally to reduce cost associated with import duties, etc.

g) Accelerate the training of ICT Experts needed for attainment of National ICT goals.

h) Establish Distance Education Outlets to facilitate online Education.

i) Create Computer Assisted Learning Centers for primary and secondary schools.

j) Recognition of personal and institutional contribution to ICT.

k) Encourage more International software houses to help train the youth and partake in international fairs.

l) National ICT awareness campaign through the media.

m) Encourage companies to recruit students, sponsor and give them holiday attachment.

n) Set and Income goal of ICT contributing 50-80% of National income.

o) Large loan facilities will be channeled into ICT development.

p) Create favorable relations with foreign Universities for exchange programs and a consortium of national ICT for research.

q) Change the course content of the computer science Curriculum to be more practical based.

Ghana gained independence at almost the same time as Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea and yet because of some internal problems lags behind the above mentioned nations. We would learn from their experience and even opt to overtake them for we have suffered too long. We need to move at a pace to catch up. I love what Professor Clement Dzidonu said: “We cannot afford to be paddling canoes whilst other nations use fast boats in transporting their goods and services”. We need to work faithfully to achieve our goals.

## Conclusion

When all resources are carefully managed we will launch onto great heights. Ghana has a future. Sir Isaac Newton once said, “If I have seen farther than other men it is because I stood upon the shoulders of giants”. I plan to mount Ghana up on the shoulders of ICT giants to our benefit and the world at large.

Ms Yevgenia Beglaryan
University of Armenia
Technologies of Organization of Inf. Security
Armenia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

I am a student from Armenia – a small country in the South Caucasus, at the foot of Biblical Ararat Mountain. Diligent, talented, peace-loving and tolerant people live here and I am proud and happy to be a part of this nation.

I consider the request to conceive for a moment that I am the leader of my country and in charge of its development, most likely not as a joke or a game, but as a challenge. The young generation is the most dynamic part of society, ready to change. The young people represent the working population of tomorrow and future leadership. They are among the people who stay at of the forefront of technological innovation and development. This, of course, is not something specific of my country, but it is common for all the countries of the world, especially for the developing countries.

If I were the Head of State, the President of my country, I would explain to all that beyond their role in economic development, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) they are able to bolster the emerging global knowledge information society, significantly contributing to building new partnerships and interactions. ICTs provide universal access to information and human interaction, and this is essential for achieving goals of social cohesion, and economic and cultural empowerment. I would tell the government, parliament and citizens that promotion of and investments in ICTs are needed for preserving cultural diversity and heritage, and promoting the respect for democratic values and human rights. I would tell them how important it is to have access to modern ICTs for disabled and handicapped young people to participate more actively in society.

After presenting these ideas, I would declare the development of ICTs as the first priority for the country and personally lead the elaboration of relevant national programmes, where the youth-oriented programmes and projects will be the essential part.

I would apply to the parliament and instruct the government to start actions toward the liberalization of the telecommunication sector of the country, to get out the obstacles in the way of ICTs, particularly the Internet and IP technologies in the country.

The government, businesses, non-governmental organizations, national and international institutions can set up more appropriate ICT environments for young people to prepare them to play a critical role in the global society.

It is necessary to make measures to improve access to education, to train young people in ICT skills, enabling them to enter empowered into the information and knowledge society; improve network access at affordable cost, expand information infrastructure for human development through the establishment of Internet access points, distance learning and community multimedia centres. It is very important to create the open life-long learning opportunities for young people and promote their access to careers dealing with ICTs.

I consider the opportunity to participate at ITU Telecom World 2003 as an excellent chance to meet young people from other countries, to interchange our ideas about the impact of ICTs in our lives and our role in this process.

Mr Arturo Bishop
University of the West Indies
Computer Science
Barbados

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

he entire world is now witnessing an information revolution that has been brought on by the rapid developments in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). This revolution has touched the lives of virtually everyone, men women, children, businesses, governments, companies and countries. The dramatic change has been caused largely by the wider utilization of the Internet; a tool previously restricted to academics and governments.

Through this revolution companies are brought closer to their customers, governments to citizens and individuals to each other. My country Barbados, a small developing country, has recognized the opportunities and challenges provided by the revolution and has been developing service industries to seize these opportunities. Tourism, offshore banking and other financial services companies have been given incentives to set up on the island.

In order to take full advantage of these opportunities, Barbados must have a workforce that is willing and able to utilize modern equipment to the fullest extent. Knowledge-based and skill-intensive industries are now in existence which use the Internet, multimedia technologies and the latest computer software. Young persons must be trained and able to match the skills of other young people around the world in computer competence.

In Barbados, there is a national project, called Edutech, which is going to try to make computers an integral part of everyday learning, both in primary and secondary schools. Computer labs will be set up in every school across the island. As a result any student would have regular access to computers and related technologies and will be familiar with them to a much greater extent than many from the older generation.

As Prime Minister, I would therefore have the youth play a major role in information and technology based fields, such as software development, systems analysis, network administration, web mastering, etc. I would also have the youth become involved in the computer training of older persons, such as clerical officers, who will be required to use computers and computer technology but have little or no experience.

In addition to these technical skills, the youth must become familiar with areas such as business, economics and finance. The development of electronic commerce and electronic government has already started and this will require skilled persons to function in all areas

of these sectors. Another critical skill for the youth to have is communication skills. The youth must be able to communicate orally, electronically and in writing with business partners, customers and co-workers. Industries have been encouraged to set up call centres to provide employment for the youth.

Since information and communication based industries are not dependent on a country having large amount of natural resources or open space, developing information-based industries is a viable way for Barbados to earn foreign exchange. The youth, who will have had extensive experience with computers, must therefore play a key role in the development of these industries.

The Edutech project has proven to be an expensive and controversial project. However, as a country, we have always been committed to the complete development of our youth. We are providing the schools, the computers and the training. As leader, I expect the youth to be responsive and grasp the opportunities to develop themselves and Barbados as a whole.

Ms Madejda Boescu
University of the Republic of Moldova
Radioelectronics and Telecommunications
Moldova

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Telecommunications represent, especially for youth, a very vast sphere of activity, which is not only necessary, but vital too. This domain contains a lot of compartments that are at the head of scientific progress. Every branch of economy depends on information technologies.

The development of the branch of telecommunications needs big investments, but which are repaid in a short time. It is possible because of the special interest of the population in new equipment and technologies, that can facilitate or replace the human work. Twenty-first century's tendency is to accelerate the technological progress, to obtain a maximum result in a minimum period of time.

If I were the President of the Republic of Moldova, I would initiate modifications in the organization of educational institutions by replacing the old equipment for studies, investigations, etc. with the most modern ones. These modifications would permit the instruction of youth based on modern technologies. This way, highly-skilled specialists can be prepared.

The youth of a State are the most optimal investment. Our generation has access to the most perfect computers, mobile phones, smart phones, etc., which were a dream at the beginning of the 20th century. It is necessary to increase the interest of pupils and students in information science by the assignments of grants at the universities and the creation of propitious conditions to actual demands.

Also, it is very important to ensure that every part of the country has phone sets, the Internet, etc. The Internet is a very rich source of information, dates, which must be.

We know that international organizations elaborate and finance different projects, special programmes for countries, with middle level of development, and in this way helping them to achieve a high level of development. The State leader has to pay attention to the collaboration with international organizations, involving first of all the youth, which is more receptive and capable in actual conditions of transition to the market economy. Young people have many new ideas about finding a way for the country to develop. It is necessary that the President of State promote a new direction in his policy by drawing the youth into political life.

Cooperation with other States is an important factor that influences the intellectual, social and economical spheres of the country.

The investigations, inventions and technological progress of a State in the domain of telecommunications make the economical and social development increase, if the correct and rational strategies are applied.

Mr Antonio Lima Bonfim de Carvalho
Institut Supérieur Polytechnique
Langue et Administration
Sao Tome and Principe

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information and communication technologies are, without a doubt, strategies for the social and economic development of a country.

Increasingly, and on a global scale, it has become clear that improving the quality of ICTs is indispensable for progress in such areas as education, agriculture, commerce, tourism, infrastructure, fishing and others. In education, for example, the incorporation of such technologies can transform schooling to make it more attractive and more integrated. Intelligent integration obliges students to play a more active and creative role in the education process, as it makes use of the natural interest and motivation of the students in the majority of domains, despite the near-total lack of access to the benefits of scientific and technical progress made in information and communication.

The importance of this technology demands that the entire human resource potential of the country be put at the service of social and economic development. Were I Head of State, I think that I would, in order to make this development a reality, create a special project to encourage national initiatives and promote improved strategies for development.

In addition, there should be close collaboration with the governments of other countries, with the aid of the ministry of foreign affairs, to cooperate closely and seek new partnerships to facilitate development and take advantage of new technologies.

Finally, I wish to make it clear that the integration of ICTs in all domains of activity is only a matter of time, and will come sooner or later depending on the availability of material and human resources in each country.

Miss Paula Bortman
Universidad de Belgrano
Informatic Engineering
Argentina

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

In seeking to give an idea of the scope of the technological development that took place in the twentieth century, particularly the second half, certain thinkers such as Alvin Toffler or Alain Touraine have illustrated the paradigm by stating that 95% of the total body of human knowledge, from the beginning of history to the present day, was formulated or developed by individuals who are still alive.

Although it would, of course, be difficult to verify such a statement, there can be no doubting the concept it conveys. The evolution of knowledge is directly linked to our ability to communicate it, and while bearing in mind the differences that exist between the concepts of information and knowledge, it is technological development that has served as the basis for this exponential growth.

In the millennium that has just begun, the growth that has taken place in the accessibility of information should now be put towards improving the communication/ information/knowledge equation.

It is in this context that I see the crucial role that information and communication technologies will have to play in the decades to come, bearing in mind that they are not an end in themselves, but rather a bridge that is ever more open to the improvement of the individual, particularly his or her quality of life in its most far-reaching aspects, namely the social, educational, economic, ecological and health spheres.

Since the middle of the last century, Argentina has been witnessing a decline in these spheres, particularly where education is concerned.

From my own political view of the Argentine problem, I firmly believe that the decisive factor that will change the course of this decadent tide will lie in the modification of a good number of the cultural norms that govern society.

Altering deeply-rooted behaviour patterns is neither a simple nor a short-term affair, and is only possible at the level of the educational system, with the training and fostering of young professionals, each of whom can bring a fresh new vision to bear, thereby becoming the engine which drives the process of change.

Within this vision there are three crucial actors: young people; the tools that are available for their training and professional application; and the emergence and insertion in the middle levels of society and its organizations of leaders imbued with and ready to foster this principle of transformation.

It will then fall to young people to take centre stage in terms of the interpretation, dynamics and achievement of the necessary leap that will enable Argentina to participate in the global evolution of technologies, creating the strong links it needs in order to counter the growing isolation to which it has begun to fall victim.

I am particularly keen to develop my professional life by directing it towards the search for informatics and communication models that will make the conveying of knowledge a cornerstone supporting the human and social improvement of my country.

Furthermore, the design of the communication framework will be so strategic as to form an integral part of the country's very profile and identity. Planning, defining and establishing this design will be the main task of the new leaders who will emerge from among today's young people.

Miss Verónica Brezzo Soria

Universidad de la Empresa

E-business

Uruguay

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

One of the major phenomena of recent decades has been the exponential growth that information and communication technologies (ICTs) are experiencing in different societies. There is not a single dimension, whether political, social, economic or cultural, in which the influence of ICTs is not being felt.

The influence of ICTs in today's society is enormous; in just a few years we have witnessed a transformation in the concept of education and information, and in the ways in which we communicate socially. The incorporation of ICTs has brought about changes in current society which our country has no choice but to confront, so much so that we are now said to be living in the information society.

The information society can be defined as an economic and social system in which the generation, processing and distribution of knowledge and information constitutes the main source of productivity, well-being and power.

However, the absence of Internet development policies in Latin America is a well-known fact.

The following are a number of actions that are important for the development of ICT's in Uruguay.

- Assisting lesser-developed countries with the information and communication technologies necessary to facilitate and improve technological, financial and human mobilization. To this end, it is necessary to make available the resources required for implementation and to promote unrestricted access to the technologies.
- Fostering extension of the benefits of ICTs to all inhabitants of the planet and promoting implementation.
- Requesting assistance from State bodies and establishing regulations and activities to that end.
- Emphasizing the needs and abilities of young people in the area of telecommunication development.
- Drawing up, gathering, analysing and making available information on bringing about and increasing investment.

- Identifying and improving new communication channels and establishing the necessary cooperation with other institutions at both the regional and international levels, in the interests of creating and generating proper communication between them.
- Fostering and participating in activities which help to balance the social divide.
- Generating programmes designed to bring information in line with country requirements, with particular attention to specialist areas and requirements pertaining to lesser-developed countries.
- Training human resources to a high level of competence in the field of ICTs.
- Increasing communication coverage and quality in the interests of breaking down cultural barriers.

Finally, it is important to highlight the role of young people in the ICT sphere, given their active and creative outlook. We should give those young people greater scope for expressing themselves and for finding their place more easily in the labour market. This could be achieved by broadening dialogue and debate and by reviewing key topics and programmes in the field of communication.

It is for these reasons that we consider it essential that education should, from the earliest stages, encompass practical technological applications, including subjects in schools and secondary establishments, as well as practical workshops, retraining courses and Web-based learning

In the interests of reducing the social divide, it is important to have unrestricted access to ICTs as well as impartiality in the process of their dissemination, such as to reach all social strata, cultural levels and ages. Finally, all of this would be accompanied by the legislation and ethical and rights provisions necessary to regulate their growth without forgetting the human being, who is the sole beneficiary of their implementation.

Mr Paulo Cacais Pedrosa
Escola Universitaria d'Infermeria d'Andorra
Infermeria
Andorra

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

## The network, a window on the world

We are all aware of the transcendental importance of computers in our society. It is even frightening to think that the first PC appeared only 23 years ago; at the time, no one could have foreseen how commonplace PCs would become (one billion sold between then and April of this year) or how dependent we would allow ourselves to become on this cold mind.

The subsequent emergence of the Internet was an unprecedented revolution in the world of computers and communication. The Internet is at one and the same time an opportunity to spread knowledge around the world, a mechanism for spreading information and a means of cooperation and interaction between individuals and their computers, no matter where they are located geographically.

We know that the refrigerator can now draw up your shopping list for you and send it to the supermarket, or that a doctor in Mexico can supervise an operation being performed in Barcelona in real time.

As we start on the twenty-first century, the time has therefore come to declare the Internet a basic necessity, like bread, i.e. to have its price regulated by the government and set as low as possible. In addition, senior citizens and low-income families should receive subsidies for computers, introductory courses should be offered free of charge and the Internet should be made more accessible for everyone by whatever means required.

What do you think of the idea of being connected everyday by video conference with your family living far away or with your grandparents, who should not lose their freedom but who should also not be left alone?

With regard to education, we need to improve access to the network for all schoolchildren and enhance the integration of the disabled; we have to have all schools and universities form a united front in a large database with instant translation, where students can obtain any kind of information: bibliographical, the marked papers of students at other centres, and from professors working online and around the clock.

The aim is to maintain contact between all students studying the same or different topics in any part of the country or – why not? – the world.

Account must nevertheless be taken of the fact that all this implies enormous expense. That expense will be converted to earnings by the economic developments brought about by realizing the potential of the domestic and international markets.

We will achieve this by doing most business on the Internet, thereby eliminating middlemen (for the good of the entrepreneur), establishing more competitive and hence lower prices (for the good of the people), and improving the market for other countries by offering all our products (for the good of the national economy). All at a lower cost than in the traditional way of doing business.

Lastly, I should like to mention the underdeveloped countries, which do not have refrigerators that draw up the owners' shopping lists, where only a few people have touched one of our standard computers

In those countries, too, the new communication technologies can be used to make great progress: selling raw material and agricultural produce to our countries at a decent price, by eliminating most of the middlemen who grow rich at their expense and by becoming part of our competitive system of demand and supply.

The technologies would have the same effect in cultural terms, for it is well known that information is synonymous with education.

If a country has economic assets and a good cultural level, all the rest will follow.

The network is a window on the world, it is time to let fresh air into our society.

Miss Andrea del Pilar Camacho
Universidad Externado de Colombia
Derecho
Colombia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The realm of telecommunications in a developing country cannot continue to be a concern, but must become a concrete reality that contributes to the country's social and economic development. In a century like this one, in which technology level goes hand in hand with global democratic growth, it is necessary and indeed essential for countries' policies to aim to optimize the quality of life of the country's inhabitants, involving projects with objectives related to information and telecommunication technologies. In Colombia, the problem of policies resides with the State as the entity obliged to guarantee the provision of various public services, be they essential or other, under the concept of universal service, by establishing mechanisms to promote private investment in the sector and, mainly, by implementing regulations which both avoid restricting the market and are in harmony with national reality.

Such policies presuppose the existence of various players responsible for promoting them. In the particular case of the information and communication world, the players are the State entity represented within the government of a given country, responsible for regulating, contracting and controlling the services in question; the operators, who are directly responsible for providing the services, who are for the most part private investors and who provide the infrastructure and economic resources necessary to finance the introduction of new technologies and inform the public of them; and, lastly, the citizens of the country as simple users of the service. Seen from this perspective, the action of these various different players would appear to be adequate.

Nevertheless, this adequate state of affairs precludes stronger action on the part of the citizen as a catalyst of the growth process of any market sector, and this is especially pertinent as regards the world of information and communication technology which is the motor of any society's future development. The citizen contributes not only by generating a demand for such services, but also by seeking to obtain services that satisfy his or her requirements in the cheapest, easiest and most efficient manner.

In the light of the above, the citizen can be even more useful as a result of his or her human potential. This is where a country's young people come to play an important role. The role of young people must be identified first on the basis of the resources at their disposal. Young people enjoy a keenness for knowledge. If properly taken advantage of, this keenness would serve as a channel of promotion in the society of new ICT trends. Even adopting a limited approach, the young people would be those taking the information

reality home. Nevertheless, such a role for young people would affect only a minority of the population in a country like Colombia, in which poverty levels are very high and consequently only a very few families, and consequently very few young people, have access to the infrastructure required for them to know the new information and communication trends.

In nations like Colombia, therefore, the role of young people should be more dynamic. In Colombia today there are various areas in which young people can participate in State policies. There are the so-called Municipal Youth Councils, whose operational programmes could include an agenda dedicated especially to the creation of youth organizations responsible for promoting the new technologies in public and private study centres, with a view to stimulating and information and communication awareness in other young people. This would be the first step towards realizing a community that is truly developed and familiar with the concept of virtual cities.

To approach the subject from another angle, the young people have been entrusted with a social community function in conjunction with the State, for example in the form of mandatory military service for the purpose of contributing to the security of the State, literacy days as a requirement for getting their higher education certificate, etc. This could all be exploited with a view to creating strategies for social access to communications, by introducing a new social community function for young people consisting in providing special training on ICTs to people with less resources, and in particular to those who have not had access to the new trends, and it could take place in collaboration with the public and private institutes of higher education which could also finance the infrastructure using a special contribution managed by a Social Fund for the Promotion of Information and Communication Technologies. In other words, this would involve the provision of formal education for the development of a new culture for the citizen: the telecommunication culture (ICT).

In conclusion, this entire subject can be summarized in a simpler postulate. The role of young people in a country consists in receiving training and in promoting such training in all areas, taking advantage of existing youth structures such as the Municipal Youth Councils and/or implementing a programme of strategies for social access to communications, with the objective of making considerable progress first towards development of the telecommunication sector and, ultimately, towards the economic and social development of the country, thereby producing a society with considerable added value – a well-informed society, with proper communication links.

Miss Yaya Fatou Camara
Université Gaston Berger
Droit de l'entreprise
Senegal

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

With the new partnership for Africa's development (NEPAD), Senegal has set its long-term objectives with regard to information and communication technologies (ICTs). Those for the short and medium term therefore remain to be identified.

Accordingly, Senegal should first invest in training young people in ICTs.

The training will initiate young people in electronic trade, digital relocation, security architecture and security management – in short, in all subjects leading to a proper mastery of ICTs.

Various accompanying measures will be attached to this training.

The State will finance projects to create companies or applied research units aimed at promoting ICTs as part of the multimedia caravan initiative, and privileges will be accorded to promoters wishing to set themselves up in rural areas.

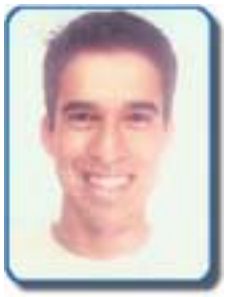
The State will be able to allocate a special budget for all expenses resulting from ICTs, with the youth promotion fund covering the business creation projects.

With regard to this last point, the young people interested in ICTs will benefit from priority funding.

These prerogatives will be accompanied by a certain number of obligations. Promoters will be obliged to produce certain results, and the State will have the right to monitor progress in order to ensure success.

In summary, the State either directly (through the public schools) or indirectly (through the State?approved private schools) provides training for the young people, and subsequently grants them ICT promotion activities.

The businesses created will spawn new amphitheatres, but will also contribute considerably to the national (and even international) economy, thus benefiting the socio-economic development of the country.



Mr David Carronha
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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

## Technology in the service of humankind

Globalization is a current and recent phenomenon resulting to a large extent from the power of new communication technologies. People have become increasingly dependent on television, radio and, more recently, Internet. But are these means of information merely a form of entertainment? They surely offer somewhat more, and provide us with a means to improve our social and economic situation. First, they should be applied in the education of young children. Youth represents the future only through education, and the new technologies can be used to increase young people's interest in subjects such as history and the economy at international level. These means of information make it possible to have a critical approach to reality, both national and international. To achieve that, the motivation and capacity to use the various means of communication must be strengthened. A new, solid programme must also be established with information technologies as a mandatory subject. These solid bases must be created for a future that will no doubt be more competitive at global level.

Contact with other countries over the Internet provides a means of allowing young people to get to know other cultures and ways of life. Such relations constitute a direct means of access to innovations on all possible subjects. To increase these types of contact, the cybernaut systems in public and private schools must be strengthened. We should not forget that such exchange of information between the inhabitants of different countries promotes the culture and very social structure of a country. Appropriate training at school would allow young people to be better equipped to apply their knowledge in their active working lives, making their work more profitable. Accordingly, they could develop social projects to teach these new means of information to old people or people who do not understand them. If managed correctly, this technology can improve and optimize various everyday activities, such as updating one's banking operations or finding weather information quickly over the Internet.

If we make the power of these technologies widely available, they will obviously contribute to the country's economy as their development makes it possible to create new jobs through the establishment of new national or international companies. These companies will subsequently invest their capital in the national market. Furthermore, the state-of-

the-art technology offered by these systems allows faster communication between companies and their customers, thereby increasing opportunities for making profits.

The state-of-the-art technology used in these means of communication is being perfected all the time and offers the possibility of accelerating people's pace of life. We must therefore be ready to take up these innovations.

At global level, each second is now important and humankind can no longer afford to waste time: everything is happening very fast, each second is vital, and to waste time can cost humankind very dearly.

Ms Tracey Cassar
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Malta

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Malta … a small island in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. Our geographical position can be used to serve as a link, a hub between many countries that surround us by offering them means for a better technological communication.

Today we find ourselves encaptured in the fast growth of information and communication technologies; a world in which we have a seamless web of communication networks, computers and consumer electronics that put vast amounts of information at our fingertips. How can we merge into this technological era and extract the benefits that it offers?

As Head of State, I believe that development of a country can … be brought about by investing in education; educating young people, giving them incentives, goals and access to various new technologies. Research projects can be assigned to students in secondary schools to introduce them to this new information world. The student will be given the opportunity to go out there and use technology as a means of enhancing one's knowledge. These projects can then be correlated amongst different schools to exchange ideas that will finally yield to a better construction of the topic and increase its potential. One important aspect that needs to be worked upon, especially in Malta, is developing the concept in a woman's mind that technology does not simply evolve around the male species. This would help women to make use of their talents and contribute in this sphere of life. Social development can also be enhanced by setting up twinning programmes between students from different countries, so that we have intercommunication between people with different cultural backgrounds, different experiences, different talents and different needs for certain projects to be undertaken. The government should assign grants and allocate an amount of money each year to be used for such educational purposes.

Information leads to empowerment and empowerment leads to employment. Once young people acquire the knowledge, the skills and the experience from the early stages in life, then they will be well equipped to make use of them at the place of work. The use of IT in

various businesses can help yield a better product, to face competition, offer better prices to the customer and at the end of the day, economic development to the country. Tourism, being the major industry in Malta, can also help us socially and economically, as this brings into the country people who generate new ideas, people who use our services.

At this stage, as Head of State, I would help by giving young people incentives to pass on their knowledge to other generations. Programmes could be set up, directed towards helping adults and older people to fit into this rapidly changing world, and to equip the country to develop in this highly competitive globalization. Finally, we should also take into consideration people with special needs. Through IT, these people could also be offered the chance to contribute to the well-being of society, instead of disabling them more than they might physically be.

In this technological era, every day brings about new changes, new technologies. If we all just stop and think creatively and constructively, we could all lend a hand in giving every person, whoever it may be, a better quality of life.

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International Relations
Brazil

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Nowadays international financial markets and the international banking system constitute the core of the world economy. Approximately, USD 1 trillion a day is invested and re-invested in most of the countries and their stock markets. All that was made possible through the Information and Communication Technologies. But how can a large, developing country such as Brazil utilize the ICTs to achieve a higher economic status and include the young people in its market?

Not long ago, some 15, 20 years ago, Brazil became a democracy and faced the opening of its market to the then new technologies of personal computers, internet and mobile phones among others. Brazil was a less violent country at that time. Economic crisis and income inequality seem to incentive crime in large cities of developing countries. But slums and crimes do not make the perfect scenery for children and youngsters to grow.

In the other hand, the use of ICTs in Brazil has grown in the period. Starting from zero in the 1980's, internet users have reached about 19 million users and the number of internet providers is now over 1300 all over the country. That makes up to 68% of internet users of Latin America. The process of expansion of these technologies involves, besides material and hardware capacities, the aspects of education, cultural and commercial influences and so on.

If I were president of Brazil, I would certainly emphasize the use of ICTs for improving quality of life and inclusion, once the importance of such tools has been proved. In my country, we have already reached a better development of democracy and democratic institutions using technology in the elections. Ballots, voting and vote counting, for national major elections, are all done with the use of computers online. Besides strengthening universal participation and citizenship, that has created employment, research and an all- Brazilian project, with its positive impacts in the economy.

But that would not be enough. As president of my country, education combined with ICTs would be the governmental priority, the key for development, because they represent social and economic development. The actions for this development through "ICT Culture" would include linking schools, libraries and homes via computer, support to technological research, online libraries, improving existing and creating new technological centers, financial aid to people who still don't own a computer. Promotion of small and medium

sized companies on the ICT field could be encouraging to the young people who developed their ICT skills in the schools.

Developing young people's ICT skills requires some time, investments and infrastructure. Brazil is today the 10th economy of the world and the 29th country in the World ICT Report. Through investing in young people's talents and ICTs, quality of life can be shared by many more people and economic development achieved more effectively.

Mr Edson Centeio Martins

Instituto Superior de Engenharias e Ciencias do Mar

Telecommunications

Cape Verde

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Since the technology of information and communication would contribute to the development of my society, I would do that all the national youths had the opportunity to have an appropriate formation in these areas in order to minimize the hand of foreign work, and seen that education is the motor of development the whole focalization and concern would be on it.

I would implement and I would support a new teaching form, and introduce the most recent and the more used means in these areas (Information and Communication Technologies).

I would also have the concern to internalize and to expand of teachings at rural level that as we know in this matter the rural way walks a little more behind the city, at least in my country, because the development of my country or of the societies doesn't only depend on the cities.

To do with that, my youths in the total know the more assaults ideas developed in a given area. With the introduction of the Internet in all of the teaching means I would create spaces that facilitate the development of innovative and relevant projects in education and social context to turn public.

That is, to democratize access to the new technologies of information and communication, to guarantee the integral operation of the laboratories of educational computer science with people's permanent attendance, with the domain in this area in order to assure the use of all of the technological resources for the community, especially the juvenile or the school community. That, as we know, is the driving force that assumes a paper that structures the components of the knowledge in the logic of scientific progresses with training to that ignore and try to disturb in the success of the other ones.

Seen like this the computer will pass to be as that a social patrimony dominated by all according to the level and don't only reflect of the rich ones and ghost for the poor.

I would make an effort essentially for the attendance to the newest technologies that will go appearing along elapsing of the times or be to accompany the step of the arms of iron regarding this area, speaking about the countries more developed, knowing that in the

country that I am this is one of the largest difficulties that can face, the delay of the events at world level this is not everything but the essential part than I could begin by doing in order to develop my country and the societies with base in the means of information and communication.

To conclude, all the teachers should be shown determined face the decision that they can be taken seen that the progress of the technologies is a factor that more it can modify the habits and habit of a society and we know that this matter can be meow complicated that the implementation of the new technologies in a country of weak to can at world level.

Mr Yanick Cyrille Chakoba Jegou

Université Catholique d'Afrique Centrale

Cameroon

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Africa, civilization's poor relation, today finds itself embarked on a perpetual quest for development. The key to the economic and social development of the countries of Africa is to be found today in ICTs, for which the continent's young people could be the principal means of propagation. From the perspective of Cameroon's head of State, how could the country's development by means of ICTs be envisaged through the action of young people?

Effective action by the State within its focus on economic and social development rests on two policies, for which the keywords are policy of dissemination and policy of financial assistance.

The aim of the policy of dissemination is to remove the aura of mystery and awe that surrounds ICTs in the eyes of Cameroonian youth, among whom ICTs seem still to be regarded as a luxury. This policy will focus first of all on the establishment of well?equipped training centres made available for a nominal fee, where young people can take training in the use of ICTs so as to make them a commonplace tool used routinely as part of everyday life.

As well, this policy will involve the setting up of training units in all academic and school structures, including the establishment, for example, of a computer?systems training requirement as part of the core curriculum from primary school right through to higher education, for which there will have to be, of course, proper computer hardware in place in sufficient quantities.

At the same time, other essential infrastructure will need to be put in place, particularly roads and electricity transmission systems, as a basis for bringing ICT access to isolated areas.

The policy of financial assistance will consist first of all of funding the training of trainers – i.e. sending young teachers to take training courses and seminars in major cities in developed countries, so that they will be able to gain a breadth of knowledge in the subject area sufficient to enable them in turn to train young people in their local areas. This policy would also provide funding for purchases – i.e. for the import of ICT hardware and software as a means for bringing ICTs into widespread use, particularly in family homes.

There would first need to be established a structure for regulating market prices for importers of ICTs so as to eliminate the possibility of prices being inflated, which would undermine the attainment of the programme's objectives.

Lastly, financial assistance would be provided for ICT training structures already in place, to promote their growth.

Under the terms of this proposal, we foresee that a serious, thoroughgoing application of these policies of dissemination and financial assistance would contribute effectively to targeting young people and encouraging them to become more interested in ICTs and make optimal use of them in the social development of Cameroon and of Africa overall.

Ms Patricia Ximena Chavez Burbano
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Ecuador

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

A few years ago, someone told me that in order to harvest for one year one sows wheat, to harvest for 100 years one plants trees, and to harvest forever one sows human beings. With this saying it became clear to me that the future of my country is being constructed today through the education of our children. As Head of State, I would not concern myself solely with short-term problems and solutions, but would, in order that the development of my Ecuador should be real and continuous, concentrate on the comprehensive preparation of those who will come to inherit it, namely the children and young people. It is very important to provide theoretical, technical and ethical education from the very earliest age, which is why I would initiate basic free-access education projects and child nourishment programmes, since one cannot expect a child to study if he or she has not even had breakfast. But all of this represents only one rung on the ladder we have to climb.

Young people need to be listened to and encouraged to play an active part in economic and social growth; with their close relationship to information and communication technologies (ICTs), including the underlying concepts and advances being made in that field, young people have an opportunity to transform an under developed Ecuador that depends on foreign technology into an Ecuador that moves steadfastly ahead on its own two feet. Although young people lack the experience that comes with age, they do have the idealism and the desire to fight for their dreams in a way that some "adults" seem to have lost; those ideas may appear somewhat strange and even eccentric, but it is strange notions such as these which enable humankind to develop. As Head of State, I would encourage the collaboration of young people in the various branches of business, industry and the State, into which they should inject their ideas and dynamism while acquiring experience, learning to work with people from other generations and with different ideas, and further their learning with a view to being able to educate and assist the young people of the future. It is by pursuing this kind of social and economic development that the country will not die with the present generation but will embark upon a new cycle of growth.

Perhaps, although we ourselves will not be there to reap the benefits of sowing human beings, our children will inherit a better Ecuador.

Mr Med Aymen Chebli

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Telecommunications

Tunisia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information technology (IT) is currently undergoing rapid expansion, leading to social and economic development in those countries whose governments have adopted the appropriate policies. These governments have put their weight behind information technologies by developing infrastructures and creating a regulatory framework designed to encourage investment in the sector. A key component in the success of such strategies is raising IT awareness among young people and providing them with training. Once they have the necessary training, these young people will become the prime movers in IT-driven economic development.

If I were Head of State, I would begin with a public awareness campaign targeting young people. I would introduce IT training in primary schools, with the level of teaching, obviously, tailored to the age of the pupils and their capacity to assimilate information. I would invest in bringing telecoms infrastructure into all places where young people access information (residences, schools, colleges, universities, youth clubs, etc.), and I would encourage the staging of seminars, conferences and debates on the subject.

As regards the not-so-young section of the population, I would set up IT training centres to enable them to adapt to using ICTs. This would encourage them to change their attitudes and their professional behaviour, and would generate ideas for projects.

During this phase, I would seek to create an environment conducive to the development of projects by greatly increasing the number of project incubators, creating technology parks and above all by making credit more easily available to young people, lowering interest rates on loans and easing the tax burden.

In the public sector, where there has traditionally been more resistance to innovation, I would press for a number of administrative functions to be contracted out. I would call for the computerization of all departments; in short, a thorough overhaul of administrative procedures and attitudes.

A modern administration in step with the latest technological developments would make it possible to export intelligence and know-how regionally and internationally. Securing external market shares would be just one obvious spin-off.

Such progress would, of course, continue to depend on the joint efforts of government and young people. The government would provide the facilities, whether in terms of training, back-up, or fiscal and regulatory incentives, while the young would demonstrate their skill and patriotism in promoting socio-economic development in their country.

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Radiotechnics and Communication
Kazakhstan

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Let us suppose I am Head of State. Obviously I believe that information technology (IT) can contribute to the economic and social development of the country. I think that the future will bring a greater development of IT and telephone networks. Throughout the world, financial institutions, State structures, companies and societies cannot function without high-quality telecommunications.

In addition, IT and telecommunication infrastructure will, in my opinion, become a sine qua non condition for the development of the world economy. Already today, everyone uses their cell phone, not only to talk with other people but also to transmit data. The world's approximately 10 million Internet users receive e-mail or messages, meet on Internet sites to get the news, or ask for local services using their cell phone or laptop. Unfortunately, this phenomenon is still too limited in our country.

For our country to make real progress towards development, we should concentrate as a priority on the current situation of young people. Even now, young people are becoming one of the country's driving forces, and the entire future, in particular as related to the development of information technology, depends to a large extent on young people. They are the future specialists in this field and the development of IT depends on them as well. This is why young specialists must be helped; favourable conditions must be created for their work, and they must be provided with the material they need and guaranteed a decent income so that they can work for our country instead of looking for a better life abroad! Greater attention must be paid to training starting in the first years of primary school so that the State has young specialists who are professionals in their field.

I believe that during the first years of school every child, regardless of the family's social situation, must have the chance to acquire basic computer skills. All schools should be equipped with the required material. This must be taken into account when preparing the State's budget. At present, the telecommunication field needs people whose personality has developed harmoniously. To meet this goal, existing knowledge must be changed and new values fostered, the level required to qualify as teachers and students must be revised, and people trained to develop and learn on their own. A committee should be established specifically to coordinate the work of training institutions, the structures working on the IT market, and the Kazakhstan Ministry of Education and Science.

This committee could be host to the education centre where IT professors would be trained or retrained on modernized equipment. It is also vital for projects, lectures and fora to be held that are aimed at young people in different countries to stimulate their potential. In short, the State programme on IT can be drawn up, as it was, for example, in Russia in 2001. The country's development depends to a large extent on IT, and with the support of the State and thanks to the new generation, we will meet that goal.

Ms Jia Chen
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China

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Gulielmo marconi, the father of the wireless communication whose invention which had entirely changed the way of telecommunications today was at first turned down by his country, Italy, succeeded with the steady support of the British government. At that time he was only 22 years old.

In retrospective view, we can obviously see that the state's implementation is among one of the cruxes of ensuring the success of talented and ambitious young men. Strong willed young men like Marconi dedicated their talent and endeavors in making the splendid new era come into reality. If I were Head of State in my country, I would implement a scientific strategy for the nation in order that the youth play important and various roles in the global telecommunications innovation.

First, I would establish favorable policies as stimuli. The younger generation has a strong ambition and they are daring to do something free from all routines. Therefore, I will make full use of this advantage, and establish policies to encourage them to invent new technologies for the development of ICTs. Beleice it or not, one day in my country the outstanding young men, whose inventions or new standards approved by the IUT, will be awarded the "Chenjia" prize just like the "Nobel" prize in the first step, the youth are able to practice their ideas fearlessly.

Second, I would set up the special institutions to invite the excellent alien youth to China in order to speed up the swap of information. The youth are more adaptable to new things and they are able to spread the most advanced and latest technologies. On one hand I am sure that our youth will spark some creative ideas through this kind of learning from each other. On the other hand, the youth worldwide can have a further knowledge of the research condition of the youth in the ICTs field in China. In the second step, the youth serve as the channel of information in the ICTs field.

Third, I would set up a National Youth Union called "Digital Youth Circle" to promote the application of their new technologies through their joint efforts. The technology inventions must meet the needs of the market. And the mission of this group is to practice the creations of our youth approved by the market. In China, the younger generation nowadays bears greater responsibilities and challenges for this target. As one of the slogans for the 2008 Olympic Games goes, it's our duty to present the world a "Digital

Olympics" with hi-tech communication products and services. In the last step, I push forward my policy towards the youth and the ICTs field to apex.

Dear friends, welcome to China! Welcome to the 2008 Olympics, I assert that our Chinese young people will grant the world with new splendors aided by my policies toward the ICTs industry. Let's enjoy the "Digital Olympics" brought about by the Chinese youth!

Mr Hing Yang Cheng
National University of Singapore (NUS)
Electrical Engineering
Singapore

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Communication and the availability of information are what drive the economies of the world today. Manufacturing and processing industries now belong to the old economy as they have been established since the end of the Second World War. In our fast-paced competitive world today, what separates a country that is still growing strongly to a country that is facing immense resistance to growth, is basically due to two key aspects: Information and how well connected a country is. Communication and information technologies that are currently being researched and improved upon are therefore very important inputs to both the economic and social development of a country.

Communications will aid the economies of countries in different ways. For a developing country, improved communications technologies will mean faster connection time, higher resolution video conferencing and a reduction in operating costs, among other many benefits. Logistic firms will also stand to gain as they can better track where their goods are, at any instance of time. This is important as the logistics industry brings in 1 billion dollars worth of trade a year to Singapore. In short, businesses will greatly benefit from improvements in these technologies.

In an underdeveloped country, communication technologies, such as having a local cell phone network in the country, will increase business activity by making contact between buyer and seller easier. The establishment of telecommunication companies will mean more jobs, improved living standards and a turn away from an economy that is predominantly farming. For example, a businessman in Cape Town started his own cell phone network providing 400 jobs and increased the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of his state when he expanded internationally as well.

The role of the young is vital for any country that wants to succeed in this field of technology. For children to be better adjusted to the numerous technologies that information and communications have to offer, they have to be exposed to such an environment from an early age. If I was the head of State, I would introduce computers to children above the age of 12, by investing in computer laboratories in schools where children can learn to operate computers and be taught to connect to the Internet, a vast source of information. Through computer and Internet usage, the advantages of information and communication technology will be shown to them and moreover serve to become part of their daily lives.

In addition, I will implement a basic enrichment module for these students above 12, to teach them the use of communication and information in everyday life. In this course, inventions like the telephone, computer, radio and other communication devices will be described to them. The Internet will also be taught to them as a form of a world that cannot be seen, but virtually links computers together throughout the world. Students will also participate in exploring the history behind these technologies and the reconstruction of certain experiments using everyday home materials to stimulate their creativity. Moreover, simple electronic kits can also be given to students to teach them to build, perhaps, an electronic buzzer or a light-detecting sensor. This will spark off a vibrant creative society as the students' curiosity in technology is triggered from an early age.

National competitions for web page and multimedia designing can also be implemented for the younger age group. These competitions will stimulate the learning of computers and usage of the Internet among children, not only turning it into a form of a hobby but in the process teaches them to become technologically savvy as well.

These programmes will provide the young with a fundamental knowledge on information and communication technologies. With this basic foundation, they will be able to build on what they have learned and use it to innovate and explore further advances in the information and communication sector, allowing them to spearhead their country's economy of tomorrow.

Ms Mélida Patricia Chereguino

Universidad Dr. José Matias Delgado

Comunicaciones

El Salvador

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

At the present time, access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) constitutes a reality that contributes to the economic and social development of each country; accordingly, young people play a leading role in increasing productivity; and this is possible only if everyone is guaranteed an opportunity in the development of a more pluralist society.

It is a fact that use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) contributes to improving the well-being of citizens by facilitating their participation; for these reasons, the State should undertake to create a propitious environment to allow young people to become the main actors responsible for ensuring that training exists in the use of the new tools.

Within this framework, young people have the obligation to educate themselves in the new information and communication technologies (ITCs), as they have the advantage of learning much faster than the rest of society; they thus become the bearers and transmitters of the new knowledge, with the mission of teaching the rest of the community how to manage and take maximum advantage of the resources provided by these new technologies.

To this end, the young people must strive to achieve one main objective: the ability to behave as social actors, within the framework of an information and communication technology (ICT) culture.

Nevertheless, in order to ensure that the development of information and communication technologies (ICTs) means progress, the young people must express their desire to have good technology, defending their rights; in order to ensure that no one wishing to be part of this revolution is left out of it for lack of resources or knowledge.

Young people are also responsible for having a greater say in decision-making on subjects affecting their daily lives; they must therefore be aware that the acquisition of information and communication technologies (ICTs) represents a challenge for lower income sectors.

Thus, if the young people are equipped with tools that allow them to manage and exchange information quickly, efficiently and fairly inexpensively, there will be a possibility of narrowing the gap between those who have access to information and those who do

not. Indeed, in society today, information management is one of the main factors that often defines the participation or exclusion of individuals in social development processes.

It must be stressed that the full training of young people in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) transforms them into participants in the management and economic and social development of a country, offering them the opportunity to acquire up-to-date information resources.

The challenge facing young people today is to achieve an equitable distribution of the benefits of the digital age, making it possible to strengthen the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs).

Mr William Chilufya
University of Zambia
library and Information Studies
Zambia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) refers to various technologies used to collect, process and disseminate information. These technologies include computer, audiovisual, telecommunication and broadcasting. ICTs have facilitated and realised the complexities of human needs in that information has become a catalyst in almost all spheres of life of a nation. ICTs offer a range of possibilities to improve production, education, environment, health and many more, as well as ways of maintaining contact locally and internationally. The application of ICT has for a long time attracted attention of policy-makers in most countries of the world.

However, Zambia has responded slowly to these technological changes owing to the poor information infrastructure. Youths have been socially and economically alienated from national development. Most youths lack skills and training and many drop out of school. There is a corresponding drop in social services among women youth employment.

As Head of State of Zambia, it would be vital to identify various roles that the youth can perform in the development of a nation by way of using ICT. My Government would embark on skills training, starting from primary level up to the last level including adult education programmes. Computer skills would then have to be incorporated in the school curriculum and provide ICT institutions.

The Government of Zambia would need to legislate policy on ICTs and in return a considerable allocation of the national budget would be granted. Also introduction of incentives such as a reduction of tax and tariffs on imported technical infrastructures that are ICT related to affordable levels to encourage investment by the private sector in the field, thereby making the use of ICTs sustainable.

During policy implementation, I would establish a general policy framework which will provide guidelines on matters related to youth development. ICTs would enable countrywide coverage in the execution of youth programmes by using facilities such as the Internet, radio, phones and many more.

Furthermore the Zambian Government would monitor and evaluate youth programmes and also the information content on ICTs so that it is localized in terms of language and dissemination patterns, thus encouraging indigenous contribution, thereby enhancing youth efforts in socio-economic development.

Now that information has emerged as one of the major tools for harnessing global resources with ICT the youth would be able to compete for the same resources in the global world.

My Government would introduce measures which ensures that youths are instrumental in social change so that society accepts ICTs, while acknowledging how difficult it is to change culture.

It is clear that the adoption and utilization of ICTs for youth development is not only a necessity but a driving force for national development in terms of competitiveness, self-sustainability and survival.

Mr Aaron Chippendale

University of Sydney

Astrophysics

Australia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Young people are often found at the forefront of their fields. They accept new ideas, embrace change, and incorporate new technologies into their lifestyle as rapidly as they are developed. This is the precise attitude required of a country wishing to realize the purported contributions of ICTs to economic and social development. As the Head of State in Australia I would engage young people in activities that increase access to ICTs, develop socially uplifting and sustainable applications of ICTs, and use ICTs to build a global youth community.

First and foremost is the question of access. With less than a third of the world's population making a phone call more than rarely and less than ten per cent of the world's population using the Internet, we must act swiftly to avoid the formation of a permanent digital divide. I would provide young people with resources to set up community ICT access points that allow people to participate in the telecommunications revolution without discrimination of any form. Such projects are required in many regions, including the poorer suburban areas of large Australian cities, rural areas with insufficient ICT infrastructure, and international locations in both developing and developed nations. I would encourage our youth to work on ICT access projects in nations such as PNG, East Timor, Vietnam, Cambodia and other Asia-Pacific nations where technology access is sorely needed. The involvement of our youth in such activities will also build a foundation for international understanding, a much-needed prerequisite for peace, let alone economic and social development.

Second, to reap the full benefits of ICTs we must develop innovative and effective applications of ICTs to issues of economic and social development. I would highlight a series of major social issues that must be tackled by our youth in order to synthesize a sustainable Global Community for our children's children. These are issues such as: poverty, sustainability, social capital and environment. I would provide funds and seek matching support from Australian commerce for ICT application projects in all of these fields. Within each of these fields I would aim to have at least one local and one internationally targeted project of high profile that I would supply extra support for outreach and communication. Through these high-profile projects I would hope to inspire others to realize the benefits of ICTs in their local communities.

Third, I recognize that young people couldn't achieve all of this alone. They require the support and guidance of their peers and their elders. I would thus strongly encourage and reward the participation of Australia's youth in the global community, both online and offline. Participation in such communities increases the potential of developing successful ICT access and application projects. Furthermore, such communities form great support networks for these activities.

Finally, I would instigate a comprehensive mentoring network in Australia to provide our youth access to wisdom stored at all levels in Australian Government, commerce and community. Only with the effective transfer of such wisdom will our youth be equipped to realize the benefits of ICTs in an ethical, socially responsible and sustainable manner.

Ms Isabel Chirambadare
Catholic University in Zimbabwe
Business Management & Information Technology
Zimbabwe

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

My country Zimbabwe is a developing country in Southern Africa where Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have become a way of life in the cities and are widely used (this is with reference to Internet and mobile telephone technologies). The eminence of ICTs can be witnessed in the great changes in our economy which is fast becoming Information-based due to the influence and prevalence of ICTs. This can be attested by the increasing avaibility of information on the stock exchange, consumer markets, demographics, education and current events. Such information which has become part of our daily lives and is used for decision and policy-making from individual to national level. It is therefore necessary to prioritize teledensity using modern communication technology so that rural areas, where the majority of the young people live, are accessible.

The following are the roles I would have youths play to contribute to the development of Zimbabwe through ICTs:

Foster and increase awareness on the concept of globalization. Globalization aims to make the world one global village through the use of ICTs to bring nations together with information generally available on a worldwide network – the Internet.

Improve the communication skills of young people by teaching them to use computers, operate telephones, surf the Internet and send e-mail. Communication technologies must be availed to young people.

Introduce the use of computers in all schools (primary to tertiary institutions) and make ICT education a core course in the schooling curriculum. The study of Information Technology and Communication courses should be encouraged through national scholarships and government grants.

Hold national competitions in the area of New ICTs (NICTs) to encourage the development of new technologies and explore fresh ideas. ICT seminars should be planned and local youths should be encouraged to participate in local, regional and international seminars.

Offer government grants for research in the ICTs by university students/graduates with the aim of using the results to improve ICT in the country. Encourage jobless school leavers to start ICT?related projects with the incentive of tax reduction on the import and sales of computers and other communication technology equipment.

Culture is dynamic and with ICTs exposing youths to different cultures, they gain the ability to identify with themselves and fit into the global village. ICTs avail cultural exchange programmes which augment general knowledge. By promoting the use of ICTs the youths can communicate cheaper (presently in Zimbabwe, fixed network telephone charges, for the Internet are cheaper and faster than the cost of local postage).

Youths, the leaders of tomorrow definitely have a vital role to play if we are to make reality of economic and social development in Zimbabwe.

Mr Menneth Chircop
University of Malta, Faculty of Engineering
Communications Engineering
Malta

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

During the last decade, as the Internet gained popularity, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) evolved greatly as the people's interest in using the technologies grew. So far ICTs have been mainly used to come up with products whose aims are to improve the processing and transfer of information. Products such as mobile phones have made a great impact on everyday life, as the transfer of information is fast and efficient. However, ICTs so far have not been focused to contribute in the social and economic development of the country, which is the next step.

The most obvious way to contribute to social development is by helping people with special needs. Take for instance people on the verge of a heart attack due to their medical conditions; ICTs can help by developing the idea of building a push-button device, which once the button is pressed, the victim is located by a GPS system and instant help is provided. As this example depicts, a sample device might be able to help greatly those who are in need.

In order to establish a list of ideas in which ICTs can be evolved, information should be gathered from all classes of people. A reliable way to do this is to set up a simple questionnaire which is targeted to uncover the problems and needs that people might have. It should be answered by sampled people such that all classes are considered, both in education and age level. The answers should then be analysed by professionals and potential ideas enlisted in order of priority. Young people having IT or engineering as their course of studies would use the list to conduct a project built on one of the ideas. If the final product is suitable for further research, professionals will take the lead to evolve ICTs in this manner.

At first glance, the contribution of ICTs is only to social development. However, it will be pointed out how this is not the case. In addition to the above, as research is complete, the final product will be on production in the industry, hence creating more work in factories. Once the product is bought, taking for instance a woman as mentioned above would not need assistance anymore, or in the extreme case a person might be able to work once again. The latter would not receive any financial aid from the State anymore. As has been pointed out, economic development is ensured with the evolution of ICTs.

As Head of State, pressure should be made upon young people to carry out studies in the ICT area. As students, they should be promoted to work on a project so the work mentioned earlier is conducted by them. Moreover, once the students graduate, their professional job would be a direct contribution to the social and economic development of the country.

Ms Deepti Chivukula
Institute of Science and Technology
Electronics and Communication
India

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has been around for over 137 years. During this period, ITU has been at the epi-centre of the rapid development of telecommunication and ICT (information and communication technologies) services. It will continue its prime-mover role in shaping the future of telecom in particular and ICTs in general with special attention to development issues and socio-economic benefits of ICT. The world is indeed in the midst of a grand revolution, which humanity has ever experienced. The information revolution has the potential and our lives in more fundamental ways than either the agricultural revolution or the industrial revolution. The global information society is evolving at a remarkable speed.

The accelerating convergence .. telecommunications, broadcasting, multimedia and driving new products and services. This dynamic process promises a fundamental change in all aspects of our lives, including knowledge and dissemination, social interaction, economic and business practices, political engagements, media, health and entertainment. Among the global opportunities is the creation of quality jobs for the world youth.

If I were the head of State. I would like to put forth the following agenda for the wide programme for:

1) e?m...;

2) e-governance; and

3) e-learning.

In my opinion, these are the most crucial health is wealth it is said. I would like the youth in the country to work on programmes to use ICT technologies to services. For this to become a reality a lot of effort is required in terms of education, infrastructure and systems which are compatible to the new technologies.

The second area is the e-governance. Using the power of ICT technologies, we can provide a host of citizen-centric services. This would help in bringing down the service time, cost and improve the overall productivity leading to all-round improvement in administration and proving satisfactory citizen services. This lead taken by the State government would spin-off the economy also, as government would put into use the ICT and would provide ample opportunities for market development.

Education should be given utmost priority. It is said that the next killer application on the Internet is e-learning. Through this, I would like the schools in the remotest areas to have access to the best of the knowledge pool. I would put up a programme to link up all the schools, colleges and the universities for peer-sharing of information and knowledge.

These three programmes not only help in providing the request services to the citizens but also contribute to the economic and social development of the country. These activities would require a large resource for putting in place the networks, broadband connectivity, PCs and the manpower.

For this huge R&D efforts are also required for bringing broadband connectivity into every home by breaking the last, low-cost PCs, etc.

However, as history has told us, every technology has its own advantages as well as disadvantages. The ICT is exceptional. I would also have in place a robust network which is hardened to cyber attacks, which could cause immense damage to the activity as well as to the economy.

By involving the young talented in this vital activity, I dream to make my, whereby the click of the button or the mouse, one can get the job done.

Mr Chan Phearoun Choun
National Institute of Management
Management Information System
Cambodia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information technology, in short form IT, is well known everywhere in developed and developing countries. Information technology was invented and used for many decades but it reached its peak in 2000. The twenty-first century is the era of the IT revolution. Not only private sectors but also public sectors everywhere have started to use information technology by transferring paper base to computer base. For instance, some companies have started business transactions through the computer. Telecommunication companies are using the computer to control the data of customers, and some government offices have started using the Internet ...etc.

Cambodia is one of the developing countries which is located in South East Asia. Cambodia left behind the neighbouring society because of prolonged civil war about three decades ago. Since the first election sponsored by the United Nations and the integration in Asia, Cambodia has made progress in everything: stability, human resources and the economy. The new wave of IT has contributed to a faster step in the social and economic development of Cambodia. It will help to increase productivity, facilities, communication and transportation.

The ICT sector is one of the most advanced sciences, and has developed rapidly over the last two decades. So far, the ICT sector has played an important role in all fields, especially in socio-economic development. Owing to new discoveries, a number of nations in our region and across the world are able to swiftly develop their countries with efficiency and productivity.

If I were Head of State in my country, I would ask the younger generation to strengthen computer knowledge. Because their knowledge of information technology contributes much to society in both the private sector and the public sector. Computer literacy, as is the case with foreign languages, must be promoted among Cambodians, especially for young people, such as pupils in high school and students in universities. Computer literacy is currently one of the most important tools that exists for communication, economic management, trade, domestic and international investment, as well as for knowledge accumulation and management expertise.

The most important direction is to include computer literacy in the curriculum of every secondary school, faculty and university of my country. Expanding the coverage for the use of the Internet by considering measures to attract private investment and modern technology, and by ensuring free and fair, market-based competition.

This will create necessary conditions for cost reduction, improvement in public service, so that the younger generation and Cambodian people in general will be able to make use of this instrument as efficiently as possible. The language is an important vehicle to promote development and ICT transfer. The use of ICT in the Cambodian language will open access to millions of people who will be able to benefit from these technological developments. Therefore, the standardization of the Cambodian language in computers will improve the efficiency and capability of this sector, and facilitate communication at all levels.

Finally, according to the above reasons, it is widely believed that information and communication technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country.

Mr George Christodoulakis

University of Patpas

Electrical and Computing Engineering

Greece

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Today the technological pace of society is rapidly progressing. It has advanced information and communication services in numerous ways, which play a major role in the development of a country's economic and social status.

Young people form an integral part of society. They have innovative ideas and dreams, a drive to make them a reality. Their affinity for technology is great; they are motivated to learn about new technologies and should have the opportunities provided to enable them to contribute to the betterment of their society.

If I were the Head of State in my country, I would ensure that young people play energetic roles in the community in which they reside. I would have constant conversations with them in order to seek out their ideas and proposals for doing new things.

To accomplish this I would organize universal youth forums. This would take place in specified locations where the young people could meet, interact and discuss topics of their interest. This could also be organized at a national level.

The government could finance companies to employ these individuals in an attempt to promote the uses, benefits and worth of technology. In addition, research projects in universities would be financed. Funding would be provided to university students to encourage them to excel in their studies. Furthermore, the establishment of an institution constituted of young people would provide information about the worth of using technologies.

It must be emphasized that young people are the future of today's society and as such should be given the opportunity to raise standards of living via the use of technological advancements.

Ms María Kristina Conti
University of the Philippines
Molecular Biology and Biotechnology
Philippines

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The Philippines is overpopulated with ideals and idealists, and the youth is accountable to much of great promise. The youth is a burgeoning workforce eager to utilize the sciences to realize national industrialization. Young people bank solidly on practical applications to improve social, political, economic and scientific theory culled from a disciplined culture of instruction. Openly, the Filipino youth is a dynamic receptor of innovations in communication technologies to bridge the widening gap between bodies in the era of globalization. They stay true, amidst the onslaught of technology, to the essence of nationhood, of family, of self.

All because embedded within the collective consciousness is the dignity of identity and the vision of expansion; it is as if the youth know much more than their elders on how to live, because Filipino youth dare to dream. Indeed, they know that the strong Republic must emphasize the rudiments of a civilization: education, art, livelihood, social services and that today this is being hollowly resounded by an intolerable State. It is in the spirit of discontent that young people, aware of the power of revolution, have ardently participated in two massive actions against anti-people leadership. It is their overwhelming enthusiasm – of the thinkers in the academe, of the citizens in communities, of the young revolutionaries in the mountains – that has largely shaped Philippine society.

Progress, if measured in potential, will no less than keep the Philippines ahead; but certain hindrances bog down the actualization of promises. We lose the test within our shores, buoyed by mentalities from the vortex of the past. Rather than unify our thoughts we start to strangle them, rather than communicate we try to dissociate. It is time that the youth actually realize more uniting alternatives, and comprehend the virtues of non-conformity and of social reformation. This is the challenge that faces the youth and the leaders of tomorrow. The truth – that the young will adapt the world according to the material conditions – is what Heads of State must swallow down. This truth and its natural progression is what the leaders of today must not impede, because the Filipino youth seek to serve.

Mr Carlos Felipe Córdoba Larrarte
Externado de Colombia
Gobierno y Relaciones Internacionales
Colombia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Colombia is a country with a population of 40 million, of whom almost 30% are young people, and half of these young people are aged between 17 and 25. Twenty per cent of these enter university, but only a few successfully complete their studies. Those who fail to complete their studies often do so for economic or personal reasons, often for lack of support for the discipline they have chosen.

In a world in which technology is evolving constantly, and relegation means being left behind not only economically but also politically and socially, measures concerning telecommunications should be on the agenda. As president of Colombia – at least for the purposes of this essay – I consider it necessary to implement policies to encourage young people to keep the country up to date, it being a country that needs to promote its skills in order to be able to compete with more industrialized countries.

For this purpose, it is essential to take into consideration the capacities of young people, be they of school age or those already embarked upon their respective university studies (in this sector, or so called traditional studies). Colleges should stimulate the creative talent and capacity for invention of their students, so as to identify the strengths and capacities of the young people at an early age and be able to generate seedbeds of talent encouraging children from a very young age to work in the disciplines of the future. It is necessary to stimulate on the part of young university students, or those soon to enter university, a love for disciplines that may not be considered traditional, and to enable them to understand that a good and capable professional who loves his or her work is better than one who remains tied to a given field of which he or she is not fully enamoured simply because the market is bigger in a developing country; if a born winner is discovered, he or she should be provided with the tools required to ensure that his or her dreams are not frustrated.

The educational credit policies should be made more accessible to the entire young population, who should all be guaranteed the capacity to complete their studies without the fear of having to drop them half way through because they cannot afford to pay matriculation. Furthermore, the universities should provide all their students with technological tools so as not to bar the way for creative people with different ways of seeing things. Areas of competition should be created in which everyone is capable of demonstrating their capacities, thereby generating healthy competition to encourage people to strive to improve themselves.

We, as the guarantors of our future, should undertake to raise knowledge and technology acquisition capacities for young Colombians, thereby ensuring significant progress not only in the economic but also in the social and cultural fields, as a nation that invests in youth and its education invests in the future.

Mr Constantin Cornea
University of the Republic of Moldova
Radioelectronics and Telecommunications
Moldova

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Nowadays, the major importance of informatics and communications in the economical and social development of every country is evident. That's why the governments of all countries of the world, and of Moldova too, pay major attention to the development and implementation of new and advanced technologies in communications. The fact that the youth is that group of society which can be easily impressed and attracted by the modern techniques and primordial importance in the economical and social development of a country. Some of these important domains are information, science and communications, as mentioned above.

We can tell that a State leader has to pay special attention to the youth, because this group of society can really contribute to the development of each country, especially through the development of informatics and communications. Firstly, it is necessary to support and to develop institutions of higher education where young, skilled specialists are prepared.

The private educational institutions (the number of which is four times more than the State ones) can't compete with the State ones, where highly-skilled professors with rich experience prepare good engineers.

The initiatives of a lot of students can be supported at a government level in diverse domains, which can contribute to the development of the educational institutions and of the country too. In these institutions, it is necessary to carry out scientific investigations that involve the majority of students in this activity. The youth, being strong and dynamic, are capable of promoting many courageous and fundamental ideas.

After graduation of studies, the youth, working in different organizations in the country, are able to make the atmosphere of activity more creative, to be a generator of ideas which can contribute to the economical and social development of the country. There is an adopted youth law in the Republic of Moldova, but nevertheless it is necessary that the government make this law work from all points of view, this way offering the youth the possibility to manifest itself in the most diverse domain with adequate contribution to the development of the country.

In actual conditions of the market economy, the youth, creating their own enterprises, can contribute substantially to restore the industry of the Republic of Moldova, which has declined during the last ten years. Therefore, the Head of State must support these enterprises by creating propitious conditions of activity and development.

Ms Bojana Corovic

Faculty of Electrical Engineering

Computer Science

Bosnia and Herzegovina

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information and communication technologies involve new discoveries and new ideas that appear almost every day. They are in constant growth. What gives perspective in finding new working places for young ambitious people in developing countries in which unemployment is a big problem.

In world of today, one can never say to know everything, especially in fields involving technology. Older generations are not open to new ideas and are afraid to learn more or change the way they work, although it is today considered to be old-fashioned. On the other hand, young people are willing to learn and follow new trends in technology in order to perform their job equally good as their colleagues all over the world. Therefore, every developing country should emphasize the importance of information and communication technologies in higher education, no matter what the field of specialization is. If young people can follow new technology trends and if their country invests enough in them, there is no need for them leaving their country and thus make wealthy developed Western countries, where they are not appreciated enough because of their background, even wealthier.

All developing countries have at least on common problem: young people are leaving their countries in search for better conditions of life and work. If I were Head of State in my country I would de everything I can to keep those young people in the country because in them lies the prosperity. We educate so many young brains but then we just give them away to developed, stronger countries who are willing to pay for their knowledge. Mostly they leave not only because there is a lack of work in their home countries but because their ideas are not appreciated. One of the ways to keep young people in the country is to increase the budget for higher education, along with promotion of scholarship programmes for the best students. The accent should be given on involving students in new trends in ICTs no matter what their field of study is, because ICTs are not connected only to engineering and related branches anymore – today they are in every pore of human life. After university, students should be given various opportunities for specialization, and modern and challenging workplaces to keep them in their home country.

In many countries, such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, old-fashioned technologies are only part of the problem. For countries destroyed by war, new technologies represent science fiction – something unknown and very far away from us. So, we'll need not only to renew technologies we're using now, but to start all over again by learning how to use new trendy ones.

Trends are changing so rapidly, and in order to develop, individuals, societies or countries must follow those trends. And that cannot be done by using old-fashioned ways and old technologies as generations before us have done and are still doing. In young people who can follow new technologies in all the fields lies our future and our development. It is true that the wisdom comes with age, but young, fresh, well-educated minds with new ideas can and will make a difference if they are given a chance.

Mr Juan Pablo Cosentino
Universidad de Belgrano
Electronics Engineering
Argentina

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

In accepting the proposed role, I would bear in mind that a young person is not only someone with potential, and would seek to guide young people towards a life based on values, the search for truth and the forging of sound individuals who are committed to their fellow human beings.

In young people are aspirations, the discovery of life and the opportunities, as well as the problems that arise, all of which tends to generate internal chaos. However, despite everything, there is one thing which must always be borne in mind, which is the fact of daring to be grown up. I would continually encourage young people to be a part of their society by contributing their own special skills and characters. I would bear in mind that each young person is in search of a dream, and would therefore invite each one to enlarge upon and renew his or her dream, and to go further, transforming and giving life to that dream. I would seek to give them all possible tools to enable them to make their dreams a reality.

It is young people who are most able to adapt to the advances being made in the field of information and communication technologies, on account of the benefits they can derive from them and of the fact that they are able to grow alongside the latest developments. It is therefore they who bear a major part of the task of seeking ways in which to use the new data storage and exchange systems in such a way as to contribute to the fostering of greater universal justice, greater respect for human rights, the healthy development of all individuals and peoples, and the freedoms that are so essential to a fully human life. Youth is the period during which each human life is personalized. I would make a special point of ensuring that they know, believe and trust in the fact that every individual was created for great things.

If we know how to channel the enthusiasm and joie de vivre of young people, how can we fail to overcome any obstacles that development puts in our way?

The body is not always willing, but the mind is. We must bear in mind that the fact of being young is not merely a function of age, but the readiness to live and work with the passion and enthusiasm that is characteristic of those who are young in age.

As for the adults, most of them nourish the hope that the new generation will have a better life than the one they and their predecessors have had. This implies, on the part of those who wonder whether they have really done all that was in their power for the common good, a desire for transcendence on the part of future generations.

On the basis of the foregoing, I repeat that I would foster education that provided human values and strengthened the virtues that each of us possess, thereby encouraging growth in the desire for transcendence, but without putting it off from generation to generation.

By working on these points we could break the chain of implications that are formed by individualism, relativism, permissiveness and conformity, all of which bind the individual to his or her own interest rather than to that of society as a whole.

I therefore consider socio-economic development to be forged in the same way as a young person forges his or her personality, being constructed from within, with clear objectives, effort, perseverance and patience.

The bridge that is offered to us by telecommunications therefore provides us with crucial assistance on the road to social (human) and economic development, although certain circumstances, that are known throughout the world, prevent much of the population from having access to those media which today carry a major part, if not all, of the body of human knowledge. I therefore consider it essential that young people as a whole should have access by right to those media (tools), such that each and every one of them can achieve their goals and objectives in a manner that is more consistent with the current status of technology and the speed at which it is advancing, thereby fulfilling their ethical duty of contributing to the development of the common good.

Mr Petru Danescu

University Politehnica Bucharest

IT Diplomat Engineer

Romania

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are rapidly consolidating global communication networks and international trade with implication for people in developing counties. Over time, it is expected that information and communication technologies will change the whole pattern of people's lives, as completely as broadcasting, telephony and high-speed transport did in the past. If the precedent of these past revolutions in communication is followed, the social and economic benefits will be disproportionately enjoyed by those who adopt them early on.

In my opinion access and connectivity to information and communication technologies are critical to the integration of developing and transition economy countries in the global knowledge society.

If I were Head of State in my country, I would offer the young people equitable access to the technology, especially in remote areas and marginalized communities (e.g. public access facilities in schools, libraries and community centres, both rural and urban, providing connectivity to the Internet with navigation at reasonable speeds and costs); meaningful use of the technology according to users' own needs and preferences, including acquiring, exchanging, producing and disseminating information and content. My idea is that the government must ensure that all of its actions to promote the use of ICTs and e-commerce are coherent and reduce rather than increase social exclusion. Individual departmental programmes to provide various ICT-based facilities should be presented to the public as a single, cohesive proposition which demonstrates the governments strong commitment to maximizing the national benefit from the information within individual neighbourhoods local marketing and outreach act ivies, using local mentors where possible should be implemented to encourage young people to take the first steps towards using ICTs.

The great majority of decisions related to information are taken today by a generation very often uneasy about the implication of ICTs. Vision and strategies are often woven across traditional lines that, albeit important to respect, do not always reflect the needs and aspiration of younger generations. For this reason, assistance in activities encompassing the support of ICTs in school curricula, the organization of corporate training and retooling of professionals, the extension of ICT training to remote areas is envisaged. Consider that the young people must be integrated in companies, State and international organizations and in the government and ministerial task.

It is time we agree on basic policy-making criteria and principles that will bring about an environment that enables the use of ICTs for development. It is time to reach an agreement on what we mean by connectivity. Connectivity means working together to find appropriate ICT solutions for society's many needs.

The executive heads commit themselves to work, individually and collectively, towards making the goal of universal access to information and communication technologies a reality.

Ms Anh Dao Hoang
Post and Telecommunications Institute of Technology
Business Administration
Viet Nam

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Let the young generation have a chance to identify themselves in information communications technology.

This is an age of information explosion at an ever higher speed in information communications technology (ICT) development. In this background, the increased information that needs processing outgrows capability of business. Now, information is an important and non-exhausted resource of each country. That's why it's said that "This time is an age of ICT". This composition also refers to the subject: ICT with the socio-economy development and the role of young generation in these sectors.

To make it clearer, let's look at the role and the contributions of it in socio-economy development.

First, in respect of social aspect, ICT is considered the government instruments to administer all the national postures. It plays an important role in national policies on communications, making party lines close to the people. It also serves directly and widely physical and spiritual lives of all social members. With ICT instruments, we can reduce the distance among people and save time for them. As far as we know, ICT is widely and deeply affected by globalization and liberalization processes. On the other hand, it also reacts these processes. These developments facilitate the international integration and trading activities, strengthening mutual understanding among countries all over the world.

Second, relating to economy, ICT belongs to national infrastructure. It makes the most essential conditions for all socially manufacturing fields. Besides, it makes great contributions in the increase of social productivity and GNP. Moreover, telecoms is also a high-profit business sector. According to the ITU report, the annual average contribution rate of telecoms services in GDP in each country has reached 1.5%, and if you invest $1 in the telecoms sector, you'll gain $3 in profit.

Because of the importance of ICT, due to its particularity (ICT bases on and applies the state-of-the-art technologies), if I were a head of state, I would allow the young generation to take up the important positions in this sector. The young generation is very active, creative and ambitious. They are qualified and thirsty for knowledge, so I think they are very suitable to these positions. To make it true, we have to work out the reasonable, practical and effective policies to attract young intellects to participate directly in these activities and give them easier access to high technologies. In addition, we have

to invest in infrastructure and training, making ICT close to young people, especially in the countryside. All the more, we should give price priority to students-the future owners of the country. If we can put these policies into practice, I did believe that the young generation will perform their tasks perfectly and we can be proud of them. It's the shortest way to make our country developed and narrow the gap between Vietnam and the others.

Briefly speaking, ICT is very important sectors with respect to the national economy, especially to the present background when the globalization and liberalization processes are very forceful. So right now, let them-the representatives of the young generation-have chances to identify themselves.

Mr Tom De Bruyne
University of Applied Sciences of Western Switzerland
Telecommunication
Switzerland

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

My country, Switzerland has already the basics of a state where people are using quite often ICTs.

We are losing our heavy industries, and the government tries to help them to survive. I personally think that this is the wrong aproach, we have to break up our old ideas, and let fresh ones in.

The future of our country are the small and young companies, with fresh ideas and a good flexibility. Those companies are the basis of the new economy. A lot of young people don't have the chance or the kick to make this true. Propably it is not the money, but the ambition and the courage to try and start up new things, that's missing. A lot of people, even young people in such a nice and rich country as Switzerland are being bored.

If I were head of the state, I would do investments in those young companies and in particular in their future employees.

This would start at school. Everybody should have access to ICTs and to the training to use it. The ICTs are like a new language, it is something helping us to communicate with other people, perhaps with someone on the other side of the earth, an exchange of information and ideas. The current available ICT tools are very powerful and easy to use. Everyone who wants to use it, should be able to use it. The international contacts and knowledge will give the young people, by knowing what is happening in other countries, more ambition and the self-confidence needed for taking the initiative for changes.

The world of today is no more longer splitted in countries. With ICTs we are close to each other and we can communicate borderless. ICT is one of the drivers of a positive way of globalisation.

As a consequence, one of the highest priorities is to guarantee the installation of and the education in the use of ICTs.

Also a lot of elder people who don't have a good knowledge of the current available ICTs, should be trained in such a way that they can share their enormous know-how with younger people all over the world.

Looking further into the future, it is also important to help the less developped countries to reach a similar level of ICTs as in my country. Investments in these countries ICTs, as a first important step forward allowing communication in an easy way, is a must. With ICTs, everybody can be very well and very fast informed about what is happening in the world. All people all over the world, are aware of what is going on and of what the possibilities of mankind are. This knowledge and experience will stimulate and motivate especially the younger generations, to become more active and to take the initiative to move things ahead.

As head of a country, my job should be:

to support investments in new technologies and in education-programs for young people to learn them the use of the provided ICTs.

I am convinced that the fast and easy contacts and communications, enabled by the ICTs, will stimulate unkown creativity and initiatives. Good ICTs are essential for an economic revival and for social development of a country.

Ms Patricia De Oliveira Freitas
Universidade de Brasilia
Electrical Engineering
Brazil

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

In the current world scene, the new electronic information and communication technology is expected to permit the redesign and transformation of the economic and social sectors of a country. Although each country is on its particular path of development, and different countries are at different stages of their respective developmental growth. Considering this, in a developing country like Brazil, the telecom system transformation process will take place during a long period.

The beginning of Brazil's telecom reform started at 1997, when the government decided to privatise the system, change from monopoly to competitive markets, and adopted the long-term market regulation. Under this model, the telecom operators must achieve consolidation in the market enabling an infrastructure improvement as well as essential communication networks and services expansion. Not least important, there should be application of the rule of law, market liberalisation, fair competition, an appropriate regulatory frame work, a satisfactory functioning financial sector; briefly, a good governance infrastructure.

It is undoubtedly a fact that the youth of today will be the consumers of tomorrow. With respect to young people, being head of state in Brazil implies a relevant effort to incentive the youth participation in public affairs. Firstly, government should facilitate the development of the e-economy by promoting diffusion of Information and Communication Technology. Therefore, working with business will build consumer confidence and trust in this new economy. Finally, by becoming e-government there is interactivity with young people. In other words, stimulating youth participation in national public consultations, where they may do suggestion or critic about rules of laws as they have new ideas and innovative visions.

Another point is to facilitate market innovation through support to fundamental research and to promote industry-science links. Moreover there must be mentioned the human capacity development, knowledge creation and sharing in order to enrich education and training. Besides, government must promote policies to better develop human resources and skills. To start with, the creation of an infrastructure in rural and low-income population areas through donations and partnerships between universities, companies, government and their citizens. Consequently, youth groups creating information schools that enables illiterate people to use computers, internet and its services; in a way which

those schools can become self-sufficient. As a result, the digital divide will be gradually reduced.

Furthermore, there is a need to stimulate entrepreneurship, firm creation and growth by improving connectivity, increasing access and lower costs and opening telecommunication markets to competition. After all, new entrants not only bring needed capital and skills but also stimulate the responsible for expanding service and increasing efficiency. Everything in accordance to a strong and independent regulator.

Surely a major effort is needed to revitalise education and increase capacity to absorb, adapt and develop scientific and technical knowledge in a developing country. At the same time, it is evident that the youth have a lot to contribute to the country's development because of his dynamism and critical eye as information and communications technologies (ICTs) are a driving force of the country's economic and social development.

Mr Fernando Del Carpio Marek

Universidad Mayor de San Andrés

Matematicas

Bolivia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

If I were President of my country, I would set young people the task of obtaining the best possible training in the profession or activity of their choice.

Young people make up the largest percentage of the population of my country and we are the country of tomorrow. It is sad, therefore, to see young people who are frustrated, with no future and with no place to express their ideas, concerns and creative capacity. We young people feel that we are without a country, that we have no country that considers our concerns.

Bolivia, whose economy is based on the export of raw materials, is in the difficult position of having to import products and technologies at the prices imposed by the developed countries, resulting in a cycle of poverty. In today's globalized world, to break this cycle of poverty, the country has to attain scientific and technological independence and form a society based on knowledge.

This is why I would develop education policies enabling every young person to discover his or her true vocation and develop it as best as possible, with special attention being paid to the scientific and technological fields.

The ability to create new knowledge by scientific means is today one of the most precious assets of every nation. Information and communication technologies in particular play a fundamental role in the development of a country. Think, for example, of the minute size of the central processing unit in personal computers. That unit is made up for the most part of the most commonplace and inexpensive materials on the planet: silicon and copper. Its great value lies in the amount of scientific and technological knowledge that has gone into producing today's amazing microcomputers. That is in itself a remarkable fact, since only a little over 50 years ago the machine that performed a tiny fraction of the digital operations handled by microchips occupied an area of 100 $m^2$, and a similar comparison can be made of the time required to carry out those operations.

Information and communication technologies save us time and money in almost every activity we perform. They have also become a powerful tool for education. This is where those technologies, together with the capacity to develop them, become fundamental to the development of a country. We young people can play a vital role in this respect. We have been surrounded by these new technologies practically since birth and become

familiar with them rapidly. Many young people become avid Internet users if they are given access to it and provided with adequate training.

However, those technologies do not provide any benefit to a country if it is difficult to have access to them. In order to ensure their dissemination and spread their benefits, I consider it very important to train young people in their use and development.

Ms Dulanjalie Dhanapala
University of Peradeniya - Faculty of Engineering
Electrical and Electronic Engineering
Sri Lanka

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Prompt communication is a vital factor towards the development of any area in an economy of a country. It will save time, which means money for the economy.

The young generation is the hub of activities of an economy. Sri Lanka is an underdeveloped country affected by a continuous civil war with the Tamil movement, by the name of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam, who have been fighting for a separate State in the northern part of the island over the past 20 years.

In the year 2001 the economic growth of the country was –1.5%. As a result of the ongoing peace negotiations in the year 2002, the country has shown an economic growth of 3%, according to Central Bank reports.

The objective of the roadmap is to take information and communication technology to every village citizen and business, and also to transform the way the government works. ICT will be used to develop Sri Lanka's economy, alleviate poverty and improve the quality of life and opportunities for all citizens.

Sri Lanka would ensure that ICT would be a mainstay of the country's economy in the next decade. Today, our country is facing two challenges: one is to end the civil war and work for peace, and the other to create a vibrant economy and a prosperous future. Therefore, to achieve rapid economic growth we need to effectively harness the benefits of ICT. To achieve this vision there will be a five-point strategy, which comprises:

- building implementation capacity;
- building national information infrastructure and enabling environment;
- developing ICT human resources;
- e-government;
- using ICT as a key lever for economic and social development.

If I am the Head of State, my government will appoint a separate Ministry with a Task Force comprising of the young generation of the country to march forward towards this vision. The participation of the youth will contribution to a higher output at a time in which we are with a struggling economy.

The progress will be concurrent and integrated. The foundation of the strategy is to get our house in order by building implementation capacity, delivering citizen services through e-government, developing ICT human resources, building national information infrastructure and enabling environment, which includes creating an ICT agency to implement the roadmap. Therefore, the vision for an e-Sri Lanka is to harness ICT as a lever for economic social development, not only at the urban level but also linking rural areas.

It is essential to build a national information infrastructure. This action plan would enable the provision of affordable telecommunication services and would address rural connectivity, develop the backbone fast-track cyber laws for e-commerce, e-business and e-government, and develop ICT parks and stimulate demands for software activities.

Delivering citizen services through e-government would be achieved through detailing priority e-government needs, identifying and prioritizing financing, and contracting out development of the e-government applications, addressing the communication and connectivity needs of the government and easing regulations concerning procurement practices of the government.

This social standard is the mirror of the economy of any country. When the economy is growing rapidly, the living standards of every citizen in all respects also will be improved parallel to economic growth. The national youth will make this contribution in the most effective manner.

Mr Héctor Daniel Díaz García

Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México

Ingeniería en telemática

Mexico

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

## Mexico: country of the young

In the modern age, information and communication technologies play a vitally important role in any country's economic and social development. Timely access to the right kind of information can mean the difference between success and failure.

Mexico, like many countries of Latin America and elsewhere, continues to search for mechanisms that will enable it to minimize its levels of poverty and marginalization and secure an acceptable quality of life for its citizens.

If I were the representative of the executive branch of the Mexican Government, one of the first things I would set about doing would be to put an end to the centralization of government and resources which has led to the unequal growth of the country's different regions. One by-product of this centralization has been a serious shortcoming in terms of access to information – a shortcoming which, more than any other, represents an obstacle to that element which is conducive to the development of any society, namely the pursuit of opportunities.

Mexico is a country of young people who are increasingly committed to the development of their society. Today's young people will be the force that will guide the Mexico of tomorrow towards a fully competitive global environment that is even more all-embracing than the one we have today. This being the case, the part played by young people in a national blueprint that focuses on the equitable development of their society is of crucial importance.

If these objectives are to be achieved, young people must be active participants in this process. First and foremost, they must be given access to the tools that are necessary for their successful development within a society that is increasingly demanding of its members, those tools being the culture and scientific knowledge acquired through education.

Once these tools have been acquired, it is necessary to foster in young people a genuine awareness of the country's most pressing needs and of the ways in which they might be met. It goes without saying that this will call for a comprehensive educational plan that enables young people to access the various educational systems, with particular emphasis on the science and technology aspects which allow in part for the development of the

information and communication technologies which are of tremendous significance to a country's comprehensive development.

It is for all of these reasons that the role of young people in this national blueprint has everything to do with the care that is taken in their training to become model citizens who can easily adapt to change, and who, when the time comes for them to bring their various fields of knowledge into the working environment, will act as a coordinated whole with their sights set on a single objective: a better Mexico.

Miss Norma Díaz Luján

Escuela Superior de Telecomunicaciones

Ingeniería de Telecomunicaciones

Peru

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Peru is made up of a variety of regions and of communities located in both urban and rural areas, the latter having little or nothing in the way of healthcare, educational or basic services. Where they exist, these services tend to be inadequate and lacking in resources and to be lagging behind on both the technical and material levels. The daily work of the inhabitants of such regions revolves around livestock and agriculture, with methods handed down by their forefathers or that are not properly used on account of ignorance. There are also numerous areas of interest to the tourist but which it is difficult to publicize in the urban areas of Peru.

It is a well known fact that the Internet is a means of mass communication which allows for the dissemination and updating of knowledge, in which the information needed for development is dispersed, little known about or unexploited. It should be noted that, through the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), it is possible to maintain a presence at the global level, and that this represents a great opportunity for disseminating and/or receiving information pertaining to the above-mentioned rural population sectors.

However, the introduction and sustainability of ICTs in the spheres of agriculture, livestock?breeding, healthcare, tourism and education in remote areas of the country calls for the presence of qualified technical staff, who in turn require specialized training in ICTs. Unfortunately, our country has only a limited number of centres specializing in those technologies.

From my own personal point of view within the Government, I believe the right approach is to integrate young people into this drive for economic and social development through government support for the creation or specialization in ICTs of advanced study centres, and to maintain constant supervision over the training quality and requirements. Support should also be given to the availability of arrangements with private and State companies for the development of tasks and projects aimed at generating solutions to the current problems and shortcomings, such as:

- The use by government of human development indicators which take account of, among other factors, the degree of culture or level of knowledge within society, since the new generations and new paradigms of the third millennium will be based on the use of knowledge.
- Involving young people specialized in ICTs in rural training activities.

- Carrying out a prospective study at the national level, with the participation of young people specialized in ICTs, aimed at drawing up an inventory of the requirements for specific needs in the different rural areas of the country.
- Promoting the participation of young people specialized in ICTs in the deployment of a national communication network designed to integrate the information services provided from and to the different rural areas of the country. Provision should be made for the participation of those young people in the sustainability of the network and associated services.
- Promoting the participation of young people specialized in ICTs in the development of various types of information content suitable for application in the aforementioned areas.

Mr Anatoliy Dimitrov
University for National and World Economy
International Economic Relations
Bulgaria

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information and Communication Technologies have changed the world for the last decades. In these changes it is hard to say whether the young generation has been the product of the changes or the power that has led them. In any case, the two factors are in close relation and together determine the potential for the economic and social development of a country.

So if it was my duty to determine what role should young people play in my country's development in this branch I would have chosen for them the leading one. Young people interested in ICTs have to be encouraged and able to specialize further. Huge investments would enhance the education. In addition students should have opportunities to apply their skills in reality. And at last ICTs have to be defined as a priority branch of the economy.

Nowadays young people are tempted by the promising image of ICTs. I would engage all interested in public activities and forums where they can exchange ideas and discuss certain problems. On one hand this will give them new useful information, show them directions to follow and also help them realize concrete advantages and opportunities. On the other hand, the results of these discussions can be helpful for market researches and studies so many organizations and companies would be interested to contribute to such happenings.

I would also outline the education as a very important factor for the development of ICTs and therefore for the development of the country. The government has to afford prosperity for the high education. In the best case the education will be easily affordable for everyone interested but the emphasis has to be laid on the quality of education. The additional money needed for this purpose can be supplied by the government, international organizations and funds or big companies who are interested in this sort of investment or the State should guarantee student long-term/low interest loans. It is also important universities be able to attract foreign specialists and exchange students in order to follow closer world tendencies in ICTs.

After students have achieved certain skills they should have the chance to practice so they can acquire integrated qualification. The proper institutions should offer them part-time jobs and help them make their way in this field. This will also accelerate the return of the investments made for the education and supply highly qualified personnel for the developing industry.

Ms Nomfundo Dlamini
University of Swaziland
Electronic Engineering
Swaziland

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) refer to advanced methods of organizing, collecting and disseminating information, for example through the Internet, telephone networks, television and radio. Genuinely these advanced methods are currently indispensable in the social, economic and educational development of a country. Therefore if I were the Head of State, I would develop strategies to see to it that the youth plays a role in making this a reality.

One of the strategies in a bid to involve the youth in development would be to ensure that a policy is adopted to persuade ministries in our Government to involve the youth in projects pertaining ICT during school vacation. Since ministries are places where ICT is advanced, the youth would enhance their ICT skills at a practical level and this would prepare them for employment when they finish school.

In addition, if I were Head of State, I would introduce computer education in the school curriculum. This would introduce computer literacy to young learners and prepare them for further computer applications as they proceed with school. Thus students would keep track of new developments, which they would share with each other.

Furthermore, the private sector would be mobilized to assist in taking the youth to do internships in ICT-related work. This would give these young people the necessary exposure and enhance their ICT skills. They would also get the opportunity to familiarize themselves with new developments in ICT in different areas. In this way, companies could provide better services, bring about economic growth and in turn provide resources for the nation to invest in social services, alleviate poverty and create employment.

Another strategy would be to create a trust fund which would give at least two awards a year to students to train in any ICT field. The students should be those who lack funds to further their studies in higher institutions of learning because of either poverty or being orphaned by the aids epidemic. The policy of the fund would require that those who benefit from it should work in the country for three years to contribute to the economic welfare of the country.

Moreover, ICT empowered young people could be encouraged to volunteer their ICT services in community centres to disseminate information on aids and hygiene to the people in the rural areas.

Another strategy would be to offer low interest loans to young ICT entrepreneurs which they would pay back later. This would make young people set a trend for others to be self-employed and thereby create more jobs.

In conclusions, it is indisputable that ICT is the road to a brighter future. Availability of new technologies leads to economic growth through job creation, thus socially developing a country by alleviating poverty and bringing better health services. Really, as a nation, if we do not capitalize on the young minds, we would stunt our future social and economic growth. Given a chance young people could take the country to greater heights, socially and economically. After all, young people are the future.

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Cape Verde

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

While communication in general has been seen in the past as one of the most important tools for development, today the concept has been changed by the transformations undergone by the world. From a dispersed world, we have moved on to achieve a degree of proximity that has brought about globalization.

It is impossible to ignore the fact that this process of unifying the world through the development of communication contributes to accelerating the social and economic development of humanity.

Major investment, culture (books, internet, video) could not be profitable, socially responsible and pervasive to such a degree without advanced communication technology such as we have today.

It is only natural that young people, who have the most passionate interest in new information and communication technologies, take pleasure in acquiring knowledge completely autonomously, via the internet for example. This is knowledge which they can use for the development of their country.

Thus, in thinking about the question that has been set, I would confidently promote major investment in information and communication technologies, to facilitate not only the governance of my country and the functioning of public institutions, but also, most importantly, young people's education. This would have the added benefit of allowing those who already possess an education to work in their laboratories on research that will further increase the knowledge they have gained and make it more effective for the good of the country.

Among the options for investment there could be a network for distance learning, using ICTs to train young people who do not have access to study grants. Another would be to develop a genuine ICT culture within civil society by setting up cybercafés, and by introducing courses in internet and computer science, for example, as part of the school programme.

Miss Parfaite Larissa Dossou

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Commerce

Benin

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

## Development

The development factors relating to technical progress vary from one country to another. Changes in them have resulted in the emergence of information and communication technologies, which have become indispensable tools for human, economic, social and cultural development.

Those technologies have come at the right time to ease the concerns of third world countries that have adopted a microeconomic and global vision. That vision includes a human dimension and integrates the economy and the environment, natural and cultural aspects.

Those technologies are becoming the source of knowledge on which Benin is counting to enhance its agricultural, tourist and human resources.

They will serve as a lever to promote development and make Benin a fulfilled and open information society in which solidarity reigns. That goal will be met if account is taken of the following essential points:

– an institutional policy guaranteeing a regulatory and legislative environment;
– a basic infrastructure development policy;
– a human resources development policy;
– a sector application development policy;
– a policy of regional and international cooperation.

The following steps will therefore have to be taken:

– ensure the sector is attractive for private investment;
– promote and reinforce the infrastructure for communication, for the supply of energy and for all other useful networks;
– cover all levels of instruction, which implies a thorough overhaul of school and university programmes concerning all occupations;
– use those technologies in productive sectors to enable them to create wealth for the nation;
– establish bilateral and multilateral cooperation by means of selected partnerships.

In this respect, knowledge lies at the heart of a system of production and valorization that is greatly enhanced by the development of those technologies. Information has today become a raw material and a consumer good within the framework of the development of works that are useful and adapted to reality. Those technologies have to become second nature to young people.

To that end, greater efforts must be made to promote education, culture and access to information, which will allow individuals to develop their ability to assess things objectively, their knowledge and their skills throughout their lives.

The main objective is to enable everyone to have access to knowledge and information and to be able to analyse, sort and freely use that knowledge and information.

Such individual and intellectual fulfilment implies a gradual change in world views, awakens creativity, and stimulates research and application activities by contributing to an increase in gross national product.

Society can thereby overcome the obstacles standing in the way of its steady growth and start to develop by changing attitudes, customs, living conditions and time management.

Lastly, the investments made by the public authorities in ongoing research lead to change in public action and individual behaviour.

Mr Maris Dubinskis

Riga Technical University

Law

Latvia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

In the beginning of this essay I would like to notice that the youth are not only our future, but also our present.

The political and historical situation in Baltic States, as well as in my represented country, Latvia, has changed in the way that we feel deficiency of qualified employees and corresponding language skills (instead of Russian language we need English).

In a few latest years of independence, Latvia has proved that a lot of public officials of the last generation are not suitable for the State administration, because they do not have adequate knowledge and new approach.

Our youth has taken advantage of this situation. In the last year we can see that the young people play an important role in the State administration and therefore contribute the economic and social development of a country.

And so that we have a popular expression: The students govern Latvia, and really that the greatest part of public officials are students. It is not worse, because we this young generation with new education, as well as the young people could acquire new information and technologies in a very short time, and the most active users of new technologies, despite the obstacle that we do not have enough money and financing.

In the same way the young people assimilate the news most of all, they perfect their knowledge and study languages abroad. The young people who do not leave possibility to use new technologies and whole information which had the young people abroad, because of the political situation in Latvia before the 1990s take all possibilities and use this knowledge in double right now.

And in the present the young people understand the situation. They are well educated, they are able to do everything that can provide the utilization of new technologies and communication in our society. Still the situation is not so good as can realize from the above-mentioned – the main problem in administration is instability and inconsistency of the staff. The young people use work in the public service as the first job, as a take-off for the following work experience, usually in private business. The explanation is simple – the job in the public service is worse payed and therefore not so prestige.

In my opinion, considering the above-mentioned, for me as Head of State the main thing would be to make the administration system which not only can give the possibility to

start the career, but also could be capable to involve and to hold the best careers. Latvia needs educated people and the State administration is the first place where the most talented and capable young people could prove themselves and would give the benefit to the economic and social development of the country. I would like to make the system which could provide stability for the public officials. It could be safe stability for the political as well for the economical changes.

The young specialists had a lot of knowledge of ICTs and those skills we can unite wish the experience of older colleagues and undoubted it could give a lot for our country.

It could be a chain reaction – young people who have felt benefits and scarities of our education system in the recent past could better recognize and show the weaknesses. The older specialist and experts have knowledge of how to manage the process in the best way and how to achieve the best result.

So the symbiosis of the new and the competent could influence the administration efficiently.

I would like to resume that my priority would be to hold and involve the best specialists in the public service.

Mr Milos Dzajic
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Communications
Bosnia and Herzegovina

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Bright future of our country is in its young people. The Government should pay more attention to the education of youngsters, especially those studying at the universities for communication and information technology, for the future is in such fields.

There is a process of globalization of the modern world, which has become a global village. The technology has made a big step forward in the last decade. There is a great demand for the information and communication technology engineers. A great number of innovations is being patented every day, so there is a need for cooperation with the whole world to keep the pace of modern technologies.

Young people should be offered a high quality education and an opportunity of using their knowledge in their own country. Educational system reform should be undertaken to allow university students to choose the subjects they want to take.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has a problem of highly qualified young people leaving to live in Western countries. The society as a whole is being destroyed by this act. The future of our country is in educating young people, and keeping them in Bosnia and Herzegovina, thus attracting the foreign investors, which would help the prosperity of the society on the whole.

It is a fact that youngsters are much more adaptable to new technologies. Therefore, they should be given the prominent positions that would allow them to create their own future.

There is a problem in protection of high technology copyrights in our country. It is estimated that over 90% of software packages in Bosnia and Herzegovina was bought illegally. That is one of the reasons why foreign companies do not want to invest in our country. The Government should create a certain commission that would employ young and qualified people to solve the problem of piracy. This will not be an easy task but it would be the only way leading our country to the European integration. If we start solving that problem, we can expect understanding and help from companies all over the world that produce software.

High technology should be a part of the Government's strategy for the development of the country. Technical university centres should be opened for scientific research, where the most advanced young experts would be employed. Such centres should closely cooperate

with different sectors of industry. This would enable young people to carry out scientific research that could and would be practically applied in these industries and in different institutions.

For inventive, high quality development programmes we would get the support and help of the international community and non-governmental organizations.

It goes without saying that in contemporary scientific research there is no racial, national or religious discrimination. The only criteria should be hard work and expertise. Only such societies can advance and progress towards better future, where new information and communication technologies are leading the way.

Brighter future will not come itself. Young people will have to fight for it. We create our own future and it is time we took that responsibility and lead an active role in our society.

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Iran (Islamic Republic of)

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

We are all aware that information technology has become a potent force in transforming social, economical and political life globally. There is little chance for countries or regions to develop without their incorporation into the information age. More and more, development strategists see the need for developing countries to embrace information technology both as a way to avoid further economic and social marginalization as well as to offer opportunities for both growth and diversification of their economies.

The period 1995-1996 witnessed an explosive growth of networking services within the private sector. Iran officially launched linking 100 000 nodes nationally. It had given rise to more competitiveness within the budding Iranian information industry. There are now twenty independent national and regional networks with nearly 15 000 users.

I, as Head of State in my country, would have young people:

1) investigate the mode of incorporating computer equipment into information services;
2) design and implement standard automated system for information services in Iran;
3) investigate into the nature of using regional and international scientific information network and utilize international data communication lines in compliance with international protocols;
4) investigate and research into improving programming languages and match them against information needs;
5) investigate and research on establishing regional networks based on the accords reached by the Iranian Government and other countries in the region;
6) cooperate with information systems management research group with respect to the creation and updating of the Iranian scientific information network;
7) designate training courses in Terminology and Linguistics;
8) investigate into national issues, and collect information for presentation to the academic and research sectors working towards solutions;
9) investigate into scientific information classification towards better analysis;

10) identify and study of Iranian research and academic decision-making centres and their information needs assessment;

11) assess information needs of Iranian researchers and research projects;

12) analyse scientific information and prepare information summaries tailored to the needs of academic/research decision-makers;

13) cooperate with information system management towards establishment and updating of Scientific Information Network;

14) begin plans for implementation of an Academic Network, similar to Euclid and Janet.

Ms Eman El Aradi
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Mechanical Engineering
Bahrain

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Many are those who aspire for high posts, but could everybody achieve much when they reach there?

There are many ways for a community to reach its utmost goals. In the past the process would have taken decades, but with today's technological achievements it would require much shorter time. I am being asked: "What would you do for the future generation to advance their economic and social development?"

My answer is: I would focus on education which is the basis for the progress of any developed nation. Through education the road to the top would be possible, and through education a nation can raise its generations on strong moral principles. Education is the most direct way for investment in the young to develop their capabilities and their skills. It is the way to success and prosperity.

Technology is today's language. I could use it for the betterment of my society. Technology touches on all fields, and can be used by all for the benefit of all. It may not be easy for everybody to acquire technology, but learning to use of technology is within everybody's reach. One can learn through the internet, joining the best colleges from home. Technology enables the government to offer more fellowships in universities abroad without increasing its expenditure, thus building its own sound cadres of qualified personnel. The local colleges can also benefit from the new technology, using their internal networks. For example, they could add more chat rooms on their internet sites to increase student-student and student-professors' interaction. At Bahrain University, the two campuses could be connected through networks for easy interface. Networking of libraries also facilitates research work and allows researchers to reach the information they seek without having to go through individual libraries.

Networking in business would enable employees to work from home without having to physically go to their work every business day, thus giving them time to study and improve their skills.

It is also very important to avail from the benefits of technology in the primary education, which is the foundation of the whole development process. Students should be taught computer technology at an early stage and use it in research work and accessing the information that enrich the learning process. Through the internet, they can familiarize

themselves with the latest developments in any area of their interest without leaving their classrooms.

In Bahrain, where the whole economy is dependent on oil, ITC plays an important role in all phases of the industry. For example, software programmes, such as blacktooth and path finder are widely used in the exploration and communication operations.

There are certainly many other fields where new technologies can be used to serve the country as a whole and its youth in particular, but these are some of the areas where I would be aggressively involved. At the same time it would be important to listen to the views of the youth themselves and to work with them to achieve their vision.

This is a synopsis of what I would do. I would certainly benefit from technological advances in developing new ideas and to serve my country. The question, however, is how much can be achieved if I were to be put in the driver's seat?

Mr Mohamed El Galhud
Elfateh University Tripoli

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

If I were a Head of State in my country, I will carry out and hope the young people doing the following:

- governments must provide and supply all means of communication, especially Internet;
- supply for each student by Internet in homes at a cheap cost;
- trying to increase and improve the speed of connection;
- planning to teach the school student the benefit of information and communication technologies;
- teaching students the courses and programming languages that help them with deal with the Internet;
- supply the textbooks and lectures on Internet sites to permit young people to get information easily;
- facilitating the registration of students in universities and institutes;
- facilitating registration of courses, preferably using the Internet to achieve it;
- most setting information about grades, courses, ..., on site on the Internet to make it easier to receive information or each student;
- taking qualified and interested students from universities and utilizing them in developing communications, economy nd social fields;
- we can use communication technologies to connect and network universities together to exchange information;
- encouragement of students in universities and institutes to present researches, papers and studies about ICTs;
- erecting and establishing session conferences and discussions between students of different universities;
- create conferences with other countries for utilization and development of communication and information technologies and how to use ICTs in development of countries;

- attempt utilizing ICTs in economic and social fields such as:
  - rial using Internet in trade (buying and selling);
  - using TV Internet for propaganda for projects and applications that contribute to the development of countries;
- supply communication channels by educational programmes that will be useful in social fields;
- ability using Internet, TV, etc., for advertising such (about tourist places and supply all information about the places to attract the tourist to the country). This is improve economic field;
- supply (TV, Internet, ...) by programmes that take and present social problems and its solutions to develop countries in the social field;
- to develop economic and social fields, we must develop means of communications because it has an important part in developing the economy;
- must develop the university laboratories and supply them with the optimum devices, components, kits and computers, and upgrade these laboratories periodically and supply all laboratories by Internet;
- making the university students take projects for graduation about utilizing information and communication technologies in developing the economic and social fields.

Mr Manar El-Chammas
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Computer and Communications Engineering
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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

We are at the dawn of a new era. The world is becoming smaller due to the digital revolution currently unfolding in many countries, where the exchange of ideas, knowledge and technologies can be achieved with the press of a button. Information and Communication Technologies have the potential of benefiting the world by bridging people of different races and classes, and this potential can be actualized if it is both understood an embraced.

As Head of State, my aim would be to enhance my country's social and economic status, and I must seek different channels, for example ICT, that would enable me to accomplish such a goal. This enhancement should involve the youth of today; they are the leaders of tomorrow and the future of this land lies in their hands. For this reason, they must comprehend the process of social and economic development, and the impact that ICTs may have on advancement.

Education and awareness are imperative for the youth to develop a deep understanding of social and economic welfare, of how certain decisions can directly affect the lives of many, and of how ICTs can be used to enhance the standard of living. A moral instinct and an ethical consideration for others must also be cultivated so that every step taken by the youth is one of benefit.

Youth, with its fresh outlook on life, has a critical mind and always strives to improve the status quo. Conferences, forums, debates, and lectures in which the youth have an opportunity to share ideas and concerns, and to address social and economic problems should be encouraged. ICTs can aid such interaction, locally and globally, by providing an ease of communication. Furthermore, with funding and opportunities provided by the government, non?governmental organizations, and private sponsorships, the youth will not only have the incentive, but also the means to help and develop the country.

By simply asking what they can do for their country, instead of what their country can do for them, the youth of today have the power to shape the future. By being able to share ideas through communication systems, by increasing their knowledge through information technologies, and by simply being able to voice their opinion to the people of their country, the youth of today can aid the development of our country. The role of ICT is indisputable.

Mr Ilias El-Hazoui
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Ingénieurie Générale
Morocco

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Today, information and communication technologies (ICTs) are considered as two of the major determinants of economic and social development of any country, as well as two of the principal causes of the increasing gap between the North and the South.

As a head of State of a developing country, Morocco, I am concerned with its development, and I believe that it can be a developed country since it has one of the important resources, manpower. The latter is the basic component for any development. For this to be a reality, I should adopt a long-term vision and establish a clear strategy, where young people should be given a fundamental role. The future of the country depends on young people, and they are a reservoir of energy, creativity and imagination.

In order for young people to contribute significantly to the development, a brainstorming club should be established to generate as many ideas as possible. It will be a place where ideas will be communicated and shared between members. Moreover, membership will be free so as to encourage participation as a source of empowerment, while financing will be from the State and sponsors.

The objective of this club is to come out with real projects, and to establish the culture of teamwork among young people to have them play the role of complementary leadership. Besides, expanding the margin of freedom is necessary for young people to stimulate their creative ability, while they will assume their responsibilities and be aware that this freedom is given as an opportunity to show their capacities. Another point is that young people must make greater commitment and become more involved in research, particularly in respect to new information and communication technologies, and build methods for the conception and actual implementation of these technologies. Of course, I as a policy maker, should allocate an important budget for research and development (R&D) in order to establish the required infrastructure for doing research in this field.

To conclude, young people should exploit ICTs for the benefit of their country, and should look for information in any place in this global village. At the end, I will refer to the famous remark of Gregory Batson about information in which he says that, it is the difference which makes the difference.

Ms Leocadia Eyang Nguema

Universidad Nacional de Guinea Ecuatorial (UNGE)

Administracion Publica

Equatorial Guinea

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

If I were the Head of State in Equatorial Guinea, and in the knowledge that my country is among those whose communication sector remains underdeveloped in terms, for example, of the Internet and the availability of telephony in the interior, I would begin by fostering the education of young people by creating technical schools to enable them to broaden or further develop their knowledge and, of course, to give them the opportunity to pursue university studies, both in this country and abroad, in order to become specialists in the field of communication. The purpose of this would be to enable young people to receive the necessary training to be able to design and implement or realize projects that would contribute to the country's social and economic development without the need to bring in foreign technicians, since the country would already have its own native experts.

For if we invest our economic resources in the acquisition of large and sophisticated items of machinery to boost the country's development, if we initiate relations with other countries with a view to attracting major companies to the country, and if our young people are not suitably prepared and the country itself does not have people with the necessary training to realize such projects, it can be said that there would be no sense in training young people in the first place.

And under such conditions, the sole function of the foreign technicians would be to provide us with assistance and not familiarize us with their work, since it would never have occurred to us to prepare or train our own people.

And, being a woman, I would be delighted if women could be trained to the same level as men and were thus able to perform a function within the sector, since African women, and particularly Guinean women, have always been left behind where development or training is concerned.

Miss Jasmín Fabre Jiménez
Universidad Iberoamericana (UNIBE)
Derecho
Dominican Rep.

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The world in which we are now living is characterized by rapid change. Changes in the way in which we live, work and enjoy ourselves, and in general in the way in which we relate to others.

The new society is clearly based on information and on the knowledge that this generates, all of which has modified our notions of time and space, production and distribution systems and all of the productive relations with which we are familiar.

These major changes are for the most part generated by the interaction of three factors: economic globalization, the new information and communication technologies (ICTs) and the new online social organizations.

If we are not part of these changes or are slow in taking them up, and if we do not have access to the new technologies, to the Internet and to the information it conveys, we will find ourselves condemned, whether we like it or not, to situations of inequality and social exclusion. In short, we will become technology exiles.

What, then, would be my strategy for giving young people an active part to play in the development of the Dominican Republic?

Bearing in mind the points made above, I would pursue a policy of youth development with the aim of ensuring equal opportunities for all, drawing on the great capacity for social transformation that characterizes young people and which, when coupled with our creativity, enables any society to advance.

It is young people who are most at ease in learning to use the new technologies and in adapting them to their daily activities, and it is by taking advantage of this that we will be able to increase our productive capacity and broaden the range of available opportunities, thereby helping to further the country's development. For development means not only economic growth, but also a better quality of life, more education, more healthcare, etc., all of these being indicators that we can improve through the effective use of ICTs.

This policy of youth development would essentially consist in the creation of technology centres in which young people would have assured access to information on the basis of equality. I would make it a priority to introduce policies designed to facilitate the transition to the new global society.

In the interests of ensuring the proper functioning of these centres, I would make local authorities (town councils and provincial governments) directly responsible for the drawing up and application of these policies, since their proximity to the young people in the geographical area under their administration makes them the best judge of their interests and needs.

Notwithstanding any differences that might exist between the different localities, the basic functions of these centres would be to:

- Disseminate ICTs among young people.
- Ensure and facilitate access to ICTs for all young people.
- Train young people in the use of these technologies.
- Foster the participation of young people in the new media.
- Use ICTs as new channels of information for young people.

In conclusion, education and guaranteed access are key prerequisites to being able to exploit the benefits provided by ICTs, it being precisely this that I would endeavour to make available to all young people on an equal basis.

Mr Girma Fanta Adane
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Ethiopia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are goods and services in themselves, and provide revenue for a nation. ICTs are messengers of change. Some of the advantages of ICTs are that they give a better information flow, more continuing and immediate contact among scientists of like interests, more opportunity for domination by a small number of local participants, bridging some language barriers, as it is generally easier for people to deal in the written form of unfamiliar languages, the creation of an ongoing permanent record of discussions. Some reduction in the need for travel, opportunities for professional development, and the development of a global network for scientists with a common interest.

Moreover, ICTs can be used to make more information available to more people, enable people to form groups/communities of interest, allow people and groups to cooperate and coordinate rapidly, and enable people and groups to access/influence broader options. Citizens of a country who are connected and informed through the use of ICTs can work to create new organizations, develop new partnerships, impact policy development, change approaches, create awareness of development and improve understanding and levels of knowledge in a myriad of areas. ICTs have an influence on people for information products or services, unlike physical products, and can be immune to national borders and taxes – business can be conducted outside current governance structures, centres of expertise and knowledge can negotiate and trade with similar units globally, often without regard for national borders, and financial markets are global and currencies are national, but increasingly beyond governments' abilities to manage. Actions are carried out physically in territories/nations yet the agenda and contest may be set globally beyond the control of national States, and roles and responsibilities are uniform in the global village.

To conclude my essay, it has to be noted that without people, without their ideas, thinking capacity and will, ICTs are ineffective. It is the human dimension that brings them to lead through dialogue, learning, insight, research, inquiry, creativity, expertise, analysis, interpretation, translation and experience.

If I were Head of a State of my country, first of all I would have an ICT policy and allocate enough budgets for the implementation of ICTs for schools, universities and communities. Beside, I would have the young people to play a vital role in making ICTs contribute to the economic and social development of my country. Therefore, the young people should make awareness on the use of ICTs in their schools and communities, should give lessons on ICTs to villagers, should produce their own homemade software for community use, be agents of change in the society, economy and culture of our country, create their own ICTs group or club in their locality and make ICTs the backbone of the economy of my country, like that of Japan, China, Korea and Singapore.

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Electronic and Telecommunication
Sri Lanka

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

There is a big explosion in ICT all over the world. So we have to face it as a country. There technologies have been expanded to all human related area.

Information is useful facts, which need for day-to-day life. Information Communication deals with transmission of signal in a reliable and efficient manner from one place to another place timely. There are so many types that information of data can be represented. We can mainly identify three categories, which are voice information, non-voice information and combination of above types that means "multimedia" (data, voice, video) issues.

As examples for voice information transferring: phone calls, radio broadcasting etc. www browsing and e-mail are non-voice information transfers. Telecommunication, Television, broadcasting and other multimedia issues fall into third category significant amount of above type informal transfers are taken place across the world today, using existing technology.

For transmitting above type of information to various user groups, many types of communication methods have been found out such as "mobile communication (wireless). Voice over Internet protocols (IP).

Economic development of a country based on mainly general economic sector, agricultural sector and Industrial sector. ICT directly affect on all those areas to develop a country. General economic sector is the physical and social infrastructure such as transport, telecommunications, educational and health care of a country.

Production of domestic and export oriented agricultural products fall into agricultural sector. Finding a market is a big deal. Today electronic marketing can be seen. Industrial sector consists manufacturing and other productive areas as examples construction and commercially oriented services.

Information Communication is a major character in above sectors today. Technology is known as the major determinant of national economic development. In industrialized economies, many studies have shown that most of long-term economic grow stems from technological changes that improve productivity or lead to new products, processes or industries.

Industrial development is in fact a process of acquiring technological capabilities in the course of conditions technological changes.

As an example in mobile telecommunication industry, in fist generation (FG) it used analog mode of cellular communication system. In second generation they come up with near GSM (Global standard for mobile communication) pocket switching capabilities, having lots of facilities and quality to the user.

Currently in third generation they upgrade in systems to 3G systems for providing UMTS (universal mobile telecommunication systems) features. So I have to configure the use of technology with the country according to the need of people and to the correct time, to develop the country. When we use such types of new technologies in the country, lots of multinational companies can be obtained for the people such as employing. So, social development of a country automatically occurs with the development of economy.

Information and Communication Technologies as a factor of industrial development is therefore need not to be overemphasized because obviously, today's industry heavily relies on ICT.

The behavior of the market takes place within a socioeconomic and politico legal milieu. The pattern and efficiency of technological development are therefore determined by social, cultural, and educational factors, government intervention, business strategy, technological capabilities and resource capabilities.

So I have to believe that ICT can contribute to the economic and social development of a country. As a Head of State of a country I have to play a major role. I have to set technological policies and strategies to promote and manage the process and direction of acquiring technological capabilities, such as liberalization of technological monopoly and formulate incentives for companies to invest in research and development and new technology acquisition.

Education of the country should be formalized to accompany the new ICTs issues. Technical institutes, Universities and other educational institutes should be established within the country to spread the knowledge. New rules and regulations should be making for educational ministry and information technology commission.

Computer education and fundamentals of Communication should be though at the beginning for one young people. Always young people should be promoted for new things, so that new R&D laboratories and Universities have to be established.

With these things, vision of the people in country should be economic and social development with ICT.

Mr Pablo José Flores Sánchez
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Ingenieria Electronica, Concentracion Comunicaciones
Panama

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Do we young people know where our role lies in the State economy, and how we can contribute to it?

José Enrique Rodó has said, in his work Ariel, that young people possess a power, that we are the ones who must wield it, that it is a treasure, and that we are responsible for investing it; the role played by young people must therefore be meaningful and relevant. By thus creating an awareness of our role and the need for education, training and work, we are forging a promising future for ourselves. By this I mean that I would give young people the role that befits them: that of constructing their future and applying their natural power and riches to the economic and social development of the Nation.

I firmly believe that information and communication technologies in general can indeed contribute to both the economic and social development of Panama. With regard to economic development, in our case these technologies bring with them numerous investments and job opportunities by opening up the competitive market in telecommunications. In my view, a further important point would be to promote electronic trade – particularly for small and medium-sized businesses, in order to ensure them access to the outside world without too many obstacles. Information centres should also be set up, providing links with the entire world, following the example of the Panama Canal in maritime trade. I would lay emphasis on investment, job opportunities and the most recent advances that contribute to development, so as not to lose the perspective and sense of an independent Nation.

When we talk of social development, the focus must obviously be mainly on young people – young people who hope for new perspectives and possibilities for their lives ahead. As Head of State, I would give young people the tools they need to make the very best of their positive qualities. To that end I would employ strategies such as the following:

a) Youth training; the provision of new teaching methods that make use of multimedia and Internet tools.

b) Promotion – as of primary school – of emphasis on the use of reflection and analysis rather than excessive use of memory.

These technologies, which today are converging, are essential if we are to change the bases of our social structure. We young people will thus come to form part of the country's

development through a better and more modern education, as we will be ever more adequately trained to assimilate new development trends and even to play an active role in the most recent changes. It seems to me that we young people are an essential part of a society, as we represent the future and its prospects, and it is therefore important for us to come to an awareness of a common goal for the benefit of the Nation.

Mr Eric Foutou Mahoungou
Université Marien Ngouabi
Sciences & Techniques de la Communication
Congo (Rep. of the)

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

In the pursuit of reliable communications between people, numerous technologies have been invented, including information and communication technologies, or ICTs. The goal of these technologies being to satisfy and facilitate communication between people, they are naturally of interest to many young people. Their advantages are evident to the Heads of State. In the case of the Congo, if I were to become the Head of State I would have two concerns: inspiring the general public to make use of information and communication technologies, and creating decent living conditions for the population; these form the genuine basis of development. Achieving this objective requires the mobilization of young people, a dynamic segment of the population eminently suited for disseminating and promoting ICTs.

Young people make up the majority of the population, and include many dynamic citizens who are prepared to work to make the social and economic development of the country possible. ICTs, or rather NICTs, include such things as the Internet, cellphones, data transmission, and computers. To take the Internet as an example, it helps to bridge distances and accelerates correspondence. It also facilitates research and information for young people. All of these technologies have transformed the world into a global village, facilitating exchanges, increasing productivity in business and reducing the costs of production.

In the case of our country, these technologies will help to develop remote areas by creating infrastructures. This will act as an incentive for the State to construct roads across the country and provide electricity to remote regions. That in turn will allow more hospitals to be built, and better systems for potable water. Cultural development will also benefit.

These services will demand qualified personnel, thereby fostering the creation of new jobs and the recruitment of workers.

In all of this, it is young people who will be most directly concerned. It is important to meet the needs of young people who wish to have an education and a job. By involving these young people, the Head of State, or rather the government, can disseminate and promote such technologies. Effective approaches may include such things as the creation of information and communication groups, the organization of forums, and informing customers about appropriate technological products.

It is clear that information and communication technologies have become a reality in our country. The problem we are facing is one of education. In particular, this means young people, that dynamic group in our population that is capable of promoting this technology and bringing it among the people. That is where I see their role in the development of technology and of our country.

Miss Kirsten Funes

Universidad Católica de Honduras “Nuestra Sra. Reina de la Paz”

Licenciatura en Mercadotecnia

Honduras

“It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?”

If I were the head of the Government of Honduras, one of the first things I would do would be to conduct a survey of the population's real level of access to information and communication technologies, and on the basis of the results an action plan would be drawn up to ensure that all citizens have access to these technologies. The action plan would include specially designed programmes focusing on young people, given the importance of educating young people with regard to information and communication technologies as an essential tool for them to be able to contribute effectively to the development of our country.

The new information and communication technologies, and Internet access in particular, contribute to the education of young people by stimulating a desire to establish relationships with people of different cultures and different regions as a means of broadening their knowledge.

The objective of one of these programmes would be to send young people abroad for training in order to broaden and strengthen their knowledge of the subject, and at the same time jobs would be created so that when the young people return home they can use their knowledge to contribute to the development of Honduras by applying what they have learnt and at the same time passing their knowledge on, thus creating a multiplier affect.

By equipping our country with greater and better access to information, and with a communication system which facilitates access to and transmission of information, we will contribute to the development of different aspects of the economy and society.

An enterprising approach should be cultivated in young people so that they develop productive attitudes that stimulate their interest in exploring the possibilities of forming micro, small or medium-sized businesses capable of competing both at national and international level. This could be backed up by the creation of information centres for businesses located in strategic areas of the country to provide support to the micro, small and medium-sized businesses, with staff trained to assist them.

As to the social aspect, the purchase of appropriate technology along with the training of education facilitators would be promoted in order to provide people who have drug or abuse problems, or street children, with a way to improve their lives by giving them both dignity and the opportunity to surpass themselves and break free of the problems afflicting them.

Ms Ingrida Gailume

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Management of International Economic Relations

Latvia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

History is moving faster at the start of the 21st century. Recent events have unleashed waves of swings with the new information and communication technologies, the new global rules and institutions and the accelerating global economic integration. Information and communication technologies have brought significant changes in the way society thinks, reacts and discusses the economical and social processes.

The basis for this lays on information flow, uninterrupting, fast moving and rushing. Society is forced to put a lot of effort into catching this information flow... being it or global company for small State.

If I were Head in my country...

Evidently there can be pointed out two major players in today's society: on the one hand, open-minded, clever, ambitious and full of energy youngsters; on the other hand, information flows together with technological innovations. As a solution how to catch the spirit of these two major players and use this power to benefit socio-economical processes is to put them together.

This can be done by involving young people in the decision-making process in the country. How?

First of all, it is clear that this is a long-term goal, and at the beginning it is necessary to lower computer illiteracy through contributions to schools for technological innovations which leads to access to information flows, access to the Internet, and as a result there can be introduced online discussions on State-level issues.

According to the statistics, there can be found one more concern: State employee age. It means that there is an age gap in Latvia - on the one side a lot of persons with ??? time experience without special knowledge or computer skills; on the other last years students, of course with knowledge and eager to learn. This set of people might work efficiently in the short time period. The problem occurs when students are leaving their post, thus increasing instability and often changes in the list of employees. How is it related to the subject?

It is important to establish continuity in the country and this can be done with the help of information and communication technologies. It is easy for youngsters to share their

experience and knowledge via Internet facilities, and this can be reached by lowering computer illiteracy.

As a conclusion, I would like to stress that youth now is called e-generation and this characterizing is the main tool forward future country's development.

Mr Leonardo García

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Licenciatura en Administración de Empresas

Honduras

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

If I were to find myself in the position of Head of State of Honduras, I would begin by implementing a series of technology and communication training programmes for young people, with one programme aimed at those with some experience, and another at those with no knowledge of the subject at all.

The first programme would endeavour to enable the young people to develop quickly and effectively so as to be able to perform in a decent working environment, while the second would provide the young people with fairly intense training with a view to placing both groups on the same level and achieving the same objectives with the two programmes.

None of the above would exclude anybody on the basis of class or race; the aim of the programmes would be to reduce the illiteracy levels prevalent in our country today and consequently to reduce both poverty and the high-level of juvenile delinquency now witnessed in our society.

In addition, student scholarships would be made available at the national level to give the young people the opportunity to study at universities both abroad and at home in order to obtain training in disciplines related to the technology and communications so essential to our country.

As regards the economic aspect of financing these technology and communication training programmes, the State of Honduras should pass tax legislation applicable to those companies that receive unnecessary subsidies, and those funds should be reinvested in education, health, housing and security programmes.

Lastly, steps would be taken to open the market up fully to foreign information, communication and services companies in order to allow those companies to generate employment for those receiving the training programmes, subject to those companies complying with Honduran legislation.

Ms Oluwatosin Omowumi Gbadamosi

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Nigeria

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

## Introduction

Globalization which has, for centuries, developed through human migrations, trade and the dissemination of knowledge and culture, is nowadays propelled by the spectacular expansion of information and communication technologies, popularly referred to as ICTs.

What is ICT?

I Information. This can be gotten or sent through voice and data.

C Communication. It is the transfer of information from point to point, and/or point to multipoint.

T Technology. This is the mode of information transfer which could be wired/wireless, fixed/mobile, digital/analogue.

As rightly put by the ITU, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute and in fact has been contributing to the economic and social development of many countries. Broadly speaking, the information sector comprises all activities that involve the production, processing and distribution of information and knowledge, as distinct from physical goods. Information is regarded today as a fundamental factor of production; alongside capital and labour. Information accounts for a substantial proportion of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the newly industrialized economies and even the developing countries. ICT is now undoubtedly a strategic investment to maintain and develop competitive advantage at all levels – national, regional, firm.

Telecommunications constitute the core of, and provide the infrastructure for the information economy as a whole. It is the backbone of the ICT. Telecommunications facilitate market entry, improve customer service, reduce costs and increase productivity. Today ICTs are an integral part of financial services, which provide vital links among manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers. Industrial and commercial competitive advantage is also being influenced by availability of ICTs.

Essentially, ICTs have registered their impact on all fields of human endeavour. They have contributed to the significant progress achieved in all the sciences and their various applications, economy and financial services, commerce, politics and administration, education, work and interpersonal communications.

ICTs have contributed substantially towards provision of better health services, education, information and knowledge as well as offering a wide variety of means by which people communicate, thus promoting greater understanding and improving the quality of life, peace and security.

## The role to be played by the youth

The bulk of the ICT-based workforce in most developed countries of the world is the youth. As the Head of State of Nigeria, I intend to depend on the youth to turn our digital divide into digital opportunity by challenging the intrinsic potentials of the youth for the present and the future. My Administration will ensure that the youth are incorporated in the various ICT initiatives with a view to building e-awareness in the ICT. The youth of Nigeria would be involved in the ICT sector reforms, aimed at transforming the sector into a veritable springboard for development.

The youth would be encouraged to go into ICT programme development like writing programmes relevant to Nigeria's environment and also maintenance of software and hardware like P.C. management, installation and maintenance of cable, cell sites, and stations, laying and maintenance of infrastructure like cable, installation of base stations, etc.

The youth will be engaged in the intelligent monitoring of the telecommunication network to forestall the abuse and interference in the network.

The role of Nigeria's youth towards making ICT lead to economic development will include the development of websites as an interactive information resource for Government agencies, companies, academic institutions and individuals, and also development of an electronic journal that will report on ICT activities in other African countries and beyond.

The Nigerian youth will be made to participate actively in the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) exchange programmes and the e?awareness campaign. They will also be encouraged to organize and attend seminars and workshops that will serve as an enlightenment fora for the entire populace on ICT development.

The Government under my leadership will embark on such social/academic programmes that will encourage Nigeria's youth to reorder their priorities and spend quality time in community telecentres, schools and Internet cafes and other telecoms avenues which can contribute to the rapid growth of ICT in the country.

The Government on its own will make enormous investment in order to improve the knowledge of ICT among the talented young people who will be the country's future government and industry leaders.

Ms Selome Gebremariam Gezahegn
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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Development is a stage of growth or advancement. A socio-economic development of a country to proper management of resources of a community. A country with a view of increased productivity, formation and transformation of a modernized social lifestyle. It basically needs human power, infrastructure and modern technology. Access to technology is considered in the same light as access to other resources: clean water, adequate … , sufficient food or education opportunities, which are thought to have priority in development plans. The access so achieved, however, through Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). ICTs are computers, mobile phones, digital networks, interactive televisions, etc.

ICT contributes to socio-economic developments in many areas, such as business, agriculture, industries, education and health. It is:

1) Cooperate community partnership.
2) Create access to the … , to know the current available and adjust his production according to people's interest.
3) Simplify activities in industries.
4) Provide access to use of the Internet, to help have current information of everyday life.
5) Facilitate services and health centres, and make hospitals use telemedicine.
6) Make professionals and scientists increasingly creative with the available technology.
7) Generally they have an important impact in all aspects of people's lives. The youth are the most important segment of society that should regularly use ICT in contributing to development.

Moreover, youths play a role in technologies like ICTs, because youths have:

- better comprehension and retention of technological concepts;
- take over responsibility in society;
- greater need for employment;

Youths are therefore expected to play a major role in catching up with modern technologies that contribute to development. With this view, if I were the Prime Minister of my country I would have made a policy that brings young people together, and make them work for a common goal of national development.

The aim of the policy would be to have empowered individuals and make them more ambitious for success in attaining commendable economic growth relating to ICTs. To ensure success of the policy, basic skills of ICTs, specifically computer training, would be given together with organizing different workshops for the youths to create awareness of ICT and to realize its fundamental role in development. There are a lot of young people who are unemployed here in my country. All of them could be mobilized to learn ICT skills that will enable them to contribute to national development. The skilled youngsters would be:

1) Empowered in income generation.

2) Involved in running ICT-related small businesses of their own.

3) Able to start ICT facilities centres, like computers and accessories, assembling and preparing cyber cafés, job work units, digital studies, local information centres, etc.

In effect, the country will manage to minimize unemployment problems and strife.

ICT for medicine

The ICT world is continuously evolving as a new technology that comes to the fore in healthcare:

1) Information systems and their application represent a useful solution to rationalize and to improve the efficiency of healthcare resources.

2) The Internet is a way for healthcare centres to interact and to interoperate efficiently.

3) Telepathology is another common use of this technology.

4) Telemedicine has been defined as the use of telecommunications to provide medical information and services. It narrows the distance between urban and rural communities and provides increased access to confined and underserved patients, using various modalities such as analog phone lines (i.e. voice, fax), high-speed digital phone lines or satellite transmission.

Being the Prime Minister, I would have introduced this technology. I strongly believe that healthy people must be at the centre of development. Without human power, it's clear that ICT would not help.

To summarize, Information has the power to bind the global community into a cohesive fraternity, which shares the common ideas of people and tolerance, growth and development

(Yoshio Utsumi, ITU Secretary-General, 2002). ICTs are the tools to give information a life in all of these. The youths who are devoted, enthusiastic and well aware of technological concepts are needed. The youth, if properly trained, can use ICT to make socio-economic development a reality. Hence, if I were head of my country, Ethiopia, I would:

1) Practice such policies and … budget of its own, to have a modern, prosperous and healthy nation.

2) Address ICT issues; more basic infrastructure that allows access to ICT.

3) Create awareness of ICT issues to my people.

Mr Geronimo George

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Micronesia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

In the 1800s, Industrial Revolution had begun and spread rapidly due to the better information and communication in the same century. Better information and communication technologies have enabled other countries to be well-informed on important matters around the world that would help them to make development a reality. Due to the poor information and communication that our country had for the past centuries, we are unable to make development a reality.

However, I am positively sure that in the near future, we can make development in our country a reality. If I were now the Head of State in my country, I would definitely address the young people about the major priorities that we must consider in order to make changes and development to our country. Firstly, I would have young people to have a better understanding of the importance of a better information and communication technologicalized society. They should know that a technologicalized society will bring economic and social development to their door. Secondly, I would have the young people to study fields that deal with modern technology. They should know that technology (modern technology) is the key that develops the economy of a country. Technology has the potential to promote economic growth, job creation and other social benefits. If we kept on pushing our young people toward our technological goals, I am sure that we could end up as a well-developed country. As Head of State, I would provide more technological supplies, especially those that have to do with information and communication, to every level of schools. This would allow young people to grow up with a good background in the current technology. For example, I would allow computer literacy to be taught at every level of school so that everyone can have a better understanding of what it's like to be a developed nation.

Lastly, I would protect and develop a free flow of information in our country. I strongly believe that a free flow of information will shorten the gap between the developed metropolitan countries and the less developed countries like ours.

Miss Rina Fesa Ghaleb

Pole Universitaire de Djibouti

Informatique de Gestion

Djibouti

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The development of the potential of young people is a core requirement for the smooth operation of a country.

Young people are the engine of tomorrow's economy, and therefore deserve serious attention.

If I were the Head of State, I would ask the national Minister of Education to improve school and university programmes with a view to training young people in the use of computer technology.

At the same time, the cost of computer hardware has to be reduced in order to meet the goal of one computer per household.

Another priority must be to offer education for specific groups of people and provide them with education via Internet.

Relations between the different nationalities must be fostered by organizing forums. This will help to improve foreign relations and allow countries to pool their strengths.

I would place importance in support to women for broad access to ICTs, promoting those organizations that have the goal of including young women (and girls) in ICT development, in particular by conducting training for young girls to become acquainted with computers.

In relatively short order, those girls will become instructors in their turn, helping other women who require some assistance working with computer programs or hardware.

There is also a need to reduce the gap between more and less affluent layers of society and give the more disadvantaged an opportunity to build contacts, for example by making public internet access points available throughout the country.

Miss Sandie Giacobi
University de Nice Sophia-Antipolis
Marketing
Monaco

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

I have the good fortune to come from a rich, developed, even privileged, country. If I were Head of State, social and economic development would not be a strategic issue. However, it would be my duty to contribute to the development of other less privileged countries. Economically speaking, some countries are richer in natural resources such as oil, fertile land and favourable climate. However, oil and uranium are not a country's richest resources.

The essential raw material for development lies in the men and women of tomorrow, those who will form part of the future. Accordingly, they must be allowed now to start shaping the world in which they will live.

Long before the advent of the major theories on socio-economic development, humankind had learnt that exchange and dialogue were sources of progress. Young people in all countries have ideas, brains and, in some cases, genius. This resource must be exploited. Every country has a reserve of brains in its young people. In isolation, they are powerless. ICTs must act as the link between these brains, like synapses between cells. Bringing them together will produce intelligence, progress and development at all levels. Just as ICTs are needed to help people to communicate and exchange, and to spread economic and social progress, so government is needed to encourage this development. As Head of State I would therefore need to listen to young people and do everything to encourage and support them.

The role of government is clear: to provide ample space and time for exchanges to take place. Internet and ICTs in general help to break down spatial and cultural barriers. Internet access must therefore be a priority, as it allows people to work together in spite of distances and to exchange working methods, knowledge and ideas. The young hold the key to development. The more exchanges there are between young people, the closer the developing countries will move to us, gaining access to all that is best about development. This must be done while respecting the identity of each country to ensure that the exchange is a fair one, so that one day all young people will have access to a better education and speak with a global voice.

Let us hope that all these great minds, these future Mozarts, Voltaires, Einsteins, etc., wherever they may be, will have their voices heard.

Mr Michael Gofman

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Finance

Israel

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Nowadays, it is highly recognized by governments that ICT plays an important role in the development of a country. Combining ICT with traditional factors of growth such as investments in education and infrastructure gives us a modern formula of country's success and prosperity: investing in the education of youth, encouraging of employment and entrepreneurship in the ICT sector, cultivation of digital literacy and ICT knowledge, while building digital infrastructures.

Israel is world-recognized technology developed country with $7 billion export of high-tech products (at 2001), what places it among world leading high-tech exporters. According to technology achievement index (TAI) published by UNDP in Human Development Report 2001, Israel is placed in leaders group with 0.514 TAI value.

However, Israel is an example of a country where social divide led to digital divide, because digital divide exists and not caused by low TAI. For example according to Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics in the top 10% percentile 67% of children have computer, but in the bottom 10% percentile only 16% have computer at home.

In countries with highly developed ICT on one hand and social divide on other hand, digital divide will increase as ICT development getting forward. I deeply believe that by bridging digital divide it is possible to bridge social divide and maybe in 21st century it is the only way to do it. For example, if young person from socioeconomic challenged family is given an opportunity to study computer science in the university, then after the graduation he can get job in high-tech sector, which is the most paid sector in Israeli industry.

If I was head of State in my country I would consolidate Youth Development Committee, occupied by representatives of Youth and Ministries of Education, Science, Communication, Industry and Trade, Finance and Health. The mission of the Committee would be learning youth needs (mainly raised by youth itself through some interactive channels) and providing integrated approach to answer these needs. Encouraging youth participation in the committee has several benefits: better understanding of youth needs, better design of employment programmes and help provided by the committee, increasing the chances of committee's policy and actions success and giving to young people an opportunity to architect, design and build their future.

Youth Development Committee will develop and provide equal opportunities for young people to acquire ICT-related skills, in order to benefit from ICT-generated employment opportunities and knowledge acquirement opportunities. The Committee will encourage ICT industries to provide employment or entrepreneurial opportunities for young people, regardless their religion, gender, ethnicity or socioeconomic level.

Involving youth in country's management by learning youth needs, generating youth employment, promoting youth entrepreneurship and ICT leadership, while bridging over the digital divide inside the country and in the whole region, will provide great contribution to our country's development and growth in the future.

Ms Enkhzul Gombodorj
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Mongolia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

For centuries, our ancestors have been leading a nomadic way of life. From season to season they moved from one place to another. Therefore, there was no opportunity to make progress in information and communication technologies.

In 1989, Mongolia made consistent changes in the political, social and economic sphere and entered the democratic way of development with a market economy.

As a result, we are facing deep changes in information and communication technology. It is also one of the factors attracting foreign countries' attention to recent developments in Mongolia.

Today, when the development rate of any State depends on information technology progress, our country also pays attention to this point. According to democratic movement of 1989 our country has been put on solid ground for information and communication technology development. Nowadays, Mongolia is provided with various communications techniques and technologies and is taking an active participation in the process of globalization.

As long as I am majoring in information technology and have my own perspectives, aspirations and my own aims, I have limitless desires to contribute my share for my country.

As a head of State, my first intention would be to prepare a powerful young personnel. Our future generation must be erudite, intelligent and show initiative. The educational system of our country is still inadequate so far. That is why we should prepare young information technology specialists in foreign developed countries where they would become familiar with new techniques and technologies. I would build my own strategy concerning the development of the most remote parts of our country which are being isolated due to communication problems. A solution to this matter could connection in rural areas.

I can give one example which is typical of everyday life. My brother who lives in the countryside near the south border, far from the capital city of Mongolia, has to wait two weeks to receive a letter from me, during which time some events have already expired.

This is where Internet is of great demand.

Optic cable is powerfully getting a huge role in distant areas of Mongolia. It means that our country is turning towards a digital technology with high-speed, various companies providing Internet access technology, like MICOM and DATACOM which are making an enormous effort in this activity.

Once Arthur C. Clarke, an author of famous science fiction classic 2001 A Space Odyssey wrote Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic. I want to thank the magicians and the visionaries who invent for the development of society and economy.

Miss Glenda Luz González Ruiz
Universidad Nacional de Ingeniería (UNI)
Ingeniería Electrónica
Nicaragua

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

As Head of State, it is my duty to be aware of the fact that technological progress has revolutionized the world and hence its inhabitants. I am referring essentially to information and communication technologies, which to a tremendous degree facilitate the acquisition and assimilation of knowledge, providing developing countries such as Nicaragua with unprecedented opportunities in almost all sectors of society, but above all in the development of economic and social activities as well as in the creation of new sources of employment. This is because of the wide field of application of those technologies: tele-education, telemedicine and universities, which in this way are able to consolidate their position as highly-valued institutions in the industrial and agricultural sectors.

However, we have to be clear about the fact that ICTs do not in themselves bring progress, but are tools that can bring about radical change only when accompanied by economic, social and educational transformations, as well as by measures designed to make them more accessible.

While information technologies are significant and high-priority resources for the Government, it is at the same time essential that society as a whole play an active part in the development of ICTs, particularly the young people within that society, who are and always have been icons of change, representing as they do the future and hope of each and every nation.

Young people unquestionably play a decisive and determinant role when it comes to implementing ICTs in order to bring well-being and progress to a country, since they represent the ideal means of bringing this about on account of their ease of adaptation to, assimilation of and interest in technological progress. The function of young people, as creative elements and generators of ideas, is to propagate the important knowledge and capacities that are acquired in the course of using ICTs.

They could be the ones responsible for making known the benefits that technology can bring, being among the first to apply it, for example in their studies, with a view to enhancing their problem-solving skills.

In addition, they can be trained in all aspects of information technology, especially the latest changes in the leading-edge technologies that are now spreading throughout the world (use of computers, Internet, e-mail, etc.), with a view to fostering within them a

capacity for computer-based self-training and a growing interest in sciences and mathematics, which they can transmit to the new generations, thereby gradually creating an informed, adequately-trained and progress-oriented society.

If I were Head of State, and if as such I genuinely wanted ICTs to produce real and tangible changes and that young people should play an active part in bringing about those changes, I would first of all have to create suitable conditions for training and transmitting knowledge to young people in the field of information use, for example by establishing computer centres providing easy access to information and Internet use. Another approach could be, among other things, to establish a secretariat specialized in promoting the use of information technologies; promote fairs at which technology projects carried out by young people and even by children could be exhibited; promote and promulgate laws authorizing the acquisition of computers at all levels of society; and authorize the importation into the country of leading-edge technologies.

One very important thing that has to be borne in mind if the goal is to achieve the widespread use of computers and the Internet is that every study centre, whether at the primary, secondary or, of course, higher level, must have the necessary resources, training in the use of which must be considered just as important as mathematics and sciences.

I would conclude by saying that the active participation of young people in the acquisition of knowledge and access to information is the key to achieving higher levels of development, reducing poverty and raising our quality of life.

Ms Kimberly Good
University of Auckland
Mathematics, Psychology, German
New Zealand

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

In the last decade, society has been shaped by different ways of managing information. ICTs holds the framework for future development and progress.

The contribution to economic development that ICTs provide is twofold, with both direct and indirect effects on society. The direct effect can be witnessed as the culture that is established as a result of ICT exposure and promotion. When a nation supports such technological development realizes the potential that is on offer, an entire sector of high-skilled enterprise is established and supported by well-paid employment. This is not only restricted to the workforce. An appropriate education in Information and Communication Technologies is also consequently encouraged and the economy benefits from such competitive business without a doubt.

The indirect effect takes this business concept a step further, as we can see that countries who are ICT-equipped also appear more efficient on the international stage, with successful competition and impressive performances in the international trade arena. The fact that the price of goods is lowered by such an increase in efficiency, can even be observed in societies of today, where the average family is often able to afford a computer of a decent standard.

The contribution to social development that ICTs provide is also twofold. For nations such as New Zealand, the ability of ICTs to breakdown geography is incredibly beneficial. While this is also an economic advantage, as companies can be based in New Zealand and work for clients overseas, personal communication is also made easier, encouraging worldwide contact.

Furthermore, the increased ease at which information may be accessed also has social advantages. Not only is it ensured that all people potentially have the ability to gain resources and knowledge regardless of background, we also see an increasing value placed on such knowledge. This further extends to the area of education and its promotion within society.

If I were the leader of my country, I would seek to move my people forward towards an era of increased exposure to ICTs. I would seek to integrate the concepts of such technologies, not only in the business world, but also within education.

I would continue with the start-ups and incubator schemes that are fresh to my nation and encourage the potential of young people to contribute to the business sector. In order to do this, I would ensure that a culture of entrepreneurship was maintained and that appropriate infrastructural assistance and support services were in place to support young, talented companies. More importantly, I would make sure that the young people of my nation were aware of such support and would use it to the best of their potential to help drive this nation forward.

In order to establish such a society, young people must also be further encouraged to develop their original ideas. I feel that the way to do this is to continue with a strong focus on education and incorporate also an increased exposure to ICTs from a young age. In a country that currently desires to close the gaps and resolve socio-economic discrepancies, I feel that an equal exposure to ICTs, and the consequent information that they provide access to, is the answer. If all young people are given such equal opportunities and our country's focus is towards the development of ICTs and their economic and social advantages, our country can only move in a positive direction.

I believe that young people provide a unique perspective and, in a country as diverse as New Zealand, our nation can only benefit from strengthening the relationship that exists between young talent and capabilities and the technological leadership of ICTs.

Ms Ada Gramatiku
Tirana University
Legal Affairs
Albania

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Bearing in mind the need to improve knowledge, to increase awareness of the importance of information and communication technologies, the role of ICT in the development of our country, first of all, I will try to give the young generation these opportunities by creating training schemes to increase their knowledge of ICT. Also the Albanian reality must be taken into consideration with its very low number of PCs and relatively high prices for Internet access. I will think how to create the Internet centres, or the possibility in educational institutions to have all access to Internet, giving reduced prices or access free of charge in order to increase the number of Internet users, people learning on-line, exchanging their experiences and knowledge via the Internet. I think this is the first for the young generation, to make them feel part of this global network. After that, the young generation will be able to think and act for new opportunities and possibilities, based on new technologies.

Also the younger generation will be a good example for others with their awareness and increase or improve knowledge for using and asking for the new services offered from digital technologies. With the aim of exchanging experiences, Internet is a wide window for everybody to know about new services and products which are on the global market.

Experiencing these services offered they will ask for national regulations and promote the development of necessary steps.

Bearing in mind that the Information Society is the society with wide participation of different parts, governmental and non-governmental, private businesses, educational institutions, media, etc. I know the young people are the most vital people, who ask for change and like new things, services, products, fashions, etc. For all of these, I think that the role of young people going towards the Information Society must be important.

Mr Nkosimathi Gule
University of Swaziland
Engineering (Electronics)
Swaziland

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Young people are a very important asset in developing a country's economy. They have to be empowered with Information and Communication Technology (ICT). They have to be educated and be part of research and development. If I were Head of State, I would have a Government that focussed on building a knowledge sufficient generation in ICT as a means of investing in the young people.

The Government has to encourage the young people to actively utilize ICT and fully enjoy its benefits. Measures would be taken to market ICT so that the private sector can exert its potential into ICT-related projects for young people by building high-speed efficient Internet networks.

Education plays a key role in acquiring knowledge. Young people should have access into acquiring ICT knowledge and skills to enjoy its benefits. Their intellectual creativity and logical thinking power should be enhanced by having ICT-driven education. Internet should be provided from primary to high school. Digital content for education purposes should be made available to young people. ICT-driven lessons have to be promoted. Mathematics and science have to be extensively taught to young people in order to improve their intelligence and creativeness.

Schools should be encouraged to interact with other schools both inside and outside the country so as to build a nation that can collaborate even with those who have different cultures and viewpoints. Teachers and instructors should be frequently updated on new developments.

The young people must be part of research and development. The Government should make sure that all the above is effectively taken care of. It would promote innovation, support infrastructure development and encourage young people to engage in the ICT sector. Therefore, it is necessary that an ICT department be established. The department is to play a significant role in preparing and advising young people on policy initiatives relevant to the measures administered in other countries that can benefit the ICT sector. It has to administer the range of grants and funding programmes specific to the development of the ICT sector and thus improving ICT resources to young people. Also, it has to create a society that allows diverse creativity through the exchange of knowledge among young people.

Institutions and schools have to be improved to allow easy flow of information among the young people throughout the country. More research would be carried out at schools and institutions. This would allow young people to be part of research and digital content creation.

Mr Sverre Gullesen
Ecole National Supérieure des Arts Visuels (ENSAV)
Espace Urbain
Norway

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

I think it is of great importance that the development of information and communication technologies does not westernize the non-western countries, but that ICTs are creatively used in a way that encourage collaborations across cultural borders.

I believe that the building of a digital network culture where the youth are working together with projects and ideas, sharing economy and other resources across their countries borders can contribute to the social development.

One way to make this a reality is to make a digital network that is entirely run by youth with the aim to give both economical and practical support to youth projects. I believe that a network that works as a hub between different actors and across borders, with the purpose of connecting people, more than defining the projects, will have more appeal to youth than an already defined project from the Head of State. This will give youth an opportunity to realize their initiatives and interact with other youth. By cooperate with people from other cultures you also learn to understand the other culture, but also your own. The cooperation itself is of great value for the social development.

Thee are many ways to organize a digital network with the aim to encourage collaboration. An important thing is though that it should be possible for anyone or any initiative to join the network. One idée is to organize it as a direct democratic project funding system, a system where youth can post project information, ask for help by other members of simply share their recourses.

I believe that the Head of State can support such a network both practically and economically. The Head of State have a practical expertise with information on exchanging programs, where to find appropriate funding for projects, etc… that might be relevant for the realizations of many projects. By doing so I believe that the Head of State can help a lot in the realizations of projects, and to contribute in the social development.

Mr Abdulaziz Haddab
Kuwait University
Electrical Engineering
Kuwait

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

In our high-paced world, technology - and especially communication technology - plays a focal role in the development of world societies and economies. Our age has been called the age of technology, especially communication technology. With the arrival of the Internet and mobile technology, the world has been revolutionized. We started to hear such new terms as e?commerce, e?mail, e?learning, e?books, etc. This technology has affected all walks of life: economic, social, political and cultural. However, much can still be done to maximize the benefits of this technology.

If I were a Head of State in my country, I would do my best to use this technology to the utmost benefit of my country. To do this I have to focus on the youth because they have the energy and ability to learn the new technology. I would help the youth to take part in the political, economic and social life of their society. They have to be given the chance to join the Parliament, thus they can take part in making laws which organize life in the society. As young men they can adopt new technology in developing a political life in their societies. For example, voting can be done via the Internet thus saving time and effort of the voters. Also e?voting can help the rather ignored groups of the societies such as the handicapped or those with special needs to vote.

Communication technology can also be used to help in applying the concept of e-government which enables persons in a society to do all or most of his transactions through connecting all government departments in one network which is in turn connected to the Internet. Thus every person in the society has to have a private e-mail from which he can send and receive information or applications to/from government departments. This of course makes life much easier and helps people focus more on being productive.

Communication technology can be used to help boost economic life in the country. It can give updated economic information like stock exchange rates to business people through mobiles and the Internet. As a Head of State, I'd make sure that all the necessary economic information of my State is available on the Internet such as information on: fields which can be invested in, what the society needs most thus enabling business people either old or young to decide what is best for them.

Communication technology can play a significant role in the social development of the society. Using modern technologies like mobiles and again the Internet can help people communicate easily, which helps make relationships stronger between the members of the society.

Schools and universities should use communication technology to allow parents to follow-up their children from the comfort of their homes. For example, schools and universities can send weekly and up-to-date information and reports on each student to his parents' email.

As a Head of State, I can give more attention to developing poor regions in my country and supporting young people, especially the gifted.

To sum up, young people can be given a bigger role to play in the development of their countries after preparing them properly utilizing all the available technology especially the communication technology.

Mr Abdul Faris Haji Abdul Mutalif
University Brunei Darussalam
Mathematics
Brunei Darussalam

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

As a developing country, Brunei Darussalam has an uphill task to move forward and stand tall amongst other nations in implementing ICT in the development of the country. As Head of State, the first concern would be to ensure that computer illiteracy and the digital divide are at the very minimum stage. Before a government can further upgrade its development with the implementation of ICT, one has to wonder whether the people are ready to proceed and bear the challenges that lie ahead with the implementation of ICT.

The youth of the nation has to be well equipped with the knowledge relating to ICT and has to understand and be prepared for the challenges that are involved with the implementation of ICT. The first step towards this reality lies in the education system. Computers need to be introduced to young students in schools at an early age, and schools have to be equipped with adequate and efficient facilities and technical teaching staff. These students need to develop computer skills to enhance their study skills and make education more innovative, creative, fun and enjoyable, especially for younger students. The usage of ICT in schools should make students more critical and analytical. The use of ICT in education is not only applicable in academic studies, but also in other non-academic fields such as the arts and sports.

The people of Brunei Darussalam are known to be friendly and well mannered, and thus the introduction and implementation of ICT should not degrade these social features. With ICT, time consumption is at its minimum rate and is proportional to productivity, hence people should have time to indulge in social activities. A stigma amongst people is that technology escalates antisocial traits, which causes people to be more self-centred and to care less for others. This problem is deemed serious, especially in a country where family relationships and social ties are considered to be important and essential, and has to be tackled.

The introduction of ICT in other areas should be carried out carefully and purposefully. Broadcasting, tourism, manufacturing industry, business and commerce, vegetation, fishery and oil and gas industries are among the areas that can be further developed with the implementation of ICT. Further development of these and other areas can also be achieved with the introduction of e?government.

For a country to develop, it has to achieve imperative success in its e-economy and k-economy. And with all the complexities of ICT, we need to understand and start or get to the basics, and get the people to move with technology as it moves forward.

Mr Haroon Haroon
Telecommunication Institute Yakafoot
Telecommunication
Afghanistan

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Firstly, it is important that all young people are given ample opportunity to obtain appropriate education and training. This will involve substantial investment in schools and Universities and the active assistance of the international community.

Of course, at the same time this Government needs to encourage and stimulate the local industry and the private sector. This way there are increased job prospects for graduates.

From the point of view of communications, we must encourage the rapid deployment of Internet access to as many people as possible. In this age of Technology Internet Access is perhaps even more important than telephony – Especially for business.

Internet connectivity also enables easy and cheap communications to the outside world – and this is very important given our isolation during the last 25 years.

The Government must ensure that it was sound economic and ICT policies that encourage foreign investment and building of capacity for Afghanistan.

In terms of Internet access, given the latest advances in Technology, this can also be used for a variety of other services, such as voice and Fax. In other words, having Internet access may enable users to communicate by voice or to send or receive faxes. For this reason in my view Internet access is more important than telephone access in the short term, especially for business.

Further in respect of our ICGT staff, we must encourage and facilitate the return of all Afghans from abroad, especially those with ICT experience.

I believe ICT is one area where Afghan can compete reasonably with other Nationals.

Many Afghans, Pakistan and Iran actively sought to study computers and English over the last 25 years, and this expertise will put us in a good position to make the most of ICT opportunities.

We have a fantastic opportunity to make a tremendous example of Afghanistan as an ICT model and I look forward to being a part of this future.

Mr Ronald Harsawack

University of Guyana

Computer Science

Guyana

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

If I were the head of the Republic of Guyana, I would first recognize that our human resource is our most fundamental resource. Since we have a fairly youthful population (35% of our population is between 18-35 years old).

Special emphasis must be placed on their development. Emphasis must be also placed to develop or strengthen their ability, skills and dedication as to ensure that they fulfill their obligation to nation building as a whole.

As part of their academic development and the development of the Nation, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) plays the most vital role in accomplishing this. Today, our world has changed and benefited immensely from ICT. We in Guyana although we are a developing country, we have not been left out of the technological age and all it advancements. ICT continues to directly and in directly offer us benefits.

It is also important for the state to recognize the numerous benefits if ICT's and thus the necessary budgetary allocations must be made available to this sector.

These benefits varies form socio-economic to physical-infrastructure as well as the many spin off effects, such as employment, training, skills upgrading, new facilities, improved communication, etc.

As head of State I would ensure that the state can bridge the concept of making young people literate and employable with the use of ICT, then use these newly acquired skills to benefit themselves and the country by diversifying and make the sills into a lucrative business venture.

To make this possible the state must provide all the necessary facilities. I would integrate Information Technology into the secondary schools curriculum. As well as ensure that the various schools are equip with ultra modern state of the art ICT equipment. These secondary schools must act as pilot projects or programmes. The projects would act as a model for other institutions and similar establishments to follow pattern.

Upon completion of secondary school, a student would be equipped with all the necessary computer and information technology skills to become employed or employable. If the chooses not to go this way he has the option of becoming a entrepreneur and starting a macro business using the skills he would have been taught. This intern generates income and provides jobs.

As Head of State I would offer duty free concessions to all persons importing Information technology and communication equipment, further all other taxes and government payments would be waived for students wanting to import or buy a piece of equipment.

I would restructure or reform all legislations which deal with telecommunication sector, as to make the sector more lucrative and viable e.g. tax holidays and duty free concessions. Lobbing for external aid, technical advice and investment would also be pursued.

If all the plans and programmes are successfully implemented, then immediately we will see the increase of jobs, the positive stimulation of the economy, decrease in the crime rate etc. Not withstanding the spin off effects and a population that is equipped with all the necessary ICT skills to be employable and also be able overcome all the challenges that we are forced to deal with everyday.

Mr Abdoulayenait Hassane
Université de Njamena
Gestion et Techniques Economiques
Chad

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) nowadays occupy an important place in the socio?economic development of a country. They provide a permanent link between social groups and between companies. They also make it possible to produce and disseminate creative works in the field of culture and art. In addition, in this era of globalization, apart from their importance in the economic development of a country, information and communication technologies (ICTs) are also of great value in gaining access to environmental and global villages.

Chad is a huge, landlocked country of some 1 284 000 km2, situated in the centre of the African continent. A poor country with a gross domestic product which varies between USD 180 and USD 200, it nonetheless has a need for information and communication technologies (ICTs). However, the lack of equipment makes access to such technologies difficult. On the other hand, despite the difficulties encountered, we should not be discouraged: with the support of various associations and non?governmental organizations, infrastructures could be created to facilitate access to the information and communication technologies (ICTs). It is also possible to find solutions to the problem of equipment through cooperation with the developed countries in respect of ICTs.

Alongside these multiple solutions capable of actualizing the contribution of ICTs to the country's development, young people occupy a very important place. Hence, it is important to train young people who occupy an important place in the Chadian population.

Ms Elisabeth Hatlem
University of Oslo
Social Antropologhy
Norway

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Norway is a socially and economically developed country and ICTs are widely used, but it is important that our development doesn't come to a halt. For this reason we should continue to develop ICTs. In this respect young people is an important resource that should not be underestimated, both for the well-being of the country and because young people are going to inherit the country. As Head of State in Norway my role in this would be to encourage young people and arrange for them to contribute to the further development of Norway through ICTs.

First of all, I would want young people's views on the subject matter. To get their views properly presented I would invite the political parties' youth organizations to send delegates to national conferences concerning ICTs. I would also invite a delegate from each of the major student organizations, that is the student union that gathers high school students and the two student unions that gather students of higher education. I would grant the delegates from the student organizations speaking time, whereas I would give the political youth organizations the right to speak. It is important that the ideas and views that are presented by the young delegates are taken into consideration when future decisions are made.

To get young people's opinions is not enough to secure their contribution. If I was Head of State I would make sure that we lay down the basic framework for young people's contribution to the development of the society through ICTs. I would invest more money in education than the current government does, in particular to improve the education in science. High school education in science has to be made more fun to make the students want to continue their studies in the field. I think one step to achieve this is to encourage fresh graduates to teach for some years before they enter other professions. This is because fresh young teachers have a spirit that many older teachers have lost. Another way to make education in science more fun is to send students more frequently on excursions to see how technology works in reality and to observe research.

I would also invest more money on research posts than what is currently spent in Norway, and I would reserve some of the posts for fresh graduates.

In addition to this I think is of importance to encourage young people to establish companies that aim to work with ICTs. This can be done by subsidies, establishing grants and by limiting the bureaucracy.

I think that appointing more research posts for young people and encouraging more companies to work with ICTs can bring fresh input to the development of the society through ICTs in Norway.

Ms Carolina Herrero Izquierdo
Facultad de Ciencias Económicas y Empresariales
Análisis Económico
Spain

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

In today's changing world with its constant technological progress, we, the young people, have much to say. We are living in the age of information and communication, and it won't be long before knowing how to use ICTs is just as important as knowing how to read or write.

We, the young people, represent the immediate future in our respective countries; we will one day be taking over from those who currently constitute the labour force, and it is essential that we be properly trained so as to be in a better position to adapt ourselves to all of the changes yet to come. To this end, it is crucial that we have access to ICTs, it being partly the responsibility of our leaders to ensure that this happens.

As the Head of State of my country, I would put more into promoting the training of young people. In so doing, I would implement a number of projects. One such project would involve providing all types of education establishment (from the primary level upwards) with the necessary infrastructure (computers, Internet) to ensure that pupils had access to ICTs from the very outset of their education. To this end, it would also be necessary either that they received specialized training in those technologies or, better still, that the technologies be integrated into the various subjects they are taught. An example of this would be to teach pupils to work with search engines and browsers to enable them to find the information they need for their projects, since the information to be found on the Internet is far more up to date than that contained in an encyclopaedia.

At the level of higher and university education, it could be advantageous to promote the use of computer programs geared towards the professional or academic world; however, any such program must be of the latest generation. There is not much point in learning to use obsolete programs, and the ones used for those subjects most closely related to the new technologies should be annually upgraded, making it necessary for lecturers to have the appropriate training in that regard.

As a complement to university-level training, courses geared towards research and development should be promoted and financed, as should fellowships and programmes designed to facilitate access for young people at work.

I also believe that there should be more cooperation between universities and companies with a view to making young people more aware of what is expected of us.

With the aid of such progammes, we would thus bring about a situation in which any investment in training in new technologies would be of benefit to companies when they came to recruit the young people thus trained. This in turn would generate productivity gains and the consequent cost reductions, boosting the country's output levels and having a positive effect on economic growth.

The problem currently facing Spain is that it has a high number of university students and hence of future graduates, who are thus likely to encounter difficulties when it comes to finding employment. Spanish society has in recent years been promoting this situation, reducing the status of vocational training which is also necessary for economic growth. It is important to have competent professionals in all fields, and access to technology should not be limited solely to university students but should be available to any young person.

The only outcome of the current situation is that young workers who have recently graduated are overqualified in terms of the knowledge they possess for the job they are carrying out, it being the case that the majority of graduates work in the services sector owing to the excess numbers of university students.

I therefore consider it necessary to promote vocational training more vigorously than is currently the case, since it would give young people the qualifications they actually need when they move into the labour market. When the time came to choose between university and vocational training, young people would thus be better informed.

Mr Jiri Hlavacek
Czech Technical University of Prague
Electronics and Communication Technology
Czech Rep.

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

My opinion is that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) may widely support the development of a country, but people have to know, how to use them. They have to be educated. I don't mean only theoretical and practical education at school, but my idea is co-operation of schools and companies. Co-operation like this is possible these days, but every student must find his own way and harmonize his lifetime.

If I were the president of the Czech Republic, I would make schools more working shoulder to shoulder with companies. Not even with commercial firms, but also with civil services. Young people like changes, so they will enjoy this and therefore they will work hard. It also requires some investments from companies, they would have to provide their technologists to schools, where they would have to instruct students. I think this is possible, every school prepares specialists for different professions, and today's Information and Communication Technologies are used in all branches.

Students may do some work instead of employees, and after graduating their integration in the economic system would be less painful and therefore more helpful for the development of my country. It isn't an original idea, every experience from the real world is very useful. Everyone left unnoticed. And it is the motivation.

Companies need motivation for every step they make.

They live from profit. If I had that power, I would set lower taxes for companies connected to school education.

The previous paragraph was about economical development, it is self-explanatory that technologies help there, but they also contribute to social development. It is sad that social development is only considered a derivative result of progress in the information technology.

The social development thus also needs to be supported for example free Internet café for young people.

Information and Communication Technologies help us in many ways but we must not put out of our minds, where the basics of content life are.

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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Young people are youths who depend on their families for livelyhood and upbringing by the provision of tender loving care, sound and proper education, goodhomes (shelter) and good morals.

## The family

Young people need care from families, society and government the first group of people the child encounters after he or she is born is the family. It is, therefore, the family's (parents') responsibility to provide the child's welfare such as food, clothing, shelter, healthcare, sound and proper education (from primary through college) and good morals training such as good and proper mannerisms, though acceptable: morals differ from culture to culture. Let's take for example:

In Africa, the older people are never wrong and a child is not allowed to talk back when an elder is speaking or talking. On the other hand, in the western world, a child has the right to speak out his mind regardless of age differences. Good morals are acceptable standards in society, therefore, the society in which the child lives has a great influence on the child's upbringing.

## The society

Talking about society, we may want to know what is society. There are many definitions for a society. Society according to one of the social sciences is a group of people united by common purpose or interest seeking the welfare of all, individually or collectively. Therefore, it is the society's responsibility to provide save and secure environment. A society has the tendency to appeal to its members (in this case, the child) in that the members copy the morals and norms of the society. That is, if it is a progressive, the people tend to be progressives, if it is violent, the people tend to be violent. If at all a society is a drug drilling society, the young people are more likely to adopt the use of drug. Society appeals to career objectives and ambition.

## The government

The government comes to serve as an umbrella for both the family and the society. The government ensures security, safety and good governance by providing a free environment, building good hospital to care for young people, prioritizing education and providing job opportunities for parents to support and meet the needs of their children: parents must have job opportunity that will enable them to facilitate the educative process of their children.

With the provision of the aforementioned by the parents, society and the government, young people as future leaders, need to demonstrate and manifest those virtues imparted to them. These virtues as an expectation of the broader society include but are not limited to being decent citizens, being respectful, and having good mannerism. They are to be law abiding by obeying the norms and don'ts that govern them. They are to live and improve on what they have learned. They should be examples for other young people to follow. Also, in this age of globalization, they are to interact with one another world wide to find solutions to problems faced by their countries and the world, and to make the world and their countries a better place to be.

It is interesting to note that effective families are found in society whose affairs are pence in the hands of effective governments.

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Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The prolific advancements made over the past decade in the areas of information and Communication Technologies (ICT) has apparently been matched only by the economic opportunities it affords to developing nations. However, nothing parallels the vibrancy and energy exuded by our youth nations. Can these two great and seemingly unrelated forces be viably fused?

Information Communication Technologies irrefutably have opened the doors of development to many nations. Estonia and Costa Rica are well known examples of how successful IT strategies can help to accelerate growth and raise income levels. Such technologies range from the Internet to mobile telephony, which facilitate the rapid dissemination of data between sources. According to Kofi Anan, Secretary General of the United Nations, "The new Information and Communication Technologies are among the driving force of globalization". Can a small developing country such as St.Vincent and the Grenadines afford to remain oblivious to the inherent possibilities?

In my capacity as Head of State of my country, I would not conform to the traditional, but instead, agitate the confines of convention by having the youth of my nation play a role of utmost centrality in this sector. According to one report, St.Vincent and the Grenadines has a population consisting of about 40% below age thirty-five.

Unfortunately, an unofficial report estimates that some 15-20% of any graduating class would leave the islands for hopes of a brighter economic future. Can St.Vincent and the Grenadines a small yet progressive-minded nation, with a population of merely 110,000, accommodate this hemorrhage of talents, ideas and brainpower?

The Information and Communication Industry requires highly skilled and technical workers. The implementation of distance learning programs at subsidized prices by my government would attempt to satisfy such prerequisites. Further, to facilitate an even larger number of youths benefiting from such specialization program an "each one teach one" method would be employed, perhaps even as a form of repayment. While the writer recognizes that the relation between Youth and energy is quite a general assumption, it is arguable that young persons have traditionally been the pioneers in the introduction and usage of most new technologies within society.

The remarkable benefit of ICT is that it is not only a new Industry but it also complements the existing industries through e-commerce and stock marketing. To promote e-commerce

among Vincentian businesses, the young previously trained persons would be attached not only to major manufacturers and Industries, such as Tourism but also to the average Vincentian small producers. The creative genius and artistic talents of Vincentian craftsmen and women, for example, can consequently, be appreciated by a market beyond the stalls from which they service. Young people will also be encouraged to enjoy the benefits of distance work programs and the employment opportunities in the augmenting IT sector. Additionally, the increased ability for young women to work and young mothers to work at home further ameliorates life socially and perfectly illustrates the flexibility such employment offers.

The social and economic advantages subsequently become evident. The vital foreign exchange generated by such prudent and practical actions would not only improve standards of living but also the employment opportunities created, Armours small vulnerable island-states with a weapon to combat the crippling effects of brain-drain. This would facilitate the retention of perhaps, some of the Caribbean's best minds, voices and talents leading to the social enrichment of all our lives in this great Caribbean civilization.

It is my firm conclusion therefore that hesitancy to capitalize on such an opportune investment in our youths and nation's future can only result in an unnecessary and costly decapitation of its developmental thrust. The dawn of a new era has indeed begun, we must therefore arise to the challenges of the new day and utilize our most abundant and promising resources, our nation's youth.

Mr Tae-Ho Hwang

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Korea (Rep. of)

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The information revolution progressed very rapidly and we are now in a world where Information and communication Technologies (ICTs) are critical bases for business, industry, and everyday life. As a result, a close race on developing ICTs is being fought out between countries.

R.O. Korea is one of these countries, and fortunately we are doing very well in specific fields such as LCP (Liquid Crystal Display), semiconductor, and mobile communications. Also, the super-speed trunk networks have spread to each household more widely than any other countries and it makes possible that we have strong infrastructures to become the e-Korea. I will carry out policies that are focused on accelerating the development of ICTs by encouraging young people to use these connections positively.

At first, I should get it firmly into young people that ICTs cannot be separated from our everyday life by changing the paradigm of education. Until now, our education has placed less weight on computer courses than others. As a result, most students in R.O. Korea just enjoy the games or use computers to do very simple tasks. They do not know how to adapt their skills to their major in university or their job in work place at a decisive moment. Strong infrastructures do not guarantee young people will have the ability to use them. We should make them more familiar with computers, and let them demonstrate their problem solving ability through computers. By doing so, we can expect that young people will apply ICTs to their daily life and business.

Secondly, I would identify what fields of ICTs we are strong and weak in, and concentrate energies on the strong fields. To do so, we need to analyze the world market and compare the world's latest technologies with ours continuously. This is indeed the role of many talented young people. Because the development of ICTs is more rapid than any other technologies, young people who may be university students or researchers should cope effectively with such trends by technical exchange between countries.

Furthermore, once we select core fields in which have a lot of potential, we should guide promising youth join to research them, rather than invest in fields in which have less possibility to take the leadership.

Thirdly, I hope R.O. Korea will be the ICT leader of Asia and center for connecting with western countries. The "Digital Divide" is a problem awaiting solution, especially in Asia,

because there are many developing countries, which need aid from advanced countries. I will help young people make inroads into such countries, by helping them to form a long-range development plan and assist in developing infrastructures. We will build strong cooperative relationships between Asian countries so that we can expect great synergy effect. It will be helpful for them and ultimately for us.

Finally, I want to emphasize that an Information Society localized in one country is meaningless. I will request that young people across the world to keep open their minds to different ideas and traditions, and to be true ICT leaders, using ICT to bring the world together.

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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

I am Victorino Indeque from Guinea-Bissau.

If I were Head of State in my country, I would not have young people as the element to satisfy my political goals. Because history has taught us that in Africa, and concretely in Guinea-Bissau, the young people are only useful in two moments, that means in war time and election time.

This shows clearly that the youths have energy and wish to use their energy in any activity connected with progress of the country. Briefly, we can say that the youths are the base of development of any country. But the great problem is that the values of young people are normally used unnecessarily. Imagine if the youths graduated and they have access to placement and they are not used in these turbulent moments, what role would they play in the process of development of the country?

To be a little bit realistic we will arrive in conclusion that the youths firstly will feel that their efforts are not going in vain. Furthermore, they can segment the dynamic of country through their energy and knowledge, I meant that as a civil servant they can bring many innovations to their workplace. Also they can implement in-depth reforms in government. These reforms can lead the society for welfare.

If I were Head of State of my country, first of all I am going to prepare the youth as human resources, making them capable to respond to the necessity of the country. I mean that I am going to occupy them with academic graduation and professional training thinking in all necessities of the country and I am going to fit them in public administration according to their training and ability. I would support youths with creativities through credit, these initiatives can generate many jobs because the State or the government cannot absorb the great number of its staff. Subsequently, to give a good salary for workers as a way of inviting them to be cooperative and serious in their workplace.

Meanwhile I am going to incentivate the creation of many youth associations, NGOs and association networks through a set-aside fund for that purpose. And sensitize the donors, foreigner NGOs, foreigner and national entrepreneur and more government's partners to support the youths initiative, considering them as additional government partners.

In the policy of employment I am going to opt for gender concept, which means that I am going to give either young girls or young boys the same right and opportunity to contribute in the process of sustainable development of the country. Considering that the youths that we have today is society that we will have in the future, then it is very important to pay a special attention to young people. I would put then the process of globalization, because they have to familiarize with new technology and make them the apologist of planetary peace. In short words, to prepare the youths with clear ideas capable of exchanging their knowledge with worldwide youths.

But to put in practice all these things, in first place I am going to respect human rights, as a way of giving credibility to my country by inviting the investors to invest in the country. Afterwards, I am going to do a hard fight against corruption, capital whitenment, drug deals and AIDS. Also, I am going to annihilate the fame of stealing in public treasury directly or indirectly as a form of being the true man. I will never think of violence as a solution for any problem. I am going to be a head of state of dialogue and tolerance, without forgetting impartial justice for my people.

I am going to manage very well the natural resources, and public treasury funds. Finally, I am going to create the social council of reconciliation that council will assemble the trade unions, government and civil society. Also the council will have as the task to give ideas to settle every punctual problem or disagreement in country.

Mr Oula Ingero
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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The role of ICT is extremely important for the well-being of a country. The impact of the informational revolution on society can be compared with changes that the industrial revolution caused and it is obvious that new skills are needed to cope with this development. I feel that young people have an important role in this context because they will later use their knowledge and expertise in practice and affect the way society operates. If I were Head of State in my country I would provide young people with the essential skills to handle new ICTs. Such skills include the use of the pertinent technology, versatile communication skills and proficiency in navigating in information technologies. These faculties should be provided for everybody so that nobody would be excluded from the new opportunities that ICTs create.

If young people are educated and well versed in the new ICTs the outcome will be a higher standard of living and a more equitable society. Technology creates improved opportunities for communication among peoples, including the acquisition and exchange of information and personal interaction. These mean better chances to contribute to the development of society. If people feel that they can exercise influence, society will become politically more stable and thus better able to develop.

Young people should be given a chance to educate themselves and to have access to information via new ICTs. The State should plan their education in coordination with the private sector to make sure that young people have relevant skills that can be utilized commercially. Their ideas and motivation should be nurtured and guided so that they can play a role in the development of society. This could be done by creating pilot projects that use new technologies. As an example, one might mention distance studying in sparsely populated areas. However, one has to avoid technological determinism and bear in mind that ICTs are not a panacea. They do not replace personal interaction; rather they are primarily useful tools.

ICTs are especially applicable in an international context and they have a crucial role in globalization. For that reason I would emphasize not only the importance of technological skills but other skills too, to make sure that people utilize ICTs optimally. For example, communication skills and intercultural skills will be increasingly important in the future to coordinate international projects. As international trade is constantly increasing, the economic and social development of any given country is dependent on other countries.

Young people should therefore also become familiar with international projects in order to learn more about the way things are done in other places and other countries.

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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country. Information and Communication Technologies, can defined has sending information and communicate with other peoples around the world using the latest technology. In this essay I will evaluate how ICT was widely used and how it's contribute to the economic and social development. I will strongly agree with the given theme for the World 20003 Youth Forum.

Information and Communication Technologies "is a way where you can talk to your friends and family around the World, a place to do research for your thesis or a business presentation, a world-wide support group for any problem or need, a hundred of libraries and archives that will open to your fingertips and it the technology of the future that will help make our lives, and those of our children, brighter".

ICTs can contribute to the economic development of a country in terms of the amount of money that spent by a Government in each country for calling overseas for business purpose, for getting information on several matters or sending a information to overseas using faxes was taken time and spent a lot of money than using just an internet. For examples when sending a 1 page through a fax it charge $ 30.00 and takes a lot of time but when you send it through an internet using e-mail it takes a second or minute to be send.

Increasing in the number of employed peoples by the Government may affect the economy of a country, mostly in the office, peoples were doing a work like calculations, finding personal folders, e.g. the bank had too many staff to cope with the increase number of customers, because they were using the Cash Book or Cash Card. In this way the number of employee could be minimize by just using the machine teller to charge your Credit Card, or any way that you be spent your money like, restaurant, air ports and many others.

Secondly, the ICT could contribute to the social development. In many different way where peoples will get different information from all over the world about different things. For examples, using the internet, when peoples want to know about the weather, diseases, first aid, newly dangerous diseases like SARS, and many more, and can be received at any time, when they just go through the different web site available and aware of this and they will get ready before the action.

When I become a Head of my State at the unknown time, I will be introducing this to the Public especially to those students at their first school and I will show them how importance this technologies to develop our social and economic in different ways.

To conclude my essay, I will assure that I will help to develop my country in economic and Social development of my people and when it's done, I will support my country for this and make it use of it forever.

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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Yugoslavia is in a political and economically unstable region, with transition difficulties and with consequences of wars that have happened in the region during the last decade of the twentieth century. There is a lack of local financial resources and domestic capital. Society has a lasting interest in education and obtaining the skills, and it is ready to be patient during transitional difficulties. There is experience at all levels of society with highly qualified specialists.

In order to become a developed country, Yugoslavia has to catch up with advanced countries in terms of its infrastructure for ICT and the use of ICT in society. Attitudes favouring ICT innovative thinking (typical for the young population) will help developing a strong technological infrastructure. Considerable investment has to be made into high technology and communication networks involving foreign investors to modernize ICT infrastructure. Young, flexible, well educated people in high-tech, with a knowledge of foreign languages can be involved in international software developing projects and in that way attract foreign investors to invest in the so needed ICT infrastructure. People in the main cities as well as the people in the country will then have the possibility to create their careers in the country without needing to go outside to have better conditions of work. That will give new potentials for developing and stopping the brain drain.

In order to get better economical growth and develop economy based on knowledge, youth must be involved in the process of building an information society based on ICT. The State should do the following things for them:

- Give possibilities for learning computer skill in schools - all schools connected to the Internet.
- Give cheap access to the Internet.
- Invest in well equipped computer classrooms where students can get practice, instructions and useful advice.
- Involve young highly qualified people in high-tech on decision-making positions in Government as well as in ICT projects.
- Support software developing projects.

- Make working places attractive in the countryside.
- Involve young educated people in training and give support in using computers all around the country (remote, rural areas).

A safe and healthy life for the existing and future generations, extensive local and regional cooperation based on the principles of democracy, openness and participation are ongoing development goals for all of the countries in South Eastern Europe on their way to the EU.

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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

If I were elected Head of State, I would allocate 30% of the State budget to education and would use what has hitherto been an underused resource: young people. I would do so by organizing a network for youth integration with representatives from around the country, by means of the Internet, the press and any other means of communication. The network would be made up of young people with talent and initiative: high school students, university students studying sciences and technology, graduates and highly qualified volunteers.

The main problem in our society is lack of education and information. The idea, therefore, is to use young high school students as agents for the dissemination of information; to use university students to train and lead the different groups, and to have graduates participate by helping to develop ideas or by contributing the knowledge they have in their respective fields.

If the network is to be properly controlled, it must be made up of various cells connected via the Internet, radio stations, cellphone networks or advertisements in different media in order to spread knowledge of the progress they make.

The list of objectives is as follows:

- To give informative talks in order to teach the community about health and promote all kinds of cultural and artistic activities;
- To establish a forum in which young people can exchange ideas, experiences and comments and describe each cell's success stories;
- To carry out programmes in which young people from underprivileged sectors can engage in cultural, artistic and sports activities with a view to reducing delinquency.

By entering into direct contact with the community, young people will get to know its problems and will be able to seek appropriate solutions more easily; jobs could also be created for young graduates.

To encourage young people to participate in the network, they would be given fellowships and all manner of logistic support to enable them to continue their studies both at university and at technological schools, and in the fields of arts and sports.

Institutions contributing to this cause would be rewarded and would receive State support in the form of material to improve student learning.

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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Technology can be defined as the application of knowledge to the practical aims of human life or to changing and manipulating the human environment. It includes the use of materials, tools, techniques, and sources of power to make life easier or more pleasant and work more productive. Information refers to intelligence or facts gathered or communicated. Communication is the transmission of information from a source to an audience. Economic and social development is said to occur when persons within a country experience an improvement in their quality of life. This generally means higher incomes but also includes higher standards of health, more equality in opportunity and a better education system.

Information and Communication technologies (ICTs) include aspects of the present day such as computers, telephones, facsimile machines and a range of others. These have and can contribute to the economic and social development of a country in a number of ways. The advantages of ICTs include the ease with which everyday transactions can be conducted, the fostering of relationships with the rest of the world, the facilitation of trade and the general awareness by persons in a country of changes in the world around them.

The Head of State is the leader of the country and perhaps the most important person in the country. If I were Head of State, I would try my best to ensure that young people are exposed to ICTs at an early stage.

Firstly, a very significant amount would be attributed to education in the annual budget. Some of this money would subsequently be used to purchase computers for most (if not all) the primary schools in the island, since it is my belief that one should not wait until the secondary school level to be exposed to computer technology. Additionally, Computer Science or Information Technology would be made a mandatory subject to be taught as a part of the school's curriculum.

The Government sponsored competitions would be held quarterly whereby students of various ages would be asked to write essays, solve mathematical problems and participate in debates in an attempt to win a computer. The competitions need to remain local but could also be conducted collaboratively with students in other schools in the region via live web broadcasts. These competitions would have the effects of encouraging students to learn, developing a friendly relationship with the citizens of our neighbouring countries

and encouraging the students to make use of an ICT while demonstrating how this can be done positively.

Lastly, ICTs have become an important tool among trading countries. These countries keep in touch and negotiate with the use of ICTs. As Head of State I would encourage young people to maximize the opportunities available in the trade sector by keeping informed through the televisions, radios and print media at their disposal. I would also try to create jobs for these young people where they could make use of their knowledge of ICTs.

Information and Communication Technologies are a part of modernization and as such should be important to all countries of the world. If I were Head of State of my country, Dominica, I would ensure that the utmost emphasis was placed on this realization. One of my aims would be to make my people aware of the economic and social benefits to be derived from the proper use of ICTs.

## Attachment 1

1) It will assist young people who are limited in opportunity and vulnerable to the conditions of economic decline to become more aware of the beneficial programmes and activities in the many communities around the world, which have been designed to help young people in their development.

2) It will allow them to gain insights and experiences in leadership, assertiveness and self-esteem from effective face-to-face contact with young people from across the communities of the world so that they may better equip themselves to be leaders of influence for positive change among their peers.

3) It will provide access to the required knowledge and understanding of the worldwide issues affecting young people; to share experiences and to identify possible solutions that are feasible for adoption in their respective communities.

4) It will assist in developing their capacity to participate in an effective way to facilitate successful operation of a dynamic National Youth Organization in their country.

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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

ICTs can definitely contribute to the economic and social development of a country, but the first condition is to have the basic telecommunication infrastructure built. The second is to provide useful services and applications that would simplify everyday life and of course, enable instructions for their usage. Also an objective estimation of the situation in ICTs should be done in order to make investments now to master the next generation of technologies and applications and at the same time not to let another Internet bubble burst.

If I were head of State in Slovenia, I would promote education and training for the information society, especially for young people. Obviously the first thing to do would be to enable everybody to have equal access to modern information technologies, and even more, services. For example to guarantee inexpensive, and for certain activities free of charge, access to the Internet. Already here a lot of things should be done. For instance, there are only a few cyber cafes and Internet access points in the capital of Slovenia, Ljubliana, where I live. After my travelling through Thailand this year, I could say this is really ironic. If I compare their living standard to ours, it is on one hand much lower, seeing a lot of people - also families living on the streets or in a small hut with no running water, but on the other hand, no matter how small a village is, it has at least one Internet point or a cybercafe, normally full of young Thais. So that would be one of the things I would promote in Slovenia: using ICTs to join fun, communication and education, and consequently offer more jobs.

The next step would be to promote e?business in private and public sectors of the economy and to encourage and enable the largest possible scope of administrative and other public services via e?business. However, problems arise among older non?technically educated generations (aged 35 and above) due to the lack of basic ICT education. They fear any contact with it, for they do not know it, so there should be organized basic ICT courses, where people could learn about the advantages brought about by information technology and services, starting at how to use computers to make their lives easier, e.g. writing e?mails, paying bills via the Internet, educating themselves, etc.

Also more efficient health systems could be built by using ICTs which would create new jobs in the information sector. With the right policy more citizens would be included in social and economic developments.

I think technology development and innovation should be driven further by the needs of citizens, businesses and the society as a whole.

The digital divide is still a fact, but I think that we young people will gradually bridge it.

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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Slovakia today stands on the verge of entering the European Union. Building an Information Society is a part of the admission process. In the last ten years, Slovakia has undergone dramatic changes in the field of ICTs. The number of people with access to the Internet has increased almost hundredfold since 1993. The real task lies in making people aware of new technologies and, more importantly, making them understand how these work, and teaching them how to optimize the possibilities they bring.

Digital literacy among young people, especially students, is quite high, but it decreases rapidly in the rural areas: therefore education programmes focused on increasing the computer literacy among the masses are needed. As the Head of State, I would promote subjects dealing with computer usage at the primary level of education, thus making children computer-conscious at the earliest possible age. Computer education would be further improved at the secondary level with subjects concerning Internet usage and basic programming skills. This would provide all young people with sufficient computer knowledge for their future careers. At universities, the computer-oriented subjects would deal with the use of computers in students' specific field of study. At every level of the mentioned system, young people would play an important role as teachers, thus ensuring the upbringing of a whole new generation of computer users. University graduates, armed with the most current computer skills and knowledge, could also participate in creating new teaching methods and developing new school curricula needed for the primary level, as they do not exist at the present.

According to EU's eEurope+ action plan, schools are to be equipped with the necessary hardware by mid-2003. To make this a reality, however, an improvement in infrastructure and equipment acquisition is necessary. Every school should be equipped with a sufficient number of multimedia computers and be given convenient access to the Internet for both students and teachers.

Improvements could also be made in providing the Internet to the public. Today, roughly 4 per cent of households in Slovakia are connected to this information highway. It is caused by relatively high prices for Internet connection. Being in a relevant position, I would seek a solution to this problem by reinforcing competition, or through price regulation, and by creating a business-friendly environment in economically depressed regions. Young people, especially ICT and business students and graduates, would be encouraged to work on projects bringing the Internet to the people.

Slovakia has a great potential in its young people. It is crucial to encourage them to take an active part in the development of their country through computer literacy, and thus help to bring it into the European Union as a member.

Mr Nsenga Junior Kalonji

Université de Kinshasa

Sciences de la Communication

Dem. Rep. of the Congo

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

What role should one assign to information and communication technologies when one is at the head of government?

The main objective of the government information and communication technologies programme should be to open up the Congolese territory to new technologies.

Before going into detail, we should look briefly at the path communication has followed in human history. People have always communicated with one another. In order to convey their messages further afield they invented ways of communicating such as gongs or tom toms.

The desire to communicate being strong and the distances separating people growing ever larger, inventions came to the rescue to enhance the human capacity to communicate. First came the discovery of electrical waves, able to carry coded messages over vast distances. The invention of the transistor revolutionized the world of communication. Henceforth everything would be done remotely and better. The Morse code, the forebear of remote communication, had its day and gave way to radio, television, telex, fax and the Internet, which will be replaced by some other system of which we will learn in the near future.

Since these changes occur so fast, the best option is to keep pace with technological progress in order not to miss the development train.

The modern world is global. Both vast and narrow, it is virtually borderless, making self-reliance impossible for communities and individuals alike. People must live together, and living together they must communicate with each other, which means they will be unable to do without new information and communication technologies.

Having looked briefly at the evolution of information and communication technology and at the modern world in the era of globalization, it is possible to see what a government information and communication technologies programme might be. The government should accord prime importance to these technologies. Financial resources need to be mobilized in order to promote initiation into the use of computers and the Internet, both at school and in everyday life. The government's role should include joining forces with economic players in the telecommunication sector with a view to covering a large part if not the whole of the national territory with the infrastructure needed to connect up with

the different communication networks. This will allow the Congolese people to enjoy the benefits afforded by technical progress in the field of telecommunications. To bring the communities of the Congolese people closer together and closer to other peoples in the world – that should be the ideal, the noble aim of a responsible government desirous of its people's happiness.

Such is the role I would assign to information and communication technologies if I were prime minister of the Government of my country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Mr Erkin Kasimov

Tashkent University of Information Technologies

Uzbekistan

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Development and wide application of ICT have become a global tendency of the World progress in the post decade.

In contemporary dynamically developing World Information and Communication Technologies performs a leading role of an economy, contributing to attract investments to a country, creating new job opportunities, in calculating progressive technologies in production process and management, and thus providing sustainable economic development and improving the standard of living.

In deeply globalization world, ICT has been becoming a vital communication resource, which sharply cuts transaction expenses during information exchange, as well as expenses on carrying out commercial deals among market participants. Due to the evolution of ICT, globalization of the world economy has increased in the last quarter of XX century.

Globalization process has been being leaded from the information "explosion" and "information" in all spheres of the human life. Utilization of ICT caused changes in both economic and social structures globally ICT allows to expand the information exchange in terms of quality and quantity, decreased costs on formation and allocation activity thanks to receiving the necessary information on time. Implementation and development of ICT is very crucial for Uzbekistan as well.

However, because of low utilization of ICT within the economy Uzbekistan has been becoming less in development. Therefore, it is necessary to Uzbekistan to create strategy, which will provide mass inculcation and utilization of up-to-date ICTs. If I where Head of State in my county, I would carry out following things in order to achieve sustainable development of ICT in my country.

– Widening of the segment of Internet at national levels software industry
– Formation and utilization of information technologies
– Staff training
– Development of competitive environment among Internet service providers
– Improvement of legislation basis
– Providing information security and date protection
– Development of communication infrastructures

Moreover, it is important to value and potential the role of young generation in our managing world. Thus, it would be our responsibility (government officials) to educate young people and use their potential in our economy and social life.

For this cause, I would open subsidized training courses, creating competitive environment among students assisting talented youth to acquire necessary education.

Mr Koyenin Yaovi Kassegne
Universite de Lome
Genie Civil
Togo

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

If they are to meet their constantly growing needs, our societies need to develop the appropriate technologies. Only when their basic needs are met can people give of their best. Developing the means of information provides a suitable framework in which young people can promote the country's development, which entails mobilizing all the available human and material resources.

Each citizen needs to be kept abreast of everything happening throughout the country and the wider world. The installation of more powerful transmitters and of relay antennae for the national radio and television stations would be an asset in that regard. The people might also offer suggestions on how we could help them, in order to improve agricultural output in particular.

In order to maximize revenue and instil confidence in our development partners, we have made good governance one of our priorities. The press and private channels have an important role in ensuring compliance with the rules. To make our firms more competitive and efficient, we would seek to expand the telephone network, in order to promote business exchanges through the use of fixed-line and mobile telephones and by making the Internet accessible to all. By this means, our companies would be able to benefit from research findings and compete for international contracts. Unemployment would fall as companies would take on jobless graduates.

Individuals would be made more aware of the challenges to be met thanks to the exchange of ideas via electronic mail.

Our government would not lag behind in the use of information and communication technologies, as we would seek agreement on the decisions to be taken by means of teleconferences and teleworking.

Our social manifesto gives pride of place to young people so that they may play a lead role and act as the driving force behind the use of information and communication technologies which, as we demonstrated at the beginning, constitute tools for socio-economic development.

Young people will need to master the information and communication technologies. Their innovations in the process of adapting these technologies to our needs will be of great

benefit. They will need to acquire know-how in the course of their vocational training. Young people must work in teams, with each individual specializing in a technological field.

The young will have to put their theoretical knowledge into practice, particularly in the fields of electronics and telecommunications, in order to come up with projects for increasing radio and television transmission capacities.

The Internet provides a setting for exchanging information and accessing databases. However, economic competition will force our businesses to protect certain information so that it is available to domestic companies only. Local networks need to be developed, and young people have the tools to conduct projects in this field, which it will be up to us to subsidize.

In the face of globalization, our young people will have to cultivate the art of perfection when it comes to technological know-how.

Information and communication technologies offer unrivalled scope for developing our country. However, we will need the help of our young people, who make up the bulk of the population and have the brains to succeed.

Ms Anna Katalinic
University of Zagreb
Electrical Engineering, Radiocommunications
Croatia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

In our time political speech and writing are largely the defense of the indefensible.

George Orwell

One of the basic principles guaranteed in a modern democratic state is the freedom of speech. It is no coincidence that the time we live in, the time when more and more countries turn to democratic forms of government, is called the age of information. In my opinion, information, and the right to it, is what turns the wheels of democratic processes and benefits any country's development.

Modern technologies available today can enable every citizen to express his or her opinion, vote on a subject or contact government representatives on all levels. Every society leaves its future in the hands of its youth. Young people must be the ones who introduce new technologies and new ways of communication between all members of society. Young people, with their ideals and faith in a better tomorrow, should enable every citizen to be a part of the government, to make them feel that the real power is in their hands, and not in the hands of some invisible bureaucrats.

If I were the head of state , in accordance with my believes, I would ban any form of censorship, I would invest in education and would lead the country toward post-industrial technologies. Through new information and communication technologies I would enable every citizen to actively participate in governing of his or her own country. Internet connections would have to be available to everyone, for I believe, in this information era, one of the constitutional rights should be the right to information, thus so the access to the information superhighway. Investment in free internet would be compensated by charging the more complicated services of certain internet sites and internet/intranet systems.

Ms Yuki Katsuyama
Keio University
Political Science
Japan

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

If I were Head of State in Japan, I would have young people play roles of filling the generation gap in using Information and Communication Technologies.

For I think the worst obstacle to make ICTs a reality is gap in acquiring it. There are two gaps, I think.

The first is the one between the rich and the poor, the second is the one between the young and the senior.

And the second is certainly the problem which young people can and should solve (the first is that I, as Head of State in Japan, must solve).

There are two reasons that I think young people can fill the generation gap in acquiring ICTs. First, they are usually very good at using computers and acquiring information. They have been accustomed to it since they were children. And most of them use ICTs everyday.

For example, if you ride on a train, you will soon realize that many young people are busy at sending and receiving e-mails by using mobile phones.

Second, they have much time except for people who are already working; they don't have money, but have time to spend.

Then how should they do to attain the purpose? What should I have them to fill the generation gap?

The answer is that they teach senior citizen how to get ICTs and I should make the system.

Ideally young people volunteers can do it for nothing. But if it is imaginary, they can do it as part time job.

In order to make it a reality, I will establish schools were young people are teachers and the seniors are students. Of course I will help.

As a result, the seniors will become able to acquire ICTs and many people over generations can use it.

Moreover, I think there is a secondary effect that is exchange between two generations.

Ms Chimbaamba Kauti
Zambia Insurance Business College Trust
Business Administration
Zambia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

It can be said that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) if correctly applied, can enhance the social and economic development of Zambia. Examples of ICT include computers, telecommunication devices (e.g. mobile and satellite phones), electronic media and the Internet.

In Zambia the following problems relating to ICTs are being faced:

– poor electricity supply coupled with abrupt interruptions;
– poor telecommunications infrastructure and links;
– bad road networks;
– lack of knowledge in ICTs;
– high cost of ICT infrastructure (e.g. acquiring and installing dedicated telephone lines);
– high poverty and illiteracy levels.

If I was Head of State, I would ensure that young people played an important role in developing Zambia by embarking on a nationwide investment in the setting up of ICT infrastructure with an accompanying awareness campaign (on the uses and benefits of ICTs) through mass media (radio/television/press). Both activities would, of course, be headed by the youth.

To promote social development, deliberate policies employing the extensive use of ICT would be implemented in the education and health sector. Money for this would be provided for in the national budget.

In the education sector, computers (their applications, services and basic technologies), telecommunications and multimedia would be made mandatory at all levels of learning, right from primary to the tertiary stage (college/universities) with increasing detail along the way. Aspiring architects, draughtsmen and engineers would use design software such as CAD, CAE and PRO II to made design work easier, quicker and more efficient. Prospective lawyers, doctors or nurses would have access to expert systems and databases containing information to help them in problem solving.

It must be noted that, though the Internet provides us with free information sources that enable us to access libraries and conduct research, commercial on-line services also exist.

These sell access to large (usually nationwide) databases which are also available on CD-ROM. Commercial databases are costly but their benefits exceed their costs.

The wealth of information contained in these databases will aid personnel in the health sector to make well-informed decisions due to the availability and accessibility of the appropriate information.

Zambia's economic development can be aided by ICT as they can provide us with information on the best way of producing goods and services for export to earn foreign exchange which can then be reinvested in the economy to raise the living standards. ICT also allow for access to information on technological breakthrough, global markets and potential buyers.

ICTs can also be used to market Zambia's tourism sites via the Internet through various home pages with useful links of which some may be interactive to provide instant feedback.

If all the policies that have been intimated above were to be undertaken, we would be building generations of people who are fully aware of ICTs and how they can best be used to our advantage. A new culture embracing the computer-age would be born and as such, Zambia would be able to reach her full economic and social development potential.

Mr Ismael Kavezembi
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Informatoin Studies
Namibia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

## Information and Communication technology

Information and Communication technologies can contribute to the economic and social development of a country. The word economy means a communities system of using its resources to produce wealth for itself. The word social means living in an organized community and not solitary, it also helps us to utilize our resources better to produce wealth for our country. In the next few paragraphs, I will explain what role I would have the youth play to make this a reality if I were Head of State.

Firstly, I would make sure that all children are computer literate before they reach the seventh grade. This would be accomplished by supplying every primary school with a computer centre that is run by qualified personnel. I would allocate at least 70% of the national budget to education, to ensure that all secondary schools are provided with communication technology, like modems and microphones. By the time children enter the eighth grade they already know how to use computers and they can start learning how to surf the Internet. During this time, the children should be taught the advantages of using the Internet and how to retrieve all kinds of information.

After the tenth grade, I would advise the Ministry of Basic Education to add information and communication technology to the economics and social studies syllabi. I would also advise them to make the children take aptitude tests in order to see where their interests lie, for example if its in economics then the child will only continue with subjects concerned with economics. This is to make sure no time is wasted and children won't have a variety of subjects (geography, physical science, history). By the time the child enters university, he knows what to study and there won't be any confusion, this way we can ensure a growth in the economy and there will be less unemployed people.

I would also make sure that all libraries are equipped with at least twenty Internet-ready computers, which are open for public use, especially the youth. Qualified personnel should run these. The computers shouldn't only be programmed for educational use, because not all the young people will be keen on using them. They should also allow for entertainment. If this were done then we would see so many more young people in our libraries. This will not only keep them occupied but it will help them to develop an interest for information and communication technology.

In all educational institutions, there should be support for resource and material-based learning. This means that the students get their tuition both theoretically and practically.

This will ensure that they understand their subjects better. I would also send teachers and lecturers abroad in order for them to gain more knowledge and improve on their teaching skills. Last but not least, I would find a telecommunication company that has the latest technology and lowest rates, so that more people can afford to have the Internet in their homes and educational institutions. If all this is achieved, I believe that the economy can grow at least by 60%.

Mr Abdessamad Kelbouza
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Telecommunications
Algeria

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

## Introduction

According to the United Nations, young people are those between the ages of 15 and 24; they make up about 18% of the world's population.

Young people are a dynamic force. Pushing experience and hope to the limit, they harbour a wealth of aspirations peculiar to that point in their lives. Precarious living conditions – unemployment, exclusion, poverty, which are particularly harmful to underprivileged youths – must not be allowed to drain that potential and energy. When they seek to forge an identity in such conditions and to give meaning to their lives, young people risk profound disillusion, anger, even revolt, and may forever give up in fully participating in society. Their capacities must therefore be developed to enable them to make the transition from childhood to adulthood and to become responsible people.

There is no question that young people constitute a decisive age group, one that is capable of reason and mature action. Their participation must not be postponed to an uncertain future: we need them to participate starting now. Young people are the present: what they do is necessary for human development and its sustainability. Their strongest demand is to be able to participate:

- They want to be considered fully?fledged citizens. They are able to play a responsible and decisive role in society. All they need is the opportunity to prove their aptitude and advice on how to do so. It is worth consulting and involving them in all aspects of social exchange.
- They wish to be serious and reliable partners in devising, planning and implementing programmes in their communities and societies. Young people have no less to say than any other group on the problems of society and the possible solutions. It is in everyone's interest to take proper account of their concerns and suggestions.

They should play a role in the decision?making process and the importance of that role should be duly recognized.

The physical presence of young people:

In bodies (secretariat, delegations, national commissions) and in workshops, meetings, conferences and any events organized by the organization or its partners. This would create opportunities to listen to young people and to engage in conversation with them.

## 1 Secondary education and occupational training

Given the pivotal role of secondary schooling in young people's lives at a time when crucial decisions are being made about their futures, and the importance of occupational training in allowing them to enter today's labour market:

- list the youth NGOs likely to take part in youth training programmes in a variety of fields;
- take part in the discussion on the definition of new secondary school programmes encompassing qualifying training and building new kinds of bridges to the labour market.

### 1.1 Higher education

The Student Forum held in the framework of the World Conference on Higher Education (October 1998) underscored the need to give strong impetus to the training of highly qualified human resources for the sake of sustainable development. New partnerships are being envisaged to perform this daunting task.

- To define mechanisms able to facilitate equal access to higher education facilities.
- To have students participate in community development and occupational training.
- To facilitate the establishment of partnerships associating students with social players in order to ensure the transition to the working world.

## 2 Transferring and sharing knowledge with young people

- Ensure young people play an active part in the World Conference on Science and in the follow-up action prepared with and for them;
- In partnership with youth NGOs, make scientific publications accessible to young people by making them understandable and attractive and publish them as brochures and leaflets for general distribution. Priority should be given to three main topics: bioethics, the management of water and resources and renewable energies.

## 3 Communication, information and computer technology

### 3.1 New technologies

The new communication technologies must serve to open spaces for dialogue with and for young people, to establish frameworks for debate, to facilitate the establishment of youth networks and organizations of young people. The new communication technologies can also be used by young people to access information and as an educational aid that furthers their personal development and social integration. To this end:

- material must be made available to youth organizations and associations, and cyber cafes and Internet corners created and staffed;
- discussions must be moderated within the framework of fora organized on particular subjects on the website;

- educational instruments and teaching aids must be provided to teachers, pupils and students around the world via the website;
- the search for information must be facilitated in areas that are important to young people.

## 3.2 Training of young people in communication and information

Access to information is vital for the development of young people and their participation in social life. At present, however, the media rarely or poorly transmit information adapted to young people's needs. Support the participation of young people in media activity. Information corresponding to young people's needs should:

- mobilize support (training and equipment) for the media (newspapers, magazines, radio stations) created or directed by young people for young people, fostering the establishment of partnerships with existing media;
- facilitate the establishment of networks between young people's media and young media professionals.

Ms Zoha Kerfan

Telecommunications Institute

Programming

Syrian Arab Republic

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Sciences are unlimited and knowledge is an endless ocean, and telecommunications is one of these sciences that takes a special priority in our life. We can say that telecommunications is the key to new life, because most businesses and organizations depend on telecommunication and exchange of information.

It is essential to study the state of telecommunications in our country and work hard to improve its usage.

The young should take these requirements into consideration, because they have the capabilities to discover everything which is suitable and helpful in this field.

To achieve good purposes, the young must have appropriate experience, knowledge, competence and the desire. We must study and work hard to devise new and helpful ideas in all sciences, encourage the scientific researches in all domains, develop our capabilities to e suitable for our country's needs, enhance the performance of the telecommunication field and study the new courses of telecommunications implemented in universities and institutes of higher learning.

A country is built by its people's efforts. So we must pay our efforts to build our country and live in a developed society.

Mr Mohammed El Mustafa Khalid
Sudan University for Science and Technology
Telecommunication Engineering
Sudan

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Development as defined by the U.N, are the procedures that help to unify the efforts of both government and citizen to improve the economical, social and cultural conditions in local societies.

Perceptively that is done by providing means and ways of integration and interaction between, means of production, utilization of human resources and communications for the purpose of transferring technologies to needing regions. That is done to help these societies raise their activities and potential effectively.

Young people represent the most active and promising sector of the society, the whole future of a nation depends on them hence, to make use of these resources, a wise policy should be adopted to bring about positive changes to such societies.

But this itself is a difficult task to do unless systematic and planned tools are utilized to prepare these potentials to do the job.

Here we find a real need for the revolutionary ICTs system to educate and train the youth to broaden their minds and link them with the world to work together for the welfare of mankind. That is important to make such development a reality and governments should provide the following:

1) Introduction of ICTs, as a top priority policy,
2) Construction of regional networks and other regional communication systems to increase the influx of information,
3) Construction of LANs and WANs services among educational institutes, universities and research centers,
4) Construction of youth centers that provide computer training and internet services,
5) Introduction of Radio broadcasting activities country wide,
6) Ensure equal concern over entertainment and educational methods through media,
7) Reduction of taxes on telecommunication and I.T. equipment to make services available and within hand.

By achieving these requirements, young people can play their vital role in economical and social development of their societies and nations. In developed countries we find that less than 70% of the population are dependant on the agricultural sector. However, despite this fact, they don't reach satisfactory levels of self-sufficiency. So by making the ICTs available for young people this can lead to an uplift in all spheres of activity in a nation, e.g., by transferring better technologies.

In Sudan the potential for introducing developmental schemes that employ large numbers of qualified youth can help eradicate one of the main hindrances that face youth, e.g., unemployment. It is essential that the government should collaborate with other developed countries and international organization to sort out the best way to uncover what potential youth possess and how they can help develop their countries and nations. ICTs can be utilized to ameliorate communications and hence deploy an efficient use of resources in all economic sectors.

Development of nations relies in a great deal on technological and scientific superiority. Therefore, preparing youth adequately is the key to achieve the desired goal s and gains of development.

ICTs can play a strong role in improving such goals.

Ms Patricia Khambadza
University of Malawi - Polytechnic
Telecommunications and Electronics Engineering
Malawi

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

In Malawi, the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector is not well developed. Among other reasons, this is caused by the limiting factor that ICT is only accessed by those who attain higher/tertiary education. Regrettably, even those minority youths in the tertiary education institutions do not have full exposure to ICT and some can not afford to acquire practical expertise due to lack of facilities.

Given the opportunity to be the leader of Malawi, I will endeavour to bridge the wide gap that exists among the youth who are the leaders of tomorrow. My government would come up with practical strategies that would stand behind the digital divide, recognize it as a social issue and make it part of the public policy, social and key initiatives, providing incentives for expanding access to the infrastructure and application.

While we acknowledge the very low rate of quality education attainable in Malawi, it would be of greater importance to use the existing institutions, for example, universities, government and private secondary schools and vocational training centres to focus much on ICT.

Specialization should not be the scapegoat that would make youth shun ICT. Many youngsters who specialize in the area of carpentry, business studies, environmental studies, and other fields, would be convinced, with my government, that ICT should be an indispensable working companion in professional activities.

The role of a government in promoting the youth's understanding of ICT is very crucial. In every society the government sets the social and industrial agenda.

My administration would make the ICT programme a priority. My government, through the Ministry of Education, would set aside funds to sponsor young people to read for ICT programmes, do ICT-related research, projects, organize ICT awareness symposiums in both rural and urban centres, provide adequate learning and a conducive learning environment for the youth.

With the alarming rate of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in this sub?Saharan Africa to which my country belongs, I, as the president, would make intensive utilization of the Internet and the ICT knowledge of the youth to disseminate HIV/AIDS awareness messages to all the young people who have the opportunity to access the Internet. This would be easier because the majority of the youth would be conversant with computer systems, software applications and the Internet.

The skilled youth and other investors abroad would be encouraged by my government to invest in the ICT sector and to make full use of the technologies according to the needs of Malawians. As an initiative to technologically empower the youth, my government would set up a loan facility to enable willing and potential young people to venture into ICT businesses.

In conclusion, it is easy to make development a reality by training the youth, adequately funding learning institutions that are ICT oriented and further sponsor young people willing to further their studies in ICT. With the political will of my government, the ICT gap will be reduced through the trained youth, who will in turn spur economic development.

Ms Hyunjin Kim
Seoul National University
Electrical Engineering
Korea (Rep. of)

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Sometimes I dream of being a statesman who leads the young people of the country. As a head of state who manage the whole country, I cannot help but consider the development of which the main elements are young people and the technology, especially the Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Young people are the components as well as the main stream of the society. And the technology, especially the ICT is the good means for a country to make the development a real one. With taking account of these two elements, there are many things what young people ought to do. And I will ask them to be an engineer, a scholar, an entrepreneur, or an intellectual which is the basis of other three. The young people who play the four roles above will lead my country to the way for the development of technological, economic social, and even political fields.

First of all, as a head of state, I will have young people live as a hand to country, which is the engineer. Engineers think and create the new technology. They are the ones who see the future beforehand. And the ICTs are highlighted as an advanced technology recently. So being an engineer and making a progressive ICTs do go with the economic development. Besides, chances for high quality long-life education have been greater due to the fact that new ICTs, for example the Internet, emerged. And the engineers deserve the applaud of it. Accordingly, they can bring the development of economic and social field.

Second, I will request young people to be a scholar, as a role of a Head of a country. It doesn't mean, however, that the scholars who just stay in their own schools. The advanced technology ICT, is complicated to the general public. They usually use the product without knowing how it works. So it is widely said that the technology may rule the people. But the scholars can prevent this situation from proceeding. Scholars can explain to the people now the machines work and why they have those functions easily. Then the public who come to have more powerful view to the technology are the social development themselves. Young people's roles as scholars will lead the social advance.

Third, as a mouth of a country, the entrepreneur is also needed. The technology would be useless if it were not known to the people. Therefore, the entrepreneur who show the technology to the people all around the world plays an important role. During the 2002 Korea-Japan World cup, for example, many Korean IT companies – SAMSUNG, LG and so on – strengthened the public activities. As a result, that brought the increasement of

soling their products. Neither engineers nor scholars can sell the technology. With no doubt, the role of an entrepreneur gives the country the economic progress.

And the last and the most important role for the young people are the intellectuals. They are the people who see the society in many aspects. They want to know not only how the products of technology are making, but also how the fruits of technology are distributed. In addition, they care about the correct use of the technology. The LINUX and the users of it are the good examples.

LINUX users share their information freely, and it is directly connected to the progress of the ICT. In short term, it is not good for the economy. But in the long run, no copyright and no royalty make the product have low price and high quality.

The Internet gives the political development by resurgence the democracy in its original meaning. The intellectuals are those who use the technology properly and have the social and political development come true. They can be called a heart of the country.

As a Hand, a Head, a Mouth, and a Heart, the four roles are needed for the development of a country. With the education and system, I, the leader of a country, can be going to cheer up the young people. The technology, especially the ICT, and the young people, playing the four roles, are the requirements for the country of today to development in many fields.

Mr Melvin Marcel Koendjbiharte

Anton de Kom University of Suriname-Faculty of Technical Sciences

Mechanical Engineering

Suriname

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

I would like to start off by saying that my country is a third world country where finances are scarce. In this globalizing world we live in it is important for every country to keep up with the latest developments in order not to be left behind. It is here where information and communication technologies start to play a very important role.

If we look at the latest technological developments in communication we see that they have changed the way information is sent from one place to the other enormously. Sending and receiving information is a lot faster and distance is no longer a barrier. This makes it easy to do business or exchange knowledge with other countries all over the world. This, of course, is very important if you want to establish economic and social development in a country, which is something we, here in Suriname, as a third world country really want.

It is therefore very important not only to be aware of the latest technological developments, but also to make use of them. In order to do so, you have to educate people, and this is where the young people will play an important role, for they are the future. They have to introduce this technology into society and really benefit from it. Therefore, if I were to be head of State, one of the first things I would do is to introduce the use of computers, starting at primary schools. Up until now, the use of computers at primary schools has been very rare, and some children do not even know how to work with a computer. Many children have to go to an Internet-walk-in and pay to work on a computer, because many families cannot afford to buy one.

Another thing I would like to do is to introduce a new course at our university, which specializes in information and communication technology. Up until now this has not yet been carried out, although it has proven to be essential. Furthermore, I would try to establish a better contact between the university and the private sector, so that young people are being educated to meet the needs of that sector. The studies being done should comply with what the industries require.

I would also introduce this latest communication technology into our government. As a result of outdated technology, our government system is not functioning very well and there are far too many civil servants. Implementing better technology will not only take

away these problems but also lead to economic and social growth. For example: Government expenses would be cut, civil servants would be brought into the private sector where they can be used in a more functional way; communication with the private sector would be better etc. etc.

Young people could be used to carry out such projects for the government and the private sector, but in order to do so they should be properly guide and educated.

Mr Abdoulaye Koita
Ecole Nationale D' Ingenieurs
Genie Civil
Mali

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Today everyone recognizes the importance of information and communication technologies. As a result, more and more seminars, conferences and workshops are organized in this regard.

Information and communication technologies are sophisticated tools for information and communication, expediting work.

- What national policies for the education of young people in Mali should be adopted to ensure that development?

in Mali is a reality?

- How can this education offer Mali strong prospects (advantages) for development?
- How can information and communication technologies contribute to the social and economic development of Mali?

In this day and age, information and communication technologies are the embodiment of the technology revolution. It is therefore essential that Mali and Africa in general do not once again miss this opportunity to become part of world development. These new technologies such as mobile telephones, televisions and primarily the Internet, which is out in front and now considered to be the information highway, have a great bearing on economic, political and social conditions in a country, whatever its level of development. The evidence is clear: the most popular use for the Internet at the moment is to send messages. A person in Mali can send an e-mail to someone else in Paris. This mail could take the form of a letter (or to a friend), course work from students to distinguished professors or even orders for goods from a firm. The advantage is that the message is received in a few seconds and more cheaply.

If I were president of the Republic, I wouldn't let this technology revolution pass me by.

As young people embody the destiny of any nation, I would honestly try to ensure that young people of all ages (primary school to university) had cheaper or even free access to new information and communication technologies.

They would be able to surf the Internet, i.e. look for information on one server or another in different countries. This might include tourist information about a country, products

offered by a firm, recent documents, and large libraries in the world. The young people of Mali will not be able to tap into this pool of information unless they are educated, and this is why we will provide all schools (primary, foundation, secondary and higher) with enough high-quality computer equipment to enable young people to gain knowledge from a young age, and be of use to their country in the future.

The programmes to be set up would seek to provide at least one computer per class (short-term programme) and a portable computer for each student.

We would call on leading international experts to come and teach our young people through seminars, conferences and even lectures because I would introduce into school programmes subjects relating to the positive impact of new information and communication technologies on the development of Mali, so that our young people are suitably prepared.

All faculties and grandes ecoles will have what are known as cyber-students enabling contact to be made with the best professors in the world and research successfully completed. The example of the French-speaking digital campus and cyber-student at the Faculty of Science and Technology in Mali should be welcomed and expanded.

Following the example set by other countries in the world, such as France, the United States and Japan, etc. that have developed through the training of young people in particular, fellowship programmes will be set up in certain branches of new information and communication technologies, such as programming, databases, and software development.

The best students, without exception, will benefit from these fellowships. They will be put in the appropriate environment and followed closely. When they have finished their studies, they will come back to their country to educate and inform the population about information and communication technologies. They will develop software tailored to the realities in different sectors in Mali in order to expedite work.

Equipment that has broken down will be repaired by these young people, rather than others, which will be a significant money-saving measure.

These young people will also design websites, i.e. Internet pages promoting the pictures and sounds of our artists, or perhaps pictures of the produce of Mali (cotton, shea butter, millet, rice, etc.) together with a full description; furthermore, the pages may contain pictures of the goods produced by our companies and the full addresses of these companies.

This will give our businesses the opportunity to promote the culture of Mali all over the world, and to buy and sell products without having to travel.

The Internet also offers different services, such as chat (giving you the opportunity to have a conversation in real time with the person you are speaking to), and videoconferencing (enabling you to see and talk to the person you are communicating with).

It is possible to telephone on the Internet, follow the television, films, radio, and even read the papers; this is why the Internet is known as the information highway. The young people of Mali must take this road.

The globalization battle will be fought on electronic networks. This means that our young students, researchers, doctors and lawyers, for so long disadvantaged by not being able to access up-to-date scientific information, will have access to the riches of all the libraries in the world. Lastly the advent of tele-education will enable young students in Mali to have remote lessons with leading professors in the world.

Young physicians will derive great benefit from telemedicine, not only will they be able to improve their performance, but also find solutions to remote emergencies.

Patients in Mali will no longer be inconvenienced by expensive travel, as they will benefit from what we call remote operation or assisted surgery.

These are specific, practical examples providing irrefutable proof that information and communication technologies will contribute to the social and economic development of Mali. Furthermore, we will invite large telephone line distribution companies to install telephone lines under contract, as although Malitel is doing its best, it does not cover the whole country, and competition would bring down prices.

Imagine how many officials in Mali, let alone students, have mobile phones. This restricts development straight away. With companies' agreement, we will establish special tariffs not only for students but also for different categories of officials. For example, in Senegal a student can have a telephone line for 15000 CFA Francs.

This is not just rhetoric. Each of the seven hundred communes in Mali will be connected to the Internet and have access to Mali television and other television channels without great difficulty.

This means that young people, whether they are from a town or village, will develop with the rest of the world.

The young agricultural worker in the fields will be able to learn about effective cultivation technologies, buy ploughs, fertilizers and tractors without having to travel.

In summary, information and communication technologies are the best means of promoting social and economic development in Mali.

We are deeply committed to involving young people as they are at the vanguard in any society.

Access to new information and communication technologies will be made easier and cheaper by: setting up youth centres, providing all schools with computer equipment and cyber students, introducing tele-education, telemedicine, and involving a large number of line distribution companies, etc.

Ms Luisa Koloamatangi
Tonga Institute of Higher Education
Information Technology
Tonga

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

It is not only believed that Information and Communication Technologies can contribute to the economic and social development of a country, but I myself do strongly agree with the statement. I believe in it and I count on its practical applications to make the inclining successful development of a country, economically and socially.

The study of ICTs will enable this vision to become a living dream. We are currently in the Computer Age, and this will grow deeper and wider, and if Tongans are to remain illiterate of the subject then there is no hope at all for an effective climb in development projects.

The reefs of today will be the land of tomorrow. The youths of today are the backbone and the hands that will bring development into the light of our countries. If I were the King of Tonga, I would do everything in my power to establish, promote and development anything that will support and bring the light of Information and Communication Technologies into the Kingdom of Tonga.

Now that there is already an Institute for such studies, and in the past few years there has been more than 100 graduates from this Institute, I, as King, would practice a reform in the government so as to allow the loyal graduates of this Institute to walk into Tonga's Government Civil Service and use the information that they had gathered to promote communication with Tonga and the new development, in which they can bring up Tonga socially and economically.

In addition to that, I would support and give the youths of Tonga permission to establish their personal, very carefully considered business in the kingdom. More workplaces mean that there will be more employees needed. So more local and international graduates can work for our island kingdom in these places.

In reality, as a Tongan who lives in Tonga, the developing kingdom needs Information and Communication Technologies for successful development. The two have to live side by side. Information will be useless if there is a lack of communication in the field of technology.

Ms Jenny Komanovsky

Tel Aviv University

Computer Science, Biology

Israel

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The potential possibilities of any child are the most intriguing and stimulating in all creation. Ray. L. Wilbur

Try to imagine your life without the wheel ...

What do you mean impossible? Seems ridiculous? That would be the reaction of a 10 years old kid if you ask him or her to imagine the world without the computer.

Children tend to except the world they are born into as is. Everything they see around is so obvious, so basic, so elementary. It is clear that the tree, the dog and the sky have existed always, for eternity. The same is obvious regarding the phone, computer and TV. Children are much more open to the world and to new ideas, they learn fast.

Teenagers of the millennium, who were born into the www world are good example. Their world is nearly free from geographical limits as well as from linguistic and cultural obstacles. Thus it is clear that country, which is interested in developing through communication technologies, must do it through investment in its younger citizens. Those who would learn to manage new ways of communication as they learn to walk and talk, would then be given the greatest chances to make a better use of the technology in the future.

It is lately popular to talk about bridging the digital divide by educating the older generation. But the fact is that it is also an easy policy to implement.

According to the Youth Indicator, made by the UN Statistic Division for the passing year, most of the less-developing countries have the biggest percentages of young population. In countries like Angola, Chad, Congo, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Nigeria, Somalia, Uganda and Zimbabwe over 45% of the population are kids and teenagers, under the age of 15. Crossing this information with the Education Indicator made by the same UN Division one can easily notice that the same countries have the lowest numbers of formal education years for an average youth. Some of them do not have any kind of formal schooling at all.

That is why, as a leader of developing country, who is concerned about the future of her nation, I would direct the effort to educate the children to the new communication technologies, starting from the very beginning, while they are spending time in their

kindergartens. It demands a lot of investment in foundations, but I believe it would be worth every penny.

The phrase Children are Our Future was written on paper. Now it is our turn to implement it to the web, mobilizing the great potential of the ICT to insure they will make it a better future.

What its children become that will the community become. Suzanne Latollette

Ms Kornélia Kontor
Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BUTE)
Electrical Engineering and Information Technology
Hungary

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Utilizing all of the possibilities given by the information and communication technologies can not happen as a blast, while following the development of technology. It is highly important to set priorities and guidelines that gradually make the essential knowledge and application of these technological achievements a part of the lives of the members of the society (possibly the widest range of them).

It is important to reveal the necessity of these achievements and technologies, their benefits to the lives of everyday people so that they do not take the changes around them as a burden and an unreachable and unthinkable mystery.

My experience as a student in information science is that there is a part of society in Hungary that is proficient and interested in following the constantly renewing technologies (students in technological higher education and the active members of the industry).

They could serve as (a) contact(s) towards the rest of society. It is important for this group to take part in teaching today's teenagers the right views, to pass over the essential (basic) knowledge (most of all within the boundaries of the school system). This way, today's youth could become the realizers of information society by taking the changes of the next decades as natural.

The rate of participation in education has grown already so much, that the widest range of society could be reached through elementary and secondary schools.

This could be the way to secure that the most possible people learn the views of the 21st century, without which the new millennium's information world based on ICTs could be trembled at its foundation.

Considering the shortness of this essay I can only mention a few things that would lead to medium-term development in Hungary.

In my country the problems of the aging society have appeared, which is deepened by the rising foreign employment and studies of young people hoping for economic comfort and career possibilities. The highest importance in this aspect would be securing the possibility of home-work and distance learning (suitable international relations), their physically

important components (communication systems of suitable quality and price) and teaching the technological knowledge to these starting from a young age. Home-work could start to solve economical and sociological problems as well.

At a short range my goals would be to make the new way of thinking, world view of the 21st century accepted, so we should light up the need of knowledge in the people instead of letting them fight with the unknown.

This need and recognition could be a safe ground for creating the above-mentioned system of home-work and distance learning, which could give a solution in medium-terms to many problems that are getting serious presently.

In my opinion, after realizing these steps it would be possible to think about creating principles that are even more global and lead to an even stronger development, which would lead us to form the real information society.

Mr Ivo Kovacevic

Faculty of Electrical Engineering

Telecommunications

Serbia and Montenegro

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Being the Head of State would imply a great responsibility but also a challenging task to tackle in the field of creating the politics of development of my country and leading it into the new Information Era. The main direction of the politics would be motivating people of all ages and social structures and enabling them, in all possible ways, to take an active part in making the future of their country and helping it not to be left behind in the forthcoming years.

Considering the nature of ICTs with respect to the natural more conservative approach of the older part of the population, I would regard young people as carriers of new technologies and the prosperity of the country.

In my opinion the foundation of the whole development must be an education. Children starting from primary school should be able to obtain basic knowledge on how to use computers. It would be implemented in all schools in the country, preventing children from smaller towns and provinces of being left far behind the ones from the capital.

School programmes at the basic level would not consist of courses about computer architecture and programming, but their task would be to educate children how to use standard software tools (to write an essay, to draw a picture, etc.) and how to use the Internet as a source of information. In order to enable it, every school would be equipped with computers and access to the Internet. It is very important that these courses have a strong practical background, which at this level is more important than a theoretical one. High school programmes would also include advanced courses going in depth of ICTs and Computer Sciences, and they would be a starting point for the future telecommunication engineers and experts in that field. The idea would have to be followed by modernizing courses in classical subjects like mathematics, physics, history, biology, etc. Pupils should be encouraged by their teachers to use the Internet as a source of information and as a bridge to culture worldwide to learn different things and to present them to the whole class.

As it would be slightly complicated with today's teachers, especially the older, I would help to organize and financially support students of ICTs and related fields who would be interested in performing these programmes in schools. Teaching assistants could also be enrolled.

Students could be attracted to these kinds of programmes by financial aid provided by the government and by pleasant and stimulating working conditions. Basically, it would mean that the young would educate the younger.

The policy can also be implemented at the universities. Aside from enabling equipment and Internet access, students of sciences not closely related to ICTs should be animated to use the Internet in a way of organizing presentations on how the Internet and modern technologies could benefit their own profession. Some experts from foreign countries could be invited to share their experiences and make presentations more attractive.

Another issue is to stimulate the graduates to stay in their country, offering challenging working and research positions. They should be enabled to express their creativity and to put into practice knowledge obtained at the university. Provided that young, intelligent and motivated people have these conditions, the country could gain its prosperity and they would be considered to play the most important role in it as they would be recognized as pioneers of new technologies. With that sort of politics our country would soon have quality products that would be highly scaled in the international markets.

An idea of equipping every school and faculty with broadband Internet access would post another task and that would be modernizing the telecommunication network infrastructure of the country.

With the profit collected from ICTs industry and again reinvested in ICTs research and modernization, new working places for graduate students could be opened bringing benefits to the economic growth.

Ms Olive Kubumwe

Kigali Institute of Science, Technology and Management (KIST)

Génie Electroniques et Télécommunications

Rwanda

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Today, the world is being driven by the very rapid development of information and communication technologies (ICTs), which means that most sectors – medicine, management, the economy, for instance – are now computerized.

ICTs contribute significantly to a country's social and economic development by facilitating the accomplishment of certain tasks that would be impossible for a human being alone. I am referring here to the practical uses of the computer: its capacity to store so much information, to carry out so many operations in such a short space of time, to connect us to the whole world via the Internet. I am also thinking of the much publicised mobile telephone, which has made communication so easy that it has reduced the world to a small village.

If I were head of State, I would encourage the advance of these technologies, focussing on young people in particular because of their great capacity to accumulate knowledge along with the skills they need to develop their talents, and then to spread the knowledge thus acquired, namely their know-how.

I would do my utmost to ensure that young Rwandans started to learn information and communication technologies in primary school. They would thus grow up in a knowledge-rich environment, learning to carry out certain operations themselves.In this way it will be all the easier to acquire know how as they will be permanently in touch with what is going on in the modern world.

My task as head of State would be to ensure: the organization of various conferences and debates, especially in schools so as provide young people with more opportunities to discuss their ideas and exchange views about ITCs; the broadcasting of radio and television programmes to encourage young people to seek out new knowledge pertaining to ICTs; and the preparation of curricula, from primary school through to university level, that include ICT courses.

Young people in rural areas will not be left out. Material and financial resources permitting, they will be able to acquire knowledge about the techniques and technologies of information and communication, as they have a part to play in the development of their own environment as well as the country as a whole. Consideration will definitely be given to setting up and providing the wherewithal for technical education.

Lastly, I would encourage international cooperation between my country and the developed world so that the youth of Rwanda may enjoy the benefits of up-to-date knowledge pertaining to information and communication technologies.

Ms Jaana Kuorelahti
Helsinki University of Technology
Telecommunications Engineering
Finland

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Let the ideas of young people be heard.

If I were Head of State in Finland, I would provide favourable environment for young people where they could create all kinds of new service ideas for Next Generation Network (NGN). With NGN I mean IP and Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) based converged network. New services could be anything one can imagine to provide through the network and they would be available easily when needed.

The new encouraging environment would be established in connection with everyday activities of young people. Thus it would be open to anyone willing to contribute to the future services or willing to share and develop their ideas. The environment could consist of different kinds of activities directed at young people. One way to form this kind of environment could be, for example, organizing projects related to current topics at schools or supporting an online community for exchanging service ideas. However, the main target of this environment is to support active young people and provide them chances to be heard.

Creation of new services requires innovations that have not yet been discovered. Young people such as teenagers and students are curious and open-minded by nature and they are keen to make their dreams come true. Internet, mobile phones and short message service (SMS) for example are natural part of young people's lives in Finland. NGN would mean the next interesting phenomenon for young people especially if they have their role in developing how to use it.

Nowadays communication is very easy for young people without any distance limitations. Thus it is very simple for them to further develop their ideas with like-minded peers. Naturally young people are the owners of their service ideas. An open issue is how to bring new services into commercial use. Do young inventors provide their new services by themselves? What chances would young inventors have to transfer the ownership of their inventions to interested service providers?

The remaining question is what network vendors, network operators and service providers would do on their part to make this kind of service creation environment targeted at young people a reality.

Mr Nenad Kusic
University of Split
Electrical Engineering, Telecommunications
Croatia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

One of the fundamental aspects of human nature is the desire to explore unknown worlds and to understand and describe the problems and phenomena around us. We want to find solutions that will be contributions to the development of humanity. In today's global community, telecommunications has the ability to connect people in many different parts of the world. It has become important in all aspects of our daily lives. This is not only a reality now; it is our future as well. Thus, we must be ready for learning and accepting new technologies. This ability to adapt quickly to changing technologies is where young people can play very important role.

They are hungry for new knowledge and willing to work hard to prove themselves. They are open to making new connection, making new friendships, and coming up with new ideas. All this energy and flexibility of this young minds can be used to solve problems if this energy is focused in right direction. Any solution to economic development will rely heavily on engineers who can offer optimal solutions for unexpected situations and problems. In another words we need human capital development. If I became the head of state, the first step I would take is to organize communication technology education teams, each consisting of several educated young people. The main purpose of these teams would be to educate pupils in elementary and secondary schools about advantages of communication technologies and to give practical examples of how to use them. The advantage of this program would be that youth would become users and customers of telecommunications technologies and services in the future.

The second step would be to seek out talented young people on the university and secondary school campuses who could adapt to the rules of the marketplace. This development program would include scholarships for that young people, given by domestic corporations to attend different global events like trade shows and industry forums. After being exposed to the latest ideas in the global marketplace, these young people will then return to our country as highly educated individuals who will be able to change and adjust domestic industry and policies to meet the demands of the global market.

Also, public education on telecommunications technology must take place. The general population must realize the importance and practical use of telecommunication services in everyday life.

All this measures can be successfully implemented if we use young people who are more adaptable than anyone else in today's fast-changing marketplace. I think that young people will be able to handle the risks of globalization, and they will insure that my country will attain a good status in the global marketplace.

Our destiny is in our hands, so let's get on work!

Ms Yvonne Serwaa Kyeremeh
University of Ghana
Geography and Information Studies
Ghana

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The twentieth century would remain the era that revolutionized society and say industrialization leapfrog. Information Communication Technology (ICT) is the study of the technology used to handle information and aid communication. Examples are computers, telephone and Internet. ICT has made less industrialized nations to jump the gun and move in sync with the developed world.

ICT offers opportunities to promote economic growth and support sustainable local wealth. This is embedded in the old adage "Time is Money". ICT offers a medium of information and resource transfer. It ensures the efficient use of time to improve productivity.

The three "Asian Tigers", Malaysia, Indonesia and South Korea, invested in ICT and this provided efficient methods of production, bringing unattainable markets within their reach, improved service delivery, increased investor confidence and access to basic services.

As President, I would reduce taxes on computers and its accessories. I would also tap the ICT potentials of the youth, the cream of the productive workforce. As majority are educated, the platform is set for inculcating in them ICT skills that should make them become employable in Ghana and exportable for revenue.

I would embark on a vigorous campaign on ICT. Educating the youth would be sensitizing the whole populace. Others see the youth with ICT skills as a source of understanding current trends.

A task force would be set to disseminate the advantages that could be derived from ICT. The youth would pass on the message to the various communities through the organization of symposia.

I would also establish ICT centers in all the district capitals to decentralize the ICT information. I would establish computer resource centres in the 110 districts as it is with the Science Resource Centres in the country or upgrade the centers with ICT facilities.

I would ensure that the youth get the necessary training during vacations. The ICT sector will be made attractive to them so that, they do not join the "Exodus" bandwagon of highly skilled professionals. They would sign an agreement with government to serve the country before they work elsewhere.

There exists a correlation between ICT and socio-economic development. The use of ICT would serve as the means to close the socio-economic gap between developing and the developed countries. We do not have to re-invent the wheel. Our success would depend on how best we use our young people to play a role in ICT. The brain of a young person is the most powerful thing to use to transform society.

Mr James Lane

University College Cork

Computer Science & Economics

Ireland

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

There is an entrenched stereotype that young people are incapable of contributing to society in a substantial way. This quite possibly stems from the protected status of children which has been fostered in a modern-age world that still remembers the days of child exploitation. If I were President I would attempt to deconstruct this stereotype because of the limitations it places on our youths and with it the progress of our society as a whole.

Even when looked at from a simply biological perspective the problem is obvious. We develop into adults in our early teens, yet any contribution to society is considered as entirely optional until we at least leave school, or what is more likely, leave university. Ironically, we are past our peak of physical health before we are expected to make any contribution to the state of our country at all.

Having studied economics, I would as a President often reflect on the lessons we have learned from the business world. Although one needs a critical eye and must be aware that what's good for business is not necessarily good for welfare, we can learn a lot from the interaction of firms, whereby those that do not maximize profit die. The business world tells us some very interesting things about young people; the old autocratic style of management is being replaced by a delegating of responsibility at all levels of the firm, this post-modern approach realizes that all knowledge is not at the top of the firm and that the resources and insights of all workers must be mobilized.

As President I would give our young people the same opportunities that new employees are being given when they join forward-thinking firms. Schools are playing an increasingly important role of removing the undue limitations placed on children, and the successes have been dramatic. Many schools offer students the opportunity to open a mini-company while at school; some of these companies have been impressively profitable. National science competition entries in recent years have seen experts in respectful astonishment at the quality of the submissions. Contributions made to local, national and international charities by students and their involvement in protecting the environment made the average secondary school student more civically involved than in any other group in the country. And all of this in what is an environment of limitations. Imagine the prospects provided by an ethos that actively encouraged young people to develop their ambitions, instilling them with the confidence that there are no limitations.

Whatever defence there has been for keeping young people out of the loop up until now has been completely quashed with the ubiquity of ICTs. Again the biological argument appears: the human brain can never be as powerful as understanding and assimilating ideas as in the first few years of its life. When the rate of change of technology is considered with this it is not surprising that studies have shown that children who have been given some training have an intuition for computers and an ability to navigate them that is matched only by experts.

This competitive advantage that young people have with understanding ICTs must be embraced. As a President I would urge educators to incorporate the use of ICTs into teaching, not as a standalone class but as a tool that could be used for every class. I would invest heavily in providing schools with sophisticated ICT facilities. This will provide the young people of our country the opportunity to reach out across the world on their own, limited only by the bounds of their imagination. The justification will be in the results; young people will be deshackled from the stereotypes with which they have been labelled and we will all reap the rewards.

Mr Levan Lashkarava

Georgian Technical University

Telecommunications

Georgia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

First of all, I want to agree with the phrase Information and Communication Technologies can contribute to the economic and social development of a country. The necessary condition for developing a country is having maximum information and practical knowledge, but for reaching that State's government support is needed.

Unfortunately, in Georgia there are no such conditions and support from the government because of the small budget.

Students can be very powerful and very effective. The government can use that potential for the country's good, and involving them in interesting projects can have a developing effect on the country.

If I were Head of State in my country, in my opinion the best way to interest students in making a business is the creation of special organizations, where every professional, student or just wondering person could come and share his ideas or ask any questions he wants. I would establish a weekly journal and would give them the opportunity to publish their impressions, ideas or just comments. I would maximally increase delivery of new journals, books and new information about events and new technologies. I would keep all these materials in a special reading class, where every person would be able to find and read the information he or she wants. I would create computer centres where every person could come to talk online to foreign firms, companies and of course to students. I would create special groups in these organizations and allow them to give recommendations or comments, ideas about new or already existing technologies to the ministry of telecommunications. I would try to give them such opportunity to have some practical knowledge.

Involving students in the developing process is very risky. If the human is not intelligent, it may even cause inverse effects. That's why I think that intelligence and maximum opportunity of independent thinking can not only develop the country and people, but even make the country one of the leaders of the whole world.

Ms Nathalie Marilyn Lemmert

Anton de Kom University of Suriname - Faculty of Social Sciences

Business Management

Suriname

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information and communication technologies play a very important role in this generation. That is why it is very important that the future leaders of industry, economy and the government are prepared to make changes and decisions to keep up with the fast pace of ICT.

As head of State in Suriname, I would begin to expand the already existing telecentres in our interior to try to eliminate their backlog. There would be distance-learning programmes for the youth so it would not be necessary for them to travel to the city to study. But preceding this programme they would learn how to operate and use computers efficiently. We would select a group of talented young people from every village, to train not only others of their age group, but also elderly people. I would choose this strategy as we would reach all people from the different villages in a short period and eliminate the backlog. The learning programmes would be enlarged with computer skills for youth of all ages. We would also have groups of talented young people in the city who would transfer their knowledge to others.

The young people of the different villages and cities would be placed in strategic groups to coordinate and organize awareness programmes for youth and adults all over Suriname. The youth would be given access to the Internet, chat, e-mail and would also communicate with youth all over the world by video conference.

The reason why we would put the youth in these strategic positions is because they are the future generation of Suriname.

The programmes would be partly financed with state subsidies. There would be a special budget monitored by the government to help finance these programmes. The investments would be from different donations from organizations and ministries who would profit from the expansion and development of ICT in Suriname, such as the Ministry of Transport, Communication and Tourism, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Chamber of Commerce.

In this way, economic and social development would be accelerated and therefore we of Suriname would be able to keep up with the fast growing use of information and communication technologies.

Mr Jean Bienvenu Libanga

Institut Superieur de Technologie de Bangui

Telecommunications

Central African Rep.

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Since the 1990s, there has been an unprecedented upsurge in information and communication technologies. This contributes in a variety of ways to socio-economic development in countries where young people are active in the workforce.

In view of this, what role might we assign to young people if we were Head of State, in order to make the country's development as effective as possible?

We propose to set out some measures designed to translate this objective into practical terms.

Our first step towards achieving this goal would be to reform the education system, by giving priority to the teaching of information technology in all the country's educational establishments. This would open up the minds of young people to other countries, while providing them with high-quality technical training that would stimulate their interest in research.

In tandem with this, loans would be made available to those wishing to set up Internet cafés at affordable prices for young people. These would allow young people to obtain information and improve their minds; many of the services offered by the Internet are highly educational and could be usefully deployed to offset the shortage of suitable library facilities in our country.

Training centres specializing in information and communication technologies would also be set up to help young people who had quit formal education.

As a result, young people engaged in agriculture, for instance, would be able to advertise their products to millions of potential customers online.

Finally, students excelling in science and technology subjects would be given scholarships to study information and communication technologies, a field of study that offers a wide choice of careers both in technological and commercial spheres linked directly to telephone services, and in the development of applications and services arising from the new technologies.

To conclude, information and communication technologies provide a vast and ever-growing amount of information in the various technological and economic sectors, which could assist young people in conducting their research, making purchases and finding job opportunities, all of which could contribute to the country's social and economic development.

Ms Ilse-Faran Ligtmart

Delft University of Technology, Faculty of Information Technology and Systems

Electrical Engineering/Telecommunications

Netherlands

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

At the moment, the ratio between the number of people older than 65 and the number of people between the age of 20 and 65 and the Netherlands is 22%. In less than 40 years this ratio is expected to increase to 41%. This change in demographic situation is due to ageing which may cause serious problems. Possible results for the economy can be unaffordable old age pensions and a huge shortage in employees. The elderly are less mobile and capable of maintaining their social contacts, so also social problems could be an issue for both aspects of the ageing problem. ICT can be a part of the solution.

If I were prime minister of the Netherlands, I would immediately organize ICT classes for the elderly. They could be taught at home if they have a computer in possession or in small groups (group classes would be held in a mobile classroom, computers in a transformed bus, so students can be picked up). The teachers could be young people because of their enthusiasm and capability in emphasis. They will explain to the elderly how to work with a computer and the Internet, to send e?mails, do electronic banking, to use a mobile phone, etc. Young people are used to ICT. They know how it works and what the possibilities, are because they are raised within an ICT environment. For high school kids, the teaching would be a part of their education and for students, it could be a (well-paid) sideline.

Once the elderly can deal with ICT, it could still be possible for them to work at any age. They may work anywhere and at any time. They may stay in their own comfortable surroundings and work for shorter periods. The elderly are independent for longer and they are better able to gather information, in this way ageing is not a negative factor for the economy but may even draw back the regression. Also part of the possible social problems may be solved. Because of e-mail the elderly can chat with their friends, make new contacts via the Internet and because of the ICT class, they are visited by young persons. In this way, the elderly can keep up with society.

P.S: This is my vision if I were prime minister of the Netherlands. At the moment, the Netherlands does have a resigned prime minister and new elections will be held in January 2003. I would be delighted to share my vision with the new prime minister as a representative of the ITU Youth 2003 Forum!

Ms Shafia London

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College

Science

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The Information and Communication Technology age has arrived when the acquisition and dissemination of information are critical to the development of all countries. It encompasses every type of business, from manufacturing, retailing and banking to medicine and law organizations. As head of State of my country, I believe that young people's role in this age is imperative and consequential to our development.

Information and CommunicationTechnology (ICT) is described as an aggregation of industries producing goods and services used to process, transmit or receive information. Major facets of this industry include computer hardware, software and services. It is widely accepted as the most creative and exciting industry of the 21st century.

The demand for skilled workers in the industry is rapidly expanding. Companies are desperately searching for qualified professionals with post-secondary education and training to meet their needs. Youths have to possess marketable skills for such quality jobs thereby encouraging companies to hire them. Occupations such as "data entry" operations and e-businesses are important jobs for persons with even basic computer skills. We will put forward a generation equipped for this new age and meet such companies requirements.

Furthermore, the ICT industry provides some of the fastest growing occupations. These include computer engineers, systems analysts, database consultants and other computer scientists. The occupational menu has now expanded, it is now the individual's responsibility to choose and work towards a meaningful career. Job provision is the only means of eliminating the scourges of poverty associated with unemployment, as more money circulates within the country and consequently increases standard of living. Other industries will then be established to provide for the needs of a working society, creating even greater employment.

In addition, growth is necessary for a country's survival and that is exactly what the ICT industry provides. The search for the best and the brightest is on. Companies both locally and internationally will be devising more imaginative hiring practices to find the most talented persons. Young people have to now present their best using all opportunities opened to them in order to impress prospective employees. The old lackadaisical attitude towards work has to transform into one of efficiency and proficiency. The focus of this government will be to engender new and more productive attitude towards work and

production beginning within the schools. This attitude will affect society at large as mediocrity will no longer accepted from even the government who will be pressured into adequately providing for the needs of the people.

Moreover, this new industry provides versatility. Working with computers enables one to work away from traditional offices and during non-standard hours. Most young persons prefer to work with little restrictions and telecommunication allows for flexibility as it provides a linkage to the workplace via e-mail, fax machines and telephones from remote locations. Thus, the government will provide training in ICT so that young people are better adapted to this new work attitude and environment.

Furthermore, the industry provides great opportunities for an entrepreneurial and innovative culture. Financial and technical support, exposure and participation at regional and international fora will act as incentives for young ICT entrepreneurs. Therefore, the youths will become more expressive, creative and play an integral part in the ICT age. This channels their energies into less unsavory activities for the benefits of themselves and the country.

Ms Beta Maareko Maareko Kaata

Tarawa Technical Institute

Kiribati

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information and Communication technologies can contribute, by the way it's fast to relay message, and with the right message too.

My ideas on our Young people, I think they need a Youth Programmes (Workshops so that they can help themselves with. Not only that but they need a training too, about communication and information, an introductory programmes which deal with knowledge e.g. letter writing (informal and formal) must learn how to use computers (typing and secretarial work), and also know how to manage their time on something. They must be teaching now to use their Natural Resources, so that they can depend on it at the night time. e.g. running out of cargoes: – rice, sugar etc. Especially the fishermen must know how much to collect in one day.

Nowadays, if we take a look at a form of communication in Kiribati, they all came in different types of contact e.g. Newspaper, computers, Telephone, and fax etc. In history, they can't tell what just arrive, and what come later etc.

On the youth programmes too, training is very needed and can include youth programmes like training office skills, and write a curriculum on information and communication for young people and introduce it is school, under education department.

So my opinion starts and says that if I am a good leader, I must make-sure that all these things must be carried out and done. I will not allow our Government led our country by itself; it's my job to look after it too. And convert people to do it with all their heart and strength. As we know without information and communication with someone, everything will be disorganized and can be chaos.

So my ideas for helping our country developed, or to make it a reality, is to encourage our young people to look after everything according to the development of our economy. As we know that economy is the system of inter-relationship of money, or the employment in a country. So I encourage people who are working in the office, to carefully used money, do not waste it on drinking beer or alcohol and especially playing card with money and go out for Night Clubs. It is better for them to buy things they need which they think can improve their living standards. For those whose use to go out fishing, they must be careful of taking fish so much is a lot of days or time. They must also be mindful of their resources to avoid wastage. They must know, how much to collect in one day for their families.

In terms of social development, I think its better for all people to communicate with each other in order to have the social development of their life living in a community, of society or organization is to make a big network with people they didn't know.

So I think, this is the best way for our country to be developed, is from people who are communicate and from sharing their ideas.

And that can help our country developed and our people to make it a reality.

Ms Nadege Marina Madopeo
Universite of Bangui
Chimie-Biologie-Geologie
Central African Rep.

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Since time immemorial, people have been acquiring information and communicating by traditional means (tam-tam and smoke signals in the case of our ancestors) which also constitute a form of technology. With the development of science, the means of information and communication have become more efficient and more sophisticated. Given the highly evolved state of modern information and communication technologies, what role can young people play in this sector in order to contribute to national development?

Information technologies can be defined as the set of processes and methods used to transmit news and information.

Young people are, of course, vital to the deployment of these technologies, as they represent the most active section of the population. Hence, they must first of all be mobilized and given an understanding of information and communication technologies (ICTs). ICTs constitute a powerful tool for acquiring and disseminating knowledge and hence for contributing to socio-economic development.

In order to encourage young people and get them interested, we would need to make communicating easier by establishing cultural centres, organizing national and international events to discuss relevant issues, and encouraging them to engage with the media (radio, television, etc.) by providing more exciting programmes. Young people need help in gaining a sense of communicating with others on subjects that are relevant, informative and worthwhile. That means facilitating access to all kinds of media easier by making the technology more affordable for the young.

All this must take place in parallel with raising literacy rates among young people and meeting targets for training this section of the workforce.

Young people who improve their minds using modern means of communication will be equipped to tackle the problems facing our society. Well-informed young people will be capable of making the right choices for themselves while contributing to the development of their country.

Ms Naercio Magaia

Eduardo Mondlane University

Electrotecnic Engeneering

Mozambique

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information and Communication Technologies: Development opportunity and the youth's paper

At first, through communication it is possible to join distinct points of a country, allowing them to share information. For instance, by communication Mozambican television is seen in different points and by information we are informed of what happens inside as well as outside of Mozambique. It is also through the information and communication that happens, the exchange of experiences, among the people, mixture of habits and customs.

Being Head of State in my country, I would allow a larger development of communications and information by the implementation of new communication and information technologies, placing them through publicity to the access of everyone.

Young people are the future of the nations and depending the nations of the communication and information, I would unite the useful to the pleasant, starting from the point that in the youth we find the newest and innovative ideas and that when motivated they would also contribute to the country's development. Being the youth, most of the population when graduated/superiorly formed they would be the technicians that the country needs.

Being in a country that most of the population is still illiterate, living in precarious conditions, and coming most of those young of those families would not have conditions of sustaining their formation. Only needing a small hush, that is of opportunity, we can, trough the financial help, offer scholarship for inside universities or outside of the country, through a term commitment what when the formation finished, they could contribute with their knowledge improving the services rendered and through these new technicians we would form others.

By financing/encouraging the investigation of new technologies on the part of the technicians, they would also contribute to the country's development.

I would invest in the formation, because as fruit of that investment would have means to take the country forward.

Ms Sabita Maharjan
Tribhuvan University
Electronics
Nepal

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

It is true that information and communication technologies can contribute to the economic and social development of a country to the most extent. This fact is reflected by many of the countries which are foremost in the path of information and communication technologies and are also the most developed countries of the world.

Our country, Nepal, is one of the most lagging nations in the field of information and communication technologies. If I were Head of State in our country, I would have to start my steps from the very basic steps. For every thing we need knowledge. So we should start from knowledge sharing. Young people in the city area who have the basic idea about the latest technologies should be encouraged to form a volunteer group, so as to share their ideas. For that the Government itself should take a step like gathering these young candidates and providing them with a place to perform their job. These young people should be assigned to work in the remote areas of Nepal to spread their knowledge through teaching. After all, a major portion of Nepal is occupied by villages. But there should be people over there to learn things. So in village schools, from class 6 or 7, a very basic course about information technology, for example a computer course, should be introduced like in city schools. This will be a new cake to the village people for which they definitely will face the language problem. So English should be given priority from the very basic classes.

Young people sharing their ideas about new information and communication technologies and providing theoretical knowledge to the young village people will require basic devices so that they can practically initiate those village people. So the Government should take the responsibility of providing at least a few computers there in the village. But there are still many places in Nepal which are not yet electrified. The villages that are electrified should be provided with the basic information and communication devices, and for other villages willing young people should be assigned to spread the latest ideas of communication technology through books and magazines.

No work can be done without money. The expenses for the above project should be taken care of by the Government. The amount of money can be collected from foreign aid, or the young people can contribute to this objective too. They can collect a part of the money from donations by the commercial, industrial, technical and educational associations in cities.

This practice will only be a primitive step. After a few years, when the role of information and communication technology for development will be realized by the people all over Nepal, then only advanced steps of progress will be possible. In the present context of our country, however, the fundamental project that was discussed above will be a great step.

Miss Catherine Makochi

National Advanced School of Posts and Telecommunications

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Cameroon

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

For a developing country such as Cameroon with a serious deficiency in ICTs (Information Communication Technologies), it does not suffice to reflect on the present situation and causes. What we must realize is the great need for progress in the availability and exploitation of the ICT sector. Many people in Cameroon have not heard of, many do not know how to use and many still do not have access to the services ICTs provide.

ICTs are all materials and services which help in the production, treatment, transfer and use of information as well as the SAV (Service Après Vente) as the French man puts it. SAV involve all services we obtain on purchasing the goods say delivery, installation and maintenance. We have new computer technologies, Internet, efficient software, TV, fax, media like optical fibres, electromagnetic waves, systems like PCI, ISA, networks like Ethernet, Token ring, FDDI, mobile and fix phone services, to name a few. These can be integrated in the study programmes of students.

With ICTs we have advantages such as the gain in time (time is money) and space, less cumbersome and more secure information treatment and production procedures, faster and easier learning methods.

The government must adopt policies with just and fair driving forces especially recommending the youths who are a bridge to the future of ICTs and hence better economic and social standards. With the installation of well-equipped institutions, research centres, multimedia resource centres, young people regardless of their sex, tribe or religion can pursue studies and research in their future careers.

Young people who are present consumers and exploiters of the ICT, social and economic sectors have the drive, energy and ideas our country needs and their desire to help build and work for a fair and better world is a force that must be harnessed. But because most with the potentials to be future leaders of the Information and Communication industry and economic and social structures cannot afford education needed, there is a loss for the students and the society at large.

Through youth forums, programmes, conferences symposiums, scientific and poster sessions, round table discussions, club activities, organized the state, NGOs, institutions or the youth themselves, people can share notions and spread the ICTs and how they can contribute to development.

The youth can then work towards a future with proper democracy, upholding unity, peace and proper business initiative. They can apply modern technology in the analysis and management of natural resources such as farmland, forest and water.

Through social interactions, ICTs are vulgarized which goes to help in the generation of wealth, the creation of job opportunities and a decrease in juvenile delinquency.

With increased revenue, there is poverty alleviation, improved living standards, better education, water, food, electricity, healthcare, transport and many more.

Bigger and even foreign bodies can invest within the country especially in the economic and health sectors. Private initiative can bloom in large scales.

With the youth actively and directly participating, a real crusade can be launched against modern?day scourges like AIDS, cancer, fraud and corruption. The ICTs will help in the spread of their dangers, preventative measures and cure.

After an extensive consideration of the above, whether head of State, youth, administrator, producer, distributor or consumer, we all have a role to play in this battle: Use of ICTs for better economic and social standards. We must begin now.

Mr Aldi Kharisma Mardikanto
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Environmental Engineering
Indonesia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Were I the president of my country, I would strengthen the role that young people play in its development in the domain of information and communication technologies, in the first place by making it compulsory for ICT students to perform a work term in one of the companies active in the sector.

I would mandate business to provide assistance to them, in hopes that the opportunity of taking part in such a work term did not distract them from their purpose of acquiring an education in the ICT field.

Furthermore, I would create regulations under which companies would have to employ a certain percentage of young people in their information/communication department, particularly in practical applications, depending on the level of the company. That is, the more developed a company was, the more it should employ young people.

Again, to assist young people studying ICTs, I would work to broaden and deepen contacts with other countries in which such technology is well developed, so that these countries could set up study grants for my country's young people to become specialized in the area.

Apart from this, I would encourage young people to invent IT and communications tools so as to become more competitive.

I am convinced that ICTs are one of the principal means of improving a country's social and economic conditions. The technology empowers citizens in many ways, for example, by making available vital health information, educating people about sound nutrition, making possible commerce and informing them about events happening around the world – so many catalysts for the social and economic development of a country.

In conclusion, I am certain that the young people of my country and the whole world represent the new generation, which will determine the future of the country. With sound knowledge of ICTs and an opportunity to make a contribution in the area, the young people of my country have the potential to become the gate leading to a better future for my country.

Mr Olivier Marquet

Université d'Aix-Institut de Droit des Affaires

Droit des Affaires

Monaco

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The transition to a global economy based on information, communication and knowledge is producing far-reaching changes in our society and opening up vast horizons. Information and communication technologies provide a new tool for enhancing socio-economic development in the countries we live in. Given that young people will be the chief beneficiaries of these new opportunities, what role can we play in making them reality?

It seems vital to enable young people to assume a dual role in taking initiatives and in decision-making. On a practical level, access to these technologies must be made easier. To this end, government will need to purchase these new technologies and make them available free of charge, or create specialist websites designed to accommodate, assist and provide a setting for initiatives aimed at socio-economic development. Our sense of initiative should be articulated in forums which enable us to gain access to and offer services to the wider community, or more specifically to certain groups facing particular difficulties, such as the elderly and some minorities. Initiatives should also be given practical economic shape. Defining a new working environment and creating tools for information sharing are further issues we should explore.

Without decision-making powers, young people would be unable to assume their role to the full. Young people should take decisions and carry out all the viable projects they set up, with the support of government. The new technologies offer an unprecedented degree of transparency and access to information. The young have a decisive role to play in making socio-economic development a reality, and the new technologies are a crucially important vehicle.

In any event, development now calls for the integration and dissemination of information and communication technologies in all tiers of society. The opportunity to set up even more efficient structures represents a major step forward, allowing different systems to be installed. They are all aimed at one thing: improving the lives of all citizens. That entails improving relationships between individuals, but also between individuals and the State and its institutions. This could take the form of creating an across-the-board messaging system for our administrations and institutions, publication of a planner giving details of meetings with the various social services, even the creation of a freely accessible database on institutional information, possible sources of help, discussions, projects, etc.

Information and communication technologies can be used to shore up national development. These technologies are more than mere accessories; they are among the essential tools of future civilization.

Mr Thabo Masemola
Technikon Northen Gauteng
Information Technology
South Africa

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Today's youth faces many challenges in their lives such as lack of education, lack of skills, poverty and lack of access ICT technologies. I think our future depends on the environment that we are living in. If young people can be given opportunities our future can be bright and our lives could be better. If we talk about young people we talk about people who have vision, potential and power to do things. Young people are tomorrow's leaders.

I strongly believe that youth can make a difference in developing a country's socio-economic. One of the major social problems facing South Africa is the high rate of crime. For example youth can be involved in an anti-crime campaign by supporting initiatives of government. This would reduce the level of crime given that it is mostly young people who commit criminal acts. For example: in all areas(rural and urban) we put camera system that will record each and every activities that are taking place, this system must be linked to police force and of the youth members be trained as private police. Youth can be involved in this campaign which can be called positive youth against crime. This system can also help in recording of crime statistics, if there is murder it will be appear in police crime unit and crime stop and resources would be allocated to areas where there is high rate of crime. Again technology can help resolve crime speedily since the technology would provide documented evidence. This would increase the conviction rate.

Unemployment is one the major problem facing South Africa at the moment and the bulk of people who are unemployed are the youth. Young people need to be taught entrepreneurship skills so that they can know how to create jobs and be business minded and not just look for someone to give them jobs. If we have young entrepreneurs or businessmen then our country economy can be better because young people will be able to create wealth for themselves and the country. The state will get richer because people will be employed and state will have its share of tax. If our country produces its own products then we can export these products. With Internet young people can market their businesses around the world. If I become a head of state I will make sure that every school village and community have access to ICT's such as Internet, phone, and telephone. These technologies are basis for any business to succeed: Training young people in these technologies can help the youth succeed in their businesses

Lastly I will encourage networking (with all the means of telecommunications) between young people all over the world. As a head of state I will make policy that every young person should have an email address. The biggest weapon is to learn from our past and those past are our wisdom and success of the future. So if we can let youth to communicate and share their experiences there can be better understanding in the world. Young people will gather ideas and information to help each other to stay positive and learn from others experiences. Dale Carnegie once said: Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope. Young people have the desire and energy to do things.

Ms Shannon Mason
Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic
Consumer Electronics
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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

It is said that the children of today are the leaders of tomorrow, so by that statement shouldn't we aim to educate them as best as we can about today's technology, so as to prepare them for the future?

Therefore, as Head of State in my country, one of my objectives would be to introduce programmes into the curricula of both the primary and secondary level schools, which deal with information and communication technologies. Younger students should have at least a basic knowledge and understanding of technology, especially the computer and its usages. Hopefully, by the time these students complete their secondary level education, they would have acquired sufficient knowledge to go further in life. With this knowledge they should be able to apply it to whatever they do and should easily fit into the technological world of work, without feeling too out of place. Eventually, these young people would be the ones to lead us into the 22nd century.

Some questions that might be asked are: How does this help our country? How do we benefit from it economically as well as socially?

Economically, technology would help to attract businesses to the island, which would lead to productivity and hopefully profitability and expansion. With the expansion of businesses also comes the development of the country, especially if the expansion is regional or international.

Information and communication technologies are necessities in the social development of a country in today's modern world. Unlike the primitive times, there's no need for us to send smoke signals or beat drums in order to relay messages. Now we can easily and effectively use devices such as the telephone, radio, television, computer or fax machine to send or receive messages. Everyday devices such as these, whether they're used in the office or at home, are essential to a country's progress.

So in conclusion, I believe that information and communication technologies are very beneficial to and can aid in the development of a country. In today's growing society, technology is constantly changing as a result of improvements and innovations. As the world and its innovations evolve, so too must we as its people. The future is ours and right now technology is the wave of the future.

Mr Elidio Antonio Massuanganhe
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Geology
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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

## Technologies, Young People and Development

Communication and information technologies are very important for allowing a quick and rapid information exchange and a major assessment reducing the cost and the time wasted so that information reaches its destination. With the emerging of variable communication systems such as radio, television, newspaper, telephone until Internet life gained another kind of dynamism. These communication systems broach various items as some elementary agriculture techniques, cattle-raising techniques, environmental care, food storing techniques, good use of natural resources (energy, water, forest) and many other items. Bringing into account the various factors such as language, economic, information access which may affect the understanding and accessibility of information to the community, the young people would play an important role as a link between the advanced communication technologies and society giving a great contribution to make the social and economic development a reality. Thus:

– The young people should go and seek for information and broadcast it to the society.
– They should teach and explain to the community how to apply the techniques broadcasted (e.g. use plant leaves as fertilizer, advising to vaccinate cattle, etc.).
– The young people should use simple communication methods such as communitarian radio, local television, theatre and meeting with the communities so that they retransmit selected information concerned to the lifestyle of a certain people or community.
– The young people should group themselves into consultant groups in various items about information and they can use the telephone as a link between themselves and people to facilitate the connection with the people, reducing the cost, saving the time and creating and autoemployment to themselves.
– They may help the community to group them into small farmers and publicize their products and their phone numbers to facilitate the business.

Ms Yusra Matoug

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Computer Engineering

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

If I were Head of State of my country and I had qualifications in making decisions and enhancing the economical and educational development of my country, the first step towards improvement that would be taken into consideration would be to develop a professional budget. According to this budget, a group of specialists with experience in the field of Information and Communication Technologies is selected. These specialists make their suggests for this field and after deep examination the applicable suggestion is chosen, taking into consideration the available budget and requirements of the individuals.

In the field of education there are two aspects that should be concentrated on:

- first, making use of the services provided by the ICTs in education, in all fields, such as Internet access for the students in the educational institutes. With this we give them the chance to know and learn everything that is new in their fields and the ability to communicate in a better way with students from other countries and different cultures;
- second, in the field of ICTs, concentration must be made on the educational syllabus. A group of specialists in this field must be formed that attends international conferences and supervises the gathering of information. This information must be taught in special courses to improve the capability of teachers and professionals who are specialized in this field. In addition, care must be taken in the practical aspect where laboratories must be provided with the latest equipment. This gives youth the motivation to study and research and, thus, getting the best results. Work and employment must also be provided for the graduates, giving them the chance to contribute in the development of their countries.

ICT services must be supplied to all the cities and towns, and must be available to all ranks. But, beside this, certain laws must be made that control the authorities from using this tool.

As for towns, training courses must be organized under the supervision of engineers with good experience and the responsibility of managing the ICT service offices must be given to them.

This reduces the distances between the countries and then it would become a small village, speaking the same language - the language of development and science.

Mr Peter Matyas
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Computer Sciences and Applied Technology
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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Recently a new word came into use to describe a gap, a condition that makes a difference between the more and less lucky citizens of the Information Age society.

This expression is digital divide. This reminds us of older historical divisions on the chances to access critical resources of the age: for instance raw materials and capital needed to process them during the age of Industrial Revolution. It was critical to have access to these resources, otherwise no social advance could be achieved. Our era can be characterized by the crucial importance of information and the way we access it.

Digital divide is exactly about that: this shows how much of the citizens are unable to reach the newest ways of achieving information. This number is affected the most by two relatively independent factors: the economic welfare and the age of the person. Welfare needs no explanation.

On the other hand, according to US Government data, (www.ntia.doc.gov), age strongly correlates to the high likelihood of computer and Internet usage. This may be explained by psychological reasons: the old are less likely to accept new things or change habits. In general, they are less flexible than the young. This is where the government can join and try to close the divide by giving more power to those who can do the most for both the economy of the country and society as well. If it were in my power, I would make use of their natural ability they seem to be born with, the ease they make use of the newest technologies with, and the idealism they can believe in what they are doing. If you ask a high school or university student (of any ICT-related faculty), he or she will be fully convinced that these technologies can solve many of the current problems of the world, or at least reduce the pressure they put on the environment.

These technologies can help reducing environmental pollution, improve struggling economies, and make new, never-seen forms of communication available, thereby promoting better understanding between people, independent of gender, age, skin colour, religion and many other issues that cause serious problems in peaceful interaction of different people today.

Since the role of a government is to close all social divides as much as possible, it is important for those who have power to be on the right side of the digital divide. Therefore if I were Head of State in Hungary I would inaugurate a committee of talented young people (informal, of course, since these creative persons usually do not tolerate formal rules, bureaucratic manners) and before making important decisions I would always ask this committee about their opinion and recommendations. Their ideas would always be measured as important.

For this committee to be effective, the country needs high quality education. Today's Hungary meets these requirements in many areas: the good-quality optical network, which connects universities to the Internet, is almost everywhere available. The School-net project, which intended to connect all places of education, even primary schools, to the global network and provide them with appropriate equipment, continues with renewed power. This gives us hope: the future generations will be on the right side of the digital divide, and, hopefully, this division will not be very significant as well.

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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

## The role of information communication and technology

Education and training are strategic tools that a society needs to continuously apply in order to sustain a global competitive advantage and to create a better standard of living. Namibian institutions, including universities, high schools and corporations, all face education-related challenges.

Corporate is faced by the issue of how to prepare the workforce for effective participation in the skill-intensive industries that are increasingly replacing traditional labour-intensive industries as key creators of new jobs. The challenge of upgrading the blue collar workforces to increase their abilities to manage complex machines, pre-eminently the computer is also facing the corporate.

Education inequity prevails in Namibia. Rural communities are becoming increasingly isolated as the resources available to them declines. A lack of qualified teachers, especially in Mathematics and Science, results in communities becoming information poor. The traditional classroom is physically isolated from other learning environments, such as universities and libraries, as well as from practical sources of knowledge such as corporation and research and development institutions. In addition, most classrooms lack the electronic means.

The rise of education cost is a threat to the country's development. The declining interest of high school graduates in obtaining higher qualifications in Namibia is a concern and this should serve as an indication for university and other institutions to undergo self-examination. As universities and colleges become market driven, they should not target students on the basis of geographical proximity but on the basis of interest.

These problems cannot be addressed without massive and coordinated efforts that involve all institutions, and such efforts cannot succeed unless they are based on commitment of all parties involved to a common goal: the creation of a technology-based, affordable and equitable education system.

The Government needs to open the telecommunication marketplace to competition, which will increase the quality of and reduce the cost of service. Higher financial incentives must be provided for education providers and receivers. Schools need to establish remote educational links with each other. This will reduce the isolation of rural school students by providing them with qualified teachers.

Experts in the field of education believe that through advanced technologies, such as data conferencing, students learn more effectively. This kind of learning entails the process of being engaged in active exploration, interpretation and construction of ideas. Such collaboration enables educators to share and analyse scientific data and collaborate in producing papers and journals. Technologies have to be in place to support this.

As more and more parents become computer literate, stronger electronic links need to be established to support parents/teacher interaction. Internet services should be easily accessible because many institutions publish information on servers connected to the Internet.

If Namibia, as a developing country, puts all these mechanisms to work the development of this country will become a reality. A well-trained productive and efficient young workforce is a guarantee to a country's development. Money will be kept in the borders of the country, as the skills of foreigners won't be in demand. The young people of Namibia can then compete successfully against the highly technological trained workforce of the world.

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Nicaragua

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

A Head of State should invest in the training of young people in order to allow them to acquire knowledge on information and communication technologies as a basis for the development of the country.

This project should not be regarded as a waste, but as an investment that can be implemented as soon as education begins, awakening in young people an interest for work and creativity with a view to breaking traditional moulds. Indeed, the well recognized great divide between rich and poor countries prevails and is of equal concern in the field of information and communication technologies. ICTs constitute a guide to economic progress and development, and for this to become a reality in our country the youth of Nicaragua should play a major role which may be summarized in three main areas, which I as Head of State would determine as follows:

1) Human capital: Young people should have abilities, skills and knowledge with regard to the new technologies, the growth of the Internet and the ongoing digitization of society, and should therefore keep themselves constantly up to date in order to further add to the scientific knowledge. These abilities, skills and knowledge should be accompanied by ethical and moral practices and principles that ensure the citizen is honest, loyal, honourable and so forth. The technological achievements of recent decades constitute the main cause of the surge in riches and well-being in the richest countries, as ICT applications have been transformed into powerful motors for economic growth and increased productivity that we can achieve.

2) Innovation capital: Young people should be in constant innovation, ideas are fundamental and should take the shape of projects with a viable vision in order to ensure that they are both feasible and accessible, that they can be completed, and that the goals and objectives proposed can thus be achieved. Let us remember that, just as great men have opened up entire worlds for us – Galileo: the universe through the telescope; Robert Hooke: the invisible world through the microscope; Graham Bell: the world of communications – so too young people with more resources can excel and realize the country's development.

3) Social capital: Young people should exploit ICTs in order to improve human relations. Internet allows people to enter into close communication with the

Government and to take advantage of online services, bringing us progress and social development.

These three aspects should be bound together with the desire to work hard. Accordingly, one of my activities as Head of State would be: To develop training activities and programmes (internships) for young students focusing on development.

But we should bear in mind that it is all very well to have abilities, skills, knowledge, virtues and good human relations, but if we do not work hard we will achieve nothing.

Albert Einstein said that 1% of his achievements were due to inspiration, 99% to sweat and hard work. We may have all the inspiration in the world, but we will have no progress unless we work.

In Nicaragua we have a hotbed of future scientists, people worthy of the immortal Dario who not only innovated language but also used our country's exuberant nature to construct his immortal work.

To end this essay, I would like to draw on one of the thoughts of our great poet, who said that Nicaragua is made of vigour and glory. It is up to us young people to achieve that glory.

Ms Amaryllis Mendiola

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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

If I were Head of State, I would implement regular awareness programmes with emphasis on the concepts of ICTs, including what it is, its impacts, its importance, and its uses, focusing mainly on the youth as they are the future generations of my country. These awareness programmes will be established through:

1) All educational institutions: elementary, high school, and post secondary, both public and private. All youth should be made aware of ICTs , even as early as grade school so that basic fundamentals are developed.

2) All forms of media, including television programmes, radio, newspapers or newsletters, and other publications available in my country. To ensure a broader range of coverage, the use of media will be effective.

Following awareness programmes, more serious measures will be taken.

1) Financial assistance such as scholarships and student loans will be provided to encourage formal education in the field of ICT. With the availability of financial assistance in this field, youths will be motivated to pursue it.

2) Local colleges' curriculum development and implementation to include ICTs. For a number of reasons, under different circumstances, some youth who are unable to obtain formal education from abroad can receive formal education regarding ICTs on island.

With the achievement of formal education in the profession of ICT, jobs, both in private as well as public sectors, will be guaranteed.

ICT professions may occupy a broad range of employment practically in all government offices, private businesses and organizations, and so on.

With ICT information from all around the world are received, information in all areas affecting our daily lives:

- new ideas and updates;
- scientific discoveries;
- technological innovations;
- commercial and industrial developments;
- social and political news.

In summary, without information and communication technologies, we would not advance ahead. We would be completely cut off from the rest of the world. We would not be informed of anything happening – important news and events, developments, discoveries and applications, technological innovations and concepts, scientific breakthroughs, medical information, social and political news, and many other things. Information is power when communicated through technological innovations.

Ms Marion Gladys Mendy
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Development Studies
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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

I agree with the statement that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to economic and social development. Information and telecommunications are transforming societies and many economies, raising job productivity, creating new jobs, and speeding up communication and information flows. Information networking enables governments to obtain the latest product/resource information from a wide range of companies and institutions working in various areas of development.

Governments could use Information and Communication Technologies to create more open and transparent government processes, empower citizens to participate in policy debates, and promote development and democracy more broadly. Seen from this angle, Information and Communication Technologies could become a powerful tool for involving civil society in deciding issues relating to natural resource productivity and trade policies.

As we are in the era of Information and Communication Technologies, if I were Head of State in my country I would first of all create an environment that would be suitable for young people to achieve a high level of education in Information and Communication Technologies through the ministry of education; I would introduce ICTs at the early age of ten (10) and above, and let the young people have it in mind that by the year 2020 anybody without the knowledge of

Information and Communication Technologies is considered as illiterate. I would provide modern or state-of-the-art ICT equipment for education institutions and acquaint young people with their use. I would encourage and organize competitions such as debates and quizzes. Also I would offer scholarships to capable youths. I would encourage them to participate in every sector of national development.

In addition to the above-mentioned, I would make sure that every administrative department in my government was well equipped with the facilities of Information and Communication Technologies. Also in order to make the development of my country a reality, I would send youths for training courses on both ICT maintenance and, if possible, to learn how to create ICT devices. This would help to minimize the amount of revenue that my government would have to spend to bring in an expert or a maintenance team when there was a problem with certain Information and Communication Technology devices – thus saving some of the State revenue for other purposes.

I believe that with Information and Communication Technologies, the development of my country will become a reality in that, after creating an environment that would be suitable for young people to acquire a high level of education in ICTs, young people will be capable of being employed the world over, or yet still create self?employment for themselves. In short, there would be low rates of crime and unemployment, and meaningful development would surely take place.

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Dominican Rep.

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

I would invest more in education and enable all the young people of my country to have access to educational equipment and materials in the interests of raising the level of education for technical and university students. I would likewise establish virtual classrooms to enable them to remain abreast of all the technologies being applied throughout the world.

I would also launch campaigns designed to ensure that young people interact and formulate their own ideas for the country's development. Over the past four decades, Latin America, just like the vast majority of the other countries of the world, has come to realize the major influence or impact that derives from the demand for quality and equality in schools, as well as from the need to meet the requirements of the various types of educational institution in terms of information, training and institutional and administrative communication.

I would also provide financial support to the various types of institution to enable them to obtain printed, visual, sound, computer and audiovisual classroom facilities and materials, as well as formal education via mass media channels such as the press, radio or television.

Alongside its social and cultural relevance, at all educational levels from primary or basic schooling to the higher or postgraduate levels, starting with teacher retraining, vocational training, adult education or ongoing training, specific plans or policies formulated by educational administrations both public and private, to bring about greater and better quality in teaching and learning methods and technologies.

From this standpoint, it is important to study, investigate and evaluate these experiences in order to determine the extent to which benefit can be derived from the results achieved (both the successes and failures), which should be systematized within a critical analysis framework prior to the preparation of new possibilities or proposals for action and optimum utilization of the benefits provided by these means and technologies in the field of information – and communication-based education.

Mr Tetsun Midorikama

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Keio University

Japan

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

With the development of ICTs, industry, business, life and politics have changed structurally. Moreover, it comes to be natural that an individual not only receives information but also sends voluntary because relativization of media is progressing. Then, the question for us today is if the society and economy can be improved by the people mastering the tool. However the future image in Japanese society is depressive.

Today's poverty in Japan is due to the brittleness of local communities and regional economy. The global economical movement sometimes oppresses and trifles with the local area. It flows violently and makes the place meaningless, and there is some possibility not only for the domestic deindustrialization, but also for the emasculation of culture. While the globalization is advancing, the model of market versus State begins to collapse. And the necessity for the network community of various individuals, which is based on the place or the idea to be formed is coming out. For instance, the meetings for local management which is widely opened, civic movements, ambitious business plans can be thought as the network communities. Japan is now in the transition stage for such a next phase, and it is called for the wise for how people connect each other organically and lead the projects, such as local governance or business, to success.

And also, it is not rational to consider only Japanese domestic development. The consideration about the domestic local communities and the global society is also required simultaneously. The life of people consisting of economic policy, local promotion, politics, and communication mainly in national level has finished the end.

The capability to gaze at the contexts from local to global, and to plan and perform projects positively is required.

What the young people today is required is the ability to make the plans (business, policy, social movements, safe contents producing and other projects) which see the multilayer structure from local to global, and the rich knowledge of politics, economy and culture (= value creation). Although bitter struggles should continue forever, we have to market ICTs and fight for the better situation. From this perspective for the next generation, is should have various discussions and arguments of how ICTs should lead people to the next stage and how people can use them strategically, and the dialogues should be accumulated widely. They will surely be helpful to the future.

There are a lot of societies in Japan, and the gap of communication among generations, social classes, jobs, ethnicities, and localities must be overcome in order to make the communities stronger and various. The young people will have to think and act locally and globally connect the societies in this country and overseas, which will make Japan more active and accessible.

Ms Anna Mikula
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Optical Telecommunication
Poland

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Access to telecommunication technologies differs in different countries, and within each country it depends on the region, education, wealth and sex. In postcommunistic countries, such as Poland, access is still too limited. The development of an information society should be reinforced by making investments in information and communication technologies (ICT), supporting cooperation between the economy and science, creating public information systems, as well as the common education of societies.

ICT overcomes barriers connected with social, economic and geographic isolation, increases access to information and education, gives the possibility to share experience, enhances opportunities for cooperation and also enables the people to take part in making decisions influencing their lives.

New technologies have increased the role and importance of education and development of human potential. Young people have to live up to them, and owing to them become more valuable workers. By delivering their knowledge, potential and creativity they contribute to using ICT, including the Internet, forming new positions in enterprises (e-commerce), education and raising qualifications. As a boss with an access to financial decisions, I would support the initiatives of young people. I would also see to the broad development of telecommunication networks using all of the newest transmission methods (optical networks multiplied by DWDM and SDH systems networks). It would be my dream for the network to cover every city, the smallest town or village and for each of the schools to have wide access to the network and being able to use its resources. Such commonness would somehow balance out the existing differences between a city and a village. I live in a very little town and that is why I know this problem – it cost my parents a lot of effort to give me the chance to study.

People without access to information will be civilizationally and economically handicapped. Therefore, access to the Internet should be made easier for rural societies, not exclusively by the development of teleinformation networks but also by lowering the costs of network access services, setting up charge?free access points and development of educational

activities. Young people contribute to the network's expansion by the initiatives of creating local area networks, efforts to obtain access to the Internet at reasonable prices, increasing the density of connections, faster introduction of new technologies (wideband and wireless transmission), opening and increasing telecommunication and information market competitiveness.

In many parts of our country a lesson with a computer working in a network where pieces of information and news are searched for at once and continuously in the present situation, is just a dream, the fulfilment of which almost no one believes. Using the new information technologies one is able to work over the same issue in many places on the whole planet, at the same time and almost simultaneously exchange information between each other, which surely accelerates coming to solutions and spreading them.

Only those better prepared and educated young people introducing the best and the newest into life will contribute to the development of the country's economy. This is why I care so much about the proper end equal education opportunities for everybody. Also that is why I've chosen to study electronics and telecommunication - to help the idea of equal access to ICTs become a reality.

Miss Maria Norpa Mimoso Ie

Renaj

Guinea-Bissau

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

As a responsible in my State or country, I will never ignore the fact that the future of any country depends on its youth. I will therefore do my best to help the young people not to miss any opportunity while in this very sensible age that, if well managed, can turn a young man into a great and very useful to his country.

Also I will make sure to influence the legislation to give them a chance and protect them against unemployment.

To meet all these things, I will do my best to have in place a policy of education that will leave nobody outside, no matter what is the economic, social and cultural statute of the person.

Meanwhile, taking into consideration the reality of my country, Guinea-Bissau, that has yet to have a full university (practically). I will also make sure we have enough higher learning institutions, so that all the young people can enjoy their rights of being educated up to the higher levels depending on the individual. Prior to this, I will recommend some reforms in the curriculum of education up to high school level, in other to, whoever completes high school can be skilled for the employment market, and not only that, the schools should have other facilities that can encourage development of the young people in sports and culture. In terms of other policies that can enable the turning of this dream into reality, I will consider the following:

– Public administration will be disciplined in a way that will continually have chances for the young generation, by retiring those outside civil service age, and assure that the number of civil servants are as much rational as possible in order to enable the payment of good salaries and ensure the quality of its service and moralization.
– Private sector will be encouraged to grow and diversify to all fields so that it can absorb the young people for higher learning and skills centres.
– Sports and culture – I will make sure the youths are provided with adequate infrastructures.
– Other social facilities, schools must be in a condition that can dignify it. For hospitals, I will encourage a police that will have a special regard to the students and exempt them from many payments due to their conditions.

– Youth activities – to encourage creation of youth associations and support their initiatives, including the exchange of experience with their counterparts elsewhere.

– Creation of a national library for sorts of researches, always up-to-date different from those in the schools.

– For the international areas, starting from home, I will encourage the creation of a department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a staff experienced so that the services of our diplomatic missions abroad can pay special attention to the problems of our youth.

Ms Adriana Minarovjechova
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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information and communication technologies are really very important for the social and economic development of every country. If there were some countries which do not have access to any information or even communication technologies, they would not progress because their cooperation with other countries would be impossible or at least very difficult. When a country is to use different and especially new ways of communication technologies, they can cooperate more quickly and so more effectively.

Nowadays, we are becoming members of so-called information society. Our lives are full of information. We use mobile phones, computers, the Internet, etc., and especially young people cannot imagine their lives without all of these things. The elders have some problems with the usage of these new technologies and that is why I, as Head of State, would give the most important role in the social and economic development of our country to the hands of young people. The economic situation in the world demands the information because the information is supposed to be a fundamental point for the future development of the world. The biggest assumption for the successful development of the country is based on the information area - production, adaptation of information, and not on the production of material things. And that is why I, as Head of State, would give emphasis to education and science.

One of the biggest economic and social problems of the Slovak Republic is unemployment, which concerns young people as well as old. The new generations should be educated in the area of new information technologies. If they knew how to use them effectively, they would be very desirable for different types of jobs. So, firstly I would emphasize education – new approaches in education. It means not learning through memorization but learning where and how we can find certain information which we need. I know it is very easy to say this and that it would take a lot of time and effort to make this a reality, but if it became possible it would have a significant impact on our country. Secondly, if we had people educated according to these new approaches in different areas such as medicine, business, law, etc., they would find appropriate jobs, and so social development can start to follow rapidly. The results of the economic development of every country are obvious - the social development starts, too.

Another thing is that because of different communication technologies, the borders between continents are cancelled. Due to new communication technologies, the import and export policy between countries can begin or continue but more effectively. We can use earth satellites for quicker communication and then the distance is not a problem for future society.

Finally, there is still one question which I, as Head of State, suppose to be the most important for my country. Due to new information technologies, we can get knowledge of different cultures, religions and nations. Due to communication technologies, we can talk to people of different nationalities and religions. It means that due to new communication and information technologies, we can cancel the prejudices about different religious, ethnic and national groups and so improve relationships in the world. And this is the point I would like to reach if I was Head of State, because the good relationship between people is the best basis for social and economic development of any country.

Mr Timur Mirtalibov

State University of Information & Communication Technologies

Informational Networks of Communication

Ukraine

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information technology today is the most rapidly developing area of human activity. In this new century we are experiencing an information explosion. Information is a powerful force which can help to reduce the time we spend dealing with various tasks. More has been invented in the last 100 years than in all the preceding years, including in the area of communication and information technologies. If we don't move forward in this area now we will fall behind the entire civilized world.

ICTs help to raise the intellectual level of the population – a particularly important factor in the development of the State. Even today it is clear that it is incumbent upon us, the young people, to develop the area of ICT, and the country as a whole.

Young people are currently playing a key role in developing modern information structures in Ukraine; indeed, young people are more open-minded and can therefore adapt more quickly to the fast pace of technology development. As young people are driving the Internet forward and users of information, this is not surprising.

State assistance is the most important factor in enhancing the role of young people in developing ICTs and the country as a whole. A great deal has already been done in this regard. For example, a State University of Information and Communication Technologies has been set up, bringing together all the leading institutes of higher education in the country working in this field. However, this is clearly not enough. In order to accelerate the process, there should be more active participation from both young people and the State.

In the light of the above, I am suggesting a comprehensive development programme, the main elements of which are as follows:

- tax incentives for youth talent societies working only on the development of ICTs and intellectual production;
- establishing youth societies working to develop and introduce all aspects of ICT at leading educational establishments with the appropriate material and technical equipment;

- establishing specialized State agencies dealing with ICT issues and young people, awarding grants to young people involved only in ICT development projects, recommending young specialists for work in various bodies, inviting tenders from youth talent societies for the development of ICT and to address related issues;
- organizing a forum of representatives from leading ICT companies in Ukraine, enabling young people to benefit from their experience and work on modern equipment.

If the measures in the programme that I have suggested were implemented, they would have a profound impact on all areas of the economy and public life. Improving the legislative and normative basis for the production and dissemination of information technologies with a view to simplifying the licensing procedure and certification processes would help to speed up the growth of this sector of the economy, reducing barriers to market entry and the operating costs of organizations in the sector. The effectiveness of the measures set out will be reflected in an increase in the number of organizations in the sector and in the establishment of competition in all segments of the ICT market. In connection with the improvement of the legislative and normative basis with respect to regulation of the ICT sector, it is proposed to greatly increase incentives to legalize business in the field of ICT (in particular, to reduce significantly the market share of illegal programming), which would help to raise the effectiveness of developments in the ICT sector, as well as increase tax revenue in the budget.

Mr Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed

Puntland University

Business Management

Somalia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

In an emerging global economy the ability of the information and communication technology (ICT) to provide an internationally competitive network for transferring information have significant implications for trade and economic growth. It is no doubt that, without a telecommunications revolution, a successful transition to democracy and a stable market economy in a country would be inconceivable. The artificial restrictions on the means of communications and on the free flow of information were the root causes weakened the social cohesion in many countries including Somalia. It also contributed to the general social dependency syndrome, which war-torn countries like Somalia have to overcome in the years to come.

The international community's efforts in advancing ICT should take into account the interests of States at varying levels of economic and social development. Transfer of such technology was not taking place in a vacuum, but was related to the capacities of those involved. Countries in transition from war to peace such as Somalia needed further help to improve their capacities in ICT. Partnerships in building such networks needed to be expanded and strengthened. And the development of models for cooperation between the governments and the private sector that were balanced and favourable for both sides was vital.

Many countries were not able to take advantage of ICT advances; the least developed countries, Somalia in particular, were the least connected. Somalia had been focusing on problems in the country linked to the local community as well as international information problems. Somalia has an intellectual contribution to make to the global ICT system and was attempting to mobilize further resources to apply ICT to social, economic, cultural, education and health matters.

Digital divide is a global problem and youth in many countries, like Somalia, are potentially marginalized group. Youth are also an opportunity, e.g. youth can also adapt and adopt ICT very quickly. In Somalia more than 7 000 students leave formal school system annually. If left unassisted, these youth are at risk of being excluded from digital economy or society. Most of Somali students gained their understanding or learning of ICT from friends. The question is, can youth use ICT to become a knowledge force to influence other marginalized youth? I believe the answer is yes, as we experienced in my country.

Therefore, if I were to be the Head of State of my country, I would introduce a policy that would encourage youth activities including the curriculum in primary schools up to high

school to learn ICT-related courses. This could help widespread ICT uplift in to our socioeconomy in the country; this will also enable youth to play a big role in ICT development.

Ms Reham Mohammad Elfiky

Ain Shams University

English Language and Literature - Business Terminology and Marketing Additional Studies

Egypt

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

## 1 Information and communication technologies and development

Undoubtedly, ICTs can contribute to every kind of development of a country. The impact of the telecommunication sector has been strongly felt; all people of the world should have access to the benefits of telecommunications which will definitely affect their development, especially in both economic and social trends.

As it is agreed upon, that human resources is a big factor for development stalling or even abandon. So, if I were a Head of State, I'd have made the best use of young peoples' powers and creation skills. They were born in a vast improving era and they are getting used to the fact that the world has moved to an information age to become one small, efficient global village.

It is essential that young people play the most important role in paving the way for these changes and developments. They must participate in the progress of new technologies and in the promotion of the economic and social sectors of their countries.

Young people undoubtedly have the keys to the future and have a direct influence in improving existing means of communication. So, we will experience the emergence of creative talents which will form the basis of future technologies of communications. They will provide solutions to all economic and social development obstacles.

Concerning the economic development, our e-commerce is founded on the use of credit cards. So, we are way behind. I'd encourage them to start using digital cash and smart cards. I would also activate them to hold all their purchases using e-commerce concepts, as they only represent 5 to 10% of the effort invested in an online purchase. Moreover, I have to make sure that the market conditions are fair to all players, responsive to the public, honest and open.

As for the social aspects, I will encourage them to get more and more involved in globalization. I will definitely provide them with the most efficient and cheaper telecom-munication systems which help in improving the quality of family lives and levels of income, believing that the lack of local and global telecommunications is a serious handicap for countries' development. Using Internet protocols will help them to create

better job opportunities, fight poverty and increase learning opportunities. They have to be included in planning so they feature what they have to do according to what they need.

Finally, in this era of globalization in which borders are abolished, the best success that young people can achieve is to exploit ICTs in both social and economic sides in spreading world peace out. So, why don't we prepare them to meet tomorrow's challenges in a way that suits our great civilization. That's of the great pharos.

Ms Shereen Mohammed

Sudan University of Science and Technology

Telecommunication Engineering

Sudan

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

It is clear that information and communication technologies (ICTs) are entails essential elements of new revolution in the world today. (ICTs) represent the key to any future development, so ahead of state in any country must give reasonable attention to the needs and requirements of this sector to realize the expected socio-economic development.

From the above mentioned, If I were ahead of state, I should arrange necessary policies, plans and programmes in order to face and facilitate the problems of the (ICT) sector through specifies certain measures and specifications for the equipments utilized in that sector, and provides suitable environment for (ICT) equipments to avoid effects of weather condition upon these system, so as to preserve its quality and effectiveness. Also I should exempt the (ICT) system equipments from every kind of taxes and customs to facilitate for citizens inside country to involve with (ICT) system easily. A head of state must cope with (ICT) development through importing necessary and advanced equipments and organizes specialized (ICT) training programmes, which assist to make use of foreign experiences and ideas and converts them into national projects for the benefits of country as a whole. Via providing specialized programmes for young people, they can participate effectively in external forums dealing with (ICT) sector in order to reflect and explain the extend and level of internal technology, and that will open new investment markets for foreign investors to come to Sudan and invest in the field of (ICT) and by that attempt young people can contribute effectively to build national economy, so they can acts as tools for economic development of the country.

In order to attain social development, ahead of state must build a well-established infrastructure for (ICT) programmes by conducting awareness campaigns to disseminate computer education for school student and undertake the mission of teaching computer using a simple language. Thus new generation will grow up with new and advanced concepts towards computer and will be well qualified to tackle with (ICTs), so those young people can manage to change the concepts of (ICTs) through acquainting others with the important of (ICTs) in reducing time and efforts in accelerating social development process. As a matter of fact that (ICTs) speeds-up transformation of social structure at any society, and this will be achieved through airspace technologies which assist the culture, morals and behaviors interaction and may reflect alien attitudes among young people, so the head of state must furnish them with good morals and attitudes, which help

them to interact positively with the cultural invasion introduce with (ICTs) and will success to keep the nation orientation inside the society, at the same time a head of state can employ the (ICTs) in promoting cultural and intellectual capacities of the young people, so they can take their role in attaining social development through prevailing benefits of (ICTs) among different sectors of society and arrange these sectors to deal with (ICTs) and extract the positive sides of that system. By that, the young people contribute effectively in achieving social development in their country.

From the above we come to conclusion that the role of young people is indivisible from the role of a head of a state regarding the (ICTs) contribution in the operation of socio-economic development, so they should collaborate and coordinate to implement suitable programmes to realize the desire uprising in all fields and sector, specially the field of (ICTs).

Ms Annebeth Larsen Moller

Royal School of Library & Information Science

Library and Information Sicence

Denmark

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

It is widely accepted that the development moves towards a knowledge based society.

The population's ability to use ICT is a fundamental requirement for this development. I believe that a nation's ability to make the population familiar and comfortable with ICT, is strongly connected to the countries ability to develop itself, and live up the future challenges.

Education is one of the areas where the use of ICT has to be incorporated, but there also exists a need to abolish the social gap between the groups that are familiar with ICT usage. The accessibility to use ICT has to be broadened so that all levels of society have the possibility to use ICT. I believe that the taxation ICT has to be decreased and that an effort of giving people with less economical backgrounds the possibility of getting ICT in their home.

As mentioned, education plays an eminent role in a society development towards the common use of ICT. In all primary educations, ICT must be an incorporated part and the youth must receive education that challenges them in the use of ICT.

Today, education and exams are still based on pen, paper and normal books. I believe that education in the future should move towards keyboard, computers and e-books, but as stated, the social gaps have to be eliminated first.

To answer the question directly, I would introduce accessibility to ICT by making ICT accessible in schools, libraries and other public buildings. Also, I would like to make ICT accessible to all levels of society, by making it possible for persons with low income to buy computers and lower the cost of access to communication (Internet etc.).

Mr Mothusi Molokomme

University of Botswana

Business Administration (Management)

Botswana

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Young people form the basis on which the future development of any country is based, while Information and Communication Technologies can contribute to the economic and social development of a country. It is on this notion that, if I were Head of State of my country, young people would play a greater role in the development of the country.

Firstly, a programme would be developed that would encourage young people to pursue careers that teach and involve the use of ICTs. These would be careers such as computer science and information technology. This would benefit the country in that these young people would be knowledgeable in the use of ICTs and extend this to societies around the country.

Recently, a greater problem with the use of ICTs in most sub-Saharan countries has been the brain drain and generally low levels of education and literacy amongst the population, which has created scarcity of skill and expertise. Botswana has not been an exception to this difficulty, with the few limited qualified personnel looking for greener pastures abroad. I would address this by providing competitive pay in order to retain qualified people within the country.

Another role I would have young people play in the development of my country is providing them with greater awareness of the contribution that ICTs can make to the economic and social development of the country. The role of broadcasting, telecommunication, computers and the Internet provide an insight of what ICTs in general can provide. I would have young people from various groups in rural areas where there is an acute shortage of ICTs and provides regular mobile computer centres offering Internet usage across the country. This would at least provide awareness to society and this initiative would be led by young people.

In enhancing the telecommunication part of the ICTs, young people would be given the responsibility for maintaining public telephones. These would not only be established in urban areas, but also rural locations would be considered. This would contribute to the economic development in that it will generate revenues for them.

As there has been a warding of local and community radio stations, I would ensure that young people are involved at every level of operations. They could be employed as presenters and hence provide programmes that enlighten the society and those that can assist people to live together hence contributing to the social development and at the same time some can be employed as technicians and managers earning money to contribute to their economic development and the economic development of the country.

All in all, the role that young people would play would be complemented by the use of ICTs in order to contribute to the social and economic development of the country.

Mr Mohamed Mahid Moosa

Maldives College of Higher Education-Faculty of Management and Computing

Maldives

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Maldives is a nation consisting of small islands separated by an ocean. More often that not, transport between islands is difficult especially during bad weather. Either due to their profession, deadlines or various other reasons, people need to send documents and information of various sorts to corporate, government offices and individuals within short periods of time in clear form by secure and efficient ways.

Before Information Communication Technology (ICT) could be implemented at any scale, it is essential to check for the demand of such a system, how many people know about it, and how efficiently such systems could be used. I would try to create as much awareness among the people so that they know about the current technology, what they can used it for, what could be achieved and the benefits associated with them. National media can be used to conduct some of the programmes and disseminate such information to the population.

With assistance, I would try and formulate a proper and detailed plan in order to propose how ICT can be implemented. Once this is approved, I would try and seek financial aid to obtain the necessary equipment and train personnel who are going to operate it after implementation. Such training is essential for operators to maintain them properly for the long run. Before implementation, proper guidelines will be set, without which such a system maybe mishandled, misused and the proper purpose for implementation not achieved, resulting in a waste of resources.

Once the basics of the ICT are implemented more job opportunities will arise for the youths who are completing higher education available in the Maldives, by a few thousand annually. Currently jobs are becoming scarce and these opportunities will be a good avenue for the youth, irrespective of gender, to pursue.

I would initiate to form an ICT network among islands in the country, in a way that will be accessible to the public. This network could be used to transfer information, documents, submit application forms for various purposes to various offices, request information and so on. This would help to reduce the distance and save travel costs people have to

currently bear even for the smallest task. People of all ages from all aspects of life on all islands, even those with disabilities, will be able to use such a network and help them get exposed to the developing world. Furthermore, this would help them self-learn and reduce the digital divide. Future expansions would introduce more advanced features such as distance learning, teleworking and teletourism.

In the future, with proper and thorough planning, I would endeavour to set up an ICT community in one separate island. They can write ICT software and carry out research projects into new technology. These can be sold overseas where economies of scale can be gained, one, which could be very useful for the Maldives. Moreover, I would also seek to set up an ICT world-class university in the Maldives, where local and international students can obtain diplomas and doctorates.

Ms Katherine Morris
University of New South Wales
Electrical Engineering/Arts
Australia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) already form a large part of the backbone of public and private infrastructure. From the provision of public services and the management of industry to the distribution of information, ICTs are an essential ingredient. Increased community dependence will streamline the variety of options into a more unified infrastructure, resulting in both social and economic improvements. Greater usage of ICTs will also automatically produce economic improvements by expanding the market. By encouraging young people to be consumers of ICTs, the current market is expanded and the future looks even more optimistic as these ICT?aware youths enter their chosen professions and have the opportunity to make their ideas a reality.

Furthermore, by the use of ICTs, individuals themselves also experience great social gains. Empowered both by an ability to freely access a huge range of information and by the opportunity to voice their own opinions, individuals even from geographically and culturally isolated groups have equal opportunities before them. In many respects, youth is one such group that can benefit from an unprecedented opportunity to have their say and to contribute new and interesting ideas on any subject. ICTs also help young people to access information, assistance or counselling in the many situations they are faced with.

Theoretically, structures are already in place which allow all young people to be active users of ICTs, thus enabling their involvement in the community. However, it must be acknowledged that there are people who do not have access to ICTs. For this reason, free public access that people are aware of needs to be provided. Youth can take responsibility to ensure that all people are aware of their right to have access to basic ICTs.

A two-fold educational programme would be instituted (through new and existing educational structures) that would both encourage young people to be comfortable with the technology whilst also training them to be critically aware of its power. The benefits (individual and corporate) of involving youth on a large scale have already been mentioned.

However, to receive the full benefit, it is important to develop in consumers and understanding of the social effects that accompany a growth in usage. ICTs are an extremely powerful way of giving all people a voice, but if unfairly distributed, they produce stark power imbalances. Freedom of information is also a wonderful thing that

can be misused with terrible consequences. Young people need to be concerned about this and encouraged to actively ensure that there is equality for all and that the technology is respected and well used.

As a part of the education programme, there would be avenues for youth to express their concerns and suggestions, and I would endeavour to demonstrate that these suggestions are being taken seriously. Where appropriate, support and funding would be offered to young people to implement their suggestions in their communities.

Ultimately, young people hold the power to direct the future. If they can be convinced now that ICTs are integral and are worth investing in and protecting, the benefits will be seen in all fields: decreased administration, easy and reliable access for all and a unified backbone across all sectors are but a few such fields. Innovation will be on the agenda and further benefit can be anticipated well into the future.

Ms Oabona Mosarwe
University of Botswana
Statistics and Economics
Botswana

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The pivotal role that Information Communication Technology (ICT) can play in social and economic development of a country can never be overemphasized. In fact it is even accepted now that the prosperity of countries in the 21st century will depend largely on their ability to effectively tap the advantages presented by ITC's. Globalization brings with it new opportunities to countries with small economies such as Botswana, to access large international markets all over the world. On the other side however, those small economies that fail to grab these opportunities will be stifled out of business since preferential treatment they enjoyed hitherto will fall off in due course. The ICT industry proves itself to be the vehicle that can accord world countries, big and small, equal access to available opportunities. Exploited effectively the industry will also censure lucrative returns in all other sectors such as education, health, politics and sports and recreation.

Considering the critical need for countries to benefit from ICTs, as president of Botswana I would make it my mission to equip the nation for this. To achieve this, I would assume a three-pronged approach hinged to awareness, education and accessibility. The whole nation needs to be couscientised to the benefits of ICTs so that we may move together to confront the momentous task ahead of us. Messages on the benefits of ICTs would therefore be relayed through both print and electronic media across the country. Seminars and public meetings on the subject would also be arranged to target different strata of the population.

With a significant portion of the population having benefited from the public awareness campaign the next step would be education. All the young citizens of this country must be introduced to ICT education. This would therefore have to be introduced at primary school level. This is based on the premise that after seven years of primary education, children will, by and large, have determined their career paths. ICT education therefore needs to be introduced at this early level so that it becomes part of the original thought patterns that a child will have about hid/her future.

By the time our children go through junior secondary education they would have had a full ten years of training in ICT. This is certainly sufficient leaning to enable those that are capable to be able to put their skills in ICT to good use. At present in Botswana however, about half of those who complete junior secondary proceed to senior secondary schools. As a result, about half of our new ICT specialists would be deprived access to the ICT facilities provided in schools. My government would therefore set up ICT resource centers across the country so that these young people can continue put their knowledge to practice.

I believe that only when we have made such a consorted effort to empower our young citizens can they effectively exploit ICT to the benefit of the nation.

Mr John Msocha

University of Dar-Es-Salaam, College of Engineering and Technology

Electrical and Computer Systems

Tanzania

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information can be defined as something received or obtained through knowledge communicated by others or obtained from investigation study or instruction. In other words, information is the process, which the form of object knowledge is impressed upon the comprehending mind so as to bring about a state of knowing.

Communication is the act or action of importing or transmitting information. Technology is the science of the application of practical purposes in a particular field. In other words, technology is knowledge and skill relating to production or delivery of services, not possession of a machine but operating and capacity to produce IT software, complex skills, expertise, experience, patents and design.

Let us now try to see the role of information in development. Information is a basic resource for national development. Advancement for modern civilization requires that each member of the society is well-informed in matters relevant to our day-to-day living, because information is the basis of cooperative culture and steady development of the social being. Information technology refers to computers and electronic data processing and data communication. Today, information technology is treated as a separate industry from the global point of view. For the case of most third world countries, the problem is unlike any other developed country; we inherit problems in the development phase, the information technology goes as a service to many other industries, commerce banking, etc. Information technology can be considered as a global industry, whereas some other industries like motorcar manufacturers, the steel industry or jewellers are limited to some countries, especially third world countries. Information technology is the fastest growing industry at present; there are interesting comparisons of the growth rate of the computer industry with that of the motorcar industry. However, it is the time for developing countries to think. We need to take appropriate technology. If we do not pick these appropriate technologies in modern technology information that is growing rapidly and cooperate with them in our development schemes, we will be left behind the rest of the world.

If I could be the Head of State of my country, I would be in a position to suggest investing the information technology that improves our technology and decrease cost rapidly and the cost of production associated with labour. Because if the production cost does not relate to the labour, the industrial sector will decrease significantly.

Being aware of various factors which open the eyes of developing countries, as Head of State I would make sure that my country is aware of the importance of giving immediate attention to the formulation and implementation of a national Information Technology policy. By doing that, information and communication technologies could enhance the economic and social development of a country. The young people in my country could focus to undergo the whole process using new information and communication technologies for economic and social development. As a Head of State, I could set or plan computerization in the public sectors and institutions, such as schools, universities and other organizations, governmental or non-governmental, to promote especially young people who are intended for enhancing economic and social development in my country. Special training concerning information and communication technologies should be provided at basic to advanced levels to the higher access not only theoretically but also practically. Also, I could be in a position to formulate policy, which touches all young people, those in and out of school.

The information technology revolution, because of its pervasiveness through the whole world of human activity, is very important in analysing the complexity of new economy, society and culture in making this methodological choice. It does not imply that new social form and process emerge as a consequence of technological change. Of course, technology does not determine society. Neither does society script the course of technological change, since many factors including individual scientific discovery, technological innovation and social applications. Indeed, the dilemma of technological determinism is probably a false problem since technology is society and society cannot be understood or represented without its technological tools. So if I could be Head of State, I could put all these considerations especially during policy making so that they could touch groups of young people for economic and social development.

## Question

It is widely believed that information and communication technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country. If you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?

Ms Alice Muco

Universite Lumiere de Bujumbura

Faculte de Gestion et Administration

Burundi

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The factors contributing to a country's development are many and varied, and relate to the political, economic, technical, social and human spheres. Development policies need to be shaped and implemented with the utmost care, taking account of the different actors involved. We will look particularly at the role of information and communication technologies and of young people in national development.

The development of information and communication technologies is one of the best barometers of social development, continuing to act as an indicator of living standards and overall social well-being. In the world's major economies, ICTs are highly evolved, in contrast to the economically disadvantaged countries, where they are still in the Middle Ages. This is undoubtedly due to the communications policies of these countries, which view the media as a public service to be controlled by the State and used for official propaganda purposes. The scope for ICTs to act as a driver of development is therefore limited. ICTs, as media of communication, have a mission to educate and inform people.

Thanks to the possibilities offered by the media, the masses and the elite have access to the information they need to shape their own destiny. This positive role of the media is reflected in their ability to mobilize and educate young people and engage them in political, economic and human development. Hence, the media can have a valuable role to play in the context of national development plans.

The human factor is equally important to development. The larger the workforce, the faster development proceeds. This workforce is recruited largely among the young, who represent the country's future and take over the work already begun. The potential of young people is an asset for development, especially if the State ensures that they are properly educated and integrated into working life.

The factors that contribute to a country's development are multiple and varied, and all equally indispensable. As Head of State in my country, I would devise national development policies in the different spheres of life (economic, social and technical) and would use ICTs to educate people on development issues and raise their awareness. I would also seek to encourage young people to throw their full weight behind national development plans.

In conclusion, no potential would be overlooked in a bid to make our country's development a reality.

Mr Sylvere Mugemanyi

Kigali Institute of Science, Technology & Management (KIST)

Génie Electronique et Télécommunications

Rwanda

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The modern world is difficult to manage and all of us would like to see at least some improvement in our living conditions. To bring this about serious efforts will be needed from each and every one of us and in many areas, especially science and technology given the extraordinary pace of modernization.

Through such efforts and with modern technologies, sustainable development will be possible in countries like Rwanda.

If I were President of a developing country, one of my primary objectives would be to promote the kind of training that enables people, and hence the country, to use up-to-date information and communication technologies as part of every day life.

My absolute priority would be to promote ICTs among young people. For them, there is no alternative but to acquire these new technologies. And that is only natural, the youth of a country being its vital force.

Rural telephony will have to be developed in order to make communication between the capital and the provinces easy and quick so that it can be put to use to resolve the country's difficulties, particularly its social and economic problems. Consequently, education in general and the development or extension of ICTs in particular are absolutely essential.

Young people must be aware of this, but above all they need the skills for these modern resources, and such skills are acquired through training in information and communication technologies.

In so far as Rwanda's resources, particularly its finances, allow, the development of ITCs must be extended throughout the country.

Landlocked nations such as Rwanda need to develop ICTs as an outlet. Enterprises, both public and private, will benefit from the knowledge acquired by young people who have been trained in information and communication technologies. Their productivity will improve and they in turn will undoubtedly provide employment for young people leaving education.

In today's world it is important to apply information and communication technologies, particularly in the developing countries if we wish to speed up progress in modernizing our means of communication and information.

Mr Fakhriddin Mukhitdinov

Tajik Technical University

Telecommunications

Tajikistan

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

It is really that ICT sector is one of the most rapidly developing and perspective sectors of the economy and is significantly contributing to the economic and social development of the countries.

Taking into account the importance of the info-communication services for the economic development and growth of the country, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan has declared the ICT sector is a priority and is providing every support to the initiatives promoting its development.

The main goal of ICT sector development policy is to establish favourable conditions for modernization and digitalization of telecommunication system, bridging digital divide between Tajikistan and developed countries and urban and rural regions of Tajikistan. The key objective is to attract domestic and foreign investments to ICT sector, create competitive environment for operators in the market through full liberalization of ICT market and privatization.

Moreover, one of the goals is to ensure universal (i.e. equal access) to all categories of population including low-income and vulnerable people to the info-communication services by affordable prices.

Undoubtedly, to achieve the above goals, to ensure economic growth and development of market relations, the human resources having new creative and innovative thinking – enthusiastic and vigorous young people - are necessary.

Therefore, if I were the Head of my State I would give the youth key role in the development of the country's economy and would forward my efforts to the training of young specialists and creating the conditions for them enabling to contribute their forces and efforts in the development. The youth itself has enough spirit and abilities to overcome all the difficulties existing at the moment in the country identifying innovative ways and methods of solving the problems.

As the result of civil conflict the enormous damage was made to the economy of Tajikistan and telecom sector. Communications infrastructure inherited from the former USSR was almost completely destroyed in many regions of the country. The rest of the equipment of the existing telecommunication network is physically and morally outdated. It requires

immediate replacement. It's necessary to urgently modernize the network and to introduce advanced technologies (digital ones) to ensure high quality of services provided. It will enable to Tajikistan to reach international quality standards and smoothly integrate in Global Information Society.

Currently, the intensive work is being implemented and a lot of efforts is being made in this field. Young people are directly involved in these process and are playing very important role. I hope that this global event, Youth Forum, will give me the opportunity to meet the friends from other developing countries and to exchange the views with them. They will tell me about their experience in modernization and development of ICT in their countries and, then, I will apply the knowledge I receive in practice in my work for the well-being of my country.

Ms Gunel Mustafayeva

The Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Research of the government regulation of the Economy

Azerbaijan

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

At the current time, the major priority of the industrially developed countries is transition from an industrial society to a society of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT), which are based on worldwide use of new telecommunication technologies and software program in all areas of human activities.

Implementation and development of ICT in Azerbaijan are going on in accordance with progressive world requirements.

At this stage the implementation of ICT for government regulation of the country economy is essential for economic and social development. The use of ICT in the government (e-Government) open the new tendency of using the Internet and therefore can be a key point of propagation of ICT in weights and accordingly Introductions of ideas of an information society.

Moreover, the e-government increases the performance of the State machinery, which finally will contribute the increase of economy productivity.

At an initial stage (8-10 years ago), the core objective for Azerbaijan was providing government organizations with modern and effective computer equipment hardware and software.

Now, the main expectation is getting feed back from previous investments into ICT creation machinery's structures and work patterns.

For further implementation and development of ICT in Azerbaijan I would like to suggest the following directions:

– Formation of the Azerbaijan information network systems (AINS);
– Development of the information networks connection of the State bodies with the population;
– Establish free access to information data bank for citizens;
– Use of the information systems for the analysis of the social problems, identification of the risk factors and provision of the solutions.

In my opinion, Azerbaijan youth should be broadly involved in different government organization due to the fact that mostly our young people are the driving force in the process of the implementation and development of ICT.

Ms Paula Musuva

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)

Computer Science

Kenya

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The state of ICTs in Kenya leaves a lot to be desired. The technologies in use are comparatively outdated (there is not ISDN connectivity). The necessary infrastructure is localized to cities (there is only one public Internet backbone, JamboNet, accessible in only six major cities, through which nearly all ISPs connect). Restrictive regulatory framework and government bodies, like the Communications Commission of Kenya, rigidly control the available ICTs.

I would seek to change this with the young people as the driving force. I would ensure that the youth in educational institutions are trained and technically equipped to work with and improve existing technologies through well?structured courses that centre on ICTs.

I would have the youth disperse this technology to the rural and hitherto unreached areas of the country. I would capitalize on their skills, flexibility and enthusiasm to pilot projects that install, manage, and maintain the infrastructure associated with these technologies. They would work in their localities, ensuring a supply of inexpensive and skilled workforce to ensure that the infrastructure is always in order.

I would also have the youth set up small businesses using their skills and government assistance. These businesses would be geared towards providing information and communication services to the population. Consequently, a better social framework would be promoted by involving more people who were previously under?serviced and also the much needed job opportunities would be provided.

The youth would be the agents of change in their various fields and professions. I would have the youth, who are more receptive and adaptive to change, initiate and propagate the changes that can improve these social and economic sectors.

The youth would be encouraged to undertake projects geared towards practical technological advances, applicable to the Kenyan context. They would out?source information from other countries and in?source information from educational and research institutions through ICTs. This would be exceptionally important in liaising with others and expanding their research base and efforts. The end result would be bespoke technologies that would be better suited in the development of the country.

I would have the youth compete internationally and participate in international forums thereby removing geographical boundaries as limiting factors. ICTs would broaden their horizon, help them present what they have to the international community and in turn draw foreign attention and recognition on their potential. This would make the concept of globalization real to them, giving Kenya a socially active place on the global map.

The youth, through ICTs would be given a voice in my government to share their views on state affairs and policies. They would be invited to express their opinions thus giving valuable ideas, increasing social participation, and making my government more democratic and accountable. Since the youth interact with ICTs the most, their inputs on ICT legislation would make the laws less restrictive and promote greater access and affordability.

I would have the youth influence each other in internalizing traits that would keep them abreast with the changes in ICTs. These traits, among others, would be: a desire to acquire modern knowledge and courage to undertake unfamiliar activities. These traits would bring up a generation more open to change and therefore development.

In conclusion, the youth would take centre stage when seeking development through ICTs as they are growing in an information?rich society and they make up the largest per-centage of people who interact with ICTs. Through this, future generations will turnaround the current situation of ICTs, making them more of an asset than a threat to sustainable development.

Mr Bernard Muwonge
Mbarara University of Science & Technology
Physics
Uganda

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

## Role young people should play to make the development of uganda a reality:

Information Communication Technology (ICTs) is the use of processes especially computers, mobile phones and other telecommunications for storing, retrieving and sending information of all kinds such as words, numbers and pictures.

ICTs can contribute to the economic and social development of a country in many ways, say; access to the right information and the latest computer technology gives a company a competitive weapon and a potential for growth.

The world, currently being a global village, happenings elsewhere in the world affect Uganda. That's why young people should be active being the best channel through which revolution can be effected. If I were the head of state, I would get them involved through these ways:

I would advise curriculum designers to design a curriculum for primary and post primary institutions making computer skills a compulsory subject. This would force all students to take computer lessons. It would also give opportunity to primary school drop-outs to use computers in their small businesses, thus steering development.

I would also make rural electrification a reality such that village scholars can also access power and hence computer knowledge. This would be applied in their businesses for better flow of information.

Furthermore, I would remove all taxes on ICTs. This would enable computer dealers to bring more at subsidized prices, which would enable the youth to purchase them for use in their businesses. I would thus liberalise the market for computers and mobile phones to avoid traders exploiting buyers.

Employment in all government parastatals should also be based on computer literacy such that youth without computer knowledge are not given government jobs. This would force all youth to learn computer.

In addition, scholarships and funding should be given to scholars for research and discovery especially those undertaking postgraduate studies. This would provide managers with specialized knowledge for better management and efficiency.

All government workers, out of school youth and teachers who are computer illiterate would have to undertake refresher courses in computer. This would as well solve the problem of lack of teachers at all levels.

I would have the education ministry to pay higher salaries to computer teachers so that the teachers-to-be are motivated to study computer while at university or college to solve the problem of lack of teachers.

I would also recruit expatriate lecturers to lecture in universities thus equipping the undergraduate youth with the required skills in information technology. They would thus after university play a greater role in national development.

I would look for donors computers to all schools and set up computer centres in rural areas for non-school youth to undertake computer lessons and get computer skills.

Free or subsidized Internet services would also be provided to encourage young people get access to the world and be updated.

With the above strategies, young people would be fully involved in making the development of my country a reality.

Ms Thet Lyar Htay Myat
Yangon Technological University
Information Technology
Myanmar

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information and Communication Technologies' enormous potential of contribution to the economic and social development of a country has been realized by almost every nation in modern society. Realizing the present situation and the potential of the human resources of our country, our government has been making every endeavour to explore and make full use of human resources to boost information technology. When a youth of today becomes a Head of State in our country, Myanmar, he has to find out ways and means for the widespread application of it, and strategies for making young people play in the key roles of ICT sectors.

Our government has already set up many learning centres in schools, colleges and universities for e?education systems. Moreover, today's youths are being trained to become IT professionals, as Myanmar is in need of fully-qualified worldwide technology brains and well-efficient technicians and experts. We can say that the introduction of information technology changes the nature and type of skill used in the workplace.

As organizational goals, organizational culture, social mores and technology are all interconnected. I realize that the information age will mandate new organization structures of use in analysing our future. All of these portend huge changes in the structures of organization from those we have seen in older models. I would make young people mange the new computerized workplace in ways that would fulfil the lofty promise of a knowledge-based society.

In today's complex and intelligence-intensive world economy, post-industrial skill will demand workers to be consistently involved in the process of active learning, direct intervention in the machine system and progressive widening of their knowledge. So, I would establish so many international-level IT diplomas and degree courses which produce the youths at different levels of qualification, and invite international organizations and their aids to promote the ICT level of computer users and technicians from our country.

To grasp this opportunity, youths can attempt to win the scholarships offered by those organizations. I believe that the community of scholars was central to the traditional concept of higher education and I will enhance present proven strategies for academic community building in an online environment.

I think that if information technology sparks growth in one sector of economy in the form of increased productivity, growth will also occur in other sectors of the economy. I will create opportunities such as online special interest groups, e-commerce and e-learning with the new wave of the Internet mind for not only small children but also adolescents and adults.

Among millions of new-generation youths, I see myself as a fortunate person, because I am one of the youths who is endowed with the opportunity of studying IT at the beginning of the Myanmar IT age. I strongly believe that if a lot of technicians in the IT field, as well as those in their own specialized fields, work harmoniously, conscientiously and collectively for the all-round development of Myanmar, our country will be able to keep abreast with other countries.

Ms Bernadette Nakayiza
Uganda Martyrs University
Science
Uganda

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) is the use of electronic or digital products (such as computers, satellites, modems) and systems to transmit news, advice and knowledge from one community or individual to another.

Like many newly industrialized countries, Uganda's economic growth will depend almost entirely on the success of applying information and communications technologies to achieve a technology-based economy. There is a need for capturing information from communities for effective development planning, governance and accountability; hence the need to involve young people. However, there is still need to sensitize the young about the importance of ICT, to raise funds for these devices and to encourage young people to pick up the interest in ICT. As President of Uganda, this is what I would do to make the development of my country a reality through the young people.

Young people need to shape their own destiny and meet the social, economic and personal challenges of the global knowledge-based economy. For this need to be fulfilled, they must have access to education and training. I would therefore make sure that young people have access to education at affordable cost, so that they can acquire knowledge, because this is the initial role for them to fulfill if we are to develop. I would encourage young people to take up courses like the Bachelor's degree course in computer science. Through such courses, they will be in better position to receive ICT training. It is a necessity to have all young people have an introduction to the use of computers right from primary level, it would therefore become compulsory for all school going children to be introduced to the use of computers.

To reduce government expenditure on ICT equipment, implementation and maintenance, I would emphasize the use of open source software especially in the learning institutions. Young people would have to equip themselves with the knowledge of operating systems such as Linux, Unix and others. This money would be used for other development plans. I would encourage the young people to form clubs in their schools where they would share knowledge about ICT and where fundraising would be carried out to fulfill their ICT needs. In the same clubs, they would be able to take part in quizzes, and essay competitions (like this one) where they would win prizes to boost their interest in ICT.

There is a need for change of attitude towards ICT; some people look at these tools as purely scientific, causing them to lose interest in them and what they stand for. Having different institutions share knowledge through computer networks can minimize this problem. Young people can regain interest by focusing on the social benefits of ICT, they would be encouraged to join Chat rooms, Newsgroups, and also to open up electronic mail accounts. This way they can appreciate ICT services.

## Conclusion

Through acquisition of skills and practical application of these skills, development in Uganda will no longer be a dream but a reality through the young people.

Ms Janika Nano
Tallinn Technical University
Telecommunications
Estonia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

In approximately the past ten years, our country, Estonia, has had enormous development by the means of the goodwill and activity of Estonians, as well as technology, including information and communication technologies (ICTs). It goes without saying that ICTs contribute to the economic and social development of a country; take for instance salesmen and consultants – they have done much more and effective work with a cell phone, a PDA and a laptop than without them. Besides, the increased amount of better work results means success in the addition of more time for progress, and on the other hand, time for social life.

As regards advantages to every single employee and employer, it results in the development of a country. Under those circumstances ICTs are essential to realize in our every day life. Young people have a vital role here because ICTs are renewed rapidly and young people adopt changes easily and they spread it widely.

Therefore, if I were Head of State in my country, I would make young people be friends with technology, for example PCs and mobile terminals. There are several methods to make it work and one of them is to organize computer users gathering events like LANparties (for example Assembly in Finland). This is a kind of educating education. Here in Estonia we have had LANparties organized by enthusiastic young adults where participants an compete in computer games. To my mind that kind of event could encompass for ICT solutions (take say, M-tickets for entrance, games over 3G networks), because it is the place where new solutions can be demonstrated for young people, who adopt easily innovations. Furthermore young people have there a great opportunity to learn about them. Manufacturers and service providers can test their new technology solutions there. At the same time young people are having fun without causing problems derived from alcohol, drugs, etc.

After giving young people the opportunity to obtain knowledge about ICTs, they can participate in the development process. Firstly, they would be able to spread their knowledge and attitude with each, with parents and grandparents. Also they could be helpful in providing new innovation ideas. Besides, as was mentioned before, they are a good group

of society for being in the testing process in the ICT field. Let's consider the students of Tallinn Technical University in Estonia – they could be helpful for manufacturers by testing new solutions before bringing products to the market. That would be educational and an experience for students.

On the other hand, it is important and useful for manufacturers so that the collaborations for innovation may grow out of testing. In fact, this is promising for the company, and moreover, for the whole country.

To sum up, I want to point out that there are several methods to involve young people in the field of information and communication technologies in Estonia as well as in the whole world. I have covered here one option: LANparties, with its potentialities. What is more, young people can and should take part in the ICT field to innovate the economy and society of our country.

Mr Swiss Nanton-Gill

University College of the Fraser Valley

Political Science

Canada

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

As a head of state elected and responsible to my people it is my duty to explore all tools and opportunities for the economic and social development of our nation. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have the potential, as many are now discovering, to be the catalyst for numerous social advancements. The Internet, for example, has become a forum for the exchange, promotion and exploration of ideas and information unlike any other seen in history.

Such a source, if made easily accessible by all, has the potential to further the education of everyone. It would be my goal to make this invaluable tool available for use by all of my citizens with a focus on youth, students and academic societies. As the Internet is an international system neither established nor controlled by any one national I would also take an active effort to facilitate and encourage the business sector to meet the challenges presented by the Secretary General of the United Nation Mr Kofi Annan and to develop a working relationship with the United Nations. Information and Communication Technologies Task Force to ensure that my nations policies are not hindering these goals.

I also believe that ICTs could be used to help my government serve our people more effectively in identifying those areas that allow me to gauge the needs, wishes and will of my people more accurately, and if successful could even be used as a platform for hosting national referendums.

ICTs could also stand to improve the conductivity within the infrastructure of my government and its civil service by increasing communication between its departments and ensure that all information required was available. Which in turn would make our policy decisions more concrete and applicable.

Furthermore, I would attempt to make all of my governments policies, departments, agendas, and goals available to the people so that we may be as transparent as possible. In this way the people would be given an even greater opportunity to be aware of what our government was actually doing and in so doing application of ICTs that will benefit society as a whole that I am unaware of as of yet.

However, I do recognize the vast potential that they could play in future world development.

As a first step toward realizing the full potential of these technologies to the world, I would as should each head of state, make myself aware of what these technologies do, and think of new and innovative ways to apply them to serving my people.

Mr Linn Aung Nay
Government of Technological College
Electrical Power
Myanmar

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Today, the government is striving to promote the economic and social standard of the entire Union in all sectors. To build a modern, developed nation which can face the possible challenges of the present, and the future rests on the development of necessary human resources. Nowadays, there is a saying that It is widely believe that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country. So, if I were Head of State in our country, I would have young people play to make think a reality or to make the development of our country a reality from the education role.

Education is essential for everyone who takes part in nation-building tasks. The teachers can nurture their pupils to become worthy sons and daughters of a nation capable of shaping the future of the State, according to their ability, ambition and inherent character. I want to urge all the people to extend themselves for the education promotion programmes to meet with more and more success.

Most people should be educated people to uplift the economic and social development of a country. Educated people can be good at problem solving and decision-making. To learn efficiently about modern Information and Communication Technologies, the learners must have high intelligence, qualifications, and they should be able to use their ability suitably. They can manage how to contribute their skill for the economic and social development of their country. They can follow the course of sustainable development, energetically promoting informatization using information technology to propel industrialization, developing hi– and new-tech industries, a modern agriculture and modern service industry in a big way and pressing ahead to optimize and upgrade the industrial structure.

Moreover, they can reform the economic system to improve market economy and make the modern market system more complete, so as to provide investors of various kinds with an institutional climate favourable for fair competition and development. They can further promote the country's all-directional openness to the outside world and participate in the international economic and technological cooperation more broadly and in a more sophisticated manner.

Now, the government is striving for the nation to be able to stand shoulder to shoulder with the world's nations. Thus, if I were a responsible person uplifting the development of my country, I would play in the role of carrying out the educational reforms to increase the qualified young people to make the development of a country a reality.

Mr Michel-Ange Cesar Ndagijimana
Universite de Ngozi
Fac. Des Sciences et Technologies
Burundi

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

There would seem to be no doubt that if information and communication technologies (ICTs) are to make an effective contribution to socio-economic development the bulk of the working population must benefit from these technologies. However, this seems to be still a pipedream in many African countries.

If I were Head of State, therefore, I would do everything possible to integrate ICTs (mobile phones, Internet, etc.) into the socio-economic life of the country. Young people would have a significant part to play in attaining that goal.

ICTs would enable the different players in the economy to communicate rapidly with each other, allowing much fresher and more detailed information to be gathered. In order to make an effective contribution to development, they must be used effectively, which implies that the users must master their operation.

Towards that end, young people must be given training to adapt to these technologies. This could be achieved by means of training seminars and debates during which the young, who represent the future workforce, would be familiarized with ICTs and their role in development. Awareness campaigns would also incorporate games and competitions on ICTs. The standard of teaching, especially in technical subjects, would also need to be improved. School curricula would need to be updated and adapted to the pace of evolution of modern technologies. Young people would also have to undergo thorough technical training (in telecommunications, electronics, programming, etc.) in order to overcome problems regarding installation and particularly problems with the maintenance of communication and information hardware.

Modern technologies also offer young people a means of acquiring the information they want, thus helping them to make the most of their studies. Thanks to the Internet, it is now possible to consult a large number of books and documents from all over the globe. It is important, therefore, to make information and communication technologies more accessible by reducing costs.

Miss Faton N'Daw
Ecole Nationale d'ingenieurs
Genie Civil
Mali

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

If I were head of State of my country, the role that I would have young people play would be to ensure that education, along with Internet training, was a priority; parents would be urged to encourage their children to go to school from a young age and the media, both the press and radio, would be involved. Only information and communication can help a country to develop.

In a country like Mali, young people have a far greater need for information. Knowing and understanding the realities of this world will enable them to rise to the challenges that exist.

I would try to tackle juvenile delinquency with the help of young people in our country, as they are the most affected.

Young people need to express themselves freely, understand each other and exchange ideas; there is strength in unity.

As head of State, I would encourage the computer sector.

Providing young people with computer training would be part of my plan as well.

Many more facilities for research in agriculture, finance and other areas would be established so as to promote social and economic development in Mali.

As young people are the basis for the development of a country, they should take up the fight against a number of social realities that are damaging our society, such as drugs.

Young people are often mobilized for the wars that are tearing apart our continent.

Together, they should suggest solutions to the crises to their leaders.

Young people should understand that only the good things, rather than bad, on the television should be imitated; they tend to confuse fiction with fact and put these things into practice in real life.

Young people should come to realise that a country has a great need for the able-bodied, namely the young themselves.

Information and communication technologies are the most widespread new inventions and the future of our young people depends on them.

Young people should behave in such a way as to demonstrate their love for their country.

It is up to young people to strive to build an environment that is the most beautiful, and warmest, and ensure that their country is the land of welcome, hospitality and peace.

Young people should have a role in the development of a number of sectors, such as computing, communication and agriculture; this can help to ensure that the development of a country.

If a head of State aims to ensure that computers are no longer alien to young people, these people will be able to develop intellectually, and will go on to change the mentality in the society; citizens of today will accept the new information, making it possible to achieve the objective set.

Ms Natalee N. Nembhard
University of Technology
Computing & Information Technology
Jamaica

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information and communication technology (ICT) represents information technology, telecommunication, Internet services, broadcasts and media industries.

The need for the utilization of ICT to aid in the development of a country is becoming more accepted over the years. The government realizes this, as such he has put measures in place to try to achieve it.

Although knowledge and technological development are amongst the critical factors of economic growth and sustainable growth, there is still a significant disparity of knowledge. Advanced technologies are limited in a number of countries. The majority of the world's population still lives in poverty and does not yet reap the full benefits of the ICT revolution.

Regardless of where we live today, due to the process of globalization we are influenced by the information society, yet we are not always able to reap its benefits locally, nationally and regionally.

If I were head of State of my country I would ensure that information technology and its importance be a part of every primary and high school curriculum in Jamaica. The importance of ICT should be stressed to the younger generation, which may motivate them to develop an interest in the field, hence encouraging them to pursue a career in this field. The youths represent the future adults. Thus, the future adults will have a background for ICTs. The interest of the younger people represents an investment in this field.

ICT is a powerful tool for human resource development. The impact of ICT on jobs, health and education is beneficial to the country. ICT development tends to increase income inequality. It requires relatively good education and special skills to make full use of ICT for socio-economic gains.

As head of State, I would ensure that ICTs play a vital role in education by investing in equipment that may aid in the development of ICT.

Government leadership is a key element in making ICT work for developing countries, like Jamaica. As head of State, I would aim at accelerating the diffusion of knowledge and

technological know-how and provide a platform for human interaction in the global market place.

In achieving this I would aim at attracting investors. Developing countries face difficulties in attracting investors and accessing technology. We are often short of managers, professionals, local promoters and entrepreneurs to prepare business plans and write viable investment projects according to internationally acceptable standards. Technological innovation is often managed poorly. Poor links between technology centres and industry hinder the transfer and absorption of technology, while discouraging investment.

This constitutes a challenge for the head of State. My ultimate goal would be to increase awareness and willingness of the business community to the benefits of international cooperation and thus reduce social inequalities by providing opportunities for growth in my country. Engaging in regular forums with the business community and schools informing them of the benefits of ICT.

As head of State, I would respond to the identified problems through a package of services, including appropriate tools and strategies, to develop international industrial partnerships particularly among small and medium enterprises so as to improve international competitiveness, job creation - particularly for university school graduates - higher income-generation, and enhance social development of my country.

Investment in the ICT field would allow the younger society an opportunity to contribute their knowledge and creativeness towards the building of ICT in Jamaica.

I would develop the innovative capability and technology absorption capacity, including the educational system. science and technology policies and collaborative relationship among government industries and universities for research and commercialization of technological innovations. Develop an adequate telecommunication infrastructure to improve the affordability and speed of network access.

I would provide an appropriate environment for the application of ICT in commerce and finance, including laws and regulations safeguarding intellectual property rights and financial transactions and adapt competition policy to the growing integration among telecommunications, computing, Internet services, broadcasts and media industries to maximize the benefits of greater competition and economies of scale.

Integrating the knowledge of young people in ICT through the achievement of education and investment they contribute to the promotion of sustainable improvement of socio-economic conditions.

Mr Ibrahima Niang
Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar
Droit
Senegal

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

It must be recognized today that information and communication technologies play an essential role in the socio?economic development of countries. This justifies the fact that the most developed countries of the world spare no effort in allocating enormous budgets to information and communication technologies.

Senegal has a population composed mainly of young people, and the country must therefore develop a taste for information and communication technologies on the part of young people, in particular by giving each of them the means required to contribute in a worthwhile manner to the development of the economy.

Nevertheless, it will not be possible to achieve such an objective unless the authorities both establish and really implement an appropriate policy.

This brings us to consider what the ins and outs of such a policy might be, if by chance we were to become president.

Over the past decades, there has been much talk of a global village in which information and communication technologies will act as an umbilical cord between continents. This is why every country that believes in creating such a village must develop information and communication technologies.

Insofar as Senegal is concerned, we have taken the view that the young people must be counted on as the source of the development required to successfully implement such a policy.

Accordingly, every possible effort would have to be made to combat illiteracy, idleness and delinquency, etc. on the part of young people.

Secondly, schools and even universities should be established in which young people have access to informatics and research using the Internet. This would mean that even the most underprivileged young people would have access to computers at an early age.

But the policy cannot stop there, it must have follow?up to ensure the young people's integration once they have finished their training.

The young people are the cornerstone of this policy, and they must therefore be kept in Senegal, in particular in order to avoid the brain drain from which our country suffers. They must therefore be well paid, and their working conditions improved.

Once we have completed what we might call the first phase, the brainpower now available will have to be exploited by allocating the young people to all areas of the economy. They will be able to serve in agriculture as consultants, and to assist the population in the field of commerce, with information and communication technologies providing market data. The young people will have to be able to work electronically in order to further increase their knowledge and keep abreast of technical and technological developments.

The final stage will consist in combating dependence, by promoting creativity, research and entrepreneurship, as it will not be possible to implement this policy successfully by relying on imported goods.

Mr Sjoerd Nikkelen

Delft University of Technology, Faculty of Information Technology and Systems

Telecommunication

Netherlands

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

ICT will provide an even more powerful tool to shape and create a better living environment. The sectors in which technologists are close to an important ICT-related breakthrough are numerous. But, as with any tool, one will only be able to benefit from it if it is used in the right way by the right person.

The most important role for exploiting ICT for development in all its aspects will be played by today's young people. They will be the ones who not only need to improve technology, but also foremost must seek ways to introduce ICT as an integral part of our everyday life. The sole experience of ICT possibilities is of no worth; it is making them accessible and accepted by everyone that matters.

As a head of State of my country I would base my policy on two different pillars:

First, I believe that to fully exploit possibilities and to ensure this will be done in the future, a solid base of knowledge and facilities is crucial. This means amongst others that there should always be high-ranking education and research in my country. In practice this comes down to stimulating people to study ICT-related studies, making these studies better accessible, stimulating research in this field and creating a friendly environment for ICT-related businesses.

For achieving the important high penetration level of ICT-facilities in the society, three major steps have to be taken. Firstly, every home should have a broadband connection to a data-network – the Internet. This will be taken care of by setting up a high quality optical fibre network, controlled by the government to guarantee a high quality of service, to which every home and public place should be connected.

Secondly, good computers should be installed in schools and public areas, implemented by establishing an allowance for this sector.

Thirdly, a protecting and nursing environment for ICT-businesses should be created, especially for the start-ups, which are important creativity suppliers for the industry. Though this last point – and in a way the first two also – seems a little unfair towards other important industries, it can be justified by the single fact that in my country the huge importance of ICT is generally acknowledged.

The second pillar of my policy focuses on the involvement of young people in ICT. As an authority you should inspire them to exploit all possibilities. It's very important to be a good example: every effort should be taken to use ICT-functionality in politics and government institutions. In this sense, one may even dream of a more pure democracy!

Further, young people should be consulted to indicate where ICT should be given extra attention. This can be in the form of work groups and (virtual) discussions. Especially young people who have travelled abroad could discover new opportunities.

Last but not least, a very important job is to share their knowledge with older generations to make ICT accessible to them. This will not only be necessary for all kinds of socio-economic problems, but also as a moral duty towards our parents.

This way full advantage will be taken of the possibilities ICT offers us.

Ms Kristina Nikolova
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National and International Security
Bulgaria

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The XX century saw the industrial revolution. The new XXI century becomes witness of another revolution taking place – the one of the Information and Communication Technologies. Moreover nowadays we can name and distinguish a new phenomenon unknown to previous generations – the information society. This category is a consequence of the acquired ability of people to easily access, use and benefit from information thus gaining precious knowledge. The rapid and irreversible development of the Information and Communication Technologies has transformed our planet into a global village and us into a global society.

Today, young people make up a fifth of the world's population constituting some 1.2 billion people. The question is whether these young boys and girls should be treated as passive recipients and consumers of the ICTs or as a generator for achieving sustainable development of the economical and social life of a country and the world as a whole.

Before solving this dilemma we should carefully consider the contribution young people can make in this era of information society with all their energy, enthusiasm, innovative ideas and open mind. After all youth has always been the momentum of progress.

Making young people active participants in the process of creating and shaping of the information society should not be a single act, but a long-term strategy beginning with a change of our approach to education. Unfortunately in Bulgaria a significant percentage of the young population of the country, especially in small towns and villages does not have any or has only limited access to computers and Internet. This is another case of a digital divide and if I were a Head of State I would try to bridge it.

If I were a powerful politician I would never underestimate the necessity of investing in the education of young people as knowledge, skills and attitudes learned in youth often determine a person's fate later in life. It is my view that a world where young people, remaining in their own localities, would be able to generate their own culture and be connected with youth in other parts of the globe to exchange ideas and learn from each other would constitute a global village worth living in.

Mr Dawa Nip
The University of Goroka
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Papua New Guinea

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Communication and information technologies (ICTs) play a vital role in the social and economic development of a country. People (human beings) are a significant resource in the development of any economy. It is the people who use other resources in a meaningful way that leads to growth and development of a society or country. Natural and renewable resources, in themselves, are useless unless people put value on these resources. The people that make the difference by putting value on them must be nurtured, educated and developed. It is the educated and healthy population that drive the country forward.

ICTs is the only means that government policies, priorities and plans, current affairs, innovations both local and global, can reach the bulk of the population. A well-established system or network of communication and information technologies such as newspapers, radio network, television stations, Internet and Intranet, postal and telephone can deliver messages efficiently and effectively, and enable people to be more informed. Keeping the masses aware of what is happening around us is in itself development.

Papa New Guinea is a developing country. About 75-80% of the population live in rural areas and are illiterate. Few people who live in towns and cities can afford daily newspapers, television, telephones and Internet and are able to keep themselves informed of the socio-economic conditions, and changes in government policies, priorities and plans and other current affairs and news around us. They also keep themselves abreast of the global innovations in terms of modern technology. The majority of the population lag behind news and all the changes and development that occur in PNG and the rest of the world. They depend entirely on the use of Provincial Radio Station Network, some of which are non-operational, as their medium of mass communication.

If I were the head of State (Prime Minister), I would put people first and would take the following measures for the efficient flow of information and communication from the government to the people that should lead to social and economic development in my country:

1) Fund and maintain all provincial radio stations. Information is powerful. I would start with what is familiar, by funding all existing provincial radio stations. We used to have all the provinces with their own broadcasting studios conveyed news and current affairs. Over the years several of them have been closed due to lack

of funds to continue to operate and maintain the expensive equipment. I would re-open them and encourage young people to become radio announcers and interpret news and current affairs in their own languages. It would be the task of the respective provincial radio stations to broadcast in the different languages to convey the government's policies, plans and other current affairs and issues to the bulk of the rural population.

2) Information and communication is a two-way process. People in the rural areas not only receive information, but need to send messages to the outside world (local, national and international). Government workers could also reach the village people, report any success in development so that it can be relayed to other Papua New Guineans through the information and communication system. Apart from radios for mass media, I would install satellite phones and VHS radios in the remote centres to allow for easy access to information and communication with the rest of the world. With the innovations in ICTs, it is paramount that such communication networks are established in remote areas in PNG.

3) One of the other things that I would do to support 1 and 2 above would be to ensure that basic infrastructures such as transportation, postal, telecommunication and electricity facilities are provided.

4) The mass of the population must be educated so that communication and information is easily shared. I would, therefore, fund for basic education to expand and make education accessible to all the Papua New Guinean children. The education reform is already in place aiming at universal education. I would inject more funds into the system so that we have an educated population who would be able to not only read newspapers, listen to the news on the radio and EMTC in good simple English, but to have access to modern technologies such as computers for Internet facilities, and the exchange of information and ideas. By doing that, a lot of young people would be educated to maintain the living standards and the development of the country.

5) Furthermore, I would fund universities and post-secondary institutions to train more young people in ICT skills. These are the very people who would design, develop and maintain information technologies, computer programs and systems, transmitters, repeater stations, broadcasting studio equipment, publications equipment and other such computers hardware and software etc. Without a pool of national skilled human resources any introduced ICTs in the country would not be sustainable.

6) Lastly, but not least, would be to ensure that law and order is kept under control so as not to vandalise established infrastructure and ICTs. Severe penalties would be imposed on those who breach set rules and regulations and adequate funding would be provided to the law and order sector to perform their respective duties and responsibilities.

Therefore, as Prime Minister, I would strongly support an educated and healthy population and provide funds for social and infrastructure development, Without the development of an infrastructure and ICTs, social and economic development would be impossible, and there would not be an effective communication link between the government and the people or vice versa, and the world at large.

Mr Alhagie Nyabally
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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information technology (IT) is a wide variety of items and knowledge used in the creation, storing and dispersing of statistical data and information, as well as helping in the creation and production of new knowledge. Information is an organized, meaningful and valid interpretation and analysis of data, when knowledge is the awareness and comprehension of a set of information and how that piece of information can be put to the best use for public consumption.

The world has seen the immeasurable and giant roles played by IT. Information, knowledge and abilities are things that the world cannot do without and are assets that are needed by society to manage and develop. Although the IT age began very recently, we have seen the majority of its workers involved in the creation, dissemination and meticulous use of information in their work places and work being simplified through mechanization and automation. Owing to the information age the use of computers, telephone sets and mobile radio and television satellites, to mention but a few, data and information are processed by IT components with the help of computers, communication networks and know?how. In essence IT helps us to capture, process, generate, store, retrieve and transmit information.

Furthermore, if I were a head of State, the role I would have young people play to make this a reality in the development of my country are many and varied.

First and foremost, I would create enough avenues for the youths like funds in the form of scholarships for outstanding science students to pursue higher degrees so as to open industries in the country which would in turn employ many youths. They could earn their living while contributing to the economic life of the country by paying tax which will boost the national treasury. They can also boost the morale of society through infrastructural developments such as hospitals, roads, ... schools and other recreational facilities.

Better still, I would bring in more experts to help develop this area of IT and teach the young people their knowledge on information technology. This would go a long way to creating enough space for socialization and intercultural exchange between the experts and the trainees.

I would also make science a compulsory subject in all schools of learning – Arabic, French or English schools, and I would make it so that the subject is not compromised with the teachers for science, and the learners would be motivated to excel and to lift my country to greater heights.

Notwithstanding, as president, I would introduce information technology in all schools, ranging from upper basic schools to the tertiary schools, and it must be given prior concentration. This will help the youths or the young people to corroborate the social and economic life of my country, because they can create from their scientific curiosity that which will contribute to either the social or economic welfare of my country.

Moreover, as Head of State of a country I would make education free and give special attention to the youth … younger population. I would create youth camps where the young ones will be trained. In this camp they will socialize, which will heighten the culture of the country.

As president, I would also liaise with the highly enterprising and technologically advanced countries so as to enter into trade and intercultural exchange.

As a fitting conclusion, awarding of scholarships, free education, compulsory IT in schools, liaising with highly technological nations, bringing in experts to help young people would make this a reality.

Mr Pedro Antonio Obama Oyana

Escuela Universitaria de Estudios Agropecuarios, Pesca y Forestas

Tecnologias de Petroleos

Equatorial Guinea

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

If I were Head of State of my country or were able to have a say in its historical destinies, I would consider it particularly important to introduce information and communication technologies in all sectors or at all levels of my territorial sphere of Equatorial Guinea.

Information and communication technologies have a particularly significant impact in the educational, health, economic, judicial and other sectors. In the educational sector it could be emphasized that in introducing ICTs it is not only the time that is dedicated to them that makes them significant; ICTs are important for the way in which they mould the perceptions and ideas of young people, raising awareness in the sense that they provide not only information about the world but also ways in which to see and comprehend it. ICT facilities serve to improve teaching and learning methods for young people and allow them unrestricted contact with other young people throughout this borderless world, which in this way becomes more useful and modern.

In the economic sector, ICTs have an important role to play in ensuring that young people have certain general notions about the economy of programming, and are thus able to understand how it works vis-à-vis the other sectors.

The development of ICTs serves to bring young people constantly into contact with economic issues and to analyse their environment.

Mr Roque Glenn Omanio
The University of Philippines
Journalism
Philippines

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

## The Road We Shall Travel By

During these times of rapid technological changes, modern man has isolated himself from his artificial environment. Sadly, his isolation is not brought by the evils of artificiality but his lack of comprehension in its workings.

The advent of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), which caused the convergence of microelectronics, computing and telecommunications, has radically changed every people's lives. A very important global phenomenon, ICT spans across in almost all spheres of human lives – agriculture, business and commerce, education, governance, and labour, to mention some. It bridges the gaps between what was previously thought to be irreconcilable fields.

Ironically, it also caused technological divide between those who dare to act for it and those against, much more ignorant, about it. And in this light, the role of the youths is tantamount in uniting polarizing sides of such divide.

ICT has created diverse development opportunities, especially to developing nations. The Philippines, for one, with its struggling economy, is trying to leapfrog via information technology. The government's economic programmes are now attuned to software developments and support services for the use of IT in education and have created thousands of jobs for millions of unemployed Filipinos. Other countries, meanwhile, are reaping the success of ICT in satellite communications and e-commerce, and continue to venture through extensive research and development in various areas.

However, the current global trends show the decreasing number of skilled ICT practitioners. As continuity of technological innovation entails sustenance from the next generation, so is the demand to educate the youths and maximize on the opportunities opened up by ICT for them.

This is where the youths find their niche in the global village created by ICT. It is their task to halt the looming digital divide between developed and developing nations. And by doing so, they can minimize the yawning economic gap between these countries.

Hence, the youths bear the challenge of self-improvement offered beyond the confines of the public school system or the mediocrity of many State colleges and private-run universities in the country. True enough, it is acknowledged that the formal and non-formal education systems in the country remain ill-equipped with ICT laboratories to apply theoretical learning. But such sorry state cannot be an excuse for many creative and innovative Filipino youths to be just complacent. There are various forms of ICT development, utilizing local materials and ideas. There are also forms of synergy efforts for efficient development of ICT.

In a country marred with technology importation, or at most, technology assembly, a reorientation of paradigms is essential. The role of the school thus comes critical in overhauling such prevalent thinking of the Filipino youths. Moreover, the diploma mill-attitude of many Philippines' schools must be halted to avoid unqualified graduates from joining the productive labour force. This requires the replacement of the current certificate-oriented system to a knowledge-based system.

Yet, there remains a challenge for every youth. While building technological capabilities through ICT, it is better for them to always nurture the commitment to serve the people. The pleasures of life that ICT creates must always go back to the people.

When all is said and done, the modern man can proudly say that indeed, the evils of artificiality are non-existent. Technology is here to ease life. And it is for man to comprehend its workings and realize its potentials to the human race.

Ms Anna Orlova

Technical University of Telecommunications and Informatics

Economics and Management

Russian Federation

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

In modern society, ICTs clearly constitute one of the main factors for progressive development in commerce, science and technology, education, health-care, society and culture. The priority for countries around the world is to develop information systems and make the information society a reality. Long-term development strategies for information systems have been elaborated and implemented in virtually all developed countries and in the majority of developing countries.

The main objective in all cases is to accelerate a country's social and economic development.

Russia is no exception: work is in progress on a national long-term strategy for an information society. One of the components of the strategy is the federally government's Electronic Russia programme.

As Head of State, I would assign young people an important role in advancing ICTs.

The first priority, in my view, is to ensure equitable computerization in all parts of the country. Remote or economically disadvantaged locations must not be allowed to fall behind, isolated from the process of defining and developing the global information society, the attendant coordination of world-wide commodities trading, investment and labour movement, and, most importantly, from the information and knowledge markets. There must be equality of opportunity for young people in choosing a field of activity and acquiring an education. This will ensure a steady stream of talented new specialists in all disciplines and thereby accelerate the development of our country.

Thus, the first thing I would recommend would be to provide young people with access to modern IT resources and allow them to gain experience and acquire educational and professional qualifications.

I would allocate funds to create a truly nation-wide infrastructure of internet resources and fund equipment procurement for IT-related training. Courses should be organized around the use of modern technology, teaching pupils how to use search engines and

e-mail correctly and allowing them to develop projects on their own initiative, such as setting up video-conferences between remote schools or creating their own special-interest web sites. The more talented students should be encouraged to apply for the various international education programmes in this domain.

Furthermore, the potential which ICTs represent for distance learning must be exploited. Access to internet resources can equalize opportunities for young people by allowing them, despite geographical remoteness, to obtain educational qualifications that will be recognized on a national and international level. The result will be to broaden young people's vocational options, increase their mobility on the labour market and contribute to the formation of a broad class of highly-skilled professionals. To take but two examples, medical students can use IT resources to study their chosen area of specialization in a foreign language, while students of business management and budding entrepreneurs can acquire the requisite knowledge of pertinent law.

In this way, ICTs will make a contribution to qualifying professionals and making education more accessible. Newly educated experts, in turn, will directly participate in the economic and social development of the country.

Finally, contests and forums of various types give young people across the world the opportunity to share their experiences and knowledge of ICTs, and participate in a more tangible manner in the creation of the information society.

Mr Walton Otunga
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Engineering-Electrical and Electronics
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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

If more inventions are made in the digital technology, wireless communications and other ICT fields, more industries would be created that would create employment, reduce dependency levels, earn revenue for the country, save time and other resources and also curb social evils attributed to unemployment. The youths have a central role to play to make these dreams come true.

If made the head of my country, I would have as many youths as possible register for ICT-based courses as early as possible, owing to the fact that the success of any project depends on the foundation laid and the base from which it starts. I would encourage free scholarships and sponsorships for the interested parties as an attractive mechanism.

Then I would have the involved youths engaged in international talks, seminars, conferences and exhibitions on ICT?based projects. From such places, the youths would gain a wide range of knowledge and tap the vast mental resources from experts from all over the world. If the ideas and projects borrowed from such meetings are used and implemented, more industries, right from small?scale, would be created, thereby providing employment opportunities and earning revenue for the government via taxation.

This would improve the country's social and economic development. Such interactions would also see the youths make new friends and meet experts who could be imported into the country to help in the ICT field development.

Thirdly, I would have the youths taking ICT?based courses engaged in research in the same field, under the stewardship and guidance of University researchers and other experts. This would inculcate a vehement desire in the youths even to pursue more ICT research and project work that would endow them with a fountain of knowledge in this field. Such knowledge, if used by the country, will act as a building block for a strong background in ICT that would open up chances for greater inventions.

ICT being a practical field needs practical experience. I would therefore have the involved youths attached to relevant ICT companies during their holidays. This would enable the students to successfully marry the theory learnt in schools and colleges, to practical use, furnish them with problem?solving techniques and develop in them an inner confidence

and high affinity towards ICT work. They can later open their own workshops and even make inventions to start their companies, which would see the country soar to greater heights of economic and social prosperity.

Lastly, I would create an ICT ministry, with a National Youths Committee under it, and youths' representatives taking ICT courses from all over the country. The Committee would oversee all the youths' activities towards ICT development and problems faced. It would also seek to find solutions, under the guidance of experts. Enough funds would then be allocated to this ministry to use in funding the youths' ICT projects and giving incentives.

If these ideas are absorbed, the youths can really play a pivotal role in developing the country under the umbrella of ICT.

Miss Prosperine Louise Pandi-Milebe
Université Marien Ngouabi
Economie-Analyse fondamentale
Congo (Rep. of the)

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information and communication technologies are among the means which can contribute to the social and economic development of a country. Information and communication technologies include all those resources by which we can inform ourselves and communicate, not only within our country but around the world.

If I was made head of state, I would ask myself the following question: what place should I give to information and communication technologies in the country's social and economic development? The response may be broken down into two aspects: the significance of new information and communication technologies, and social and economic development.

The third millennium has been called the age of technology and information. Telecommunications have become indispensable in all areas of activity. Technologies have an equally rapidly growing importance for social and economic development. They promote the exchange of goods and services, in particular the costs of production, financial transactions and so on, and increasingly contribute to the transformation of the world into a global village through the creation of jobs for young people.

In the framework of social and economic development, and as the supreme authority of the country, I would make the teaching of information and communication technologies a priority from pre?school to university, tailoring special activities in all areas. This would allow young people to become fully proficient in the use of computers.

Today, it is clear to everyone that the Internet offers an enormous variety of services and is capable of meeting information needs of all kinds through e-mail, surfing and so on. In the same way, the public administration needs to be computerized in order to have a chance to adapt to competition with private-sector businesses. This would therefore require training managers at all levels to allow them to adapt to new technologies, a key to the sustainable and effective development of a country.

To summarize: integration of information and communication technologies represents a major challenge for the country and forms the basis for social and economic development which will allow it to take its place among the nations of the world. To this end, young people will be put at the centre of the government's action, for, as has been said, young people are the future of the world.

Mr Francisco Javier Pardo Segovia
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Ciencias de la Comunicación
Peru

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The participation of young people regarding electronic advances is fundamental for the development of any State; especially for developing countries. This must be done effectively, principally but not only, by the public education provided by each nation to children and young people with no means of support.

In countries like Peru – with limited material resources – that challenge must be assumed, starting from the increment of the budget destined for the education sector, in order to provide primary, secondary and higher state education access to computers, the Internet, as well as technological facilities of a different nature.

This budget increment could be possible through corresponding budgetary reduction in sectors such as defense and armed forces, setting the resources that used to be used on the acquisition of armaments and troop training for a possible conflict with neighbouring countries, for education.

As we know, the Peruvian possiblity of conflict with its neighbouring countries has been overcome with the signing of many international treaties of peace and cooperation with Ecuador and Chile, in 1998 and 1999, as well as the existence of democratic governments in each of the three countries.

Access to the referred electronic and technological resources can also contribute to promote the participation of our young people in the political decision-making process. Therefore, in the last few months, the Peruvian Government has been developing an electronic law which promotes the accountability of national decisions and the participation of different groups and social sectors for the emission of their opinion in the different fields of the national work, using electronic resources offered by current technology.

In this context, young people could announce their opinion about bills, citizen participation proposals in local, regional and national governments; as well as in decentralization and regionalization policies, which are being implemented according to the Peruvian Constitution.

Mr Arthur S. Pemberton

Dominica State College

Computer Science

Dominica

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

In a twenty-first century world being moulded by globalization, the head of a country must be prepared to lead his citizens into the future. I as such a leader see this future in the eyes of the youth, the young people. I see them embracing pioneering roles, teaching roles and entrepreneuring roles, to state a few. These are the roes that a country needs fertile to enjoy social development.

One of the more important responsibilities that I would have young people take up is the spear heading of the growth of an information communication technology arena with careful nurturing. To pioneer an industry that may be the economic oasis searched for, for so long. I would have programmes geared at generating interests in young people at an early age, so that by a mature age they are fortified with their own fresh, unconstrained ideas to bolster further development. I would put in place mechanisms to ascertain what are the ambitions of the individuals, and how they can be subjugated into the greater blueprint of national development. Furthermore, I would capitalize on the raw, young talent by forming a national information communication enterprise.

A currently banal aspect of many Caribbean economies is that of the available array of existing companies and enterprises. In this regard it would do well to imitate the American economy by injecting in a large young influence. I can safely posit that there are a few individuals eager to embark upon the immediate formation of numerous companies: web hosting companies, website design companies, network administering companies, computer maintenance companies, and Internet service providers. The latter possibility owes its availability to the recently demonopolized telecommunication industry.

Another role for which young people seem ripe to furnishing is that of teaching and educating. Currently, the task of computer education in placed squarely on the shoulders of middle-aged adults who, although hold tenable influence with their students, permeate positions which one must admit would be more efficiently served by young people. Young people adequately learnt mind you. Incidentally, as the leader of the country, I would find it exceedingly necessary to lay out a system by which scholarships are awarded to individuals, with the attached condition that they must return to the country to share the knowledge, which they have been so fortunate to attain, with their peers.

In concluding, it is fairly obvious that a large void is waiting to be filled by young people. I am myself currently in the process of starting a business aimed at entering the industry. Along the way I have come across areas where the head of the country could implement positive change to ease the trail, if not but for others to come. The future is advancing upon us whether we prepare adequately or not. I believe that the filling of these roles is what is needed to prepare us for economic and social development.

Mr Martin Fejrskov Pedersen

Aalborg University

Electronic Engineering

Denmark

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

In order for a country to be able to use ICTs for its social and economic development it's obviously necessary for the country to have a certain level of expertise within the areas of ICTs. This level can be gained by either importing the expertise or fabricating it within the country itself. Obviously, the long-term solution is to educate expertise in-house rather than relying on others to do that job.

As hinted before, the ability of influencing on anything depends on a certain level of expertise. To gain this level, young people need to be aware of the necessity of higher education. The competition is simply too high to rely on expertise based on low education only.

Having convinced young people to go for a higher education is, however, not enough at all. Just as important, is the necessity to ensure that higher education is in fact high education by level and not just by name. Having lots of young, apt, intelligent people holding a degree is of no value at all if the degree is worthless.

Now the hard part is how to invoke a quality control mechanism on education. An obvious answer is to import expertise from another institution, or from abroad, but what if these important certifiers suffer from the same problems as those they are sent to quality control?

The answer to the questions above is: let the students do the quality control. Who are the best to evaluate a product? The manufacturer or the consumer? The only way to get good education is to let the students influence education. Students might not know the answer to a specific technical question, but they can certainly tell if they understand the question at all.

To exploit ICTs, you need to allow students to play an active role.

Ms Paula de Fátima Perfeito Baiao
Universidade Católica Portuguesa
Social Communication
Portugal

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

What is the distance that separates information and knowledge? T. S. Eliot raised this question by asking poetically Where is the knowledge we have lost in information? Information has to do with specific ideas and facts. Knowledge is what is done with these data.

This is an important point of departure for the society with new characteristics that is now emerging: the information society.

The ideologies of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries were linked to the notion of the progress of knowledge. Technology, however, is a set of ideas and convictions that seek to improve interpersonal and social relations. The young people of Portugal, as potential leaders, should see the ideology of technology as a challenge of modern times.

To what extent are communication technologies representative of a new society?

Information and communication technologies, which by definition are the authors of a new language – computer science, the Internet, telecommunications, interactivity, audiovisual services and network services – provide a three-sided link between fundamental considerations.

They can apply to the world of instruments, global economic interests and social values. This is why future leaders should reflect on the move away from the past failure of communication towards the affirmation of markets for international products and ideas and social change.

These new times call for new ways of thinking and for citizens who are well prepared with a thorough knowledge of the technical ideology. Future members of the government should attach great importance to the education and training of individuals. A balance should be struck between government policies and private initiatives in this area.

Serious shortcomings in the preparation and allocation of human resources prevent full advantage being taken of the opportunities existing in the society that is emerging. Productivity and economic sustainability will be the areas affected, and the most deprived countries will end up beyond the reach of development.

It seems pointless trying to deny that the economy is the practical condition for technological development. On the other hand, the legal battle that is going on all around relates to deregulation in the political sphere: should borders be opened or closed to the flows generated by business?

The young people of today are the agents of a new world. The great new world of television, individualism and the instantaneous. The new society was born with the emphasis on information and communication through the development of technology. Thus, consistent measures should be taken to encourage sustained efforts to train and inform the population for the modern world.

Since ancient times, communication has been facilitating the sharing of knowledge between peoples and the establishment of friendly ties, enabling cultures to be developed. However, as hatred can also be bred through immersion in globalization, it is vitally important to keep a check on this new society.

As it is not possible to eliminate information from knowledge, the step that has to be taken in the future is to move forward in a critical manner in this society, with courage and daring.

Ms Vassanda Periatamby
University of Mauritius
Law and Management
Mauritius

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The Mauritian economy is based on four main sectors: sugar production, textiles, tourism and offshore finance. A fifth sector is currently under development, namely that of new information and communication technologies. The World Trade Organization established in 1995 seeks to liberalize trade between countries.

Mauritius must recognize the enormous potential of electronic commerce, and provide all the necessary material to establish an environment conducive to the development of electronic commerce.

The factors influencing competitive advantage in the sector of new information and communication technologies are:

- Knowledge;
- Skill;
- Technology management;
- Protection of industrial property.

We should project an image of "visionary" political leadership and effective management. Legislation protecting intellectual property, such as patents and inventions in the area of technology should be put into place.

Telecommunication liberalization will bring down the costs of communication. Young peoples should no longer have difficulty with access to a computer given the supply of computers or payment plans for the purchase of a computer.

We need to identify the young people likely to become involved and make them aware of the potential of electronic commerce, educating them about specific aspects of such commerce.

Young people should be invited to take part in commercial missions and exhibitions, which constitute excellent opportunities for setting up exchanges and contacts with foreign partners.

We need to make considerable effort in the area of education. Young people are our best resources, and we should help them to develop generic skills through the use of new information and communication technologies.

If we want a return from the knowledge economy, we have to make a huge investment in the education sector. This will involve setting up programmes of interest to the major universities, and helping to create a knowledge-based economy supported by telecommunication networks and the Internet.

Mauritius should develop its skills base by encouraging as many people as possible to complete their secondary education, making the development of skills at the tertiary level more likely. The government should engage in an active policy of evaluating education requirements and adapting the education system to the use of new information and communication technologies.

The limited access to the Internet can be attributed to the fact that there are few local providers of Internet services, and we should therefore facilitate access to the Internet.

We should train young people using software, discussion groups/chat-rooms and free mega-sites for commercial research.

We also have to protect the inventions of young newcomers through tight legislation, encouraging them to make their contribution to the world of enterprise.

These would be my recommendations as head of State to encourage the young people of Mauritius to contribute to the economic and social development of our country.

Mr Mario Perisutti Zabalegui

Universidad Católica del Uruguay Dámaso Antonio Larrañaga

Ingeniería en Electrónica

Uruguay

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

There can be no doubt that we are in the midst of an information and communication technology (ICT) revolution. As in any revolution, changes are occurring very rapidly, and it is easy for a country to fall behind if its economy and society are not ready to absorb and adapt themselves quickly to those changes.

In this context, the only constant is change, and change is the result of new ideas. It is here that the country's young people must play a key role by generating the kind of ideas that will ensure lasting growth. If their initiatives and creativity are to be harnessed to the full, and if they are to have the opportunity to continue to develop their potential, they must be immersed in an environment that is conducive to that end.

If those conditions are not met, it is quite possible that the most innovative young people – precisely those who could one day be the leaders in their society – will leave Uruguay in search of somewhere that will give them an opportunity to excel. To the extent that we are successful in creating such a propitious environment, we will see an increasing number of young people who view their forward-looking projects as being achievable in my country.

One way of ensuring the creation of this propitious environment in the short term is to establish programmes designed to support young entrepreneurs in this sector in the setting-up of their own companies. As more and more young people participate in these poles of development, an increasing number of them will be successful in establishing small and medium-sized ICT enterprises, thereby generating new sources of employment and revenue for Uruguay.

The creation of this environment must be complemented by long-term actions such as the holding, in primary and secondary schools, of workshops on ICT technologies. Such workshops must lay emphasis on the new communication technologies, thereby enabling the very young to experience and assimilate them at an early stage.

This will result in there being more people who, when the time comes to choose a profession, will find themselves drawn to the ICT sector and will be in a better position to deal with the demands imposed by the development of those technologies.

In addition, we will see a new breed of better-prepared users who will use the technologies more effectively and be more demanding consumers. All of this will serve to stimulate the market and lend impetus to the development of this sector.

By applying these and other measures we will open the way for Uruguay, a country characterized by services and farming, to be spurred in its development by this highly dynamic and promising sector that is the information and communication technologies sector.

Mr Eliam Chidongo Phiri
University of Malawi, the Malawi Polytechnic
Electrical and Electronics Engineering
Malawi

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

## 1 Introduction

The introduction of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has brought a tremendous growth in economic and social development to many societies, particularly in the areas of security, billing, advertisement, flexibility and speed in the transactions of small to large?scale businesses. It has globally influenced cost?effective means of interaction amongst business people through the use of the Internet, faxes, mobile phones and telephones due to their availability and affordability. ICT also provides home and work place entertainment.

## 2 The development of ICT in Malawi

Since ICT has a great impact on the economic and social development of any country, it is imperative to make it a reality, especially to the youths who are a basis of development. As a head of state, my government will put in place the strategies listed below:

### a) Creation of the Malawi Institute of Information and Communication Technology (MIICT)

This institution will be run by specialists who have a practical and theory backup in ICT. It will supervise ICT classes introduced in all sectors of education, namely primary, secondary and tertiary levels. The institution will organize research to explore how best CT can be modified. A taskforce will also be created for awareness.

### b) Subsidization of equipment costs

My government will subsidize the costs of importing ICT technologies, e.g. computers and the price offered to consumers. The equipment will be tax exempt.

### c) Vocational training

My government will appeal to industrial managers to train ICT students, especially companies investing in software and hardware development. The government will be responsible for their cost.

### d) Scholarships

My government will appeal to international and local universities to offer scholarships to intelligent students in ICT. Local companies will be requested to offer awards to the same students. A presidential fund will be set up to support the needy students.

### e) Set up of the national and school libraries

In all existing national libraries the government will introduce ICT books, journals and newsletters. Each district will have its own libraries. In all primary schools library books for ICT will be introduced.

### f) Publishing of books

Lecturers and students will be asked to publish ICT books. The cost of it will be borne by the government and the Malawi Institute of Information and Communication Technology will supervise the work.

### g) Investor attraction and job creation

My government will create a conducive environment for investment in ICT for both local and international companies. Software companies from overseas will be invited to do business in Malawi. This will in turn create job opportunities.

## 3 Conclusion

ICT has contributed tremendously to economic and social growth of most countries. Malawi can only realize its full benefits if the above-outlined strategies are implemented.

Ms Volha Plaksa
College of Communications
Management in Telecommunications
Belarus

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Informational and communicational technologies (ICT) play an important role in the development of any country, because they provide society with necessary means of information transmission. The twenty-first century has become the era of information which requires the creation of an effective global informational and communicational infrastructure. Transition to a so-called information society is inevitable for every country that wants to play a notable role in world economical relations.

Nowadays we witness the developing of various informational technologies. Resources of information, means of its processing and transmission are of great importance as well as professional training of specialists.

If I were the head of the country, I would have considered the supporting of young talents as one of the priorities in State policy. In my opinion such State policy would require the following:

– participation of young people in local and international meetings, seminars and conferences in the field of ICT (including those held by the ITU) in order to share experience in research, improvement and adoption of informational and communicational technologies;
– fulfillment of the best young people's projects in the field of ICT;
– consolidation and improvement of the scientific and technical base of educational and research institutions;
– introduction of distance learning;
– financing the most promising projects in improvement and adoption of informational and communicational technologies;
– creating conditions for young people's promotion;
– working out special programmes for improvement of qualification of young specialists;
– providing to the students the access to participate in international grants and scholarships in the field of ICT.

Ms Rangsirach Pornsutee

Thammasat University

Economics

Thailand

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

First of all, I truly agree with the notion that Information and Communication Technologies can contribute much to the economic and social development of a country especially during the era of Globalization that information is unlimited over the boundary. I personally belong to this generation and have been growing up with the computer as a toy. I surely agree that young people will put so much strength on the development of the country by means of Information and Communication Technologies.

If I were Head of State in my country, I would have my young people play these two roles; acquirer and catalyser. To be precise, my young people will have to process these two roles concurrently.

Young people in this online date have many new accesses to information via Internet, and electronic means such as e-mailing or e-commercing. It is easier for them to search for useful information for academic purpose and general purpose. Internet is a world big library online, where information is overloaded and is easy to get just a click of a mouse. So it is their duty to be acquirers of knowledge. Young people should be ready and willing to equip themselves with information which would enhance their productivity in higher education which can then in a near future help to develop both economic and social aspects of the country. In some developing countries, government should support this by making computer class compulsory for young people to get used to the use of computer and not afraid of the complexity of IT - Information Technology in the beginning of use. Also young people should be catalyser; they have to not only absorb already presented information, but also contribute their own thought and belief. They should be participators to present their ideas to the community. With the use of e-mails and group discussion on the Internet, one could correspond with other people on the other side of the world in a very short time, hence information could be exchanged fast and smoothly. This accelerates the creation of new idea.

These above may be too abstract, so come to the concrete idea, which I will implement for young people to participate if I were Head of State. I will set up the online Innovative idea forum for young people to come up with any idea to make our society better for living. This forum will have many sections - such as economic forum, scientific forum, linguistic forum and many more, for every young people with different interests. The forum will be published on the Government website. Each every idea will be presented and put together so that every people including non-participators could read and develop more of their though and contribute further to this ongoing forum. I believe that some of the ideas can be implemented in real terms to engender the country's economic and social development.

Ms Evelyn Pusal
University of Goroka
Education
Papua New Guinea

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

## Introduction

The Papa New Guinea (PNG) government believes that the widespread use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) will enhance the efficiency and productivity of the public service and PNG as a whole. Thus, improve the quality of implementing government policies and ensuring the provision of goods and services for the people. The government for many years now has gradually introduced ICTs to its public sector. Although the government has recognized the value of technological change and that computers are and will become part of the changing life and culture of the public service and PNG generally, placing priorities in information technology development and education is given little attention at the expenses of other more pressing socio-economic development agenda. Hence, priorities are placed where the limited resources can benefit the greatest number of people such as health services, basic education and maintaining these services. Currently, the government places their priorities and diverts resources to fund special projects in order to improve areas, which need urgent attention.

## Current problems

As a developing nation and a new player in the ICT field, the PNG government is actively taking positive steps to introduce computer technology into the country. However, the rate and magnitude of the progress is restricted by the lack of (or inadequate maintenance) of the physical infrastructure and telecommunication infrastructure, maintenance difficulties, inadequate ICT awareness, hands on or information systems analysis, design and management skills, unsupportive personnel strategies and uncoordinated purchase of equipment. For example, there have been frequent equipment breakdowns and vandalism of ground repeater stations by frustrated landowners, leading to inadequate communication between the regions of the country. So far, the introduction of ICTs has not produced the expected improvements in productivity and services to the public. This in effect has prevented PNG from taking advantage of the benefits offered by computer networking.

## Past problems

In the past, in PNG, there has been too great a focus on the physical equipment and too little on the human resources and skills which make the equipment work. In overall terms, there has been too little awareness about the nature of ICTs. As a direct result, many people in PNG perceive computers as mysterious objects with which they feel uncomfortable. A number of organizations in the country have therefore encountered resistance among potential users.

## Recommendations

One approach to this problem, as head of State, I could firstly, involve young people to form the labour needed to gradually introduce and create awareness and the importance of ICTs into the country. In order to achieve this, I would have to consider a whole restructure of the countries education system to include IT courses. I would direct institutions and schools to offer compulsory ICT courses to start the IT awareness process by educating at different levels. Currently, computer and information science subjects are mainly offered at tertiary level studies. Introducing computer literacy courses at the high school level and the national high level can immensely help raise the awareness. Usually, because there are numerous financial constraints, the government could inject funds and direct resources into these institutions to purchase equipment, hire necessary, qualified ICT instructors and continual maintenance and upgrading of the existing systems. As the ICT awareness level is raised, more and more young people can then (directed by the governments) form associations to carry out strategic awareness campaigns, stressing the importance of ICTs in the country and its benefits to the rural-based population (about 98% of the total population of PNG are rural based), thus allowing users time to become familiar with the advantages and disadvantages and to make up their own minds rather than having the technology forced upon them.

Also, as head of State, I would actively place priority for introducing ICTs into the country and to establish a formal structure to promote and coordinate the adoption and introduction of computers. Because there has been no policy guidelines or directives to coordinate the whole operation thus I would establish a unified national IT policy.

Ultimately, by doing all of the above stated, I would in effect contribute to the social and economic development of the nation through and with the help of the young people.

Mr Carlos Quezada
Escuela Superior de Economia y Negocios
Economia
El Salvador

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

I consider that young people play the most important role in this area, given the ease with which they are able to learn, adapt to and pass on the new technologies; also, because it is they who will revisit the activities of their predecessors and decide the direction their countries will take.

If I was Head of State of El Salvador, I would give young people the following roles:

a) That of disseminating information to all sectors of the population.

As with the combined effects of simple electric discharges produced by neurons, transmitted to the entire brain to form thought and cause us to both reason and achieve remarkable things, so young people should be provided with information so that they are responsible for transmitting it and everyone is able to participate in the structural change required in order to emerge from the state of subdevelopment.

They must ensure that everyone has access to information, and this can be facilitated by ICTs, which speed up the information dissemination process. And once this has been done, the second task can be taken on: that of becoming protagonists of the globalized world.

b) Becoming protagonists of the globalized world.

Take advantage of the revolution currently under way, in which information becomes fundamental; in a world that is beginning to realize the importance of being open to the outside, in all possible areas (especially economics); realizing the need for everyone to be in touch and know what is happening elsewhere.

To share ideas and experiences not only with one's compatriots or those who think alike, but also to exchange knowledge with individuals with different ideologies, so as to be able to embrace new horizons and discover alternative ways of improving the economies of the developing countries.

On the basis of the above, we can implement alternative economic models better tailored to the requirements of each country, and avoid simply copying a specific model. We can learn from the mistakes made throughout history in different parts of the world and draw ideas from models that have worked. The purpose of all this would be to acquire sufficient

data to take sound decisions based on all the experiences analysed, guiding us at the same time towards our goal: bringing our countries out of subdevelopment.

Ms Rana Qutteineh

Birzeit University of Palestine

Electrical Engineering

Palestinian Authority

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

As we are living in a developing country and taking our first steps to enter the new millennium and the revolution of information technology, it is important to establish the future plans and who will carry them out.

At this point, the role of young people arises. As information and communication technologies brought new aspects and concepts that require different mental and computer skills, the young people are the ones most capable of absorbing and developing these aspects.

Information technology contributes in the scientific, economic and social development of society as it will consist of exchanging sciences, cultures and experiences, so we will come to know the world and the world will know us.

So to help people to understand this technology we must start with our schools by improving computer skills of the students and directing them towards a scientific approach of studying and understanding. We also must establish qualified institutions and colleges for students who want to specialize in information technology. Also to offer scholarships for studying or working abroad, and to get benefit from students exchange.

Now, the young must work hard to develop their skills. Any field of life could be improved through information technology such as industry, economy and sciences, by the exchange of information and experiences to find successful solutions. So the young as students, workers, owners of institutions, engineers, etc. will benefit from information technology to get the best results.

Then young people who became familiar with the aspects of information technology should help others who were less fortune to get the same knowledge and skills by holding meetings and conferences.

Finally, in our way to develop ourselves and making this development a reality, we must not forget our own identity and culture.

Miss Salanitra Fanilo Rakotovao Rakotoarison
Université d'Antananarivo
Economie, option Gestion
Madagascar

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

ICT has been in full development in recent years in Madagascar, but its contribution to the country's socio?economic development is still very limited. Young people constitute that segment of the population that will ensure the country's future. As head of State, and in order to ensure that ICTs may contribute to my country's socio?economic development, I would give young people the following roles:

– Contribution of various youth associations towards the broad dissemination of ICTs: knowledge sharing in this area; recycling of the different equipment already discarded by people who have moved on to a higher ICT usage level, but which can still be useful to others who are starting out.
– Maximum exploitation of available equipment: most of those equipped exploit only a small percentage of the real capacity of their equipment. Much of the available resources thus remains unexploited.
– Research regarding specialized ICTs that can contribute to achieving objectives in a particular field of study, profession and socio?professional milieu. ICT is often regarded as an end in itself, rather than as a means of achieving a development objective in another sector in Madagascar. Several ICTs developed for a specific field remain unknown and very underutilized. The young people in the country's key economic development sectors must be the first to take interest in them.
– Training programmes focused on ICTs themselves in order to guarantee handover and the future development of the sector. The number of young ICT experts is still very limited and falls very short of satisfying the country's requirements. Increased interest in ICTs on the part of young people will increase the country's sources of development.

Young people, as the future of the country, must have an open mind with regard to the evolution of ICTs. ICTs will continue evolving and will continue to surprise the entire world by their capacity for saving time, money and energy while always improving profitability and results obtained in terms of quality and quantity; they will therefore play an increasingly significant role in a country's development. The key to our country's future development thus lies in the hands of its young people.

Mr Truswin Raksasataya
Khon Kaen University
Electrical Engineering
Thailand

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Nowadays Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) play significant roles in our daily life. People need to know how to employ effectively and gain benefits of Information and Communication Technologies especially young people who are the important human resources of the country.

The development of human resource in science and technology is one of the important policies to develop the country. Young people have potential to acquire and use ICTs. For example, in Thailand Internet users are increased from thirty thousand to 5 million in 5 years. Most of them are young people. However most people who employ these technologies are in urban areas, the others who are in rural areas still lack of knowledge and less opportunity to use them. If I was Head of State I will put an emphasis on the strengthen of development and application of ICTs among young people. I will enhance the young people particularly in rural areas to acquire knowledge of ICTs by providing ICTs curriculum and instruction in schools. As I believe that education is the best way to foster their knowledge and practice. It is also important to know how to employ ICTs more effectively. Although many people can use ICTs, they sometimes use them in a wrong way. It seems to damaging economic and society, such as criminal on Internet. Therefore, we need to educate them.

Young people, next generation, have a great potential to develop their country. I believe a power of young people in creating ICTs innovation. To encourage young people potential in access to ICTs, there are many activities, such as ICTs meeting, ICTs competition, ICTs seminar and symposium. We need to establish a strong system of ICTs by setting The youth organization. This will bring together to access ICTs. A connection is the important in communication for young people. They will use this technology to improve themselves and develop their society. A competition is also a way to promote ICTs. An Internet meeting is another way to create networks among young people. They can exchange their ideas and present them to society. School of ICTs is an alternative way to educate young people to learn ICTs.

As the result of the rapid changes in our world, we need to adapt ourselves to meet these changes. Young people believe that Information and Communication Technologies are important to the economic and social development of country. They need opportunity to contribute their idea and competence in developing the country.

Mr Lehopotseng Ramaboli

The National University of Lesotho

Computer Science

Lesotho

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

## The role of young in information and communication technologies

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) play a pivotal role in the economic and social development of any society. The youth of such societies form a useful reservoir in achieving this goal. Their high energy and enthusiasm levels can be utilized to the maximum effect to achieve positive development in a country through ICTs.

If I were given the privilege to be the head of State of such a country, I would encourage the youth to play a positive role in this regard through a variety of measures.

To start off with, the youth could be encouraged to get involved in ICT awareness campaigns. Such campaigns would highlight the benefits of ICTs e.g. Internet usage. This would be beneficial particularly in rural communities, where resistance to such technologies could hamper overall development goals.

Being the head of State, I would recommend passing bills allowing adequate funding and training facilities to be provided for youngsters at schools and universities. Based on the training, the youth would have to be treated as responsible individuals. Giving them higher stakes in small and large scale ICT company sectors would promote an increased sense of responsibility and individuality amongst youngsters.

Provisions could also be made to allow the youth to improve government ICT sectors and companies e.g. e-commerce, e-banking etc. To this end, programmes could be initialized to encourage youth innovation and improvization in local ICT areas. Cash incentives could be given to youngsters to motivate them further in this cause.

Giving youngsters more participation rights in parliamentary debates and discussions regarding ICT development would also help. This would lead to an ideal blend of old and new ideologies. In effect, this would promote a sense of importance amongst young individuals and benefit the economic and social development process.

To conclude, getting the youth involved in the government ICT sector would definitely lead to a better economic and productive society. This in turn will lead to a strong and developed nation.

Mr Neeraj Ramyead
University of Mauritius
Engineering
Mauritius

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

ICT (Information and Communication Technology) is a new concept that has replaced IT (Information Technology) because of its completeness. ICT is central to the development of a country. Its role in enhancing the efficiency, effectiveness and productivity of existing businesses, in promoting new businesses and bringing about social development is crucial. My role as head of the country is to harness and develop the inherent capabilities and potentials of the young to thrive in an ICT dominated world and to provide them with a propitious environment to make the ICT dream a reality.

ICT can bring about economic development not only by increasing efficiency and productivity in other sectors it permeates, but also by becoming a new sector of its own. I will provide incentives for people to invest in this sector which will provide a whole new set of avenues to young people in terms of career aspirations and also research possibilities.

The youth of today shall be the ones responsible for developing, implementing, using and maintaining new technologies in the ICT sector. To enable them to contribute to the development of the country through ICT, the young population will have to be ICT literate – know how to make effective and efficient use of computers and communication tools – that is, the key to success is: Education. The seeds of ICT have to be sown in their fertile brains from a very tender age and thereafter constant nurturing of the growing plant till maturity. I shall provide schools, at primary and secondary levels, with computers and Internet connectivity in a bid to make children learn how to make good use of computers and present the Internet as a cheap source of knowledge and a means of communicating with the rest of the world. Further in education is the need for large numbers of professionals in the ICT domain. In this respect, scholarships, full as well as partial, will be provided. This is not sufficient as ICT is evolving rapidly, and hence, continual learning is a must. I will pass a legislation that will force companies to provide regular training for updating of knowledge and upgrading of skills so that professionals in the field are abreast with new technology. From a social standpoint, education, I believe, must also inculcate the philosophy of recycling computer waste as part of one's obligation towards a healthy environment.

I shall make ICT tools – computers and multimedia kits, mobile phones, pagers, facsimile, PDA's, laptops etc. – duty free. This will allow the ICT environment to expand and flourish faster. I will review Internet access charges and international call rates so as to make them more affordable.

Today's youth will be central to a paradigm shift that must take place in the future in that they should be able to work from their homes using ICT tools. This whole new concept will bring about tremendous advantages: reduced stress, less dense traffic, and possibly even flexible hours of work. Work will be done more effectively and efficiently and so people will have more time to spend with their families.

I am confident that with the measures I have envisaged the youth of my country will surely be attracted to take up career in ICT sector imbued with professionalism and geared towards achieving excellence. Their intelligence, energy and commitment shall contribute towards the economic and social development of the country. The ICT age is upon us, and it is up to us to make full use of the positives available from it.

Mr Nasir Rasul

NUST Institute of Information Technology

Information Technology

Pakistan

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Pakistan, a developing nation, is one of the most ignorant nations in the world. My foremost priority would be to beef up the education infrastructure, so that a generation later we can enjoy the benefits of educated masses and develop. My second priority would be to reduce tax evasion to a minimum.

I would encourage older people to study as well. This will reduce illiteracy and raise the skill level of people. This is something similar to what is going in South Africa.

I would also emphasize on educating the females, because females in our country have access to less educational facilities. Educating a female is more advantageous because as a mother she will educate her children.

In order to accomplish this, I would follow a multi-pronged strategy. Firstly I would have educational material prepared and put up on several media. This would include the national television (PTV) and the Internet. Secondly I would encourage participation private sector to follow the lead and take the prescribed course and educate the masses.

In order to raise the necessary funding, I have two proposals. Firstly I would look for sponsorships and secondly I would reduce tax evasion which is a big problem in our country.

The issue of tax evasion requires more elaborate design. I intend to follow the carrot and stick approach, that is provide incentives so that evasion is less feasible. Otherwise more punitive options can always be exercised.

In conclusion, I would say that education is the most important issue for any country. The quality of education determines the might of the nation.

Ms Mamello Rawapeng

The National University of Lesotho

Engineering in Electronics

Lesotho

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information and communication technology contributes in many ways to a country's economy and social development. It is important that young people take part in the development of their own country because they are the leaders of tomorrow.

As a leader I would encourage and motivate youth in more ways to participate in ICT development because they are the forefront of technological innovation and development.

The first step could be to restructure the education system at all levels to respond effectively to the challenges of the new age by providing tools that would help youth to explore, exchange and analyse the present information of ICT responsibly and creatively. Educational systems should be able to equip young people with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in a fast changing market place. The government should be able to assist in the education and training of youth in ICT skills and job and employability skills; also increasing knowledge throughout the country of best practices in information technology and placing youth in productive jobs.

The government would also have to allocate an information technology fund to all education levels that would improve network access at affordable costs and offer scholarships to young people interested in information technology. Governments can also provide funds for schemes and programmes such as ICT fellowships, competitions and contests that will be able to help improve the access of youths to ICTs and encourage them to take part in such programmes.

I should also sponsor researches and projects carried out by young people in technology development, and provide a mechanism for interested individuals and students that will immerse them in the work and issues of ICT developments.

I could ensure the provision of global access to information and knowledge sources to youth as a pre-requisite for competent social choice behaviour, and participation in technological improvements and disseminating information about technological issues that have a practical impact in everyday life of young people: by connecting universities, colleges, research institutions and public sectors to the Internet and making information technology more accessible and affordable.

I could also design methods of spreading new ideas in rural areas to develop and produce a group of ICT-proficient youth and students from which future ICT engineers, programmers, software designers and many others can be drawn. I could encourage

young people to share knowledge and know-how at national and international levels and use ICT to enable disabled and handicapped youths to participate more actively in society.

Finally, one could ensure young people are included in science, culture and ICT matters and encourage their participation and informed decision-making at all levels through enhanced education and access to information accompanied by full respect of culture and linguistic diversity. On top of that, the ensurance of provision of opportunities for researchers, professionals, information technology experts, educators and policymakers to share present and planned actions and to discuss the state-of-art in information technology with young people.

Mr Carl Andy Redman
University of Texas
Public Affairs
United States

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

As the president of the United States, information technology remains one of the top priorities of my administration. The use of technology by citizens worldwide will lead to major economic and social development, and I am committed to training and educating individuals on computer basics. I place this challenge on the shoulders of America's youth. The young people of the United States will focus their teaching efforts in four areas worldwide.

First, a new funding stream will be established under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) to provide a program for training adults, dislocated workers, and older youth that are currently in the workforce. The program will hire high school junior and seniors to teach participants a new skill set in computers, covering topics like computer usage, word processing, e-mail, and Internet research.

Second, the highly respected Teach For American program will begin to focus efforts on hiring young IT graduates and professionals to teach computer science in high schools across the nation. The program has been successful in recruiting some of the nation's brightest minds, and concentrating energies towards computer education in the high schools will certainly be met with success.

Third, a partnership will be developed with the Americorps program to establish technology centers in communities nationwide. These centers, run by young Americorps volunteers, will serve as a focal point for computer learning in the respective community and will attempt to provide services for citizens of all ages.

A final program will be established that will direct efforts internationally. The Tech Corps, which will be modeled after the highly successful Peace Corps, will allow American youth to serve abroad for two years. Hiring IT-minded individuals, the primary goal will be to teach citizens worldwide about common applications of the Internet. A secondary goal will be to bring and set up the actual technologies involved with IT usage.

Moore's Law says that the processing power of computers doubles every eighteen months. Computer power will continue to grow, prices for technology will continue to fall, and wireless networks will make the Internet ubiquitous. In short, technological advancement will take care of itself. In order for IT communications devices to successfully spread to users across the globe, education must remain a focus. Thus, the key does not lie in the

growth of technological capabilities; rather, the key lies in the ability of people to use the technology. Young people in the United States have a unique opportunity to create an impact for years to come by sharing their IT knowledge. The youth must carry the torch and shine the light of technology to all comers of the world.

Miss Odette Remadji
Université de Ndjamena
Journalisme
Chad

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Development, as a stage in a society's evolution, may be defined as follows: some theoreticians consider it to be the process of transformation of a society's structure in connection with growth.

This process, which is at once historical, collective, cultural and dynamic, applies to all economic and social structures and brings about or provokes social change, itself linked to technological changes and their effects on society. Before reaching that point, however, the society's development goes through the modernization process which requires a country to experiment with changes, improving economic productivity and the standard of living of the inhabitants. The new or advanced technologies are the result of these transformations which are closely bound up with industrialization. The technologies specific to information and communication are consequently an inherent feature of these successive stages and, like any technology, they contribute to the social and economic development of countries that seize the opportunity to use them.

However, if this contribution by information and communication technologies is to be effective and to make development effective, we can say in relation to the topic under consideration that, if we were the Head of State in our country, our approach would be to identify and examine the political dimensions in order to familiarize ourselves with what young people want and assign them their natural role in development activities, using the information and communication technologies as a tool.

Young people have always been marginalized and excluded from development policy decisions, although they constitute the most important social group. Consequently, their legitimate aspirations are never taken into account. At a time when there is discussion of involving all segments of society in decision?making, if we were Head of State, we would devise a policy for involving young people at all levels, particularly in regard to the use of information and communication technologies. This implies studying and fully understanding their needs in this area, prior to any implementation of such policy.

Our position as Head of State would be to make young people agents for the promotion of development. In other words, the young must be involved in the commencement and the outcome of any development scheme. For that purpose, it is essential to subsidize certain activities requiring the use of ICTs. This would enable young people not only to play a role as users of cyber services, but also to keep abreast of global developments. In the final analysis, young people should promote development by their own efforts, with institutional support from the Head of State.

Mr Shen Ren
Peking University
Electronics Information Science and Technology
China

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The youth are the rising sun in the morning. Young people who constitute the quickest developing group in a society are full of ambition, enthusiasm, energy and creativity. Like the youth in a society. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) which an greatly contribute to the economic and social development are young men in the society of technologies just as the emphasis placed on the education of the youth countries all over the world pay increasing attention to the development of ICTs. A country, which ignores the education of its youth, has a dim future. Also a country, which falls behind the others in ICTs, will inevitably be a loser in the competition of the 21st century. So if I were the Head of State in my county, I would expect and help the young people in my country to play a leading role in applying the ICTs to the entire society and making the development of my country a reality.

In the first place, young people should play a leading role in acquiring the knowledge of ICTs not only those who mayor in ICTs, but also young people mayor in other field. This is because young people who can accept new ideas and inventions more quickly are relatively easier taught the ICTs compared with older people. Also young people have the incentive to challenge themselves with new knowledge, especially knowledge growing as fast as ICTs. In the field of information and communication great breakthroughs are achieved everyday. At the same time numerous new products are put into market. People less innovative and energetic can't keep in touch with such fast development of the field. So there is no doubt that young people are able to and should be the pioneers in grasping ICTs. As the Head of State, I would pay much attention to the education of the students who mayor in the ICTs. Also I would order colleges to prescribe some basic courses about ICTs to the students who maoyor in other fields. Much effort would be made to ensure young people's access to the ICTs, especially in less-developed regions in the country.

Secondly, young people should play a leading role in disseminating the knowledge of ICTs. They could help people around them, such as their parents and neighbors living in their community to grasp ICTs. I would encourage the young people to participate in the activities of introducing ICTs to the society. Besides improving the knowledge of ICTs of the entire society, these activities, which help young people get out of the ivory tower and get recognized by the society, also benefit the young people. By equipping the young with

ICTs, we can eventually equip the whole society. I think this is the most effective way of dissemination ICTs.

After the entire society grasp the ICTs, people will apply ICTs in their daily work and life. These can finally make the economic and social development of my county a reality. People whose mayor is ICTs should not only keep in touch with the latest development of this field but also apply their wisdom to further the development of ICTs. This may be evident to everyone so I am not going to discuss this in detail. I attach even more importance to people in other fields in applying ICTs. Businessmen can use the ICTs to get a though understanding and hence an accurate orientation of the market. ICTs will finally eliminate the information inequality and construct a healthier atmosphere of competition in the market. Manufacturers can use the ICTs to keep in t ouch with the latest developments in their field. By doing that they can catch up with their counter parts in developed countries. Politicians can use ICTs to present themselves to the majority of the society. Their ideas and plans of governing the country will be known by their citizens. ICTs can also accelerate the social development. As a result of ICTs, people are able to get information more easily. Mass media, such as TV and Internet makes the latest news available to everyone. Also the government can more easily disseminate information and news to the society.

As a Head of State I would present information as much as possible t the society through mass media and encourage my citizens to supervise my officials. Before reaching a decision of great importance to my country. I would be able to conduct surveys of the Internet. This would be a valuable factor to consider in my final decision. All of these will contribute to a more democratic society in the future. Easier communication as a result of the development of ICTs will make people from different countries and different cultures understand each other easily. By comparing different cultures people can distinguish between the essential and the dross of their own culture inheriting the essential and discarding the dross we can better develop our own culture. Better understanding of different cultures can also contribute a peaceful world to everyone. Of course since their creativity young people should also play a leading role in applying the ICTs.

By equipping the young people with the ICTs, we can improve the knowledge of ICTs in the whole society. The ICTs will contribute greatly to the economic and social development. Therefore we'll have a very nice today. Young people will be the pillar of the society in the future. So by doing that we'll also have an even brighter tomorrow.

Mr Niklas Ringby
Royal Institute of Technology
Economics
Sweden

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Free communication and interaction among individuals is a central point of democracy and an important part of human rights. To improve possibilities in this field is a task for every society and it's government. In recent years there has been an enormous technical development, but mainly as a result of private enterprises. At the same time the use of communication technology is clearly linked to the economic conditions of a country. Different societies have different possibilities. Therefore, the question of what role young people play, and should play in the field of communication technology differs from country to country.

Sweden is a highly industrially developed country, with a refined welfare system and a large part of its inhabitants are well educated. But Sweden is not densely populated and there are large geographical distances affecting transportation and communication. If I were head of state in my home country I would contribute to the use of future communication technologies on the grounds of both demographical and geographical reasons. Communication strategies are therefore central issues for both economic growth and for society as a whole. In these perspectives young people definitely has an important role to play.

Internet, mobile phones and other communication technologies has made life better and easier to live. Young people contributed in making computers a normal thing in Swedish society. Young people also initiated a lot of economic growth in case of the boom with Internet companies.

The spirit that everything is possible is something that I would try to promote as head of state. I would try to give young people the self-esteem and conditions necessary to be able to test their ideas in new companies. This will lead to several direct and positive consequences.

Economically, technologically and in various democratic ways the communicated society has endless possibilities, and often-young people understands this nest.

As I mentioned earlier it is of central importance that everybody gets the chance to understand and use this new technology. Therefore I would allocate more money to schools, to buy better equipment, but foremost to give teachers the right education concerning the possibilities technology offers us. Communication technology plays an important role in the understanding of other cultures and in the acceptance of people with

different origins. Technology can play a central role in the fight against racism! A person who has been in contact with people all over the world doesn't develop racial prejudices. I would work for an international program that makes it easy for schools to get in contact with pupils in other parts of the world, through the Internet. It must be natural for children and adults to use these communication possibilities that technology offers, every citizen must know how to use e-mail.

To meet and interact with people who have different opinions and come from different cultures is educational and enriching in every sense. Therefore, everybody should have equal possibilities to use communication technologies. What was science fiction yesterday is today reality, this proves that we have fate in our own hands-we can make a change for the better.

Miss Manel Romdhane

Ecole Superieure des Communications

Télécommunications

Tunisia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information flows and the movement of ideas have been made easier and more efficient thanks to information and communication technologies (ICTs). Rapid technological advances have highlighted the growing role of ICTs in constructing an information and knowledge-based society which produces high returns. Hence, ICTs can contribute to a country's social and economic development. Mindful of the role of ICTs in development, my country, Tunisia, has set about opening up the sector by creating a modern information technology and telecommunication infrastructure. However, Tunisia has relatively little experience in this field, and considerable work is still needed to develop the sector. If I were Head of State, what role would I have young people play in meeting the challenge of development?

While bearing in mind that young people are the new blood of the nation, the Head of State should not allow the young to squander their resources. Hence, the first step would be to encourage young people to obtain high-level qualifications and use ICTs as a means of acquiring knowledge. This would be achieved by incorporating the new educational technologies into technological practice, encouraging open and distance learning and deploying networked technological platforms specializing in educational consulting within universities.

The second role of young people in achieving socio-economic development would be as coordinators between the generations and as innovators and creators of projects and ideas; this would simply involve using their own intelligence. As part of the development process, young people would be encouraged to launch specialized ICT projects with the support of high-level experts from Tunisia or abroad, and could start up their own businesses. Among other things, this would help halt the brain drain and produce young local talent. In addition to aiding economic development, this would have the further advantage of creating jobs for other young graduates.

Young people must also be well equipped to adapt to technological change through increased competitiveness, competition and productivity. In broad terms, greater competitiveness, allied to social and fiscal incentives, would encourage foreign-based companies to set up in Tunisia as part of the process of technological development and job creation. Coordination and cooperation between them and local professionals would enhance socio-economic growth.

Thus, in the era of globalization, young people would embody the culture of performance and excellence. They would experience the thrill of success and be motivated to pursue their goals with all their energy. Spurred on by its youth, Tunisia would attain its goals and make development a reality.

Mr Massimo Rosa
Universita de Studi Roma 3
Economical and Political International Issues
Italy

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

If I were the President of my Country I would like to face the problem with a three aspects approach:

1) School,
2) Economy,
3) Public services.

## 1) School

The following should be considered:

– start learning the use of PCs and the Internet as soon as possible;
– establishing communication channels with other schools for exchange of experiences and promotion of common activities;
– communicate with other schools in targeted countries to improve the knowledge of languages and to exchange visits. This point is strongly related with the Erasmus and Socrates European projects and could create open-minded conditions;
– creation of international student Focus Groups as a tool to work together on common issues, to share different points of view among young people;
– possibility to have teachers online helping developing countries for distance learning. This point could be related with other similar initiatives from the various UN Agencies.

## 2) Economy

This is a very difficult issue, new commercial activities could accelerate the economical and social relationships among countries. My ideas are:

– encourage investments for telecom infrastructures as support to economical exchanges with those countries where digital divide is a handicap;
– encourage exchange of experts to create the background for a future independent social/economical development;

– exploit satellite/wireless telecommunication networks to reach those place where infrastructure penetration is low with the need to start rapidly some activities while waiting for implementation of cabled infrastructure.

### 3) Public services

Administrations should be addressed for services to be provided to the citizens.

Improve public administration services by using latest technologies such as the Internet, dedicated data networks, LANs, MANs and hardware/software tools/initiatives like digital signatures, virtual offices, smart cards, etc. to allow a real e-government service is the way to be followed.

The Internet is well known for the high volume of information that is possible exchange in the net, while dedicated networks could provide a first level of security in data transmission. By means of digital signatures it is possible to identify users, to authenticate documents or requests to access personal data, request documents and to be in touch with the administrations.

E-voting is already implemented in some countries, but the technique should be developed in order to be suitable in various countries in terms of availability/security. Other initiatives of public administration could be developed for a more efficient service to citizens.

Smart cards could contain personal data for various services like payments for public services, health history, etc., and give the citizens the possibility to access public services in a one-stop-shop from any computer.

It is my view that increase the efficiency of the public administration, decrease the quantity of paper in the offices, helps people to feel the institutions closer and is an important tool to help people, especially those of particular categories as handicapped, etc.

Mr Valdas Rukavicius

Kaunas University of Technology - Faculty of Telecommunications & Electronics

Telecommunications

Lithuania

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The world changes so fast that changes are unrolling day after day. The distance and time less limits our activity. The particular meaning is assigned to the Information and Communication technologies, to the capability of using them. This makes the essential influence on changes, because these technologies are the basis of life quality, social development, the assistants of the country management and global cooperation.

The one of the weak sides is the lack of the competence in the usage spheres of the informative technologies. This decelerates the social and economical development of the country. The good side is that, there are lots of Lithuanian young people. Students, who are studying informative technologies, Informatics, Communications are very energetic, flexible and open to innovations. Students have a lot of new ideas and desire to solve various problems. Young people can be a big donation to the development of a country.

If I was the head of the State, at first I enable the students to express their opinion. Different forums, conferences would be organized. Young people could discuss, raise and solve problems, look for the ways to solve them in these events. I would invite young scientists to take part in different projects, to improve and implement new information and communication technologies. Youth is exclusively the future of every country, so their participation is compulsory in carrying resolutions. Young people accept information and communication sciences the first. They are the first who adopt the new situation. So we can see, that every new decision or new solution must be discussed with them.

I would try to promote those firms which accept young specialists, even if they are without practical training. They have lots of energy and can move quickly, orient their knowledge to the necessary direction. I also suggest employing some of them in government institutions. In that way there would be a tight relation between real situation and released news.

I suggest that the majority of students finishing works should be associated with different country problems and business ideas. This would let innovations to be used in all sectors of the country, what leads to successful economical and social development of a country. Students would be able to get some practical experience and to give some piece of added value to their society.

As we can see, young people is very important part of our country. They cannot be just spectators, they have to participate. Letting them to be the assistants of the government of their country and the participants of the business, they will find the ways to change the country in the wanted direction. They will find the solutions, which cannot be seen by older members, they will get a desire to create the country which will lead to the economical and social development of the country.

Ms N. Maila Sagote
The University ot the South Pacific
Tourism Studies
Samoa

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

It is widely believed that information and communication technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country. If I were Head of State in my country, I would put information communication technology (ICT) as one of the government's top priorities apart from health and education. There are different roles that I would have young people play in order to make this a reality. There should be a national ICT vision and mission statements, ICT awareness programmes, ICT training and education and solid ICT infrastructure.

Firstly, there should be a national ICT (Information communication technology) vision and mission statements. A good ICT vision, for example, by the year 2010, Samoa should become the leader in using ICT and also speedy delivery of digital opportunities and their benefits within the Pacific region. Mission statements are important in order to consolidate and backup the vision. For example, establishing a national board or ministry, like the Ministry of Information Communication Technology (ICT), where its main focus is to action the mission statements in order for the ICT vision to be realised.

Secondly, information communication technology awareness programme, young people especially should be aware of the benefits and advantages brought about by the fast growing use of ICT on the global economy and existing regulatory structures. For example, using ICT is a benefit to the University of the South Pacific, where distant learning is being taught via uspnet. Students have long distance learning through satellite (audio and videoconferencing) broadcasting. Lecturers from around the region saved time from travelling around the region for meetings instead they can attend it from their campuses.

Thirdly, information communication technologies training and education should be highly recommended. These trainings should start at grassroots level, from primary, secondary to higher levels of education or tertiary level.

For example, children should be familiar with computers at the beginning of their education within primary schools. Setting up curriculum within different universities, polytechnics with increase ICT courses.

Fourthly, there should be solid information communication technology (ICT) infrastructure. This is the effort to progressively improve the standard and scope of the telecommunication connection. Solid infrastructure includes excellent communication connection, for example, the use of optic fibre, use of wireless technology (LAN) in areas where it's difficult or costly to pull communication cables, and satellite communication.

Lastly, it is very important for any ICT-development to be sustained. Special ICT programmes and training targetting the youth as mentioned before is one means of ICT sustainability in terms of enough human resources, with ICT knowledge and skills.

In conclusion, these are the suggested roles in order to make the development of ICT in my country a reality. It includes a national ICT vision, ICT awareness programmes, ICT training and education and have excellent ICT infrastructure.

Youth will have the power to shape the future of their lives and most of all the entire communication sector.

Mr Mohammad Saleh

Birzeit University of Palestine

Electrical Engineering

Palestinian Authority

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Everyone knows that information and communications technologies of the new age has triumphed the world over, and it is the science of continuity between nations. It has a big role in every fabric in our life and our modern demands that already serves our economical and social development.

If I were Head of State in my country, I would improve the teaching methods, there are plenty of teaching methods available for the employees in this field to make their level of production more progressed.

First of all, they have to know that good work is good planning and I think that the first step to ensure success is to start in schools and universities and to do most of our efforts to feed the minds of students and pupils with the importance of reading, discovering, fetching and looking deeply and widely in systems around them and this demands the continuity in encouraging their efforts and redouble their production and try to raise the cultural level not only in one field but in different fields which serve their social and economical interests. I think as a result that this generation will be the birth of a new stage in the world of information and communication which includes accurate analysis, clear understanding for concepts and methods and attempting for achieving something great for the country, so we can say that the foundation of our buildings can bear heavy loads.

From my position, I would have a big responsibility to put my efforts into improving our relations with neighbors so as to exchange the information and technologies safely, and to ease such demands I think that continuity in dealing with developingt countries is an important step in achieving progress and this can be achieved by travelling and exchanging students, teachers and experts and this will affect the strategy of production totally and will give young people a great push for working so as to compete with their colleagues in different countries and fields.

Also, I would make young people feel that they are responsible from their positions and make them know the strong relation between our social and economic progress and the technology of information and communication. So I think that human beings either they

are responsible in great positions or normal ones, have to climb in the same direction so as to get nearer to the light of progress, so everyone has to put himself as a leader and be responsible in this field so that to press himself to do better for the public and due to the government and other institutes.

I think that is important to encourage young people as they are the dynamic numbers in society to change the expression of development to be a real one and as a result to field with this big deal through the discoveries and developments in all the fields we deal with.

Ms Nawras Sabih Abbas Salomi
University of Technology
Computer and Software Engineering
Iraq

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

## 1 Meeting the Challenges of the Information and Communication Age: The Role of Iraqi Youth

In our country, we believe that Young people are the key to the future of our nation. Being young is a privilege, it means you can be what you choose, work what you desire, you have all paths in the world to walk on, but you must choose carefully and wisely since your choice will not only affect your future but the future of your whole nation.

Can one man or woman make a difference? Can one choice change the destiny of a nation? The answer is yes, by studying history. Many persons all over the world had a great influence on their nations, whether good or bad depends on their choices, whether that person was a leader, soldier, doctor, engineer, scientist, artist, or even a simple farmer he or she can make a difference.

As a person of the educated community I think that I and all the other students in our academic organizations are invited to make a difference. We must appreciate the past, learn from the present and look upon the future to make our nation even greater than before.

In this age of scientific and technological evolutions the competition is drastic and the challenge is hard which makes our role even greater. The future of our country depends on us to continue, therefore we must keep our minds open and work harder then ever to the benefit of our great nation and to all human civilization.

Today, the world lives with the communication and information revolution, such that the most modern and advanced scientific techniques became exploited for human services, in the various aspects of our life, in medicine, agriculture, military, engineering, history and others.

The communications revolution which synchronized the revolution in computers and networks, has resulted in what is called Information Technology. The latter makes the whole word just as a small town! Everybody in any place in the world can communicate with anybody else, anytime he likes! It seems like a dream? However, the most great inventions and achievements started with dreams only!

The Iraqi youth are all working hard to keep in touch with the information revolution in the world. You see them make great achievements as computer, software communication and networking engineers. They exploited the Internet and their high efficiency in using the different programming languages, and all other facilities to serve the Iraqi nation in different fields of life! However, this was the responsibility they respond about, in order to make a difference in their nations future.

Mr Ousman Samadou
Université Abdou Moumouni de Niamey
Anglais
Niger

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The technologies of information and communication are the science and practice of collecting, storing, using and sending out messages by means of computer systems and telecommunications. Today it is widely believed that these technologies can contribute to social and economic development. As a matter of fact, it is necessary for any country to have a clear and sustained policy in this area. Thus, if I were president in my country, Niger, I would elaborate and adopt a strategy in terms of the technologies of information and communication which would make our youth the efficient and main actors in development.

It was in the 19th century, with the invention of the telegraph, that we had first a system of communication at a distance. Then in the following century (20th century) came telephony, radiophony, television and lastly, the computer and its multiple usages, one of which is the prestigious Internet.

In fact, it is largely accepted nowadays that a good use of the technologies of information and communication is a vital means for being an efficient competitor in the world economy and also to be in line with the trend of changes. In the field of business and industry for instance, these technologies enable companies and enterprises to reduce their expenses considerably, to improve the quality of their services, and also to conceive new products.

Moreover, the development of ICTs (information and communication technologies) has brought notorious changes in the way of life of its users. It has affected the way organizations and individuals work, especially in terms of healthcare (diagnosis and radiographic images at a distance), education (university courses, seminars and multimedia conferences).

Unfortunately in sub-Saharan African countries, like Niger, the propagation and application of these innovations lacks support. Because they do not constitute a priority for the governments, as well as for the aid donors. In Niger for instance, apart from SONITEL, we have only two recent cellular phone operators - CELTEL and SAHELCOM.

Thus, to relieve this challenge, if I were president of Niger, I would elaborate and adopt a policy focused on the youth, which constitute about 58% of the population (15-45, General Census of population, 1995). So to exploit the new energy and competence of these young people, a sustained programme of education and formation would be set up in universities and schools specialized in this matter. This will endow us with qualified workers for the competivity of our enterprises and industries. Even though the development of these technologies is unequal around the world, our countries have to do more if they are to meet the challenges of globalization.

Ms Francisca Alphonce Samali
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Electrical Engineering
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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country. The role that I would have the youth play if I were Head of State of my country, the United Republic of Tanzania, to make this a reality, or make the development of my country a reality, would be done through development and implementation of a comprehensive ICT policy.

The policy would include a Regulatory Regime to supervise the ICT Trade in the United Republic of Tanzania, which would encourage implementation of e-governance to conserve country resources so that rare resources such as manpower and hard currency, which would otherwise be wasted, are put to better use, like poverty alleviation, women development and eradication of diseases.

The Regulatory Regime like Tanzania Communications Commission, Tanzania Broadcasting Commission and Tanzania Bureau of Standards would regulate the ICT Operators by issuing them licences with conditions, which would be enforced by the Regime accordingly.

The ICT policy will focus in getting technology that is sustainable, simple to use and affordable, so as to be able to gather and disseminate information to the required interfaces in time. ICT development saves on resources like paper, time and money to travel for meetings or gathering of data.

Technology will consider affordable:

- computers for processing data and accessing information, e.g. telemedicine, e-education;
- the Internet for communication, e.g. corporate/governmental/parastatal Wide Area Network; and Business-to-Business applications;
- data storage, e.g. CD-ROM, for database storage;
- radio and TV programmes;
- use of open source software.

If I were Head of State of my country, the role I would have the youth play to make this a reality, or make the development of my country a reality, is to spend the best part of my effort in building up capacity by introducing processes which will lead to a growth in ICT usage and reward innovations like adaptation of technology to the Tanzanian environment, especially with the education system, catching the youth at a tender age and building a culture using ICT equipment.

As Head of State, I would also direct my Government to make an ICT Policy which would take into account Recommendations issues by the International Telecommunication Union and include a Regulatory Regime to supervise the Information and Communications Business carried out mainly by ICT operators in the private sector. I would encourage competition in the ICT trade, which would lower tariffs charged on customers.

According to the above, that is how information and communication technology can contribute to economic and social development of a country, i.e. Tanzania.

Mr Vau Samau
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Samoa

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

If I were the Head of State of my country I would assign my young people to register and study all the necessary requirements of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to promote the standard of all development plans that need improvement. I strongly agree that ICTs can contribute to the economic and social development of my country, Samoa. Frankly, I would like to support this issue with three important points. Firstly, communication is much easier and cheaper within the country as well as the outside world. Secondly, the young people of Samoa would have great achievement in their future endeavours with the assistance of ICTs. Thirdly, ICTs enable the government of Samoa to have better development both spiritually and physically. In fact, it is my responsibility to ensure that the young people of my country strive to fulfill their assigned roles.

Firstly, communication is much easier and cheaper within the country as well as the outside world. In comparison between generations we actually see the differences in the ways of communication. In the past years, letter writing has been the main source of communication between family and friends that live overseas. In this way, it takes time to wait for a reply, sometimes we worry about the mail, because there is the possibility that the mail can be lost and not returned to the sender.We are leading toward the modern days, the technologies all around the world are improving, therefore scientists, inventors and designers have outstanding knowledge and skills. So they can link up all these skills and knowledge to form other different ways of communication as a solution of it. For example, at present we use the phone, fax machine, e-mail, Internet, etc. to communicate. These sources of communication are easier and faster and not only that, people can afford the cost as well.

Secondly, the young people of Samoa would have greater achievements in their future endeavours with the assistance of ICTs. Introducing Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) programmes in universities is a great opportunity for all the young people of Samoa to think of as a major field of study. In other words, this is the best choice for hard-working students that want a bright future. We all know that the

technology all over the world is very fast and is progressing, so therefore the younger generation of the country should be able to cope with it. If they know all about ICTs, they will have better achievements and therefore have a better future and most importantly their knowledge and skills will help them contribute to the development of Samoa, both socially and economically.

Lastly, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) enable the government of Samoa to have better development both physically and spiritually. ICTs play an import part within the development of Samoa physically, that means the economy will increase and the people will be familiar with a new model of telecommunications. For example, they will be familiar with the use of computers, cellular phones, etc. On the other hand Samoa will develop spiritually because of the ITCs.

Example, we use radio, television, satellite and other sources of technology to declare and proclaim the words of God. So this is the good way to maintain the faith and the fellowship of God and His people.

In conclusion, I would remind the young people that they are the future leaders of the country. Therefore they must work earnestly and honestly to improve the economic and social development of the government by fulfilling the three most important points being discussed in the essay. Overall I appreciate the great support ICTs among the peopleof my country, Samoa at present.

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Spain

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

As is the case with all young people, my mind is full of dreams and ideas which I am unfortunately unable to put into practice. Since dreaming costs nothing, I can try to imagine how I would make these ideas a reality if I were one day to be a member of the Government of my country, and the measures I would take to give young people a more active role to play in the development of the information society.

In my opinion, the fundamental pillar for the development of any society is education, and it is therefore essential to allocate a major part of the State's resources to this sphere, so that students of engineering and other technical subjects can have access to better and more comprehensive equipment than is currently the case. In addition, ICT training should be promoted not only among these but among all students – indeed, I believe that ICT training should begin as early as primary school. In this way, ICTs would be not merely a goal or study objective, but an instrument that young people could use in order to evolve in other areas of life.

Apart from the strictly academic aspect, resources earmarked for education should in turn serve to promote extramural learning, whether through the provision of research grants to the most highly trained students (bearing in mind not only the academic side but also other aspects such as motivation, experience, etc.), by fostering academic exchanges with institutions and universities in other countries (exchanges which could bring the student into contact with approaches and methodologies that are different from those with which he or she is familiar), or by supporting decision-making on the part of young people (for example, providing support to enterprising students wishing to set up their own business, encouraging self-training, etc.).

So far as this last point is concerned, it would in my view be a good idea for the Government to establish, with the possible support of sponsor enterprises, a risk-capital fund to allow for the implementation of original and innovative projects put together by young people themselves. In addition, promotion by the administration of free-of-charge software would, over and above the savings produced, serve to foster self-training on the part of students, to the extent that they would be able to read, study, debug and improve the program codes, thereby gaining familiarity with the new technologies while making an active contribution to the progress being made in that domain.

Miss Zineb Saoutarrih

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Morocco

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The emergence of the information society represents an unprecedented cultural, economic and social revolution.

This revolution encompasses product engineering, design and manufacture, business organization, information management, education, culture and so on.

In order to have access to the information society, countries must adopt large-scale action plans in order to grasp the opportunities available; the alternative is to be overwhelmed by the pace of change or find themselves on the sidelines when it comes to economic development.

ICTs allow improvements in productivity and the capacity to react, and foster the development of new activities. As such, they are of strategic importance, perhaps even the main lever of growth. Owing to their low consumption of energy and raw materials, they form part of a process of sustainable development, particularly for developing countries.

To implement the plan of action, the decision-making authorities in these countries need to set priorities, focusing initially on the following strategic measures:

- expanding the use of information technology in schools and revamping curricula to include ICTs as a key structural component; introducing the Internet into schools would be highly desirable in this regard. The use of multimedia material as a teaching tool can also help the spread of ICTs among pupils and students, who in turn will pass on their knowledge to civil society through their contacts in the family, socio-cultural clubs and associations, etc.;
- bringing down Internet access costs in order to make the Internet accessible to young people;
- assistance for start-ups in the ICT sector through the development of incubator units, as well as genuine support and advisory structures. Ideas for projects often need to be fleshed out and analysed in the light of market information. They also need partners to provide commercial backing and help make contacts, and need to be developed in order to become competitive as quickly as possible;
- strengthening ties between universities and the private sector and encouragement for large companies to support and set up ICT research and development centres.

Support may take a variety of forms: financial and logistical aid, technology transfer, expertise or other support.

Measures of this kind relate to huge nationwide sectors. However, one plus point is that they are addressed at young people, who, it is hoped, will be able to carry on the process of sustainable development by introducing ICTs as an integral component of their working life. Work and business will be organized around the use of ICTs as a working tool and a means of communication and networking between partners.

The plan of action must also encompass other areas such as training, research and culture, administration and local authorities, business and economics, electronic commerce and the spread of ICTs throughout society.

Ms Irina Saulea

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Business Administration

Romania

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

All management theory and practice acknowledge the fact that the human resources are the most precious resources. Imagine then how much potential can a nation harness from putting to work the youth resources. The youth can easily take a leading role in the economic and social development of a country simply by dwelling on their enthusiasm, idealism, solid academic background and incredible vigour. As I see it, the future world will expand on two coordinates: the knowledge economy and the comprehensive participation of all to its harmonious growth. Thus, it is imperative that ICTs and the youth be given a central role in the today decisional framework. The political actors should put great emphasis on the ICT education of the young generation, while finding ways to stir their spirit of innovation, involvement and initiative. But in order for the young to take on responsibilities regarding the development of a country they should be vested with the needed authority and granted space for manoeuvre, trust and support.

Having said that, in my opinion there are several areas in which the role of the young generation in the development of a country may be strengthened:

1) The decision-making process. No one can actively contribute to the creation of something without assuming the idea behind the project as his/her own. And when I am referring to the participation in the decision-making process I have in mind not only the mere consultation but also the power of decision. The Government should make up joint committees comprising young representatives of the private sector, the civil society and the public administration whenever important matters for the future development of the ICTs and of the society at large are at stake. Moreover, the process of consultation and participative decision-making ought to be ongoing (on a continuous, flexible and adaptive basis).

2) The private sector entrepreneurship. The youth must be encouraged to exhibit initiative because they can help the economy and the ICT industry in particular grow at a faster pace. It is common knowledge that the young are the most skillful and innovative when it comes to new technologies. By offering them facilities at start-up, by presenting them with financing options and advisory services, the youth can turn from mere executors or dreamers into genuine entrepreneurs and successful business people.

3) Human capacity development. The youth should be given the opportunity to display their training skills and to put in practice their educational strategies. A good idea would be to set up organizations that exclusively deal with enhancing ICT skills of the young by the young. Incubator programmes and project networking would certainly contribute to the stimulation of initiative and to the accumulation of experience.

4) Creation of digital content and information sharing. With the aim in view to create sustainable livelihoods and to bridge the digital gap, the youth should be able not only to access, use and share information, but also to create local content keeping in mind global concerns. In this respect, it is a prerequisite that the needed infrastructure be available.

To sum up, the Information Society is primarily a global space for the new generation, a space that calls for joint efforts, networking and vision. Letting the youth take care of the future is the wisest policy for obtaining the envisaged economic and social development.

Mr Calmin Scarlett
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Electronics
Jamaica

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Every young person dreams of being a resident of a country that is well developed both economically and socially. We dream of having enough resources to feed our families and to enjoy life. We might like to have that new car, build a new house or take that dream vacation. We sit and imagine what it would be like to live in a country where crime and violence is not the norm, where our conflicts can be resolved without someone dying. Are we being utopian? Will this only be a dream? I say that it doesn't have to be a dream. We as young people can strive to make our dreams a reality. However, we cannot do it on our own. We need help from our respective governments to make what we now only dream about, a reality.

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) have been found to be the most ideal sector to boost our dying economy and improve our social condition. However, our Government needs to find ways and means of involving our youths in this viable sector. As the head of State, these are the steps I would implement.

No-one in his/her right mind would try to build a house without a foundation, hence the first step is to set the right foundation. I believe that this foundation lies in educating and training our young people. ICTs need to be an integral part of our education system, from the basic to the tertiary level. Our children will then learn the basics of these technologies and will learn to love this area of knowledge. A state-of-the-art technical educational institute should also be developed, At this institute along with other tertiary institutions, active research and other forms of educational activities would take place.

Research is the lifeblood of this sector and the ones who can make a smaller, more cost-effective and better product will eventually control a lot of the market share.

We need to realize that educated youths without opportunities will only breed discontent. Therefore, our second step lies in developing the kind of environment where opportunities flourish for our youngsters. Low-interest loans would be provided for any enterprising youngster who wishes to embark on a business venture in this sector. The public sector will also become fully technologized, hence providing Jamaican individuals and businesses with the will and opportunities to practice their craft. Programmes will be launched which will encourage our people to support our people. In other words, if it could be done by someone here, then we would have no reason to look abroad.

The third step would be to recognize that ICTs are key agents in globalization. Someone in Jamaica can sell goods to someone in Japan. Therefore, my Ministry of Foreign Trade would actively seek to establish links in other countries.

The main purpose would be to promote the uniqueness and flair that is Jamaican. While it may not be feasible to manufacture products here, due to high electricity and labour costs, we could sell our ideas to giants in the industry, thus claiming our share of the global market.

In concluding, we may be small in stature, but we are huge in intelligence and creativity. Our main strength is that we possess a set of young persons who are capable of turning the eyes of the world to this tiny island. Properly harnessed and encouraged, they can help to reap economic and social prosperity on our nation. Let us do all in our power to encourage them and let them become what they have the potential to become.

Ms Serena Scatolini Modigliani

Liceo Scientifico Statale G.B. Morgagni

Science

Italy

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Communication is the fundamental element on which civilization is based. Because it permits the exchange of opinions and experiences between man and developing growth of the community.

For this reason it is very important to divulge technologies for communication and information, not only in the world of grown-up, but also among young people.

If I was Head of State in my country, I would organize for people of all ages, refresher courses on evaluation of technologies for communication, to be able to full awareness of the importance of this mean and it can be completely developed.

I would give young people an important job in this project: they are the future, and their goal is to bring peace and stability between all the people.

I am sure that the means of communication, if used in the right way, will be able to avoid wars and violence between people, because once you are able to communicate clearly what damages and sufferings derive from violence it will be impossible that this will continue.

It will be a task for the young people to operate with courses of information, conferences, meetings, this will help to evolve and to unify, creating a face to face and a growth of people on an economical and social level.

It is possible to consider the new technologies as a second alphabetization and, this could be the beginning of a uniform level of global culture.

Mr Davit Shaghgamyan
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Microsystem Engineering
Armenia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The present age is witnessing the expansion of information technologies into all spheres of life and of society. National economies are being profoundly affected by computerization.

The leading sectors of industry are the knowledge-intensive sectors of electronics manufacturing and information and communication equipment. As a result, investment in research is continuously growing. Such a policy inevitably has its effects on society, with increasing demand for highly educated specialists and the associated improvements to the system of higher education.

Opportunities must be created that will give young people access to advanced education in information and communication technologies.

This will favour advances in leading-edge science and technology, stimulate the implementation of commercially promising ventures and favour new manufacturing, contributing more generally to improvements in the standard of living. The present generation of young people must become involved in the country's economic development. Scientific work and R&D in the IT sector must be entrusted to young specialists.

The author's view is that the future of the country's development lies in this direction, as the younger generation disposes of vital energy, diligence and flexibility of thinking, the qualities that give rise to progress.

Young people are prepared to take bold, decisive action. Freedom and independence of thinking are catalysts for more than just a few narrow domains (e.g. political thought), they also foster successful science.

Information and communication technologies are developing at a rapid pace, thanks to the innovative potential of young people – which can also help to sustain the pace in the future.

As a member of this young generation and an aspiring specialist in the area, the author can confirm the readiness of the bulk of young students to make the necessary efforts for success and continuing progress in this domain. A significant potential thus exists for the future; and it is suggested that government should devise measures to integrate and refine ICTs in the country's public and commercial R&D establishment.

The role of organizing and managing specific science and technology programmes could be entrusted to young specialists. Conditions must be created that will enable every young person to realize his or her natural abilities. Stimulating and facilitating the creative energy of the younger generation will provide an impetus to progress in this country, while new communication technologies will ensure that the fruits of this progress can be shared world-wide.

Ms Elham Sharifi Moghaddam
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Iran (Islamic Republic of)

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Communication is a deep desire of mankind and, because of developments in social life, there has become an urgent need for information sharing, which was done in earlier years with fire, smoke, flags, etc.

With improvements in communication sciences, frontiers have been broken and people can now communicate with each other at distance.

Nowadays, because of revolutions in communication and information technology, human life has changed. Now, access to arbitrary images, speech and data has been reduced to easy work.

Absolute developments in information and communication technology (ICT) will impress on all society fields. A lot of limitations will be broken and we do not need to spend a lot of time for every thing. Using ICT in educational environments, efficiency will be increased.

A lot of commercial activities will be easier by using Internet services and this will affect financial and economic problems for countries. ICT will even affect social health, as people can be informed about their health without consulting a doctor.

Now, what role young people can play in ICT development and what programmes should be designed to reach this aim?

The first step is correct and proper education. With presentation of new courses that are proportional with technological developments, we can teach students new technologies; and establish equipped ICT laboratories, acquaint students with modern techniques, and make them complete ICT projects. The educational environment must be where students can easily find their data from the Internet, books and magazines. Students should achieve the ability of producing new things by being surrounded by modern technology. In addition to improving the quality of data communication tools, they should design and make equipment more efficient creatively.

For example, if we care for courses like Digital Communication, DSP, Satellite Communication, Wireless Communication, Digital Electronic and other respective courses, especially courses of electronic, communication and computer engineering; a lot of useful projects will be done by students.

Or if we pay attention to branches like Nano-technology, and establish laboratories to investigate in this field; as a result, developments in this field will revolutionize the data and communication world.

These points are also true for investigative centres, but more seriously.

The second step is expansion. When the communication and data industry is monopolized by government organizations, because of the limitation of them in plurality, many young and educated forces who have strong ability of management and can expand this industry in the country, will be ignored.

With allowing establishment authorization of private organization and advertise to great capitalists to invest capital in this way, we can efficiently use young and expert people. In addition to making jobs for young people, this can bring income into the country.

This expansion must be inclined to cultural usage of ICTs. First of all, young people must attend to it. Furthermore, leaning how to use modern data and communication instruments, they should train previous generations.

Merchants can do a lot of their commercial activities by Internet services and obtain their needed data from commercial Internet sites.

Of course, all of them will be accomplished if networks have strong and safe protection. As a result, educated young people should focus a lot of their energy in designing networks with high security and execution of protection methods, because users do not like missing their financial security.

Totally with designing proper programmes and optimizing utilization of the country's youth powers. We can reach aforementioned aims and make a world village by development of such a technology.

Ms Juliya Shegay

Tashkent University of Information Technologies

Economic Management

Uzbekistan

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

My name is Juliya. I study at the Tashkent University of Information Technologies. I'm 20 years old. In this essay I would like to express my opinion about the subject. Contact, communication and connection are main categories of human civilization. They are already exist for many thousand years and became one of the most moving strength of progress. Aspiration of the people the perfection in many ways provided with their experiences of contacts with other people.

The humanity during its development used different in some ways quite strange methods of exchange of information. However a real revolution in sphere of transmitting of information for long distances started with the pounding of electricity and the theory of electromagnetic field.

Nowadays it is impossible to imagines the civil society without everywhere spreading and different structure of communications.

Now everyone of us needs communications with a large range of people to live and to work. Contact it he most precious property.

It is impossible to imagine contemporary well-being company without modern telecommunication network. Very often many people, take part in one today. They have to hold a quick link with each other. New technologies make possible:

- To coordinate quickly actions of people
- To exclude delays and wrong using at resources
- To decrease expenses
- To increase level of management
- To find new methods and possibilities of getting in one's business

As I told before I'm student of the Tashkent University of Information Technologies. Our student can take part in building of information society and developing telecommunications. That would be their contribution in development of our future life. I think that anyone of us can govern one's country if one truly loves it.

That's why I think that the youth is builder of our future life and prosperity of our country.

Many young people who are graduated at an Institute or University can't find their ways and places in future life. If I were Head of State I would like to open a center. This center will become a center of new ideas, also it will help young specializes to realize themselves. Of course now it is necessary to improve our educational system, conditions of studying, must be improved. Youth is very important for future of each country but all over the world.

Mr Abdulrahman Sido

Syrian Telecommunications Institute

Digital Exchanges

Syrian Arab Republic

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

If we take a look at the fields which had the major part of the scientific and technical improvement in the last few years, we find that telecommunications is in first place, because of its vital role in the development of society.

Telecommunications is one of the most vital and important fields which form the infrastructure of modern society and the main base of the major part of developmental operations currently. It has become the scale to measure whether society is civilized or not.

In the countries which are looking for a position on the world's telecommunication map, it is not a matter of improving the previous available services. More than that, they must overreach it to offer new services and to search for new discoveries. This led to concentrate the efforts on the study and scientific research of the telecommunications and information technology fields, resulting in the birth of the most powerful international communication network (the Internet) which became, with its applications, the key base for all the modernization operations in the programming and networking world. Then the world became a small village, in which anyone can make a tour around the globe and explore the Internet sites coming from every part of the globe by only using a computer. These features and other Internet applications can also be used with a mobile phone. The various achievements in the telecommunications field aim to offer a larger range of services, exploitation and meeting the increased needs of the present day's societies according to the reliability, security and velocity of dialing processing.

In our country, we are moving with vast steps to accomplish a telecommunications revolution and defeat all the conditions and difficulties we are facing. We achieved a great jump in this field, came into contact with all the achievements in the modern countries, offering suitable opportunities to the staff to deal with, in order to acquire all the skills to use the most advanced technologies.

Finally, I wish to have the opportunity to learn as much as I can and be in touch with the most developed technologies, in order to serve my country and humanity, as well as live in a safer world, because the objective which associates us is to construct the human civilization for a better future.

Ms Edita Simonaviciute

Kaunas University of Technology, the Faculty of Telecommunications & Electronics

Lithuania

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The last two decades, the information and communication technologies especially conditioned fast progress of the technology in the world. More and more people use appliances for the work and studies, created by information technologies. But these tools make the advance, improving the information technologies every day too. Considering the improvement, the society must perfect with them. So, it's the main reason, which can turn the economic and social situation of country.

At this juncture, force us to make the information society, who would realize the information and communication technologies importance for the economic and social development of our country. At this moment, the main question is how to do it?

In my opinion, making the information society, management of information of technologies for every resident of country is very important. The other main point is the expansion of information technologies in the business. But the most important thing, we can't on practice only. The creation process of information and communication technologies must be expand in the country. This would let us enable to contend for the external market.

If I would be the Head of my country, at first, I'd spare the biggest attention for the education in schools. The school is the first place, where the youth gets the bases of information technologies and the bases how to use them. Therein lies, it's very important, to permit opportunities to learn information technologies for the youth, in that way, stimulating further perfection.

The fast improvement of information technologies creates new work places, changes conventional professions, makes changeability of the market. It is clear, the new generation and her education level is the future of every country. On purpose to make the development of country a reality, we need specialists, who could study present technologies and would be able to improve them. According to me, we should do as more as we can research projects, actual for today, and to think about their practical using. The other, in my opinion, important aspect is to give the possibility to youth to see and to get to know the present technologies progress during the exhibitions. It's important to rank, the youth must take a part in the administration of country, passing the bills, making the possibility uphold the suggestions or corrective. And the government should do everything to send down the leak, which is especially actual now.

So, information technologies – very dynamic and receptive for the science branch, where the way from the research projects and their realizable is shortest. The young people understanding it, and, as I suppose, they'll try to keep in step with the ultimate in technology.

Ms Shawma Small
The University of Guyana
International Relations
Guyana

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

It is widely acknowledged that Information Technology has revolutionized Organizational life in both the Developing and the Developed World. This process has integrated separate ways of handling information into a single component. The potential benefits Information and Communication Technology can offer to a Developing Country like Guyana can be through Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), which is one of the significant features of Globalization. This would be through the attraction of high Technology Companies that can make available the most recent technological developments. The Nation gains through this transfer of technology in improving production as well as providing jobs and a computer literate population since a more educated population translates into higher living standards.

AS Head of State, young people would be encouraged to play a vital role in this activity. Provisions will be made to make Information and Communication Technology a mandatory aspect in the school curriculum since young people are the primary agents of change. Further, their role and their voices will influence the policies regarding Information Technology. As such, High Technology Software Companies would be encouraged to invest in Guyana, so that employment opportunities will be created and revenue gained to develop Guyana.

Through the education and experience of our future young leaders, we will live in a desired society in which the work ethic will no longer be manually handled, but computerized. Information Technology can further be defined as the realization that information is the basis for so many human endeavors and making strategies regarding Information and Communication Technology, Guyana will be on the road to being a Technologically advanced Country. In the developing World, the average person has to keep training his/her self every four years to keep up to date with Technological advances that are in a constant state of flux.

Young people can bring to the forefront new ideas that they can gain through the use of Information Technology. Further, workshops will be established to enable them a more practical experience of the Technological system that will be required to make Guyana a Developed one in Technology. In addition, scholarships will also be made available to young people to further their expertise in Industrialized Countries, and then return to Guyana to share their knowledge and skills with the rest of the young population during which seminars will be held to train other young people in the field of technology.

This is in turn can lead to the establishment of Guyana's own Information and Communication Technology Industry, where local personnel will be employed and local businesses encouraged to invest in this industry to offer Economic Development for the betterment of all Guyanese and link Guyana via computers with the World at large.

Mr Yazin Sobhi Sheet
University of Mosul - College of Engineering
Electronic & Communication
Iraq

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

## 1 Mobile-Satellite Service (MSS)

The idea of users on foot communicating via satellite may seem fantastic. How, one might wonder, can satellites hear battery-powered transceivers equipped with whip antennas?

Two innovations enable satellites to communicate with mobile users. First, satellites may be equipped with highly-directional antennas that communicate over narrow beams. The antennas are constructed out of sections that must be unfolded after the satellite has been placed in orbit. The various sections project cells onto the earth's surface; a single antenna can project dozens of such cells. Like terrestrial cellular networks, satellite cells permit frequency reuse. However, in satellite networks it is often the cells that travel past the users – and not the other way around.

The second innovation is the use of fleets of satellites in medium or low earth orbit. Because these satellites are much closer to the ground than traditional geosynchronous satellites, they can be reached with very little power. (One might even think of low earth orbit satellites as antennas on very tall towers.) However, satellite fleets require considerable infrastructure on the ground to manage both user access and general operation (such as keeping satellites in their assigned orbits).

But the burning question is whether there is a marker for mobile-satellite services, terrestrial paging, cellular and PCS networks are growing rapidly. Satellites are expensive to build, launch, and maintain. Are the applications for mobile-satellite services sufficiently compelling?

There are two major MSS markets. The first deals with extending and complementing terrestrial mobile networks. The second addresses niche business and consumer markets for both mobile and fixed applications.

Many countries would like to extend cellular telephone coverage beyond the major urban areas. Often population density is too low to justify building additional terrestrial infrastructures. However, it is possible to integrate terrestrial cellular and mobile-satellite services. A dual-band phone may be designed that always scans for the terrestrial

network first – only switching to satellite mode when no terrestrial network has been found. A fully integrated system may even support terrestrial-to-satellite (and satellite-to-terrestrial) handoffs, so that calls need not be dropped as the user travels beyond the coverage of a terrestrial network. (The one drawback to mobile satellites is they do not normally provide in building coverage. More on this later.)

According to Drucker Associates (Kirkland, WA), terrestrial cellular networks possess at least 64 times the traffic capacity per square kilometre of mobile-satellite networks. Therefore MSS poses little competitive threat to cellular services. Instead, cellular operators should view MSS as a complementary service that can (via agreement) deliver additional capacity, expanded coverage, and emergency backup service. These capabilities help make terrestrial cellular services attractive to public safety agencies - customers who demand guaranteed access.

(Another public safety-related benefit of integrated cellular-MSS: most satellite services offer integrated radio locating. Public safety customers use radio locating to identify the nearest emergency vehicle and monitor response.)

One obvious advantage of mobile-satellite services is that it would allow world travellers to carry and use just one phone. There would be no need to worry about the different frequencies and air interfaces in different countries. But there is also a problem: many countries do not want visitors bypassing their domestic phone networks in favour of foreign-owned and operated satellite networks. In fact, international phone calls placed by visitors often represent a significant source of revenue for the local post, telephone, and telegraph (PTT) department. Authoritarian governments that go to great lengths to tap and monitor landline telecommunications also fear mobile-satellite terminals will enable inhabitants to communicate with the outside world. Finally, a number of governments have invested in the International Maritime Satellite Association (Inmarsat), and see new mobile-satellite services as competition.

The mobile-satellite service is already a major success in one application: long-haul truck fleet management. Qualcomm Inc.'s Ommi-TRACS service enables trucking firms to track and dispatch trucks, perform remote diagnostics, and keep tabs on customers' valuable cargo. Other business applications of MSS include security (most notably stolen vehicle recovery), transaction services, and data acquisition and control (most notably for the petroleum industry). Potential consumer applications include search and rescue for hikers, mountain climbers, and other adventures: emergency roadside service; and solar-powered phone booths in remote and underdeveloped areas.

Mr Shahin Soltanov

Azerbaijan Technical University

Radiotechnics and Communications

Azerbaijan

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Communications is the important way for creation of the information space throughout the world. Thus, the information all over the world is transmitted via communication device. If in the beginning of the century the information was transmitted via voice and telegraph devices, now these information devices have been developed and replaced by the modern ones.

As the information is one of the important way for political, economical and intellectual development of the country, the Information Technology and telecommunication should be widely improved in anywhere of the world and this should be one of the main criterion in the developing as well as in CIS countries. As we mentioned above if in the beginning of the century the information was spread via postal, telegraph and radio transmissions at the end of the century these technologies began to be modernized. So modern information transmitters as fax, e-mail, Internet began to function. These noted devices created great opportunities for receive and transmission of the information.

Creation of the information space via communication devices is the important way for all fields, especially for economy, intellectual level of the people, management, etc. This issue may be discussed in a separate way as the subject of the international conference. But I think that first of all, communication devices should be widely developed and increased to the modern level so that not only governmental, non-governmental entities, but also every person, every family would be able to use these communications devices. In this regard it is necessary to establish communication devices and points not only in the big cities, but also in the small towns districts and villages.

Therefore one should pay attention to the development of communications and applying for modern equipment in preparation and planning of the state program.

The above-mentioned criterions should be taken into consideration in preparation of the state program.

Computer technology supply should be also taken into consideration. All of us should make our efforts for establishment of these technologies in any governmental or non-governmental entities, healthy centers, education enterprises and in other management structures. The best important issue should be organization of database within the country. There should be established special information institution for the information center and also for the information transmission. Not only current, but also modern types

of information should be collected in this special institution. So the above-mentioned peripheries would be able to have opportunities to enter this information.

The second important issue in utilization of the world information center/Internet network). In this regard creation of establishment of the Internet network should be taken into consideration in the state program. Their establishment of Internet network in the governmental level is considered to be the important issue.

From financial point of view, separate citizens and administrations are not able to enter the Internet website.

If I were head of the country, I would give special place for the development of the communications in the state program. Besides, I would take into consideration the utilization of the high level technologies, applied in the developed countries.

I think that if the more the state infrastructure, as well as communications develops speedy, the more the economy of the country and intellectual level of the people would be increased.

At last, I should point out that here the main issue is the creation of middle and small ownerships in this field. In this concern, I would do my best to give licenses to them and would create wide opportunities for them. In the modern life the mentioned categories should be the important one for comprehensive growing up of the youth.

Mr Robert Stefanski
University of Technology
Telecommunication
Poland

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Remember the time when you had to go to the library to find the information you needed about a topic, when you wrote a letter to a friend, put it in an envelope and stuck a stamp on it, or waited impatiently for your sister to stop chatting with her friend on the phone, because you needed to call someone? You don't? So you too know how dynamic the progress of ICTs has been during the last decade or two. Now almost everybody knows what an e-mail, SMS, cellular phone or the Internet is. ICTs have invaded our lives; they have quickly become an important branch of the global economy, and its share is still rising.

The speed of changes amuses many; but even more are getting used to it almost as quickly as it appears. Most of them are under 27, young and ready to meet the revolutionary future of technology. Many of them already grew up in the digital world of bits, and they are the ones to put the ICTs of the 21st century into reality. Therefore, they will build the world of tomorrow, and they are the ones on whom the technological development of their countries will depend.

So what should I do if I were head of State to assure my country a development it awaits?

My answer is: promote technical education and international cooperation of future ICT engineers. If they are going to be the ones to make it real, they would be better to be well prepared, and know all the problems that may appear as the theory becomes reality. A scholarship system should be created and developed to promote the most talented and hard-working, to give them a chance to study wherever they want. Some donations should be made to support technical universities' laboratories; it is very important to encourage the ICT industry to closer cooperation with academies, with benefits for both. We should remember that every zloty (or euro) spent on education pays more than twice, and every one spent on ICT education pays even better.

The second thing: ICTs have become so international that it is important to prepare young engineers to cooperate with other nations, to work in other countries and to design systems which are meant to work in foreign regions. The way to do this is a system of student exchange and international project groups working on specified tasks. Cooperation between universities, both inside and outside the country, is the key to making an engineer ready to work effectively in any country. International conferences should be the

way to compare opinions and share information about new technologies, and this leads to tightening cooperation between States. Knowledge about ICTs should not be a weapon in a fight called competition, but a tool to enable the economic and social development of my country, as well as others.

But why is technical education and international cooperation in ICTs so important to the State's economy?

The answer is: highly qualified ICT engineers will lead the country into the 21st century's economy, where the share of high-tech will be increasing. They are also to become the most interested social group in using services and products offered by ICTs, and to popularize them. That highly qualified group could easily integrate the country with the rest of the technologically developed world, participating in tightening international relations – political, economical and technological.

As the globalization process continues, exchanging and managing data will become an extremely important problem for the future economy. That is why ICTs still have a great perspective for growth, and the role of today's youth, and tomorrow's engineers is so important.

Ms Blagica Stojkoska
SS. Cyril and Methodius University
Electronics and Telecommunications
The Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

What would I do if I were Head of State in my country? I would enjoy the Mediterranean coast, I would buy the new Maybach, I would live in the house of a million dollars ... Well, would I? No, of course not. I think there is one dilemma: what should I do to be a good president? First of all, to have a sense for people's needs and to help them to fulfill them. I think I would do many simple things to develop my country in any way. We know people have power. Let them use it.

I asked my friends how they will define information and communication, would they be happier when technology will allow them to educate themselves in a superb way. I have got similar answers. Its sublimate is the further text.

First of all, I would try to reform education. It is a fundament of the society and its reflection, a moving power in the development of the country. ICT is the fastest way for young people to gain all the knowledge they need. With its use young people put themselves and the country in a world where there are no borders and limitations. For instance, we can improve our work if we use the experiences of many other people. So, we can help ourselves with reliable information and with our creativity and achievements to the society.

If I were Head of State in my country I would help all the young people who are willing to learn something new to do so. It will be interesting when a chef in our country could learn to make delicious sushi and the dancer in Perry to learn how to play our folk game, Teskoto. ICT is the link that will keep those relations furthermore and the distance between participants will be insignificant.

The thing that we can do in the moment is to create a multipurpose workshop, a place where young people will gather together and work for the benefit of themselves and their countries. One team would help people that want or need to learn something about ICTs at all. Another will run an information centre for situation and economical awareness as well as providing information to a nationwide public.

Maybe today some of these services I mentioned before already exist but they do not work as they should or they are not real service centres, representing the citizens. I believe in youth and I think that we could create the real thing. However, the world belongs to the young.

Creativity and ideas know no borders and I have many more. However, expressing them has a limit and it is called word count. At the end I hope that this piece of paper will not find its end in a trash can but someone with enough power would read it and make a small part of it a reality.

Ms Sipha Sum
Royal University of Phnom Penh
Computer Science
Cambodia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The IT sector is one of the most advanced sciences and has developed rapidly over the last two decades. So far, the IT sector has played an important role in all fields, especially in socio-economic development. Owing to new discoveries, a number of nations in our region and across the world are able to swiftly develop their countries with efficiency and productivity.

The miraculous development of new high tech and computers has shortened the distance of the world and is giving way to the emergency of a new, digitalized and knowledge-based economy. Information, broadcasting and telecommunications have increasingly become important factors which underpin the development of human civilization. Relationships and exchange between communities and countries on arts, culture, politics and scientific achievements are conducted by using the state-of-the-art telecommunication. With regard to the economic and social aspect, IT will improve major public service delivery to the local people, and allow them to monitor and receive regularly and timely all kinds of information, especially the necessary information about the markets, which will facilitate economic decision-making.

Thus, if I were the Head of State in my country, I would wish to make a humble contribution to the development of this version by drawing your attention to the following:

– First, this sine qua. non-condition for the increased use of IT is the development of telecommunication infrastructures through the policy of liberalization, strengthening the authority responsible for supervision and regulation and open access to instil fair competition.

– Second, expanding the coverage for the use of the Internet by considering measures to attract private investment and modern technology, and by ensuring free and fair, market-based competition.Third, language is an important vehicle to promote development and IT transfer. In the future, language skills will become an important comparative advantage. Fourth, computer literacy, as in the case with foreign languages, must be promoted. Computer literacy is currently one of the most important tools that exists for communications, economic management,

trade, domestic and internal investment, as well as for knowledge accumulation and management expertise. The most important direction is to include computer literacy in the curriculum of every secondary school, faculty and university.Fifth, continuous efforts should be made to promote the activities and encourage the participation of the private sector in IT development.

It should provide sufficient incentives for companies to transfer to my country technical skills and new technology for the country's development, while at the same time allowing other companies and individuals to access the ideas that flow from research.Sixth, attention should be given to protect intellectual capital and to use the Internet for development purposes by preventing the use of such technology for committing crimes or other purposes which are contrary to morality, traditions and good mores of the society.

In summary, these are the main elements of our strategy, which should be taken into account when considering the preparation of a long-term vision for IT development in my country. In all these endeavours, human resources and effective and efficient use of these resources are the keys to success. To achieve the above objectives, we need a long-term IT development strategy, which responds to the realities of the country, the changes and new developments in regional and world economies. This vision should be supported by a detailed action plan for implementation.

The common vision for IT development, with all the supporting policies, strategies and multidiscipline measures to be elaborated by the government, as well as concrete action being undertaken at the national level, should guide my country towards a bright future, strengthen the culture of peace, promote virtues, knowledge and living standards of our people, and more importantly, the country's prestige in the international arena.

Miss Fatoumata Sylla
Institut Polytechnique de Conarkry
Transmission Numerique
Guinea

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

New information and communication technologies, a blanket term covering a range of tools and procedures created through advances in recent years in computers and telecommunications, are opening new vistas for progress in different societies.

From the point of view of economics, the emergence of the information society is characterized by the central role of information and information-related technologies, both as production factors and as products in their own right.

For the social and economic development of a country, it is necessary to educate young people and introduce them to ICTs. Were I the Head of State I would work towards the education of young people and continuing education, to promote research, creativity and innovation. The ultimate aim of this education is to develop responsible, qualified citizens who are capable of adapting to changes and contributing to the advancement of society.

To meet these objectives, several things are required:

– Young people must be offered access to computerized resources, thanks to the development of telecommunication means, and to distance learning, a genuine alternative in pedagogical and economic terms, thanks to the continuing drop in costs.
– Research and new developments must be promoted as a means to strengthen integration in the major international networks.
– Education, research and new developments must be used to contribute to social, economic and cultural progress in my country.

In order to bring this about, certain efforts will be required:

– The quality and diversity of educational programmes will need to be strengthened, and regional, national and international recognition of these research activities will need to be reinforced.
– Young people's desire for success must be encouraged by cultivating a spirit of challenge and improving quality in all areas, with an emphasis on confronting in a specific and responsible way the concerns of the workplace and the labour market, and increasing openness to other countries and other cultures.

The proliferation of electronic commerce will doubtless profoundly modify the approach to doing business.

Equipped with a simple computer connected to the Internet, anyone will be able to conduct business affairs spanning the globe, and consumers will be able to shop for goods and services around the world. Consumers can easily become producers, and those who yesterday acted as intermediaries, can tomorrow offer product quality assessments. Product innovation and marketing can expand to offer a role to consumers, who will add value by defining what features are required to meet their needs, identifying suitable manufacturers and bringing the new product on the market.

In the social sphere, young people must be educated with information, through print and Internet media, audiovisual means (television and radio) - essentially an awareness campaign for young people, striving to grow and adapt to new technologies for the sake of accelerating progress.

Ms Hajah Norhaslina Tamin
University Brunei Darussalam
Mathematics
Brunei Darussalam

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

In recent years, the term Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) has been flashed and publicized in almost every media around the globe. Forums and seminars related to ICT are also mushrooming in both the developed and developing countries.In Brunei Darussalam, ICTs have always played a significant and important role in the positive contribution to the country's socio-economic development. Brunei Darussalam is also banking on the development of ICT to strengthen and develop its fledging e-society. This will involve various aspects of information-giving and information-sharing, training and retraining, and the full commitment of all levels of the civil service.

It is also believed that ICTs can contribute to the economic and social development of a country. As the Head of State, I want the young people to be aware of ICTs and be prepared to play a part in the global society, to make the development of my country a reality. Young people constitute a large proportion of any nation's population. They are dynamic in their approach to life. They are ready to change and they represent the working population of tomorrow. There are many projects that are under way involving harnessing ICTs for the youth throughout Brunei Darussalam.

ICT is actually a new technology that demands new skills, changes in mindset, economic and social policies, as well as a shift in cultural norms. Young people need to accept the change as well as to learn and master new skills. The creative and skilful use of ICT provides an opportunity for young people to leapfrog to a higher standard of quality of life.

It is very important for my government to modernize the system of education through the usage of ICT as a tool. For example, the University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD) has started the Virtual Interactive Searching ON-line (VISION) library concept to benefit the UBD community and researches. My government has made efforts to diffuse IT to the youths and a budget of USD 1 million has been used for the implementation of computer projects in schools and higher education institutions in the country. My government has been organizing workshops especially for youth, in close collaboration with the Minister for Education, to raise awareness on ICT issues. In Brunei, Brunei Information Technology (BIT) Council is an agency that was created to lead and facilitate the strategic development and diffusion of ICT to the people. Computer-based training (CBT) has become one

of the most innovative methods to be used in educational or training settings. CBT provides a variety of interactive experiences that encourage exploration and actively involve the learner, thus making the learning process both educational and fun.

Recent studies have revealed that 11 per cent of Bruneian homes are connected to the Internet. So, the Internet, for example, should be used to disseminate information that young people can use to actively participate in any aspect of decision-making, such as governance and business. It can be used to provide career information that can help them to chart a path and prepare their future role in their communities.

Lack of information in many societies in Brunei has resulted in ignorance that has had detrimental effects. Young people should be made aware of the dangers that they are likely to face, such as health issues, drugs and crime. The Internet has the potential to disseminate all the information that is crucial to building knowledge-based societies. In an effort to help realize the creation of a future society in Brunei, Brunei Telecom Department is also actively engaging itself in promotion efforts to educate the public on the Internet's beneficial use.

The development of ICT offers challenges to organizations in acquiring, organizing and utilizing quality information. The widespread use of the Internet further enhances business opportunity into venturing in the world of electronic commerce. E-commerce contributes almost 20 per cent of the world economy today. Young people are advised to start their own business managed by a new unit called e-commerce. For small and medium enterprises (SMEs), embracing ICT enables them to participate effectively in the global village and access wider benefits of cross-border trades and services.

Academic qualifications should be supported with hands-on training using products that are employed in the IT industry. By encouraging and giving incentives to train and certify young professionals locally, Brunei Darussalam can go a long way in realizing its vision of e-governance.

Investing ICT requires a sufficient amount of commitment, time, effort, capital and operational resources. Without proper training, change management and mechanisms for maintaining the ICT system, there will be no technology diffusion and development. As the Head of State, I would make sure every role that I have made for the young people to play in the global society to make the development of my country a reality.

Mr Jigme Tenzin
National Institute of Education
Biology/Chemistry
Bhutan

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information and communication technology is among the main topics of discussion among the Bhutanese youth today. Though introduced very recently, it is already beginning to make deep inroads into the Bhutanese economic landscape.

The situation until a few years ago was completely different. We could see people from all walks of life travel long distances to send messages, place orders for necessary goods, and so on. The only means of communication then was the telephone and radio transmission from Shillong in northeast India. Telephone service was limited only to a few important places in the kingdom. Now with financial and technical support from the donor agencies, particularly the Japanese government, Bhutan has been able to set up a radio and television broadcasting station in Thimphu; also, there is already an efficient telecommunications network across the country. Telephone was closely followed by the fax. Very recently the Internet, e?mail and cable television services have also been introduced and have gained rapid momentum in such a short time. Introduction of information and communication technology in Bhutan has widely contributed to the well?being of the people and the nation as a whole. The sustainability of a nation's well?being is largely dependent upon the imagination and practical initiatives of the Head of State.

If I were the head of state, what would I do before making the younger people take roles in the socio?economic development of the country? Some of the practical steps I would take would be:

1) to make basic computer literacy a part of the school curriculum;

2) to provide information and communication technology education to the youth;

3) to make ICT education programmes accessible;

4) to provide ICT-related tools such as computers, printers, etc.

Once the young people become ICT literate they can be encouraged to become experts in the development of hardware and software programmes. This would make the country in the long run less dependent on the experts we currently bring in from outside countries. This would also mean that we retain the huge amounts of money which flow out of the country at the moment. Sabir Bhatia, a talented software engineer, created the popular

hotmail and sold it to a software company and made a large amount of money for himself. Similarly young Bhutanese people can be encouraged to design their own software packages, which can be sold within and outside the country. The money earned will be a boost to the country's revenue earnings.

Young people with IT backgrounds can create their advertisement websites like with Amazon dotcom, Buy Online, Bazee dotcom, etc. Advertisements on the Internet would bring in greater numbers of tourists, take orders for traditional goods and products, etc. It would make business transactions within and outside the country more efficient and thus promote the economic prosperity of our country.

Bill Gates, a college dropout, developed the software programme Windows 95 and is now the proprietor of the world's largest software company, and also the world's richest man! Young Bhutanese people can look up to him as a role model and try to create new software programmes which can be accepted by the users all over the world. If this is done, they would be getting assignments and projects from outside countries, which should add to the economic development of the country.

With the effective use of information and communication technology, administrative efficiency will improve. Issues regarding government policies, culture and traditions, etc., can be passed on to the people in a short time. If used equitably, ICT would also promote balanced development in the country.

Although introduced recently, the facilitative role of information and communication technology in the socio?economic development of Bhutan has been very remarkable. If with a modest introduction of ICT in the country the pace of development is impressive as at present, the day is not far away when Bhutan would occupy the pride of place among the developed nations and be able to proudly say Yes, we have done it!.

Ms Khadheeja Thaufeeqa

Athabasca University (Canada)

Business Administration-Concentration on Management

Maldives

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The competitive and the uncertain global economy leave a strong need to achieve the possible returns from the limited resources bases available in any country or economy.

The Maldives is a group of 1100 islands in the Indian Ocean with a population of 280,000 scattered over 199 islands. For administration purposes the islands are grouped into 21 atolls.

The economic development of the Maldives is faced with many challenges, among the greatest is that the population is dispersed on small islands over a large area of sea. Most of the islands have an island population of less than a couple of hundred per island.

The economic base of the Maldives, being very narrow, need urgently to focus on human resource development together with the development of the information and communication technologies (ICT) to create a dynamic, knowledge-based economy. Development of these economic resources I believe is a prerequisite for the creation of the necessary economic machinery required to establish a strong and sustainable economy. Currently we lack information and communication technology infrastructure to move rapidly towards high and economic activities.

If I were a leader, I would encourage the government to increase the use of ICT in the provision of government services to the public for effectiveness and efficiency. We could establish a network among the government offices for sharing and exchanging information in real time. Encourage increase the use of ICT in the area of commercial and business sectors of the Maldives by promoting e-business, by establishing ICT systems to provide information on our available resources and opportunities and by raising awareness on all

the aspects of ICT. Promoting enhanced network-based services will encourage the economy to boost greatly in the Maldives. Opening Internet and web-based services for competition and business will also create and lead to a vast economic growth. Systems could be established to monitor and process various information and data in areas such as education, human resources, etc. In the process of these developments we should also endorse laws and regulations to monitor effective facilitation of these services and establishments.

ICT is an increasingly necessary tool for the development of economic and social aspects of the country. Careful planning and development of ICT could achieve considerable economic and social expansion.

Ms Sarah Tierney
University of Texas
Computer Science
United States

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Youth have immense potential to become innovators of technology and the world economy. Bill Gates, the richest person in the world, dropped out of school to start Microsoft with MS-DOS when he was 20. Similarly, Linus Torvalds was 21 when he wrote Linux while a student at Helsinki University. Steve Jobs was only 21 when he co-founded Apple in 1976. Many of the greatest technological breakthroughs that spurred the development of ICTs were made by youth.

From a traditional economic development standpoint, the U.S. has succeeded in educating future American scientists, engineers, and technology entrepreneurs. It also attracts the talented youth of other nations to contribute to the American economy, assisting our economic development while holding back the development possibilities of other nations whose most talented students pursue advanced education and technological careers in America. However, there are at least two ways where the U.S. is failing to spur the optimal benefits from ICTs. I would seek to address this as President. First, because of structural inequality in American society, women, minorities, and the poor rarely have the educational and economic capital necessary to become scientists and entrepreneurs.

Second, this same structural inequality prevents youth from these same marginalized groups from participating in policy making processes. And, although less obvious, good policy is as needed as experts scientists or motivated entrepreneurs to create economic and social development using ICTs.

As President, I would recognize that American youth are growing to discern that structural inequality prevents most people from reaping the benefits of technology. Yet in our increasingly global world, people need access to ICTs to participate in the information society. I believe that youth would choose to make quality education available to all so that any student would have the foundation of knowledge and access to resources that could lead him or her to become a scientist or engineer. As head of state, I would suggest youth investigate policies to expand the use of open source software so that the world's programmers could collaborate to create tools that benefit people. Also, I would charge youth with exploring ways to open up Internet governance to become a real dialogue among nations and a shared base of power. Furthermore, I would encourage youth to argue that the transforming effects of ICTs on education, politics, healthcare, and commerce should be felt by all people in all nations, not just those that can afford it.

The first step I would take as President, I would be to give youth a voice in the U.S. government by creating a youth advisory council that would admit diverse voices. I would let youth play a role in expanding the opportunity to all Americans to develop the educational, economic, social, and political capital they need to become scientists, engineers, and policy makers in our society. Furthermore, I would let the optimism and the idealism of youth guide the American government to assist less fortunate nations become technological peers through economic and social development that meets the needs of people.

Ms Olga Titova

Kyrgyz Technical University

Communications Networks and Systems

Kyrgyzstan

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Last century had several names that were connected with a certain era in science and technology. At first it was called the atomic age due to the discovery of the splitting of the atom. Then it became the age of the conquest of space when for the first time in the history of mankind a man overcame the gravity and entered the Universe.

And now we live in the information era when the computer network embraces the globe and connects not only the countries and space stations but also a lot of people all over the world.

Let's compare our life nowadays with the life of people at the beginning of the 20th century. It was changed beyond recognition. Our ancestors hadn't the slightest idea of the trivial things created by the scientific progress that we use in our daily life. The mobile telephone that is such a simple thing for us and made our life easy, comfortable and pleasant would seem miracle to them.

It's difficult to overestimate the role of information and communication technologies in our life. They accelerate the development of civilization and help us in our cooperation with each other.

Therefore the branch of telecommunications should be down for one of the priority places in the programme of national development. It can't be forgotten that there isn't much raw materials in Krygyzstan so the main force should be turned to the raising of the intellectual potential and creation of the infrastructure.

Firstly, considering the high level of education in the country it'll be expedient to develop the branch of software. It is determined by the low price and high competitive ability of the product in the local market. Annually many talented people graduate from the colleges of the country but they usually find their job abroad. And the development of this industry can solve the problem of brain drain and manpower drain, help in creating the new places of job for native people and interest the foreign capital. As a consequence of these is the increasing of GDP.

Secondly, taking into account the convenient geographic position and the peculiarity of national legislation it establishes the favourable conditions for the ICTs development in the part of creating transnational telecommunication sluices with low prices of service and high capacity.

Thirdly, the beginning of job of the distance service centres in the Republic can have rather big success. Referral services, transactions, distant education and medicine, electronic economy will not only attract the partners from different countries but also interest the native people here.

Summing it up I can add that the world around us changes every day and the youth can flow into new course with the most easiness. I suppose young people should play the imprescriptable role in the development of their country. They can make different projects and offer their plans for the consideration to the persons in government. Moreover, the future of their country in their own hands, so they must study in young age and try to take the experience of the elder specialists and people from other countries.

From my own side I'll try to do all my best to get the success in my education and future job to take part in the development of my country.

Mr Matangi Toaho

Tonga Institute of Higher Education (TIHE)

Computing

Tonga

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

I believe that information and communication technology can contribute to economic and social development. If I am Head of State, I will encourage activities by making sure that the resources are available first, since our State is not as rich as other countries. I will have to guarantee that funds are available and I will ask for aid from wealthier countries. Training and courses will then be organized for youngsters. Computer centres will be built in outer regions of the island to ensure easy access for young people, but with only a small fee to help the maintenance of the centre. Exchange programmes will be organized with other countries to make sure that our young people can share their skills and be taught new ways of learning. Advertisement for the training of young people will be posted in any way available (i.e. radio, television, posters, banners, school buses, notice boards, etc.).

Prizes will be awarded for exclusive students or learners. Scholarships will be awarded to encourage the continuation of training and participation. Not only that, but teachers will be trained as well. Have educated people give lectures at centres for young students to encourage them in their learning. Try and get online courses running for youths who cannot afford studies abroad. Have young kids assist technicians and communication staff during holiday breaks. Encourage cafés and restaurants to have young children help them in their computer centres.

Fund raising will be held and companies will be asked for sponsorship. The funds raised from these activities will go into maintenance and the buying of new materials, as well as other expenses.

Last but not least, a communication and technology week will be held every quarter to remind not only young people but also parents of the importance of these programmes, so that they can encourage the children of its benefits.

Mr Mars Toktonaliev

Kyrgyz Technical University

Communications Networks & Systems of Telecommunications

Kyrgyzstan

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Modern information and communication technologies (ICT) essentially change all public attitudes. New technologies change not only ways of manufacturing products and services, but also create new opportunities of the civil rights realization, self-realization of the person, education and carrying out of leisure. In an information society distances are reduced, there is a globalization; unprecedented opportunities for development of regions are created.

Kyrgyzstan has not enough serious source of raw materials. At the same time, development in the sphere of information technologies will allow not only to resolve the problems inherent in many less developed countries, but also to provide prosperity in the future. That is why development of ICT should be one of the most important tasks in a direction of our development.

In Kyrgyz Republic for the last years, a considerable progress was achieved in the development of information infrastructure, and in informing the State organizations and the private companies; also an appropriate legislation has been developing. A new informational society is being created. However, it is unattainable to form such a society without an appropriate education, and without development of necessary skills.

Therefore the education of young people (not only technical) should be on a very high level. In fact, it is rather difficult to provide such a high quality of preparation for future experts, in area ICT and in connection with it, it is necessary to observe a number of requirements.

If I were head of the State, I would formulate the following basic conditions for stable development ICT in Kyrgyzstan and preparations of experts in this area:

1) First of all, it is necessary to provide all regions of Republic with modern means, especially such structures as schools and universities. The existing infrastructure should be given in world standards. Only when each person in the State has an opportunity to use modern means of access to the information is possible to speak about a new stage in development of a society.

2) It is necessary to prepare legislative base carefully for development of the enterprises giving services and products in area ICT.

3) It is necessary to carry out researches in the most perspective for development areas, with participation in the international conferences and researches.

4) It is necessary to create the structure responsible for development of ICT in Republic.

Development ICT should pass with active participation of youth and students. It will allow not only to improve quality of education and to increase interest to new technologies, but also will enable to receive in the future perfectly prepared experts in this area. The youth should become the basic driving mechanism of process of information of Kyrgyzstan.

As the future worker in the field of telecommunications, I am sure, that the future of our country consists in high technologies. And the task of modern youth is to manage to use all opportunities for the further development of this sphere.

Ms Olga Tomashevskaya

State University of Information and Communication Technologies

Telecommunication

Ukraine

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Over previous decades, incredible progress has been made with respect to information and communication technologies resulting in stupendous rates of development. Not for nothing are we living in what is known as the age of the information boom. It is no secret that information and communication technologies are one of the three pillars underpinning any modern State. Without ICTs, the world would be deaf, dumb and blind. I believe that a country's economic and social development depends directly on the status of communication and information technologies in the State. ICTs are a powerful system uniting the most important structures of a State, and cutting down the time, energy and money spent dealing with various issues. This facilitates the more rapid and effective development of the economy; unnecessary obstacles are removed and it is possible to obtain all necessary information. As far as the society is concerned, it is clear that ICTs help to raise the intellectual level of a country's population. Every cognizant individual now has unlimited possibilities to acquire knowledge, which is very important for the young generation.

In my view, the youth of today will not be the last to work on the development of the State. The next generation will have to continue, improve, invent and introduce the new methods and technologies. Young people are more able to respond to the fast pace of world development, and this is why I think that bright people should not be held back. Even today, new ideas and developments should be given due attention, material and technical support and protection. Against this background, I would propose the following course of action, the main elements of which are as follows:

- stimulating research work on ICTs from an economic point of view by providing funding for youth collectives at higher education institutes and for individual projects of young specialists from the State budget under the heading scientific research work;
- developing an effective legislative basis, clarifying the position of young people's scientific research organizations within the economic infrastructure of the country, as well as their rights and obligations;
- establishing similar scientific collectives under the patronage of the President of Ukraine;

- setting up scientific funds for ICT at educational establishments to create a basis for scientific investigations and research;
- establishing exchanges for the sale of intellectual property in the area of ICT, providing an opportunity to conduct marketing activities to determine demand for the products and their price;
- determining the legislative nature of the form and other procedural documents protecting intellectual property rights in the area of ICT, and establishing a legislative basis for renting the intellectual property;
- giving young specialists the opportunity to gain experience in working with new technologies and modern equipment at leading international ICT companies.

Implementation of such a programme would clarify the status of young people's scientific and research collectives and of independent projects by young specialists; they will occupy a specific niche in the infrastructure of the State, and will be in a position to conduct their work legally and confidently on an equal footing with other organizations. This will enhance competition and therefore accelerate the process of the development of information and communication technologies.

Miss Assionvi Woekedjet Tomety

Universite de Lome

Droit

Togo

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Today's increasingly complex technologies are of real importance to the life of a country, and it is generally accepted that information and communication technologies (ICTs) can contribute to socio-economic development. However, the working population has a crucial role to play if this goal is to be achieved. We shall therefore explore what role the Head of State in a country such as ours might call on young people to play to ensure that development becomes a reality.

A country's young people are the chief driving force behind its development, and will be called upon to take over the reins in the future. To do that they need to be educated, trained and, above all, informed. Fortunately, our country now has many efficient means of communication, ranging from the various television channels and radio stations to the Internet and cell phones.

If I were Head of State, then, I would first encourage young people to attend school. Everyone needs schooling, and this would also help the government to bring down illiteracy rates. Next, young people would be steered towards the various information technology training centres set up in every corner of the land, so that they became familiar with computers, now an essential tool. As Rimbaud put it: We must be modern through and through.

Once equipped with the intellectual wherewithal, young people must be encouraged to take the initiative and set up small enterprises, while corresponding over the Internet with young entrepreneurs in developed countries in order to learn their techniques and procedures and swap experiences with a view to boosting performance.

Young people also need to be steered towards the key sectors of the country's economy, and involved in the running of the country. To that end, posts must be created for them in the administration.

Information and communication technologies will be used to heighten awareness among young people on the streets and to inform them about the training centres open to them. A large number of young people are wandering the streets because they are unaware of the opportunities offered by the State to enable them to become capable players in the future and take full charge.

Hence, thanks to information and communication technologies, young people will be able to undertake worthwhile projects and make a contribution to our country's development.

However, the young will also have to take account of the moral aspects. As Rabelais put it four centuries ago, science without conscience destroys the soul. In other words, moral considerations must take precedence over science and, by extension, technology. It is not enough merely to train young people in new technologies in order to allow them to join the world of business; they must also be made aware of the implications of applying these technologies. Our country would descend into chaos if evil or monstrous acts were to result from application of these technologies. An example is the robbing of the BCEAO committed by certain individuals over the Internet. These people wickedly used their knowledge of information technology to instruct the bank's computers to transfer money into their accounts.

Other young people use access to files and networks to gather large quantities of information on individuals whom they wish to harm. This is equally deplorable and raises a number of ethical issues.

In order to overcome such problems, committees of experts on ethics have been set up all over the globe in order to police the use of the various technological applications. In a similar vein, a national commission on information technology and freedoms would be set up to ensure that the actions of young professionals benefit themselves, the country at large and the world. As Montaigne said, without the science of kindness, other kinds of science can only do us harm.

Hence, information and communication technologies, with young people at the helm, have an important contribution to make to our country's socio-economic development. However, the young will have to apply these technologies conscientiously.

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Analyse et Programmation Informatique
Burkina Faso

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Technological development has wrought enormous changes in the world. From the printing press to the Internet, people have constantly devised ways of improving the means of communication and information.

We will look first at the contribution information and communication technologies (ICTs) can make to socio-economic development, before demonstrating how a Head of State might make use of them.

ICTs comprise the full range of technologies for the transmission, broadcasting and reception of text, sound and images. There is a wide range of applications, of which the most famous is the Internet.

On the social front, they have assisted the development of the education system. Thanks to distance learning and teleconferences, more students are now able to follow courses, at more affordable cost. Teacher training costs have also come down.

These technologies have also made it possible to provide remote medical assistance. In addition, doctors can find information on diseases and new resistant strains, and on new treatments.

In the economic sphere, ICTs have boosted trade by facilitating market studies and the opening-up of new markets, under the watchword of electronic commerce.

Furthermore, thanks to information and communication technologies, in particular telephony, fax and netmeeting, large companies with several branches have been able to improve the way they work and thus contribute to economic progress.

It seems clear, then, that ICTs contribute to social and economic development. Accordingly, if we were in charge of the country, we would seek to promote their use, in a bid to make knowledge accessible to ordinary people and enable them to work towards the country's development. In Burkina Faso, where the craft sector is well developed, artisans would be able to expand their markets. Other businesses would be able to find techniques for improving their products and increasing their customer base.

More crucial than this, however, is training for young people, who, representing as they do the country's future and constituting the majority of the population, have no alternative but to master these technologies. Young people are a source of innovation, and must also

be given an opportunity to express themselves through different types of research and development projects.

In short, to ensure the social and economic development of a country it is essential that the use of ICTs become widespread.

If we were Head of State, therefore, we would work to make them generally accessible, with a view to their wide-scale use, including in the training of young people. This will enable the country to enjoy long-term development, since continuity will be assured and young people will be able to make their contribution to the evolution of ICTs, a source of progress.

Would this not be the opportunity for my underdeveloped country to begin to catch up?

Mr Karim Traore
Universite Gamal Abdel Nasser de Conakry
Telecommunication/Radio Electronique
Guinea

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

The third millennium will be increasingly the millennium of the digital civilization.

The global village has become a reality in our day. Space and time no longer separate continents as they used to, thanks to the ubiquitous presence of new information and communication technologies:

Computer science (the science of rational processing of information in support of human knowledge and communication in the technical, economic and social domain).

The Internet, combining computerized material with software, and satellite broadcasting have a significant impact on the development of countries, particularly emerging and developing countries.

Were I the Head of State of my country, my goal would be to make young people aware and motivate them to realize just how important the Internet is, and the usefulness of these tools for the social and economic development of Guinea.

It is common knowledge that we live in an era of new information and communication technologies. In modern work environments (in public administration, services, work-shops, manufacturing, experimental and analytical laboratories, medical clinics, stock markets, military activities, etc.) we witness the deterritorialization of activities, which are being made operational to a very high standard thanks to the above-mentioned tools. The same holds true for everyday information and even speech communication.

However, if young people are to take an active part in the development of our countries, one condition must be met: to learn and master communication tools.

In this connection, the worldwide spread of computers and connectivity allows users to share a common language. Messages and information travel around the globe in a matter of seconds. Cybercafés have become the broadcast centres for the information highways, and our houses have become home to full-fledged Internet sites.

Awareness, motivation, education and mastery of computers and the Internet have the potential, without a doubt, to allow these players to take a major role in the construction and the social and economic development of my country.

Ms Loanna Trifiati

Democritus Thrace University

Greece

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

It is well known that Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) is a key enabler of globalization. It allows for the efficient and cost-effective flow of information, products, people and capital across national and regional boundaries. However, it is not a panacea for all development problems, but it has the potential to help, by improving access to information, expanding their market base, enhancing employment opportunities and making governmental services work better. Establishment of a national ICT infrastructure and policy framework are prerequisites for young people to participate in the emerging global ICT business.

ICTs have shown their capacity to dramatically alter societies and economies. They have already had a significant impact on the employment of young people, both positively and negatively. Effective ICT strategies must provide the basic infrastructure for connectivity and access, develop human capacity.

The Head of State in a country such as Greece could take initiative to deploy the benefits of ICTs for young people. Such initiatives could be:

- To support projects which capture the knowledge, enthusiasm, energy and idealism of the young people in the same way as an earlier generation's imagination was captured by the peace against the war.
- The opportunities for ICTs to contribute to the employment and business development prospects of young people must be categorized under direct and indirect possibilities. Direct refers to opportunities arising from the development of ICTs or services directly related to the technologies (e.g. software and hardware development, the provision of telecommunication services etc.). Indirect covers the application of ICTs across a whole range of traditional, and new, sectors within economies (e?commerce is an excellent example).
- The government must acknowledge the barriers girls and women face in engaging with ICTs and generate appropriate gender-specific policy responses.
- Industry development and economic policies should be focussed on small to medium and micro-enterprises. A disproportionately high number of young people play a critical role in many of these start-up companies in these new sectors, sometimes as the innovator, more often as the skilled staff.

- Education and training. Two aspects of this critical area require emphasizing: the need for lifelong learning and the adoption of more flexible approaches to teaching and curriculum development. Where young people, with the benefit of a good education and training foundation, could have once expected to have a job for life, this is no longer the case. But if that education and training is in ICT-related skills, and if they demonstrate enterprise and resourcefulness, there are vast opportunities.

ICTs do not offer a simple solution to solving the problem of youth employment. But what does make these technologies important in achieving this goal is that for young people ICTs are their technologies. They understand them and have the capacity to develop sympathy for them most adults cannot begin to understand.

Mr Andrey Tsitov

College of Communications

Telecommunications

Belarus

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

I am Titov Andrey, being a student of the 4th course of the Highest State College of Communication. I am studying the specialty engineer of telecommunications systems and nets with specialization in programme ensuring of telecommunication systems and nets. I am 21 years old, I live in Minsk and I am a citizen of the Republic of Belarus.

To be the leader of the State is responsible and honourable. My country is situated in the centre of Europe and we support a friendly relationship with every country. Our country is not as rich in natural resources as our eastern neighbour Russia, which is why, if I were president, I would try to use as much as possible our favourable geographical position and the kind, sympathetic character of my nation.

We have declared our country to be free of nuclear weapons. I would proclaim my country a neutral state, which would not take part in any military unions.

We have beautiful nature, a lot of wonderful lakes and rivers, rich hunting spaces and old historical places. It is necessary to develop tourism. There are a lot of calm beautiful places where we could build cosy houses for foreign tourists who prefer peaceful rest, quietness of forest, fresh air, birds' songs, perfume of the grass, rich fishing and hunting. And for the fulfillment of all this we need a definite level of development of our system of communication and, first of all, a mobile system of communications. I would invite to our country some of the operators of mobile nets. Owing to their investments it would be possible to achieve quick reconstruction of the local nets. Economical and social development of my country would be one of the main goals for me.

Using the energy, intellect and wish of our youth to live worthily, I would try to create conditions for their successful activity. The President has to assist development of the so? called middle class – intelligent, talented and clever people who will be able to promote development of our society. A car, a mobile phone, a computer, and Internet – these are the attributes of successful business. In our country we have already done a great deal of work on building fibre-optical lines of communication. Corporate communication nets for banks, firms and enterprises have been created; they are situated in different parts of our country. And it is clear that a high level of economic development means a high level of development of means of communication.

New informational technologies promote the development of science, medicine, culture; and this in turn will assist economical and social development of the State. A lot of opportunities for getting knowledge, raising cultural levels will be offered to our youth.

Youth is the part of society that is easy to train. Being the President, I would found a fund for supporting young, talented specialists that would give them the opportunity to gain educational experience abroad. I would use the experience of the famous Russian tsar Peter I. I would try to define the most prospective branches of the national economy, development of which would promote quick and successful growth of the economy. One such branch to my mind is the branch of telecommunications. A specific peculiarity of this branch is its quick, dynamic development. And only young, perspective people with great talent can cope with the quick appearance of new means of communication.

With the help of these people the branch must get its future development in the twenty-first century and it will help to exchange information with other worlds in the universe.

Mr Anjesh Tuladhar
Tribhuvan University
Electronics Engineering
Nepal

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

If I were Head of State in my country, I would first try to eliminate the digital divide that is opposing the young people of the rural areas from access to modern technology. Eighty-six per cent of Nepal's population is living in rural areas without any knowledge on modern technology; they do not have telephones and electricity services, the foundation of ICT. But the urban valley dwellers are using these facilities amply. I would make sure that everyone is getting the facilities no matter that they live in luxurious cities or the laborious villages. I would propose plans regarding the access to ICT throughout the country.

I would create an environment in which one gets an opportunity to transform his/her vision to realities. Such an environment would appreciate the unique ideas of youths. In the year 2000, a software competition was organized by Kathmandu Engineering College in which about 60 to 70 students participated. The first, second and third places were announced, but they did not get any opportunity – the opportunity leading to software development that could have benefited both the country and the opportunist. I would form a committee that would keep an eye on youths. The responsibility of the committee would be to pick the bright and distinguished from different competitions. The chosen ones would be trained by IT experts. I would organize programmes related to ICT. The major problem our country faces presently is that many IT experts and graduates, who did their studies abroad, do not get a suitable job. Most of them are compelled to live and work abroad. In my new environment jobs will be secured for all those youths lacking the opportunity. Many IT parks would be constructed across the country. Young people would get to know about ICT and its impact on their lives. I would organize a lot of seminars and talks throughout the country. I would request IT experts from overseas to share their views with us.

I would ensure that every school has some subject related to ICT, to computers. This modern subject will undoubtedly be the favourite of many. This would enforce the basic infrastructure for the intensification of ICT.

If I were Head of State in my country, I would bring the fastest possible ICT technology to Nepal. ICT is still in its infancy stage in Nepal. Many young people are deprived of such facilities, while those facilitated are not getting up-to-date facilities. ICT is changing very

rapidly. I would try to reflect those changes here so that young people do not have any problems with the understanding of changing ICT. I would also try to stop the misuse of ICT facilities; many youths use the Internet for chatting to a friend living in the next street or visiting dirty websites. I would make the Internet facility available throughout and make sure that misuse doesn't happen. Teachers in schools and colleges would be encouraged to give the students projects on modern topics available on the Net.

The country's economy depends upon the skilled manpower. Provide the manpower and no one can deny economic and social development.

Ms Zarina Tursunova
Russian-Tajik (Slavonic) University
Marketing in Telecommunications
Tajikistan

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

In my opinion Infocommunication Technologies is a part of market that can bring enormous profit for Republic of Tajikistan and the consequences of it is a rising of numbers of companies in our Republic. But the main positive factor of Infocommunication Technologies development – the rising of the level of development of country in general.

It is necessary to observe, that Tajikistan is currently overcomes huge difficulties on the way of receiving of independence. Years of civil war was a difficult time for country, but now the Government of Republic of Tajikistan affix maximum efforts for recognition of our country with most developed countries.

There is a rising of activity in Infocommunication area on this time. The level of development of communication companies is high enough, because most of them use new technologies.

As a person with management of organization qualification I can say that: nowadays the market of ICT in Republic of Tajikistan takes a good position and also has a good perspective of development, which can bring a contribution in Republic's development in general. It is necessary to stir up the investments in this area. Although Infocommunication Technologies needs to make big investments, it can bring a huge profit for Republic.

Nowadays, there is five operators of GSM standard are works in Republic of Tajikistan: ISCC, TTmobile, Tajiktel, Indigo-Tajikistan, Babilon-Mobile, Comencom. Most of them are joint projects in introducing and developing of this standard in our country.

Working and studying activity of mobile company I can make a conclusion that it is a successful project of North West GSM (Russian Federation) and Republic of Tajikistan. The permanent control of the level of qualifications of workers, using high quality technologies and software make allow to give quality communication service for people. The geographic position of our country is not very comfortable. There is 97% of whole territory of Republic makes up highlands, it is only one difficulty for communication companies. Consequently, for good service we must build more base stations, but it needs a supplementary capital.

The Youth Forum gives an excellent chance to young people to exchange views and dividing of working experience of communication companies which are in their country. The receiving of new knowledge and other experience with fresh young people's views and will bring a good result for development of ICT in our Republic, consequently the level of well-being of country will rise.

Ms Sophio Tvalavadze
Georgian Technical University
Telecommunications
Georgia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Extremely important steps were taken in the process of transmitting and receiving data and in the development of telecommunication systems in the second half of the 20th century. The information was and will be one of the most vital aspects of human existence. We can say that throughout time the importance of information will increase due to its widespread, borderless acquirement and transmission. It is convenient to transmit information worldwide with the maximum economy of time.

Each country of the world is engaged in different processes and the knowledge of them is as important for the rest of the world as global interests are important for that particular State. The interests of any country can fall in the sphere of global interests, and the process of globalization affects every country regardless of its geographic location and political system.

Georgia is a country situated on one of the most important crossroads of the world. It is slowly acquiring the function of the bridge connecting Europe and Asia. It was the historical role of Georgia that our country had lost long ago. Georgia is becoming one of the basic States of Great Silk Road, that demands the equipment of the whole parameter with the newest information and communication technologies. That's why as the Head of State I would probably take appropriate steps in this direction:

- first of all, I would devote my attention to the proper arrangement of communication systems;
- I would increase the role of youth through the promotion of education in this field. Young people will need to receive skillful and appropriate knowledge in the area of communication and technologies. This can be done by promoting exchange programmes, scientific conferences and exhibitions in different parts of the world. Young people will have to get acquainted with the experience of industrially developed countries, for the specialization of telecommunications in a new area for our country;
- I would incorporate the newest models of information and communication technologies, because it is widely accepted that information and communication technologies can contribute to the economic and social development of the country;
- I would improve the receiving-transmitting systems of underground channels and cables;

- I would dedicate the energy to engage in the whole network system of connection of different directions through fibre-optical cables; this would increase the capacity and speed of data transmission;
- for Georgia is viewed not only as a crossroads, but also an industrial country. It demands the highly organized, coordinative inner communication systems, which are still underdeveloped in our country. These include tax phone communications. To my mind, as a result of proper organization, it will be one of the most mobile, less costly and effective means of receiving and transmitting information. Because of its economic effectiveness, it can cover the non-homogeneous surface of Georgia. It grants an opportunity, in case of reliable operator, to be used in different directions. World experience proves that in those countries where station-cable networks are not properly developed (our country falls in this category), there is always a place in this sphere for the development of additional service of network tax phone systems.

The experience of those countries that produce and exploit tax phone systems show that the exploitation of tax phones of the new generation is particularly easy and convenient. For example, the French Ascom Monetel SA equipment is exploited in different countries of Western Europe, Asia and Africa. The incorporation of ISDN network in Internet system is also the effect of the modernization process.

The above-mentioned activities are the short description of the possible development of concrete tax phone network. Besides, the development of other systems is also vital. Cellular communications and mobile network are widespread in Georgia. The advantages of this system are flexible and fast transmissions that mean the amount of time saved by us, the income of State budget and even the saved life. This is the welfare of our country in general, as information is the most expensive product. It is necessary for every member of society.

Mr Rajkumar Vaishya
Indian Institute of Technology
Telecom Tech. & Management
India

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

We are in the information age. Massive computerization has changed the world as a whole than what it was about a decade back. This has also made the information a prime resource. Hence Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) play a very important role in the development of any country. It is seen that 1% growth in telecom leads to 3% growth in the economy in general. Also, since this is a highly technology-oriented field, it requires new ideas and zeal to carry it forward, which makes participation of youth in it a necessity.

If I am made the Head of State in my country, the policies I will be advocating for the role of young people in the development of the country.

If feel that awareness towards new technology is also necessary for development of the field. So policies should be such that, at college level seminars and competitions are held so that general awareness towards ICT spreads.

Cellular operators should be made to float tariff plans oriented towards youth. This will lead to the growth in the market of telecom since the customers will get carried forward. Young entrepreneurs should be given a boost by making policies to encourage them. Institutes offering courses in ICT should be encouraged by providing financial grants. Also, it is needed to maintain a good quality not quantity of such institutes. Steps should be taken towards this by carrying out inspections and industry surveys.

In ICT importance is given to knowledge. Hence it will provide equal opportunity to all classes of people. This will help in removing the divide in the society.

Hence by following these policies greater participation of young people in the development of the country by playing an active role in ICT can be expected.

Ms Sheetal Vallabh
University of the Witwatersrand
Communications Law
South Africa

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

"… a world where the chasm between rich and poor grows wider will be neither stable nor secure"

Jimmy Carter, "Challenges for Humanity, A Beginning", National Geographic, February 2002.

In South Africa the huge technological divide between the haves and the have-nots is a true reflection of the first world, third world dichotomy in which we live. However, there are always more pressing social needs that are addressed such as mal-nutrition, AIDS, housing development and education. It is rarely ever considered how access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) will help address these issues and improve the lives of the less advantaged South Africans which in turn will boost the socio-economic development of our country.

Enormous emphasis has been placed on health and welfare in South Africa. Students in all medical disciplines are now forced to serve a year of community service in the public sector. The rationale is to provide affordable medical services to people living in rural areas who cannot afford private medical care. However, there are not sufficient mechanisms in place to address the lack of access to information resources in disadvantaged communities in South Africa.

It is slowly being recognised that access to information and communication technologies (ICT's) means access to information about the economy, education, healthcare, national issues, cultural and social life. In order for South Africans to have access to these technologies, we need computers in libraries, schools and community centres. This is not where it ends. It is futile having access to ICT's if there is no access to training. The easy part is getting big corporations to donate computers and Internet access. The more difficult part is getting people to donate their time, expertise and knowledge. This is where the South African youth must play a role.

The first step is to target the schools that have. Privileged schools have access to computers, the Internet and e-mail. They run out-reach programmes and they also fund-raise and donate money to volunteer organisations. But they need to know what is needed out there. The Department of Communications (the DOC), together with the Department of Education (the DOE) should use these schools as a starting point to educate the youth on how access to ICT's will improve the development of South Africa as a whole. Scholars

should be encouraged to transfer their skills and train scholars from under-privileged backgrounds. They must be made aware of volunteer groups operating in these areas so that they can team up with these volunteer groups to help narrow the digital divide in South Africa.

There are thousands of students that register at tertiary institutions to study information technology and related courses. I suggest that students be given a community service option as a course elective. The university or technikon, together with the DOC can identify communities that need access to training in ICTs. In this way, the students are given an opportunity to develop their training and teaching skills and there is an effective transfer of skills at no extra cost to the government.

Access to ICTs is not enough. It is critical that there is training on how to effectively use ICTs and an understanding of the value of what can be gained from having access. Scholars and students have more to contribute than they think they can. In order to get the youth involved in transferring their skills, the DOC and DOE must educate them on the importance of ICTs to the socio-economic development of South Africa and the ways in which they or their schools or tertiary institutions can contribute.

Ms Belinda Valmont
National Institute of Education
Art and Design
Seychelles

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

We are moving fast in the technological world thanks to Information and Communication Technologies. Like other developing countries, Seychelles, is no exception. ICT has been introduced in work places, homes and schools. Availability of facilities such as the computer, telephone and television are of keen interest to our young people. These facilities, together with other optical-based communications methods, have been responsible for certain developments in our country and they have contributed to the economic and social development of the country.

Although very small, there is concrete evidence that ICTs have and are still increasingly contributing to our economic and social development. To continue building on that and make the development of my country a reality, if I were the Head of State, I would have the young people open to equal opportunities, whereby they would develop knowledge about ICT in terms of accessing, interacting, exploring and exploiting in order to develop a high level of consciousness of Information and Communication Technologies, about its importance and development.

In the Seychelles, schools computers are mostly available in secondary and post-secondary education only. Not only would I help increase access in these institutions, but I think that introducing ICT to younger children in institutions like Créche and Primary Schools would benefit our youngsters so that they would be socially aware at a very young age, knowledgeable and capable of using ICT equipment that would later benefit the country, since they would understand it as simply as their ABCs.

Creating a syllabus in schools and other institutions whereby ICT becomes a cross-curricular subject would greatly lead to the development of the country. Exposure to Internet facilities is common to some young people but it should be more so to others whether in schools or the community in Seychelles. If I were Head of State, I would make sure that reasonable prices were taken into consideration and set, in view that not all young people can afford to pay nowadays prices. The availability of Internet facilities in schools would also be greatly considered for Internet facilities, ones career or other opportunities.

In order to contribute to the development in the use of ICT, I would make sure that modern ICT equipment is available in all schools at all levels, so that young people will be widely exposed to Information and Communication Technologies, thus playing their part by exploiting these facilities. In order to do so a high standard and good quality of equipment would be made available in the country and affordable for everyone so that the majority of young people could own a computer and therefore have more exposure to the latter.

Finally, given my country's present situation, I would see it fit to improve on the standards of our schools, for it is where learning takes place and young people are exposed to possibilities that would later benefit our country.

Mr Ralph Vel
Coventry Technical College
Electronics & Communication Engineering
Seychelles

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

As the saying goes, The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow. As a leader of a nation I would ensure that youths from all districts would have access to the necessary tools to enable them to fully develop their potential as disciplined and intelligent, wholesome individuals. As a result, they would be capable of being a proactive participant in the socio-economic development of the country.

The Internet is a network of computers from around the world, containing a vast range of information which is essential for the educational development of our youths. It is also a media for communication with peers, as well as with others knowledgeable in areas of interest. This also includes using the Internet for voice telephony (VOIP).

At an early age, youths must have access to computers to develop the basic programming skills and learn how to use the Internet effectively as a learning tool. They must also be taught how to teach themselves. Therefore, it is imperative that PCs are available at affordable prices and also available at school, staring from the primary grade.

Seychelles consists of 115 islands with a population of around 80 000 inhabitants. There are around 20 Internet cafes located on the three largest islands of Seychelles. Internet access is not available on all the islands as there are no cost-effective means for delivering the service. Firstly, I would introduce a youth centre in every district with Internet access, printer, scanner and a webcam for videoconferencing events. These computers may utilize a shared telephone line, ISDN, DSL or wireless access link. Activities such as IRC, chatting, web-based bulletin boards, web page competitions, guest books, Internet training and newsletters would be used to stimulate interest. Youth centres would extend the school hours for those without a PC.

Various satellites provide downstream Internet access via television in the Indian Ocean (PAS-10 at 68.5 East). HF communications are ideal for long-distance communications and it may be employed for upstream Internet access. On all inhabited islands of Seychelles, people have access to a TV set for entertainment purposes, and dial-up via VSAT is too expensive.

Today, downstream Internet access via the WorldSpace radio is possible. Firstly, this technology must be improved. Reception from a WorldSpace radio must be capable of interfacing to a TV set (and wireless keyboard with mouse button), and have HF capability for upstream Internet. The radio could operate either with solar power or without batteries, using a wind-up generator. These are initiatives that a country leader should embark on so that frontier technologies are developed for the most cost-effective solutions for African problems.

Mr Emilio Villalobos
Universidad de Costa Rica - Facultad de Ingeniería
Ingeniería Eléctrica
Costa Rica

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

While it is true to say that our country, Costa Rica, is one of the large majority of developing countries, it should be noted that when we talk of a developing country a number of criteria have to be taken into account, the most representative of which are economic and social factors.

Moreover, we know that communication is the means of information used to establish relations between people. People learn what others know through conversation, i.e. we inform them of our knowledge.

Information and communication technologies can come to be a very important tool for a nation's development, since when people communicate and provide information about what is being done, everything runs more smoothly and the results of the work undertaken are of higher quality. For this reason, the use of communication technologies is very important, and this explains why this kind of technology is so highly developed with digital application systems making it very versatile, without compromising the security that is a prerequisite in any communication system. Satellite technologies have been developed to provide total coverage of the Earth, obviating the need to establish physical lines of communication. High-speed fibre optic systems have also been developed to transmit information, illustrating the fact that technologies employing physical means of transmission as well as those using only signals are well developed, and that both are very important.

Establishing extensive relations in the area of communication and information is not something very characteristic of the culture of a country like ours. However, the use of all the means at our disposal to communicate may develop this dimension. Moreover, young people are best suited to furthering communication and implementing projects that will improve current technologies. The fact that those technologies are very good does not mean that they cannot be made excellent, and this is exactly what we should strive to do by making all existing technologies as effective as possible and developing new ones that are far better.

By successfully involving young people in development processes, such as the one I have outlined, we are moving steadfastly in the right direction as regards the economic and social aspects which shape the state of a nation. This is because young people constitute the workforce that will be driving the country's economy in a few years' time, engaging in business and working in a series of professions that will ultimately have economic and social implications.

From what has been said, it is clear that information and communication are quite relevant to a nation's economy and society. In short, information and communication technologies enable us to live in the daily business environment, and by enhancing the quality of life, the social environment will be improved.

It may be said that information and communication technologies are a way of enabling us to keep up to date with what is happening around us, i.e. they are the most important way of permitting us to acquire knowledge, learn and train at the professional level in a given area in order subsequently to play a role in society and thereby contribute to the country's development.

Clearly, if the country's development is to be a reality, much effort and dedication is required from all of us. In addition, organization is required as well as a leader, in the case of a nation like ours it being the President of the Republic who is in charge. If I held that office, I would seek to foster the best possible communication among young people, and take full advantage of all the communication technologies currently available, the most popular of which is the Internet - a tool that should be used and administered in such a way so as to contribute to the development of the nation. I would also encourage all the emerging young minds to use their creativity to improve and develop more sophisticated technologies with multiple applications to enhance the quality of life and ultimately achieve economic and social development.

Mr Van Phong Vu
Institute of Technology (PTIT)
Electronics and Telecommunications
Viet Nam

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

For any countries all over the world, to establish an Ideal Economic and Society Form, it is neccessary to have a powerful infrastructure with many various economy sectors and have to determine the most important sectors to give priority to investing for development. The development of those sectors will promote the development of the other ones. One of the most important sectors in Economic Structure of any countries is Information and Communications Technology sector (ICTs). It is widely believed that ICTs can contribute to the economic and social development of a country. But the way from theory to reality is not very easy, it requires the State not only have logical and timely policies to develope but also have plans on training capacity and educating conscience for young generation, especially young inteligentsia, who will join a corps of future leaders in the ICT field.

In my opinion, if I were head of state in my country, the first thing I do for the young people is proposing appropriate policies in Education and Training to help the young people increasing their knowledgement on ICTs and enhancing their abilities of working in this field. Being a corps of future leaders in the ICT field, they have responsibility to develope ICTs for the country. In order to obtain that goal, Education and Training is imperative and important.

The young generation is always a dynamic and active forces, the vanguard forces in all fields of Society Life, they have high capacity of creativity and enthusiasm, ready to cope with dificulties and challenges. Due to their characteristics, they could adapt rapidly with the changes of environment, so they are really the neccessary and important corps in all fields of Economy and Society .Especially in ICTs with a feature of this sector is its continuous change and development: hour by hour, day by day, this allows young people have stable stand in ICTs. I would do the best conditions for them to join and work in ICTs, such as encouraging ICT companies and units to rejuvenate their officer rank, giving them the quantity norms of young advanced officer, etc.

It is obvious that the young generation is less experienced in working, they have good abilities but those abilities ought to be combined with experience of working in fact. So I would let them work in group with the experienced experts, they would exchange and inquire much highly valuable experience to complete works.

Besides that, in addition to increasing exchange relations and economic collaboration with all countries over the world, I would delegate many young officers to the developed countries for studying and researching follow international co-operation of labour trend, particularly in ICT field. Through that, the young generation would catch precious experience from development fact of those countries and update new technologies in the world. This enables them to complete and upgrade their capacity, raising their sense of initiative in working.

In my country, a developing country with Socialist oriented Market Economy, it needs to develope many economy sectors including ICTs. The ICTs is an useful tool to develope other sectors and is also an essential component of National infrastructure. The development of ICTs will promote the development of many other economy sectors. As a result, I, as the leader of the State, would continuously increase budget to upgrade material and technical foundation as well as technology transfer to attract Foreign Investment Capital for ICTs, and along with having logical economic policies to develope the other sectors of National Based – Economy. In my point of view, for any sectors, the young generation is always the neccessary and important forces, I am certain to use them as an key function.

Last but not least, I, with my acting position as a student of Hanoi Posts and Telecommunications Institute of Technology, will join ICT field directly and could become one of the future leaders in this field. In order to make it a reality, I must study and research more and more to enhance my knowledgement and improve my abilities, getting ready to work in ICTs in the future. Simultaneously, I need to continue inquiring working experience in ICTs from our predecessors, approaching to ICTs applications in fact, and should often follow up the development of ICTs to catch the progress of ICTs. All of those activities will help me much to work easily in ICTs afterwards.

Ms Sangay Wangmo
Sherubtse College
Information Technology
Bhutan

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

A synonym to oblivion or rather a big question mark was what Bhutan stood for in the minds of the rest of the world. Bhutan saw its first roads in the late 1960s, followed by the end of its isolation in 1974, when it opened its door to the outside world. Since then there's been significant progress in every aspect - from childcare to education for all. Introduction of the Internet in 1999 was yet another boost to the pace of development.

Some urban dwellers are aware of the cyber world but what about the rest of the country's population – the farmer or a child attending a rural school? With a large section of the population ignorant of technological advances, economic expansion has suffered.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is an increasingly powerful tool for participating in global markets; promoting political accountability; improving the delivery of basic services and enhancing local development opportunities. Telecommunications is the bedrock of the emerging information society. Without adequate telecommunications it would simply not be possible to take advantage of any of its opportunities. It is as critical as water, roads and electricity.

As the Head of State I would make modern telecommunications available to all and promote a robust, sustainable ICT sector. Thus transforming from a developing economy into a knowledge economy. Community Internet access points have to be provided and public information terminals should be installed for access to government services. Making the government more transparent and efficient, votes could be cast online and government documents made available. The nation should have a strong focus on using ICT to address equity - equity in the opportunities to acquire skills, equity in addressing the needs and challenges faced by people in rural areas and equity in terms of ensuring the right to access information.

Over 40% of the population is under 15 years; these people will be the next doctors, teachers and entrepreneurs. They must be sensitized to the potential of ICT. In this environment the key to Bhutan's success will be unleashing the creativity of its people. Nurturing creativity requires flexible, competitive, dynamic environments. This means building on reforms that emphasize openness – to new ideas, products and investment, especially in telecommunications. Following Sri Lanka's example, competition amongst the providers of ICT can stimulate the industry and lead to increased investment, connectivity and levels of service.

But competition is not enough. At the heart of nurturing creativity is expanding human skills. Technological change escalates the premium every country should place on investment in the education and training of its people. In the network age primary education alone will not suffice. Vocational and on-the-job training is required. When technology is changing, enterprises have to invest in training to stay competitive.

Establishment of broad technological strategies in partnerships with other key stakeholders and investments in ICT infrastructure can lead to improved access by reducing costs and extending coverage to additional areas. This can have a catalytic impact on enterprises and provide additional incentives for increased adoption of ICT.

Human development is about much more than the rise or fall of the national income. It is about creating an environment in which people can develop to their full potential and lead productive, creative lives, in accordance with their needs and interests. People are the real wealth of nations. Development is thus about expanding the choices people have, to lead lives that they value and it is much more than economic growth, which is only a means – if a very important one – to enlarging people's choices. Fundamental to enlarging these choices is building human capabilities - the range of things people can do and be in life. Technological innovation is essential for human progress. Like education, technology enables people to lift themselves out of poverty. It is a tool for, not just a reward of, growth and development.

Ms Cher Sing Wee
Nanyang Technological University
Electrical and Electronic Engineering
Singapore

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have a significant impact on Singapore's economy, as many industries are highly dependent on IT systems and applications. The infocomm sector in Singapore is a significant source of jobs, accounting for a workforce of approximately one hundred thousand people. ICTs also have a big influence on the social development of a country. For instance, the Internet provides a convenient means of communication for people from all over the world.

Singapore recognized the importance of ICTs and set up the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA), on 1 December 1999. The mission of IDA is to lead Singapore to become a global infocomm centre, catalyzing Singapore's transformation into a knowledge-based digital economy and society. A major project, Infocomm 21, was launched in year 2000 to support the mission.

The objectives of Infocomm 21 are to come up with a competitive e-economy, where every sector makes use of infocomm technologies to improve their projects and services, and a lively e-society, where everyone is connected. As can be seen, the government has put in much effort to develop the infocomm sector. In fact, Singapore was ranked the third most IT-savvy country in the world, just after Finland and the US in The Global Information Technology Report 2002-2003: Readiness for the Networked World. However, to achieve the goal of an infocomm-savvy nation, the participation and the support of the people is very important.

As we become more proficient users of ICT, we will demand better products and services from ICT companies, thereby improving the quality. Only with continuous improvement can we keep Singapore competitive. Therefore, we should constantly update ourselves with the latest developments in the infocomm sector.

However, there are a few barriers to acquiring infocomm skills. They are namely income, language and mindset. Low-income families may not be able to afford computers and therefore have no access to the Internet. Also, as the majority of the infocomm tools are based in English, those who are not proficient in the language will face difficulties in learning how to use them. Lastly, as the infocomm sector is always changing dynamically, it might be difficult for us to catch up with the developments, especially for late adopters. This may result in a phobia of learning new technologies.

Youths are in a better position to master infocomm skills, as they have lesser responsibilities compared to adults, giving them more flexibility in terms of time. They can then pass on the skills to those around them. This may be an effective way of learning.

The government has been very active in developing the infocomm sector in Singapore. In order to keep us in a favourable position, we have to be proactive and committed. Young people should assist the government in attaining the goal of a global infocomm centre, by being actively involved.

Mr Presley Jr. Wesseh
United Methodist University (UMU)
Nursing
Liberia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

According to the Oxford Encyclopedic (English Edition), edited by Judy Pearsall and Bill Trumble, the term "Youth", is defined as the state of being young; the period between childhood and adult age. Interestingly, the vigor or enthusiasm, inexperience, and an early stage of development are also associated with the definition of youth.

Youths, from this authority, posses great strength and vigor and as such, has many advantages that older people lack. From this perspective, there is a need for youths to make good use of their previous privileges to ensure maximum results before age grips them. What then, should be done to youths, and how, in turn, can they help their respective countries and the world at large? This research work is intended to provide satisfying answers to these thought-provoking questions.

## Youths – How can they be helped?

As a white sheet is intended to be occupied with good information to qualify its usefulness; so too, a youth's mind is blank with total inexperience. What goes in this mind, no doubt, is a greater determining factor, of how functional, he will be. Hence, it is very important that sound, basic informative, educative materials are inculcated into the vulnerable mind of youths. Anything less than this, that is, placing counterfeit, fabricated information into these young productive minds are bound to receive negative dissatisfactory results.

Truly and in all fairness, youths, in all walks of life, need the guidance and direction of the older folks. It is incumbent upon the older folks, then, to furnish the youths, with tenable education for more improved individual tomorrow. Parents should do everything within their vineyard, to give their children quality education. It is an open secret, that the attainment of quality education makes one very expensive, marketable and useful.

If youths, do not receive any training from older folks, they soon begin to find help from unnecessary sources, like that of their peers; a situation that is considered to be the source of the many of the problems in the world caused by youths. A youth is well linked to a blind man who needs to be guided by someone who is fully sighted. Youths who turn to their peers in search for knowledge in a particular field of life, is compared to "situation wherein a blind man leads a blind man", whose ultimate end will be falling into a pit. That is not the desired result.

Based on the above facts, one can clearly discern that youths are like “Clay”. That needs to be carefully moulded into vessels for honorable use. Therefore, the potters (the older folks), play a major role in making youths what they ought to be. Without their guidance, the future of youths will be doom and elusive. Why hang the future of youths in the balance?

Lest we forget, governments too play an important role in the development of youths. Like others, governments should develop deep interest in its young people, realizing the fact that they are going to assume the affairs of the nation tomorrow. Government should develop several social infrastructures; like equipped schools, hospitals, good roads, markets wherein the youths can utilize them to the fullest. By doing these and many other development-oriented issues, youths stand tall to boast of a better future.

## Youth – What can they do?

After acquiring the needed training and education from their parents, youths do well by applying their acquired skills for national and international developments. Youths should therefore be of great help to their caretakers and those who help them along the line.

There is an African adage that states, “as the parents and the nation take care and nurture the babies to grow teeth and muscles, so in the same way the young ones should take care of the elderly, down to their graves and also the nations that give them birth.

Not to be forgotten, is the grand responsibilities of focused youths towards their country and the world at large. “Not What My Country Can Do For Me, But What I Can Do For My Country”, should be the assertion of a youth towards the development of his country. Youths are responsible to promote good image of their nations. They must work assiduously to make its economy strong, financially potent of paying its civil servants and settling international arrears.

Avoiding the idea of a xenophobia, youths will take loving interests in other countries; a good start in contributing to word development. Youths, after perusing the records of history, should now begin making their contribution now to world peace.

Petit Youth organizations, small though they may appear to be, should be taken seriously by youths in this modern world. They need to use their expertise and experience now so that, it can culminate on the international scene. They need to be ambitious, knowing fully well that these efforts will be needed in the comity of nations.

What a happy experience that would be to see youths being transformed into serviceable and efficient men tomorrow, contributing to the overall development of their country and the world.

Miss Sakina Wetshy

University Protestante du Congo

Economie

Dem. Rep. of the Congo

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information and communication technologies are an important factor in the socio-economic development of countries.

They promote the reduction of poverty – which cannot be totally eliminated – and improve the living conditions of citizens, thereby enabling countries to be well organized politically and economically, to attain their goals easily and to achieve their aims without great difficulty.

Young people are part of the Congolese population and they are the future. They will play an indispensable role in the country's growth in terms of information and communication technologies. Those young people are to be found throughout the country, in schools, universities, clubs, etc.

For a prime minister who is aware of the importance of young people and their impact on society it would be best first to deal with their education and training, because information and communication technologies require instruction. In this respect, I would ask the Minister for Primary, Secondary and University Education to take the necessary measures to make young people aware of the importance of communication and information technologies and to improve educational programmes by including courses on those technologies, and I would make available to young people the infrastructure required to improve and implement their projects.

I would ask the Ministry of Youth to target all Congolese young people, no matter where they are, because not everybody has been able to go to school.

I would also ask parents to be our representatives to young people through the media, conferences, etc., because the family is the basic unit of a nation.

Young people have to adapt to new technologies and to increase their knowledge in computer subjects, notably the Internet. They must take good initiatives in terms of those technologies (the creation of public phone booths, the establishment of cyber cafés).

In the medium- or long-term, the Democratic Republic of the Congo could have a population of young people who are well trained in ICTs and who could use the knowledge they have acquired to develop their specializations.

We can say that these technologies will make it possible to do away with the world's borders, allowing for a permanent planet-wide connection.

Mr Khalid Yousif
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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

In this age of rapid technological developments, the advances in the field of information and telecommunication technology have made that sector one of the most important vehicles for economic and social development, especially in view of its role in the exchange of information and knowledge. Recent inventions and discoveries have underscored the primary importance of the sector.

If I were to be elected president of a country and were given the responsibility for realizing the aspirations of my people in the ICT field, I would utilize the capabilities of this sector to improve the life and well-being of the people of the country. To this end, the people and the Government should work closely together to secure a better and happier life for all. The measures to be taken would include:

1) Closer links with other nations and better education and training for the youth in the ICT field in order to enable them to achieve their personal goals and to promote the economic interest of their country, and to interact with the others inside and outside the country for the benefit of all.

2) Opening opportunities for the youth to work and study in countries that are advanced in the ICT field in order for them to acquire experience in modern technologies and to be able to use it for the development of their country.

3) Using the services of scientists and experts in the field of ICT from the developed countries to train the youth internally, and providing them with an environment conducive to creating a critical mass of experienced youth who would lead the country to development and progress.

4) Conducting international conferences that would attract expertise from the leading countries in the field of ICT.

In view of the unprecedented progress that is taking place in all fields, especially ICT, it is imperative that we follow the path of developed nations, not only to learn from them, but also to play our own role in the social and economic advancement of humanity and in the human civilization.

Ms Ratih Mayasari Zainuddin
Sekolah Tinggi Teknologi Telkom
Industrial Engineering
Indonesia

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

My country, Indonesia, has suffered from the economical crisis since 1998. It told the world how the bureaucracy had stolen the wealth of this country and its people. The downfall of Sobarto had brought down economy, social, moral and the dignity of my country. If I were the President of Indonesia, with the knowledge of IT as my background and supported by the young generation of this country as well, what would I do?

Since the main problem in Indonesia is corruption, our best hope to regain the trust of people is the e-Government system. E-Government provides not only the best online monitoring; it could also provide the real-time information and services to the people. If we can keep this we will gain the trust of the people. That would mean a very good development in social life. A clean government had always been a dream never coming true. When it does come true, Indonesia will no longer suffer the crisis. After all, we still have rich seas and forests!

What about the young generation? The information age is all about the young generation. Saberr Bharta, the father of Hotmail was only about 24 when he built Hotmail. But his creation has had a great impact on Internet services, and to the world. If he can do that, then we can do that too!

I realize that the older generation has more experience than us. They have the wisdom, but we have the brain and ideas. The technologies are in our hands. The young generation had proved to have a whole new paradigm about the future. Bharta is an example. Combine both generations and we will have a perfect team to run the country.

I'll have an IT Youth sub-department which would be placed under the IT Department. We'll run researches and studies and invent new ICT-based technologies as the solution on society's problem. We had known that any country which had implemented ICT-based technology would lead the future. If we can do that, industrial and commerce products will boost the economy of this country.

The eagerness of young people to tell their opinions often led to demonstrations. The government had always treated them as garbage. But these kinds of opinions are objective and often reflect the reality on society. I think the best way to get their opinions

is by creating a channel where they can actually say what they think, and we can actually show them our points on policies and law, in a convenient way. Nothing could provide better tools that the IT technologies. We can use message boards, chat rooms, mailing lists, doing teleconference with them, etc. These services could also be attached in our e-Government system.

As the young generation, we have the future in our hands. There are thousands of things that we can do with powerful technologies. With that, we will create a brighter future for our country and for the world.

Ms Farkhanda Ziay

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Technical

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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

It is a clear fact that the participation of the young generation in production affair of a country or a society is more conclusive and useful. Because they have sound and bright mind and a high level of force, which cause to achieve our purposes and wishes. So there is need to take care about them and preserve them from natural so adversities which conduct them into a wrong way, that is illiteracy and illegal affairs, we mentioned about the protection of juveniles which have gainful effects on the development of a community, then it is urgent need to prepare a method and a policy to attract their attention and organize a curriculum to edify and teach them.

To accommodate these roles in a real way, there is need for funding sources. The acceleration of their activities would cost to the benefit of their personality too. That is not important that the foundation or sources must be government a source, a family or civilians. Everyone has responsibility to participate in these kind of activities to have an acceptable population in the future. In brief, we can claim that the promotion and development of young people's competence and capacity affect well in a society. Their ability must be utilized for the goodness of desirous peoples. In short, they must be a positive gravity for a country and community. Young people have a key role, they can endure and compensate a lot of difficulties to bring prosperity and beatitude because of existence of their body power. If we consider the social and civil affairs of our country we can get a result that Afghans are more needy for youth's power. Because we realized completely, that during the two decades of war our country destroyed. The cultural literature system was damaged, even the branches of literacy exterminated. If we consider the above subjects carefully we will get the result that an essential need is for our young generation. So it is decorous that a governmental employer should furnish with conditions for this kind of population. Because their participation would eradicate misery in a society and would lead the community to a brighter future.

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Burkina Faso

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Information and communication technologies, a vital factor in development, are currently undergoing rapid expansion in a way that is changing the face of the world. In Africa, however, young people, who make up the largest section of the population, remain on the sidelines of this process.

In view of this situation, what role should the Head of State assign to young people in order to achieve social and economic development?

In Burkina Faso, information and communication technology is still in its infancy. The growth of information technology has spawned a number of educational establishments, most of which provide two-year training for high-level technicians. This level is insufficient to meet market needs. The Internet is still a luxury, and the handful of cybercafés that exist attract few customers.

Telecommunications are confined to the two cities of Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso.

In order to overcome this handicap, it is vital to have a young, highly-trained population capable of rising to the challenge.

At the local level, a large number of activities could be revitalized with a view to opening them up. Young people divided into groups by profession would be provided with training on the technology of the web and e-commerce. This would give a real boost to the craft and tourism sectors.

In the same vein, young people would attend courses on primary products such as cotton, in order to plan marketing strategies.

The development of rural radio, telecentres and cybercafés would allow exchanges between individuals all over the continent and the world, thus greatly increasing the opportunities for development.

At national level, a number of changes would be made to ensure the spread of information and communication technologies beyond universities and research centres. To this end, we would reduce the cost of computer and communications hardware and related taxes to a minimum, while creating the necessary infrastructure. If we were in charge of the country, we would give young people a lead role in decision-making in an information economy linked to the agricultural and industrial sectors. In business, young people would

be taught how to use communication networks. As Denis Ettighoffer put it: Sixty per cent of the value of a product lies in the thinking which goes into it. This intangible resource is not concentrated in companies, but diffused throughout electronic networks.

To sum up, if we were running the country we would place our trust in young people, as the lifeblood of society and effective agents for development. Our efforts would focus on three areas: infrastructure, equipment and training. Such a major step forward would have to be financed from local funds, international aid and self-financing.

Miss Abdou Ahamada Zouhayat
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Gestion Administrative et financière
Comoros

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

In our time technology, the source of a country's development, has become an important tool in its own right for realizing national objectives.

Rapid and effective technological change has turned the world into a giant village, thanks to information and communication. These resources must be made easily accessible to young people, who should be introduced to these motors of change and progress with new technology.

Young people are more interested in technology than are adults, and they are more ready to indulge their imagination and creative side. They particularly appreciate the usefulness of modern tools to situate themselves within the historical perspective and in their own time.

Thus, young people strive furthermore to achieve their ideals through information and communication technologies, since they represent a country's potential and form the dynamic element from which society draws its future leaders.

At the same time, modern information and communication resources must be provided in all the key development sectors that are of interest to young people, putting those techniques within the reach of all young people, as a means to a better future.

To gain the maximum possible benefit, these young people will need both technical guidance and moral support. They must be involved in key sectors where they can acquire appropriate experience and learn to appreciate the responsibility that comes with taking major decisions.

Finally, they must be provided with financial assistance in realizing their projects, within the framework of the development programme of the country.

Miss Elieth Zuñiga Rojas
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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Although my country, Costa Rica, is small with an area of 51 060 km2 and a population of 3 264 776, it has achieved a good level of development as far as information and communication technologies (ICTs) are concerned. Generally speaking, throughout the country, technologies such as the telephone, radio and television are within reach of almost anybody; we also have more advanced ICTs, such as mobile phones and the Internet, but these are mainly to be found in urban areas.

However, it is always possible to do more, and we need to continue to work in the area of ICTs; and as this is a project to improve our future, I think it is essential to train young people, who will go on to shape the future of the country. This is why, if I were head of State, I would give young people the opportunity to learn about the different ICTs and prepare themselves to be better leaders, growing together with the country while respecting the human side of each and every one of us. To achieve this, I would seek to ensure that young people had access to ICTs from an early age, and that they and their instructors could learn and teach using ICTs. I would also advocate critical and thoughtful use of ICTs to ensure that, while benefiting from its capabilities, we do not sink into ignorance.

This is why I believe that we have to highlight the importance of introducing new ICTs throughout Costa Rica, in urban as well as rural areas. This will mean destroying a number of stereotypes, such as the belief that progress in information and communication technologies is of no benefit whatsoever to people such as farmers. This of course is wrong: we know that ICTs bring great benefits to all, such as reducing distances.

However we should take this path with great care, since although it offers many benefits, there may be disadvantages, such as a loss of the human touch. Here I am referring to the loss of good and positive customs associated with being Costa Rican. For example, while a mobile phone is something very common that has greatly facilitated communication, it can distance us from our loved ones if we do not use it appropriately: people may think that because they are able to speak to their mother at any time, they do not have to go and see her, this being a negative factor in my view.

In conclusion, the most important thing is to begin building a better future from now on. However, we should not expect others to do this for us, but should find a way to contribute to the development of our country and to that of whole world. This is within reach of every human being; all that is needed is a little more effort.

Ms Jenny Cheung Nga Fai

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"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

Since the 20th century, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have been developing at a fast pace, leading to rapid economic and social development. In order to sustain the growth of ICTs, it is young people's mission to advocate for the indispensability of ICTs.

## To advocate by education

First, youths have to act as educators. ICTs are for everyone in the society. Young people should teach both the children and the elderly to grasp basic knowledge about ICTs. Young children are prone to accept new ideas, they get used to new technologies quickly under guidance. It is important for young people to teach children the ethics for making use of the Internet and to guide them to browse websites that are educational.

The elderly may not get used to new technologies so readily, therefore it is important for young people to assist them in learning to use the computer. In addition, the elderly may not have trust in new technologies. Young people should let them know how beneficial ICTs are to their daily life. Moreover, first-hand experience should be given to the elderly to help them build up trust in ICTs.

## To advocate by usage in different sectors

Secondly, usage of ICTs in all sectors of the society should be advocated for and young people should be the pioneers to apply ICTs to different sectors, by making use of the technologies and improving the relevant facilities. Take education and e-commerce as examples.

ICTs provide effective channels for e-learning. For instance, in Hong Kong, during the days when schools were closed due to the spread of Atypical Pneumonia, university students got a lot of resources from the Internet, by, for example, reading journals on the Internet. Lecturers communicated with students via emails and electronic bulletin boards. Young people should make good use of these channels to learn, to show that learning is not stopped by class suspension, and to let all members of the society know that e-learning is efficient.

While e-commerce provides an important source of wealth to the society, as consumers can shop anytime, anywhere, there are people lacking confidence in the security of e-

commerce. Young people should use their knowledge to educate the public on how to use e-commerce in a secure manner and to keep improving the security systems.

### To advocate by international exchange

Last but not least, young people should not only advocate for the indispensability of ICTs in their home countries, they should also do this in other parts of the world. International exchange enables young people from different countries to share their opinions and to learn from one another. In addition, international exchange is also a means for people from the developed countries to promote ICTs among people from the developing countries, so as to help bridge the digital divide in the world.

To fulfill the important mission: TO ADVOCATE, the ITU TELECOM WORLD 2003 YOUTH FORUM is definitely a valuable opportunity for us, the young generation !

Mr Steven Yang Shing Lung
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Electronic Engineering
Hong Kong

"It is widely believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the economic and social development of a country; if you were Head of State in your country, what role would you have young people play to make this a reality, or to make the development of your country a reality?"

There are a lot of young people in my country who are ICT-skilled. However, they only take up a very small portion of the total population. I would provide more opportunities for young people to equip themselves in schools and to train them up to bring a brighter future for our society. In my opinion, the roles of ICT-skilled young people are 'initiators' or 'starters' to promote ICT skills to others and 'developers' to develop new technologies. Suggestions for performing these roles well are given below.

Young people with computer knowledge could teach those with less experience in using the computer and the Internet, especially those in rural areas. I would allocate more resources to rural communities to provide Internet access at schools, libraries and community access points, so that citizens in rural ares could use the computer and surf the Internet with technical support for free or at very low charges.

In order to attract more citizens to surf and use the web effectively, I would encourage young people to develop portals by granting more resources to them to provide contents adapted to local culture, capacity and capability, such as developing Internet-based communities. In this way, we could get people living in the same district or having similar interests together to build up a huge people network across my nation.

Most of the web pages on the Internet are written in English. I would encourage local institutions to develop simultaneous interpretation programs to translate web pages in foreign languages into Chinese, so that citizens could overcome the language barriers. Furthermore, I would support developing more cyber-learning centres using the Chinese language. My citizens could make use of these cyber resources to add value to themselves.

Most of the computer equipment and programs were developed by the Western countries. Prices of these hardware and software are high. For the benefits of the economy of my country, I would encourage local institutions to set up more research teams to develop our own computer systems, programs and applications.

To raise funds to establish a service-based or technology-based company is always a great challenge. I would set up enterprise funds for young graduates with brilliant innovative ideas to set up their own ICT companies. These companies would promote national industries. We would no longer have to rely on imported services, programs and hardware. Prices and availability of these products would be controlled by our own market. Consequently, more citizens could afford to buy computers and access the Internet.

Teenagers are our future leaders. The above examples of roles for teenagers to play in connection with ICTs in the economic and social development of a country are not meant to be exhaustive. Economic and social developments in my country are rapidly growing. I am sure there will be more and more brilliant young leaders in the field of ICTs in my country. I am confident that China will play an important role in the worldwide ICT market in the coming decade.