

BCO Reporting

Reporting period: January 2006 to July 2006, Association for Progressive Communications

Purpose of the BCO Alliance is to investigate, mobilise and support key ICT4D opportunities that impact poverty.

Outcomes	<i>This half's activity(ies) – short description</i>	<i>3 Key lessons and implications for the BCO work</i>	<i>3 key successes and implications for the BCO work</i>	<i>Collaborations in support of activity – with both BCO and non-BCO partners</i>	<i>Snapshot next 6 months activity(ies)</i>
1. ICD has been mainstreamed in development sectors	<p>GLOBAL POLICY ADVOCACY</p> <p>APC's interventions focus on keeping developing country participation, access and capacity building on the agendas of the IGF and other post-WSIS processes.</p> <p>Themes we prioritised have been access to knowledge, access to infrastructure, and e-waste.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IG: The Way Forward, DIPLO, Malta, February - Consultations on the IGF and WSIS implementation, Geneva, February: APC presented proposal on capacity building and lobbied to keep development issue on the agenda of the IGF - Geneva Information Society Week, May: ActionLine meetings: C4-Capacity Building, C6-Creating Enabling Environment, C2-Infrastructure; and consultation on convening the IGF, - Centre for International Governance/DIPLO - WSIS follow-up meeting, UK, June - www.itu.int/wsis/c4-c6/index.html, www.itu.int/wsis/c2/docs/may-18/10.doc, www.intgovforum.org/ <p>APC events</p> <p>APC and The London School of Economics Department of Information Systems, convened a panel on Internet Governance, Rights and Development at LSE, July with Markus Kummer, Michael Stanley Green – Aarhus Convention, a Microsoft security expert, and LSE and APC staff</p> <p>Research and publications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APC research on WSIS – Phase 2: the involvement and impact of developing countries – completed and to be published - Research for UNDP on 'ICT in the context of MDG-based Poverty Reduction Strategies: strengthening policy support to decision-makers and engaging stakeholders'. - Collaborative and Networked Approaches to Global Communications Policy Research and Reform Conference, Bellagio, February 2006 - Teleconference on "Developing Global Public Policy for 	<p>IGF is the only significant WSIS follow up space. Implementation based on Action Lines not likely to have much impact.</p> <p>IGF and GAID are experiments in global multi-stakeholder participation. WTO and WIPO are global policy spaces but not premised on multi-stakeholder participation. IGF and GAID are spaces for dialogue rather than negotiation or decision-making. The question is whether they can influence or add value to global policy debate on ICD in PRSP processes, the WTO, WIPO or even ICANN. Thus far the jury is still out. ICANN has been influenced, but, as APC's WSIS research indicates, multi-stakeholder processes tend to only take hold in forums where the stakes are not particularly high, e.g. internet governance.</p>	<p>Persistence bore fruit. The IGF is meeting for the first time under the overall theme of 'Internet Governance and Development' and includes access as one of its four broad themes. We argued that access is a governance issues. Many civil society groups disagreed, but developing country governments supported the idea.</p>	<p>WSIS Civil Society Internet Governance Caucus ITeM, UNDP ITU HIVOS DFID CRIS members Ford Foundation, PANOS DGIS</p>	<p>Workshop proposals (access, content regulation, environment and ICTs, privacy and capacity building) for the IGF meeting in Athens from 30 October – 2 November 2006.</p> <p>Launch of an 'Information Society Watch' report, to be produced annually, in partnership with IteM.</p> <p>Research, capacity building and advocacy into open access in Africa AND LAC.</p> <p>LAC ICT policy learning event, November 2006</p> <p>Finalisation of French version of <i>ICT Policy: A beginner's handbook</i> in French</p> <p>WCCD panel with Panos London on infrastructure, October</p>

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	<p>Communications over the Internet”, organized by Funders Network on Trade and Globalization, May www.fntg.org/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APC discussion papers: ‘The importance of convergence in the ICT policy environment’ and ‘Lowering the cost of international bandwidth in Africa’ (English, French) rights.apc.org/papers.shtml <p>Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) Some APC nominees appointed to GAID’s Strategy Council, Advisors and Champions. www.un-gaid.org/</p> <p>Access to Knowledge Active participation of members and staff in A2K Conference Yale, New Haven, April; Asia Commons, Bangkok; May and iCommons iSummit, Rio, June.</p> <p>ICTs, environment and sustainability programme Presented workshop on ICTs, ewaste and impact on the environment: SANGONeT conference, Johannesburg, March. Progress on IT & environmental sustainability portal /network</p> <p>World Social Forum Co-organised CRIS workshop, WSF, Caracas, January 2006.</p>				
	<p>NATIONAL ICT POLICY ADVOCACY Support for national processes in Uganda, Bangladesh and India working on gender, broadband and access to information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CATIA Activities: Ongoing national ICT policy advocacy processes in DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal. - CATIA National Animators’ Workshop, Johannesburg, July 2006. www.catia.ws - ICT Policy Training and Advocacy in Ecuador and Bolivia - National ICT policy portals: Bulgaria, Argentina, Mexico, DRC and new portals in Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Pakistan, Cambodia, Egypt rights.apc.org/policy_sites_list.shtml - APC ICT Policy Workshop 28 June - 2 July 2006, London identified common challenges in national advocacy - Beta version of ICT policy trainers community platform launched in English, Spanish, French rights.apc.org/training/contents/ictpool_en?set_language=en - New ICT policy curriculum units on ‘Engaging the Media’ and ‘Open Access’ 	<p>Networked approaches to research and advocacy on open access models and other ICD policy issues need to be actively pursued at national and regional levels. The success of a multi-stakeholder network – KICTANet – in taking forward a participatory and inclusive approach to ICD policy advocacy should be studied and replicated in other national policy spaces.</p>	<p>The CATIA process of promoting a multi-component approach to catalysing access to ICTs in Africa is coming to a successful conclusion. At the level of national advocacy, it does indicate that networking and capacity building can have a positive effect on national ICD policy environments.</p>	<p>DFID IICD APC members , EED WOUGNET BFES IT for Change</p>	<p>Completion of CATIA project on 31 August and ongoing support for national campaigns</p> <p>Meeting with African national policy advocacy partners and APC African members.</p> <p>Ongoing support for national advocacy.</p> <p>Development of ICT policy trainers community platform</p>
	<p>REGIONAL ICT POLICY ADVOCACY Africa, LAC and South Asia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Africa ICT Policy Monitor africa.rights.apc.org/ and new site on bandwidth www.fibreforafrica.net - Consultative Meeting on the EASSy submarine cable 	<p>Work on the EASSy cable project involved net-working between DFI’s, governments, private and public sector operators, academic networks,</p>	<p>Regional multi-stakeholder advocacy and working with the media on concrete ICD issues like open access</p>	<p>HIVOS CIPESA CIPACO BFES Bellanet</p>	<p>Follow up on SAT3 and EASSy</p> <p>Project with Research ICT Africa on</p>

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	<p>project in Mombasa, March www.fibreforafrica.net/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NEPAD eAfrica Commission Meeting on EASSy in Pretoria, April, www.eafricacommission.org/docs/media_releaseapril6_EASSy_cable.doc - Regulators' workshop on the SAT3/WASC/SAFE cable on the West coast of Africa in Johannesburg July www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=5039175 - CIPACO's 'ICT Governance and post WSIS strategies in West and Central Africa' regional workshop, July, Senegal <p>LAC ICT Policy Monitor lac.derechos.apc.org/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IICD Training Workshop, Bolivia, February - Advocacy on eLAC2007 Action Plan: The IV European Union (EU) – Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) Ministerial Forum on the Information Society in Lisbon, Portugal April 2006 - AMARC Roundtable in Lima May 2006 - Seminar 'Internet Governance and ICT Policies' Quito July <p>APC South Asia ICT Policy Consultation Meeting, Dhaka, April 2006 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, www.apcasiaictpolicy.net</p>	<p>int.l orgs, donor agencies and civil society orgs. This process bears studying with a view to replication in other regional contexts on ICD policy issues.</p> <p>Around SAT3 APC has prioritised working with regulators as they can in fact, with the necessary support, impact on pricing of international bandwidth.</p>	<p>to EASSy has positive outcomes: EASSy has opened up.</p> <p>APC's ICT policy advocacy workshop in South Asia incubated a regional networking process which needs to be developed further.</p> <p>Mauritian regulator sharing what they did to lower cost of SAT3 with West African regulators was hugely successful. Regulators have requested we develop a price setting toolkit.</p>	<p>CRASA Balancing Acti OSI OSIWA IDRC CATIA DFID AfrISPA LINK Centre InfoDev South Asian ICD organisations and networks AMARC LAC, WALC NetTel</p>	<p>regulation and international fibre.</p>
	<p>GENDER and ICT POLICY ADVOCACY</p> <p>GenderIT.org: www.genderit.org Sp.Port.www.genderit.org/esp</p> <p>REGIONAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organised panel on gender at 9th Internet in Public Administration conf/Local and Regional Info Soc/Visegrad Group for Developing Info. Society, April www.issc.cz/loris/www.genderit.org/en/index.shtml?apc=a—e94245-1 - Presentation on Telecentres and Women Entrepreneurs". at UNECA E-strategies workshop for Central Africa in Douala, June - Women and ICT Panel at 5th Digital Inclusion Workshop, Porto Alegre, Brazil, June, organised by Brazilian gov. in partnership with civil society organizations - Presented gender ICT policy advocacy strategy at Symposium on Policy and Strategy for Digital Opportunities from Gender Perspectives, Asia Pacific Women's Information Network Centre - APWINC July, Seoul <p>National</p> <p>Cambodia: APC is gender adviser to I-REACH (Informatics for rural empowerment and community health) a 3-year universal access project of IDRC and Cambodian gov.</p> <p>Czech Republic: APC WNSP facilitated session on women,</p>	<p>Some policy processes acknowledges importance including women. But lack of experience, capacity and 'will' hampers follow through. Effective gender advocacy has to focus on issues of interest to specific constituencies and identify gender components in every policy agenda. This requires resources, partnerships and constant monitoring of critical global policy issues that potentially impact on women and dev-elopment.</p> <p>Effective advocacy requires ensuring that women participate in policy processes at all levels.</p>	<p>GenderIT has provided continuous visibility of gender advocacy on a global level and is a voice for women's opinions. It has also contributed to deepening of gender perspectives and analysis of ICT4D.</p> <p>Meaningful participation of women in policy processes, workshops, meetings, negotiations result in stronger advocacy and more substantive gender content in policy .</p>	<p>HIVOS, DFID, SDC, IDRC, APC WNSP network, APC and WNSP Members, WOUGNET, I4D, IDRC Friedrich Ebert Foundation</p>	<p>GenderIT will continue to produce material and resources for advocates and policy makers with a focus on the IGF</p> <p>Documenting lessons towards the development of an advocacy kit for engendering national ICT policy processes.</p> <p>Partnerships global and regional advocacy networks focusing on women's and gender issues through APC's policy advocacy work..</p>

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	ICTs and e-government for annual meeting of women's mayors in Czech Republic in Ostrava, May.				
2. Stronger voice and debate enabled by ICT4D (ICD)	<p>Rural women Collaboration with ModemMujer's Rural Women and ICTs Project: The project trained rural women from Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile and Argentina in ICT strategic use to become active change actors in their communities. A workshop was held in Mexico City, April, where organisations shared their experiences in testing software created to sensitise people on women's rights, gender and ICT issues. modemmujer.org/mujerrural/</p> <p>Genardis small grants programme: A knowledge sharing and GEM workshop for partners and participants was organised in Entebbe, Uganda in July. www.apcwomen.org/genardis/</p>	<p>Trainers need to know the community well, be sensitive to cultural barriers, and interact with the women on range of issues, not only technology.</p> <p>Introducing women to ICTs opens doors to core issues e.g. health, VAW, citizenship.</p> <p>Rural women in local organisations are more receptive to training and new ideas. NB to encourage women to participate in community affairs, affirm their right to equal opportunity and encourage local orgs to let women participate.</p> <p>GENARDIS demonstrates that there is great demand from rural development orgs for ICT integrated into projects that focus on rural women.</p>	<p>215 rural women trained in gender and ICT issues in four countries: Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador and Chile</p> <p>The model created by Modemmujer has been refined according to the results of the workshops and has now been distributed to other organisations in the region that work mainly on ICTs for development and other women's organisations</p>	<p>ModemMujer, Telecentro Comunitario and Telecentro de la comunidad de Traiguén, Chile, Compartel, Colombia, Telecentro Comunitario El Chaco, Ecuador, Programa Redes, FLACSO- Chile, Women's Network, Uruguay</p> <p>CTA, IDRC, HIVOS, IICD, WOUNET</p>	<p>Results of ModemMujer project being presented at Digital Inclusion Workshop, Porto Alegre, June, Know How Conference, Mexico, August.</p> <p>APC in discussion with IDRC and other partners about a project proposal for a rural women and ICT in several Latin American countries.</p> <p>Next phase of GENARDIS will be discussed after completion of evaluation, October 2006.</p>
	<p>Gender Evaluatoin Methodology Capacity Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delhi, April. Workshop with 19 participants from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and 3 IDRC staff www.apcwomen.org/news/index.shtml?x=94163 - Sao Paolo, Brazil, May. Workshop with Rede Mulher de Educacao for 30 popular educators, members of Rede Mulher de Educacao (29 women, 1 man). - Prague, Czech Republic, May. GEM presentation in the workshop "Country Led Evaluations and Systems: Practical Experiences of the Central and Eastern European Region" organized by International Development Evaluation Association for development evaluation practitioners from CEE, including new EU countries. www.ideas-int.org/WhatsNew.aspx?show=359 - Sao Paolo, Brazil, May. Training of "Young Feminist Women", a Brazilian organisation of journalists that has groups organised in several cities in Brazil. <p>Consultancies APC WNSP is currently conducting two project evaluations: the</p>	<p>Building capacity in gender evaluation remains a critical need and effective strategy in mainstreaming integration of a gender perspective in ICT4D. Our experience demonstrates that the GEM tool and GEM workshops can be adapted to diverse audiences – from telecenters to academic researchers, donors, evaluators, educators and others. The increasing demand for training in the use of the GEM tool and assistance with evaluations also requires building more capacity within APC's WNSP.</p>	<p>Participants of the various GEM workshops have unanimously expressed positive feedback particularly about ensuring that gender issues and women's needs are addressed in project development.</p> <p>There are more requests for GEM workshops in India, Dominican Republic, Zimbabwe and Cameroon.</p> <p>GEM II is expected to develop new resources, train more GEM users</p>	<p>DFID, DGIS, IDRC, Datamation, Rede Mulher de Educacao, Dnet and APC members</p>	<p>GEM II Project APC WNSP is negotiating GEM II, a new three-year research and capacity building project with IDRC. The GEM II proposal is currently being finalized and the project is expected to commence in October 2006..</p>

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	GENARDIS project and a research project by DNET (an ICT4D organization in Bangladesh) We have been contracted by IBM in the Czech Republic to help encourage schoolgirls into careers in ICT.		and develop a knowledge network for gender and ICT evaluators.		
	Gender and ICT Awards Confirmation of GKP sponsorship of 3 awards for gender and ICT policy initiatives among GKP members. There will be 2 other prize categories that will be open to all applicants supported by APC www.genderawards.net	Sustaining interest in an awards program is a challenge and needs long-term commitment before it attracts more widespread support. WSIS spawned awards. We need to rethink our awards to ensure sustainability and value.	Awards intend to create awareness of need to focus on women's empowerment. Winners report that the recognition results in donor support and motivates their organisations.	GKP, SDC, DFID	Fundraising for 2007 awards. Developing partnerships with organisation who can sponsor awards.
	APC News/Noticias: broader coverage of issues Story features on Betinho Prize 2005 finalists and winners who use ICT for economic development: Chilean (foss-based) telecentres and Brazilian radio/telecentres for women. Submarine cables and lower-cost connectivity: APCNews has given broad coverage of SAT3, Eassy and the Asian cable situation and campaigns. The Gender Digital Divide in Francophone Africa: A Harsh Reality , ENDA, Senegal, translated from French and digitised by APC. It questions if women will really benefit from the digital revolution. www.genderit.org/resources/africa_gender_divide.pdf	APC's distributed team of writers and bloggers provides wide coverage of issues in ICD. BCO partners can draw on them if needed.	News team expanded to include native English, French, Spanish writers specialised in ICT and social change. APC staff writer, based in Goa, India, focuses on FOSS, and mobile telephony in poor communities. Partnerships with media has been very effective in submarine cable campaigns	Betinho winners FLACSO-Chile, CEMINA, Brazil Eassy Campaign partners including Balancing Act ENDA-Synfev, Senegal	New APC websites developed in English, Spanish and for the first time French and (limited version) Portuguese Six editions of APC News and Noticias Introduction of APCNouvelles to coincide with launch of new French site
	ItrainOnline - Ongoing development and maintenance and newsletter - Improvements to monitoring system - Improvements to backend - Attended Management of International Networks for Knowledge Sharing workshop, Switzerland, April - Attended NetSquared conference, San Francisco, May - Attended Telecentre.org "open curriculum" meeting. Toronto, June - Telecentre.org joins partnership	"Tools" terrain is changing rapidly – need to keep up-to-date with emerging trends to serve target audience Need to engage community of trainers more actively	Consolidation of partnership Increased learning about monitoring and evaluation of online tools	DFID OneWorld Bellanet IICD INASP UNESCO FAO Telecentre.org	Partners' meeting in October in Rome. Mapping ITO in relation to other open curriculum learning resource initiatives and exploration of collaboration opportunities
	ActionKit - Tenders awarded and work nearing completion - Participated in eCampaigning forum, Oxford, January - Participated in ICT Policy Portal Workshop, London, June	"Northern" and "Southern" e-campaigning terrain and awareness of tools are very different		DFID CATIA 1c national partners APC members and networks	ActionKit release as part of CivicSpace Advice service on setting up campaign sites and choosing tools
	Wireless Capacity Building - West African Francophone workshop, Dakar, January - Update of English language materials	Many in target audience have poor connectivity which hamper access to materials	Large number of applications for workshops demon-	IDRC OSI ESMT (Senegal)	Planning for second project phase

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - French and Arabic translation of materials - North African Arabic workshop, Morocco, July and - Public release of French and updated English materials 	<p>Selecting workshop participants with existing projects increases impact of training.</p> <p>Case-based learning method can serve as a model for other trainings</p>	<p>strates demand.</p> <p>Strong communities of practice emerging around workshops – scope for expansion.</p> <p>Translation of materials into Arabic and successful training in Arabic can serve as an inspiration.</p>	<p>Wire.less.dk CUWin Al Akhawayn University Individual partners</p>	<p>Project evaluation Planning for LAC wireless project</p>
	<p>FOSS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning for FOSS prize to recognize initiatives which make FOSS accessible to the lay person - Section on ActionApps documentation site for training materials - Participated in Transmission.cc conference in Rome, June (“gathering of video makers, programmers and web producers developing online video distribution as a tool for social justice and media democracy - Africa Source II partner, January 2006 	<p>Need to provide decision support/decision support tools around FOSS: wealth of choice is confusing to users</p>	<p>Pre-training of women in FOSS by APC AAW ensured better gender balance at Africa Source II</p>	<p>APC members Tactical Technologies</p>	<p>Launch of FOSS prize, August, Mexico City by APC member LaNeta.</p> <p>FOSS training for women at KnowHow, Mexico City, August</p>
<p>3. Poverty impact of ICT4D (ICD) evaluated and disseminated to key development audiences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BCO impact study on national policy processes with IICD - Participation in BCO impact group - Completion of independent evaluation of APC Communications and Information Policy Programme from 2002-5 - GENARDIS evaluation 			<p>IICD</p>	<p>APC mid-term strategic plan assessment. Ongoing work on impact study with IICD Participation in BCO impact study</p>

Abbreviations

- IGF – Internet Governance Forum
- IG – internet governance
- GAID – Global Alliance for ICT and Development
- LSE – London School of Economics
- IteM – Third World Institute
- CIPACO – Centre for International ICT Policy, West Africa
- CIPESA – Centre for International ICT Policy, East and Southern Africa
- AfriSPA – African Internet Service Providers Association
- OSIWA – Open Society Institute, West Africa
- WOUGNET – Women of Uganda Network
- BFES – Bangladesh Friendship Education Society