

Appendix 4

National ICT policy websites: site structure and background to existing sites

Process to establish initial sites¹

The existing national ICT policy sites were established with support from CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency).

EED support will be utilised to:

- maintain and further develop existing sites for a limited period of time as participating organisations are expected to sustain these sites on their own
- establish additional sites
- central coordination, technical support, and editing of pooled content (shared content)
- facilitation of collaborative planning among all the national sites
- evaluation

APC will subcontract each participating organization with the contract outlining the deliverables and payment schedule.

APC chose to have a competitive tendering process for the seed funding used to establish the existing sites. This contributes to the sustainability of the sites as it ensures that only organizations with active interest participate. Funding for new sites will be distributed in a similar fashion. There was overwhelming interest from APC members in developing national WSIS portals. Twelve members participated in the activity thus far and more have shown interest should additional funding be available. They are from Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Italy, Mexico, the Philippines, South Africa, Spain, the UK and Uruguay.

Although the extent of interest in and engagement with the official WSIS process varied from country to country, all agreed that the WSIS process had provided leverage to generate interest in national ICT policy issues at the local level. In the cases of South Africa, Spain, Mexico and Uruguay pending national elections was a motivating factor in generating greater public debate around ICT policy and 'Information Society' issues.

In that context, the sites are designed to have a clear focus on the WSIS process and WSIS follow up and implementation, but also to provide a broad platform for civil society organizations to learn more about ICT policy and become more involved in ICT policy processes in general.

During the first phase we conducted the tendering process followed by a consultation with participants to map out site structure, content, language issues, content-sharing and cross-linkage strategies. Other tasks included:

- final technical work on the database to implement content-sharing across servers distributed around the world
- developing a 'pooled' multi-lingual news feed for the APC Site
- significant website content updating

¹ http://rights.apc.org/policy_sites.shtml provide more information on the sites and interviews with site managers.

National site structure and content

The first phase of the work has focused primarily on the structure of the national sites, working from a common template, allowing for flexibility for national contexts, priorities and language. All sites have been designed with an interoperable database driven backend content sharing system (Action Applications and Movable Fixed Type).

Sites cover the following broad areas of content.

- ICT policy
- News
- National ICT policy legislation – national developments and WSIS implementation
- Gender and ICTs
- Resource directory
 - o regional resources, organizations, annotated website, mailing lists, and links to APC resources
- World Summit on the Information Society
 - o general background information
 - o WSIS in your country
 - o getting involved
 - o resources
 - o Links to all other sites

All sites will have calendars, a basic search engine and in the longer term, newsletters. Members also have the flexibility to dynamically generate newly needed categories or menu items through the content management system (for example 'Regional Directives' on the UK site and 'Multi-stakeholder partnerships' on the FMA site (please see table below).

The sites currently contain little content. This is not for lack of available content but rather that it has been important to focus during this first phase on building a solid structure which will accommodate a sustained and sophisticated multi-lingual (English, Spanish, Catalan, French and Bulgarian) distributed content-sharing system in the longer term. We are confident that the sites will become useful content-rich resources.

In addition to content members already have, additional content will be generated in the second phase through ongoing collaboration with national stakeholders as highlighted by our members in the Philippines and Australia:

FMA Philippines: "FMA has contacted key people in the Philippine government who were part of the Philippine WSIS delegation, informing them of this project and soliciting some content pieces coming from the government for inclusion in the Philippine WSIS portal. Though little content has been developed by the Philippine government, indicative of its limited participation in WSIS Phase I, FMA continues to network with strategic persons within the State. A meeting will be set to discuss WSIS Phase II plans.

FMA also plans to convene a meeting of Filipino NGO stakeholders of WSIS who were in Geneva (e.g., Women's Hub, Youth Volunteers for Sustainable Development, FIT-ED, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, and staff of Isis International Manila, etc.) to coordinate with them on content sharing."

C2o Australia: "Broad participation in the portal will be invited on the basis of a statement prepared by APC describing the project. This will include the National Office of Information Economy, the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, Community Broadcasters Association of Australia and the Australia WSIS Civil Society Roundtable convened by COIN Internet Research Network (COIN-IRN) at Central Queensland University and the Centre for Community Networking Research (CCNR) at Monash University."

Language

During phase one, members translated their site menus into Bulgarian, French and Spanish with plans to publish critical content in Tagalog in the Philippines. By the end of the second phase (2005) content will be available in all five languages and 'pooled' in a combined newsfeed on the APC ICT Policy site.

Content-sharing

The member sites have been designed for easy content sharing between national sites with the APC regional ICT policy monitor sites and the APC ICT policy portal. The APCWNSP is also developing a database driven gender and ICT policy monitor which can then be linked into with the content-sharing mechanism.

Impact on future work

The methodology we have used in developing this network of inter-linked sites, based on common templates which can be easily adapted, modified and translated, has proved a very powerful one for collective community content development. It has encouraged and inspired over-burdened members to collaborate quickly and efficiently as the development work has been managed centrally. We are confident that this methodology can be applied to future collaborative content development.

Participating Sites (as at July 2005)

APC sites	Work-in-progress URL	Language
APC ICT policy and internet rights (revised)	http://rights.apc.org http://derechos.apc.org	English/Spanish
APCWNSP gender policy Site	http://www.apcwomen.org/summit/policy/index.shtml	English
APC Africa ICT policy monitor	http://africa.rights.apc.org	English/French
APC LAC ICT policy monitor	http://lac.derechos.apc.org	Spanish
National sites		
Argentina, TAU	http://cmsi.tau.org.ar	Spanish
Australia, C20	http://wsis.apc.org.au/	English
Bulgaria, Bluelink	http://www.bluelink.net/wsisis/index.shtml	Bulgarian/English
Colombia, Colnodo	http://cmsi.colnodo.apc.org/css/	Spanish
Democratic Republic of Congo, Alternatives	http://wsisdrc.gn.apc.org/index.shtml	French
Italy, Unimondo	http://www.wsisitalia.org	Italian
Mexico, Laneta	http://www.laneta.apc.org/cmsi/	Spanish
Philippines, FMA	http://wsisfma.gn.apc.org/index.shtml	English/Tagalog
South Africa, SANGONeT	Not yet available	English
Spain, Pangea	http://wsis.pangea.org/	Spanish/Catalan
UK, GreenNet	http://wsis.gn.apc.org	English
Uruguay, Chasque	http://wsis.choike.org/	Spanish

All participating members will include links to the APC site, regional monitors and national sites