

**BUILDING COMMUNICATION OPPORTUNITIES (BCO)
BCO BI-ANNUAL MEETING
JOHANNESBURG 18-20 FEBRUARY 2007**

9. EVALUATION / REFLECTION SESSION

1. Most interesting / important / striking learnings? What have you learned about your partners' work or conditions which will be helpful to your work? Include the Learning day.

APC:

AMARC's spectrum policy work

Very interesting learning day especially the video on web2.0 and digital story telling

HIVOS

Windows movie maker tool

Lots of learning on BCO group dynamics and processes

Media sector

PANOS: All presentations were interesting and are being shared around Panos London.

PSA: Hivos Star project and the digital story telling from learning day

OWA

The learning day was very useful in terms of knowing some of the options and possible solutions to some of the challenges we have been faced with for some time. Particularly the digital stories, wireless and online resources. I could also see possible areas of collaboration with APC and Women's Net in capacity building of our staff and will explore these further.

OWSA: Participatory approaches, time management, in-depth discussions, taking leads from the presentations and common discussions to specific results oriented discussions

AMARC: Its important that BCO partners are committed to push impact assessment work

IICD: Confusions over definitions of impact study. Make use of impact workgroup discussion.

2. I am committed to the following bilateral and/or collaborative projects as a result of this meeting:

HIVOS

PANOS civil society organizations research to cooperate with in civil journalism programme.

PANOS

"BCO think-tank" role, and in short term collaboration on Spectrum allocation and advocacy for low-cost connectivity, as discussed.

Also bilateral with HIVOS on civic journalism.

Also seeking collaboration with all partners re CSOs as communication intermediaries, as discussed.

PSA

e-Health proposal with OWSA and IICD

Community radio project with AMARC and OWSA

Knowledge transfer on community radio with AMARC

OWA

Exploring shared connectivity with Panos and IICD in Zambia;

Looking at Universal Access funds and lobbying to review/broaden the conditions for using the same. This we could do jointly as BCO but I know that APC and Amarc are interested.

OWSA

Learning and replicating IICD's e-Health initiatives in India and Nepal and HIVOS's mobile phone technology for India

Collaborate on the community radio for C4D which both PSA and OWSA have submitted proposals independently to AMARC. Scope exists to work together as BCO partners.

Participate in the online discussion on CSO as communication intermediaries with Panos London and Hivos.

AMARC

Work with Panos London/APC and others on technical policy and R&D/think tank

Work with OWSA and PSA on community radio in India and Nepal.

APC:

Technology policy R and D/Think Tank and advocacy process which includes, in the short term: research and publications AND interventions at the WRC, the IGF, and GK3

Discussion, possible action on bandwidth cooperatives with One World Africa

Follow up with Kitty on the 'CSO as communication intermediaries' work.

BCO presence at GK3

IICD

IKON (e-Health) for India and Nepal

3. Suggestions for next time around the process? Reporting format?

HIVOS

Process went well. Bit disturbing that people left the meeting half way on the last day

Good that there was an outside facilitator

Media sector

IICD

Programme was too tight - Need more time for relaxing

Reporting was ok

The learning day first was a good idea

Discussions on calendar should be more efficient

Logistics, etc was excellent

PANOS: Process was good

PSA: Process, reporting and group work was fine

OWA

Starting with a learning day was a good idea and so was having an external facilitator.

Reporting format - giving partners the option to choose a project that they should share is very good, it allowed for more discussion and appreciation than if people are rushing to report on everything. I would not change this though I still think we should submit a written report with all the other information.

OWSA: Support format as per this meeting

AMARC: More focus on future areas for collaboration/joint working.

APC:

Learning day first, use the same facilitator for every meeting, even if it might seem expensive

Reporting format: use it as a base for the 'case presentation'

Format used at this meeting was dynamic and very participatory. Liked open small group discussions focussing on the issues that emerged from the reports.

1. Any other comments or suggestions?

PSA: More reflection time

OWSA: More time for group discussions, possibly 3 day meetings for BCO and one day for learning.

APC:

Practical hands on learning days work well

Learned a lot about BCO and each of the partners (APC staff member based in Montevideo)

Other comments:

- OWSA: First I would like to once again congratulate you and to thank you for a well planned meeting. In terms of content and process I think it was one of the better BCO meetings I have participated in. This somehow did compensate for the disappointment of the accommodation.
- Lauren: this was a great meeting, with participation from the heart, this meeting process represent more closely my vision for BCO. Thanks to APC for hosting BCO and Anriette for her ongoing support. Thanks to all for great and full participation.
- Marjan: I would not want Lauren's job, which is being done very well.
- Anriette: this meeting is a strong manifestation of how useful it is to have Lauren to ensure continuity.
- Anriette: We have also had a great facilitator who says Go Forth!!