

Plus! "How-to create
your own Campaign"



LOCAL VOICES GLOBAL VISIONS

A compilation of results from the
2003 WSIS National Information Society
Youth Campaigns



A TakingITGlobal Publication

© 2003, TakingITGlobal

A member of Youth Creating Digital Opportunities
www.ycdo.net

Published by TakingITGlobal
19 Duncan Street, Suite 505
Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5H 3H1
www.takingitglobal.org
info@takingitglobal.org

Compiled by: Nick Moraitis
Translation: Alex Fielding
Design: Andrew Willis

This publication is based on the reports and inputs of:
Abdallah Diwan, Adrian Pintillie, Amruta Unkule, Cyriaque
Didier Kouma, Damian Profeta, Diogo Andrew de Assumpcao,
Emre Koyuncu, Eugeniu Graur, Guyverson Vernous, Katja
Pfeiffer, Laura Fresco, Leopold Armah, Lionelle Samnick, Maja
Andjelkovic, Mateus Fernandez, Pearl Jumo, Robert Sagun,
Sonali Unkule, Sylvanus Murray, and others.

**TakingITGlobal (TIG) is an international organization,
led by youth, empowered by technology. TIG brings
together young people in more than 200 countries within
international networks to collaborate on concrete projects
addressing global problems and creating positive change.**

www.takingitglobal.org

Local Voices – Global Visions, a compilation of results of
the 2003 National Information Society Youth Campaigns,
has been funded by the Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation as part of their contribution to the Youth
Creating Digital Opportunities Coalition.

The Youth Caucus wishes to express its sincere thanks
to the Government of Canada and the Swiss Agency for
Development and Cooperation for their inspired global
support of national youth campaigns.

Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Youth at WSIS	4
Key policy input	5
World View Map	6
Country Profiles	
Brazil	8
Cameroon	11
Gabon	13
Ghana	15
Egypt	18
Haiti	19
India	21
Moldova	24
Nigeria	25
Philippines	29
Romania	31
Senegal	32
Sierra Leone	35
Togo	39
Turkey	41
Country Profiles in Brief	
Argentina	43
Belarus	43
Canada	43
Germany	44
Japan	44
Netherlands	44
Tunis	45
Ukraine	45
Timeline	46
Lessons and Recommendations	48
Campaign How-To	50

Introduction

Information and communications technologies have brought about revolutionary changes impacting every aspect of our society – connecting cultures, creating new opportunities for education, restructuring employment, generating new economies, and changing citizens' relation to government. Recognizing these and other paradigm shifts, the United Nations is hosting a World Summit on the Information Society, in Geneva in December 2003. The Summit, the major UN event of the year, is an opportunity to bring together world leaders to create a shared vision for the information society, produce an Action Plan to ensure equitable access to technology, and harness ICTs for development - in areas such as education, the environment, health, and sustainable livelihoods.

Youth are creators and consumers of technologies ranging from mobile telephones to email, to instant messaging, radio and television. As both business and social entrepreneurs, youth are creatively using technology to address community needs. Clearly, if it is to achieve its ambitious goals, the World Summit needs to engage young people, the path-breakers of the ICT revolution. At the same time, youth often lack mainstream support and participation in decision making processes, as well as networks, communication, and continuity for their initiatives. Considering that 50% of the population in developing countries- and most of the IT experts- are 'young', engaging with youth is a must, not a choice or 'PR extra'. For young people therefore, the Summit presents an opportunity to mobilize support, build awareness and take action. And youth have taken up this challenge, self-organizing an incredible array of diverse activities at every level.



This publication tells the invigorating story of grassroots activities led by youth to “take WSIS local” – out into the communities, and direct to their nation’s capitals. From Sierra Leone to Brazil, India to the Philippines, young people have been implementing a vibrant series of workshops, prime-time interactive radio programs, media outreach, video conferences, websites and more. They’ve held meetings in community halls, gone into schools, published email newsletters, trained other youth in technology skills at internet cafes, talked with decision-makers, and implemented concrete local projects.

The campaigns have provided space and support for young people to come together, share experiences on information society issues, and dialogue with key national policy makers on ICTs as a tool for economic and social development. In many countries, this has already occurred at the highest level, with the involvement of Ministers, senior government officials, key NGOs, and bilateral development agencies. The campaigns have also have strengthened youth networks and fostered collaboration - new national-level support structures and projects are beginning to take shape from Africa to Asia.

The campaigns demonstrate the true capacity of youth around the world to organize high-profile, large-impact activities that truly engage their peers in a meaningful way. They reflect the potential combination of committed people, decentralized Internet-enabled networks, and very modest funding, to efficiently empower civil society activity on an international scale. And most importantly, they demonstrate the need for governments worldwide to engage young people in ongoing dialogue around national e-strategies and policies, and to feed such input up into global decision-making processes.

The Youth Caucus truly hopes this engagement is a beginning and not an end, and hopes additional support will see the campaigns flourish and expand through until Tunis 2005 and beyond.

I hope you find this publication a fascinating read!

All the best,

Nick Moraitis, 20
Facilitator of the Youth Caucus
November 2003



Youth at WSIS



National Youth Campaigns come within the context of broader youth activities around the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society.

- **Involvement in the Global Policy Process:**
Hundreds of youth have attended the global preparatory meetings held since July 2002. Youth have run and spoken on high-level panels, hosted receptions for delegations, lobbied delegates, liaised with civil society and business, and published daily newsletters.
- **Building the Youth Creating Digital Opportunities Coalition:**
Nearly twenty key international organizations committed to realizing the potential of youth using ICTs for development have joined a coalition to help implement the Summit's commitment to youth.
- **Creating a Community of Youth active around ICTs:**
A vibrant online community, mailing lists, and a newsletter have been established, centered around *YCDO.net*. These provide platform for youth leading ICT initiatives to network, tap into resources, share best-practices, and find out about news and events.
- **Activities at the Summit:**
The Youth Caucus is hosting a vibrant series of activities and events at the Summit, including a Youth Hub space at ICT4D, workshops, book-launches, and the announcement of the YCDO Youth Awards.

Key policy input

1. Realize the potential of young people.

Young people are some of the most active creators and consumers of information and communications technologies. Those under 25 make up more than 50% of the global population. Tapping into young people's expertise and enthusiasm should be considered an essential component of any national ICT strategy.

2. Create access to technology.

While new technologies have the potential to create new opportunities, the reality is that the vast majority of the world's populations have limited access to radio and print media, let alone computers and the Internet. Different stakeholders in local communities, especially youth, need to work with governments to promote access through tele-centers, community media programs, and educational institutions.

3. Integrate technology into education in a meaningful way.

Technology must be mainstreamed, and not merely incorporated, into school curricula. IT must become an integral part of all disciplines, from the humanities to the sciences, and not be confined to computer science classes, as is too often the case. Students and not only teachers can be a gateway to the information society. In school youth are often overlooked as a source of technological expertise. Youth should be encouraged to share their ICT knowledge through peer-to-peer learning, and contribute to the creation of meaningful curricula.

4. Promote youth employment and entrepreneurship.

Unemployment rates amongst young people are consistently higher than that of the general population. ICTs provide new opportunities for job creation – youth themselves are providing entrepreneurial leadership in ICT industries, creating jobs for themselves, and for others. Youth need support for their enterprise – a 'level playing field' and access to financing and infrastructure. Further, government regulations must be created that ensure safety, equity, and job security in the workplace.

5. Support rich, locally relevant content.

Promoting the development of expression online, and ensuring it remains free and accessible must be one of our key goals. Encouraging creation of local content in local languages on the Internet, helping citizens interact with government services, access local news, and experience their own culture is vital to ensure the information society is relevant to young people's day-to-day lives.

6. Engage youth in follow-up.

National campaigns have successfully engaged thousands of youth. Now, governments should actively involve young people in their WSIS activities – taking on board their inputs, including youth in their delegations, supporting youth during the Action Plan's implementation, and consulting youth on follow-up and evaluation. Young people hope each campaign has planted a seed for ongoing youth engagement in national ICT policy-making and activities.

World View

21 countries

5 continents

30 regional + national conferences

200+ Workshops

40+ radio programs

5+ television programs

5 video conferences

100,000+ brochures

50+ media stories





© = National Youth Campaign

Brazil

During the months of October and November, young people from all around Brazil participated in many different events ranging from video conferences to meetings with government representatives. Young people in Brazil were heard and will continue to work hard to make WSIS relevant for the every day lives of people – from big cities to small rural communities.

Network to produce educational materials

The National Campaign partnered with the Brazilian Scouts (Brazil's largest youth organization) to create a simple yet creative way to involve young people in discussions around themes related to the WSIS and ICTs for Development. A guide was created to inform Scouts about WSIS and to involve young Scouts in local and regional decision making process.

Around 75 young boys and girls aged between 11 and 15 years have used the guide to help in the development of activities including creating *newsletters* as a space for information sharing, *issue-based workshops* to explore the different themes, *a game* that helps identify priorities and debate ideas raised during the process, *an Action* that is aimed to give a practical approach to the ideas chosen such as running a workshop about digital inclusion.

"We understand that developing these activities our youth will be benefiting themselves and helping to build a more participative and inclusive society"

- Carmem Barreira, Coordinator of the National Commission of Youth Program for the Brazil Scouts Union



Videoconferences

Two videoconferences were held, involving 50 people in 6 different cities. The first, held on October 12th, set the stage, informing young people across the country about the WSIS process and briefing them on youth participation in this global Summit. During the 2-hour conference, the participants were presented with the challenges involved in WSIS, shared their vision for the information society and together discussed a strategies to bring the WSIS to a regional level and have more local youth involved on the process. The second Videoconference was used to coordinate the workshops and to further discuss the youth participation on the WSIS. As an outcome the participants decided to "carry on with the actions during the next year, fostering the participation and inclusion of young people in all levels of the Information Society, respecting and valuing regional differences in the use of ICTs to realize the potential of youth to create digital opportunities".

Websites in Portuguese

Language is one of the great barriers to overcome to better involve youth in the WSIS process. To help breach the language barrier, Brazilian youth teamed with other organizations in the development of the first website in Portuguese totally focused on the Summit. The website www.cmsi.org.br has been running since June and has acted as major source of information in Portuguese about the summit.

Another website was established to focus specifically on Brazilian youth activities. The website, www.interagir.org.br/comunicando, is the result of the collaborative work of young people in 3 different cities. While undergoing constant development, it is already widely known by young activists involved and/or interested in the WSIS.

Workshops

Regional workshops were organized to encourage grassroots debate on the information society. Five workshops were organized in five different cities: Brasília, Natal, São Paulo, Curitiba and Bélem. Each workshop was carefully designed to be replicable and adaptable to local needs and conditions.

With more than 80 participants, aged between 14 and 25 years, there were a variety of interesting perspectives shared:



What is Digital Inclusion?

“Digital Inclusion is not only to provide access to ICTs, but mainly knowing how to use the information received. To recognize the ICTs as means to achieve community goals, aiming to a fair, democratic and equalitarian society.”

How to make information society more accessible and relevant at a local level? *“It is unanimous the opinion that FM and AM Radio are the most popular, accessible and close to our reality technology, therefore Radio is a excellent mean to disseminate information and spread the concept of ICTs for development*

Brazil

Conference

The last event was a national youth meeting held on the side of the Brazilian government's multi-stakeholder working group on WSIS. For the first time, young people were major participants within a workgroup organized by the Brazilian government for a United Nations event. Taking advantage of a pre-scheduled meeting of the working group, young people from different places gathered together for a four day meeting in the capital, Brasília. A document was drafted outlining the views and thoughts of the Brazilian youth around the Information Society, and the participants were also able to fully join the workgroup meetings, along with important representatives of the Federal Government, Civil Society and the private



sector. The declaration called 'Letter of Youth Leaders for the Information Society' was also read in front of all participants of the meeting.

The young participants had the privilege of meeting privately with the Minister of State, Marília Sardenberg, where they were able to present the Youth Declaration and talk about ongoing youth involvement in the WSIS process.

"We want to guarantee the participation of youth in this process, not justifying it because of our age, but because we believe that young people are able to act positively and responsibly and to offer valuable contributions for the process".

- A point from the national youth declaration.

Cameroon

At the forefront of the information revolution, leaders of youth associations of Cameroon came together November 1 – 8, to learn more about WSIS and to transform the culture, experiences and know-how of their respective associations into concrete collaborative projects. This cultural and technical exchange will drive the implementation of actions for an information society at the service of sustainable development and national unity.

The general objective was to reinforce the capacities of youth for local ICT for development projects and involve a greater presence of youth in the WSIS process and related activities. More specifically, this meant:

- training participants in techniques of information, education and communication linked to the information society
- forming partnerships between youth associations and other Civil Society actors
- producing a Declaration and Action Plan for the promotion of WSIS by the Cameroon youth. This document is available at:
<http://www.ycdo.net/projects/cameroun>

Partners:

- Collectif des Associations de Jeunes Camerounais (Federation of Cameroon Youth Associations)
- Ingénieurs Sans Frontières- Cameroun (Engineers Without Borders Cameroon)
- Groupe de Promotion et de Développement des Jeunes (Group for the Promotion and Development of Youth)
- Taking IT Global



The National WSIS Youth Campaign in Cameroon revolved around seven interactive prime-time radio programs and a WSIS Seminar for young leaders:

Interactive Radio Programs

November 1: "Experiences of Youth," 10 young leaders participated in a radio program about their experiences in the different economic, political, social cultural and religious situations in the information society. The purpose is to bring to the fore opportunities and barriers, motivations and resources in the work to diffuse information, knowledge and wisdom.

November 2: Titled "The world in through the eyes of youth". Three young professionals in the information society make the link between WSIS and the Millennium Development Goals

Cameroon

November 3: "Information Society, Sustainable Development and National Unity: A Vast Program." This radio show discussed conflict resolution when natural resources become scarce (water, land etc), its impact on sustainable development and a simulation exercise analyzing the causes and effects of a conflict

November 4: "Global problems and local solutions." Eight young refugees living in Cameroon focused on national mechanisms to promote the information society based on their varying perspectives.

November 5: "Social and economic needs". 15 young sociologists discussed the concept of social "insecurity" (poverty, social exclusion and vulnerability), the role of social services, the concepts and measures of human development, and especially the link between economic growth, poverty reduction, the information society and sustainable development

November 6: "Burning Issues." 20 young street kids spoke on subjects they see as most pertinent: health, water, nutrition and electricity. In response to these crucial problems, the opportunities and limits presented by ICTs on community development, capacity-building, education, ethical issues of technology, sustainable development and especially the potential for ICTs to promote equitable development (age, social class, gender, disability etc.) were highlighted.

November 7: "Culture, popular participation and the information society." It was necessary to finish the series of radio shows with what is at stake in the World Summit on the Information Society. For the 10 young student

participants, a young citizen in a changing world must work to minimize cultural homogenization in the promotion of the information society.

WSIS Seminar

On November 8th Mr. Olivier Nana Nzepa, President of ANAIS Cameroon, met with hundreds of leaders of youth associations to discuss themes around WSIS and collectively draft a Cameroon Youth Declaration.



Gabon

In the context of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the Association Gabonaise des utilisateurs de GNU/Linux et Logiciels Libres (AG3L) (Gabonese Association for Open Source Software) organized a Gabonese WSIS Youth Campaign in the cities of Libreville, Franceville and Port-Gentil. AG3L has been actively involved in the WSIS preparatory process in the African Regional Meeting in Bamako, Mali in 2001.

The national campaign was made possible by the support of the following partners:

- TakingITGlobal
- Ecole Nationale de Commerce de Port-Gentil
- L'Université des Sciences et Techniques de Masuku à Franceville



Official Launch and Press Conference

The campaign was officially launched November 1 at a press conference at the Hotel Novotel Rapontchomo of Libreville. Cyriaque Didier Kouma (President AG3L) and Edgard Mandrault (Secretary General AG3L) discussed what is at stake in WSIS, how to involve youth, and the role of AG3L. All journalists were given official documents on WSIS (brochures and CD-Roms). Having been present at the press conference, journalists diffused the information in the following public and private media outlets:

- Union Plus (national daily newspaper)
- La Relance (newspaper)
- La Lowé (newspaper)
- La Nation (newspaper)
- La Radio-diffusion Télévision Gabonaise (public television – Channels 1 and 2)
- La Radio Panafricaine Africa N°1 ; (public radio)
- TV+ (private television)
- TéléAfrica (private television)

The press coverage around WSIS following the press conference introduced thousands of Gabonese youth to WSIS and began the momentum for the national campaign. Reporters congratulated local efforts around WSIS, but were also skeptical of the concrete outcomes that would result as compared to past UN conferences. They also raised the need for further efforts around ICT capacity-building and the financing of infrastructure to ensure universal access.



WSIS Conference in Franceville

This momentum was continued by a WSIS Conference at the Université des Sciences et Techniques de Masuku in Franceville on November 8, 2003. WSIS-related themes such as open-source software, financing of infrastructure, internet governance, capacity-building and ICTs for sustainable development were discussed at length by participants. The first speaker of this conference, M. Cyriaque Didier Kouma presented the role of AG3L in WSIS, in order to promote open-source software and universal access to vulnerable Gabonese youth. Another key aspect of the conference was training sessions on initiating concrete projects using ICTs for a more sustainable human development. The result was defining a national Gabonese youth vision for the information society.

WSIS Conference in Port-Gentil

A second conference was held in Port-Gentil around the history, themes and purpose of WSIS. The information revolution is converging telecommunications, radio, multimedia and the internet to offer new opportunities in the social and economic livelihoods. It is fundamentally changing many aspects of our lives, and so that this new society benefits the whole of the international community, it is necessary to create bottom-up, multi-stakeholder dialogue towards an information society for all. An interactive discussion around these themes followed the opening speech by Edgard Mandrault, allowing the youth of Port-Gentil to input the WSIS preparatory process.



Response from Participants

The majority of participants were students (university and high school level), teachers and representatives from local youth associations. The response was very positive in that the campaign reached out to youth in the interior of Gabon, which is rarely the case. There was much hope around the event and a movement to scale up the national campaign during WSIS Phase II. However, many participants were skeptical of the tangible outcomes to respond to the national concerns around financing concrete projects, capacity-building, and the development of technological infrastructure.

Another theme of common interest was the movement towards open source software and a more human information society; a society of solidarity, harmony and respect for cultural and linguistic diversity. The important and unique role of civil society was also reiterated to hold governments accountable in implementing the Action Plan during Phase II.

This national campaign on WSIS received the moral support of the Minister of Information Technologies and the Presidency of the Republic of Gabon.

Ghana

From national events, to national media appearances, school-based competitions, to internet training sessions, Ghanaian youth carried out an extraordinary campaign to engage their peers in the WSIS spirit...

National Two-Day Youth Forum

Young people from all across Ghana descended on the capital Accra on the 24-25 October, for a two-day *National Youth Forum on ICTs for Development*. Held at a conference center donated by West Africa's largest Internet cafe, Busy Internet, the event was attended by 120 youth, many of whom traveled for days - up to 700km from Northern Ghana, to participate.

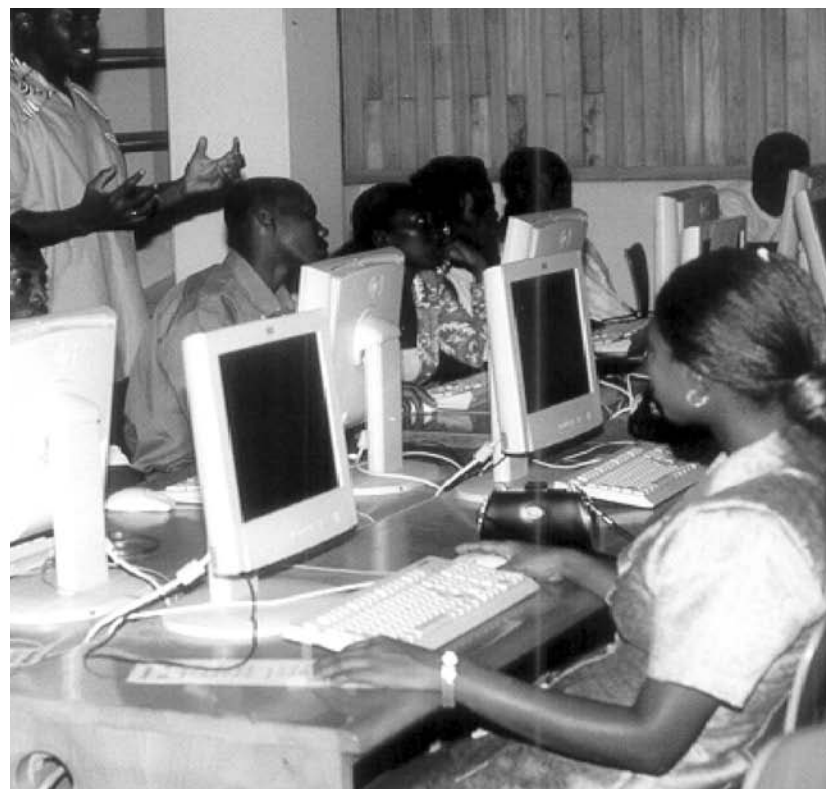
The event brought together ICT stakeholders to discuss the role of youth in the Information Society with young people themselves. Speakers and active participants included:

- Hon. Kan Dapaah (Minister of Communications and Technology)
- Mrs Awortwi (Director, Science Education Unit of the Ministry of Education)
- Madam Eva Lokko (Director General, Ghana Broadcasting Corporation and consultant to UNDP)
- Mr Wayne McKenzie (Representative of the Canadian Ambassador to Ghana).
- Prof. Ansu-Kyeremeh (Coordinator for Ghana's input to WSIS and Director of the School of Communication, University of Ghana)

The conference included a wide variety of sessions – from the most basic training for some youth who were having their first interaction with computers, to the key moment when the youth discussed the present state of the country,

the potential of technology for Ghana's development, and the role of young people with Professor Clement Dzidonu (Coordinator of the National ICT Policy Framework).

A second conference, for the Central Region of Ghana was held at the Town Hall at Winneba in the Central Region of Ghana, with 300 participants from high schools in the region, as well as young people leading ICT organizations and representatives of the government and industry.



Ghana

ICT Essay Competition

More than 200 essays were received from youth aged 13-18 as entries in a nation-wide competition. The competition was held to gather inputs from youth from across Ghana towards the national WSIS youth declaration. The competition was launched at the POWER Summit held in September by TakingITGlobal Ghana, with the winning submission published in "Junior Graphic", the widest circulation newsmagazine for youth. Mr Jamaldeen from Naverongo in the Northern Region (700km from Accra) was announced as the winner at the National Youth Forum – taking home a desktop computer donated by Technonet Computer Company and Kadmann Computer Center. The top ten finalists also attended a reception with the Minister of Communications and Technology.

Media Encounter

Radio is the most widely distributed form of media in Ghana. To raise awareness on the WSIS process and explore youth perspectives, national campaign organizers hosted a phone-in program on *Choice FM* (the leading talk radio station in Ghana), and secured a weekly one-hour slot on the "Computer Link" program on Radio Unvers (broadcast from the University of Ghana) each week throughout the month. The programs featured reports on WSIS, discussions between youth and key figures in Ghana's WSIS delegation, and profiled partners in the national campaign. A final show, broadcast live from the National Youth Forum, interviewed the winners in the ICT Essay Competition and other delegates.



Declaration

With one voice, the youth of Ghana presented their opinion on the way forward for national development through the Information Society with a declaration highlighting their priorities.

Declaration Text:

The Youth Agreed That:

- The advertisement of ICT should be intensified by the Government.
- Development partners, private sector, non-governmental organizations, community based organization and other benevolent organizations should be encouraged to help by providing schools with computers and other items to promote information and communication technology (ICT).
- Companies, co-operations and other bodies who import computers and other accessories and enjoy tax-free should be socially responsible for the promotion of ICT.
- Computer lessons should be included in the school curriculum.
- ICT should also be made an elective subject in the senior secondary schools.
- Heads of schools should be informed and convinced about the importance of ICT, who will then convince the philanthropist in the community to help promote ICT and furthermore convince them with incentives like naming the centers after them.
- A special fund should be set up to promote and develop ICT.
- Government should expedite action to train teachers to teach ICT to teachers in training colleges before they come out.
- The youth should be encouraged to be more sexually responsible by abstaining from sex in order to live long to bridge the digital divide through curiosity, developing a sense of confidence and exploring.
- Parents and guardians should be well informed about the need to contribute to the development of ICT in schools.
- Female should be encouraged to pursue careers in ICT at the tertiary level.



Egypt

Young Women Leaders in ICTs Forum

A two-day forum for young women leaders in Information and Communication Technologies was held 14-15 June in Cairo as a side-event to the League of Arab States Regional Meeting of the WSIS.

The forum, at the Marriot Hotel, was organized by the Global Knowledge Partnership and its two member partners, the International Institute for Sustainable Development and TakingITGlobal, in collaboration with the Regional Information Technology and Software Engineering Center (RITSEC) under the auspices of the Egyptian Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT). Approximately 40 women from the Middle East and African region took part.

Workshops centered on the gender dimension of the digital divide within the Arab States, explore the current situation, achievements and obstacles involved. Presentations and discussions on stakeholder partnerships will examine the role of governments, private sector, civil society and the international community in empowering young women as a key stakeholder group in the Information Society.

Speakers included:

- Heba Ramzy, Effat El Shooky and Hisham El-Sherif of RITSEC,
- Rinalia Abdul Rahim of the Global Knowledge Partnership,
- Itir Akdogan of Youth for Habitat,
- Moushira Khattab from the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood,
- Shafika Isaacs of SchoolNet Africa, and
- Katia Tayar or ARABCOM.

Additionally, the Youth Caucus and the Gender Caucus will hold a joint session to explore areas of cross-advocacy and strategies for creating a stronger voice for young women and girls in the WSIS process.

A key goal of the gathering was the promotion of intergenerational partnerships at more informal gatherings, including a Gala dinner and cultural program.

ICT's and disabled youth workshop

In addition, the Youth Association for Sustainable Development and the Youth Employment Summit Country Network organized a two-day conference in Egypt to explore the issue of ICT access and use for disabled young people. They are among the most vulnerable groups and affected by difficult social and economic conditions and face a growing rate of functional illiteracy and unemployment. The event gathered professionals, representatives of youth organizations, and a number of young people with special needs. One of the main recommendations on which we will develop a paper is the promotion of ICTs, specific measures and modules for enabling disabled and handicapped youth.

Materials on the WSIS process were distributed throughout schools, youth organizations and other NGOs, including thousands of brochures and stickers and hundreds of posters.



Haiti

In preparation for the World Summit on the Information Society, youth from the nine departments of Haiti participated in a National Youth Forum from November 10 to 14. This was the culmination of months of activity including a virtual forum (on www.caiti.org), press events, distribution of 2500 WSIS flyers, and four interactive radio debates. The Youth Forum was held in Port-au-Prince and was organized by the Centre d'Appui aux Initiatives de Technologies de l'Information (CAITI) (Support Centre for Initiatives of Information Technology).

Some of the partners in the Campaign were:

- Association des Industries d'HAITI (ADIH)
- Ecole Supérieure d'Infotronique d'HAITI (ESIH)
- Radio Télé-éclaire
- Password de Radio Vision2000
- Signal Technologies
- Fédération Haïtienne des Associations et Clubs de l'UNESCO
- Ministère des travaux publics et des télécommunications (MTPTC),
- Ministère de la culture et de la communication
- l'Agence universitaire francophone d'haïti
- United Nations Development Program



National Youth Forum (November 10-15)

The National Youth Forum was inaugurated by hundreds of youth and people from all sectors. The panel was composed of the private sector (M. Kesner Pharel Firme GroupCroissance), government (M. Schiller Jn Baptiste Membre from the government ministry), and civil society (Projet AHSI/PNUD M. Raymond Noel), in addition to M. Guyverson Vernous, President of CAITI.

There was excellent media coverage with more than 50 local and foreign journalists. The national forum was the major event on the television and radio stations for November 10. The forum raised pertinent questions on fundamental problems in Haiti and offered a new perspective on the manner of solving certain problems like corruption in public administrations, the precarious health care system and the education system that does not respond to the needs of the Haitian people. The forum involved youth in the WSIS preparatory process and sensitized them to the new digital opportunities in the information society. The youth of Haiti constitute over 60 percent of the population.

Haiti



During the five days of work, youth worked in break-out groups on the four key themes with the assistance of national and international experts:

- Capacity building
- Creating employment for youth
- Good governance and democracy
- Freedom of expression in the information society

Participants concluded the week with a Declaration of Principles and a Plan of Action which will be distributed to the private sector, civil society and government of Haiti, in addition to the Youth Creating Digital Opportunities (YCDO) network. These documents will also be presented at the WSIS in Geneva, December 2003.

All participants left with the title of “ICT Promoters” with WSIS flyers, and continue to be supported by CAITI in the promotion of ICT development in the country.

Virtual Forum (October 6-31, 2003)

A Virtual Forum linked hundreds of Haitian youth in discussing the four WSIS themes of the national campaign: capacity building, youth employment, good governance and freedom of expression. The results were compiled into a report that provided the starting for the Declaration and Action Plan at the National Forum. In this way, the grassroots level from all regions had an opportunity to express their vision of the information society and provide their input to WSIS.



Sensitization Program for WSIS (September – November 2003)

From September to November, a program was initiated to raise awareness via print, radio and web-based publicity. In October 2003, four interactive, prime-time radio debates focused on the four themes in the Haitian campaign. These radio debates followed the distribution of over 2,500 WSIS flyers to all regions of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. In addition to information on ICTs and the Information Society, each flyer included a question as to what benefits the Information Society can bring to Haiti. Respondents were asked to mail their answers that would be compiled into the report of the Virtual Forum.

India

Northern Regional Youth Conference

The first regional conference organized by WSIS Youth India was held in the capital, Delhi, at the Global Icons Institute of Convergence Studies on September 6. After a warm welcome from the students of the institute, a presentation was given by Sonali Unkule and Nandita Saikiya briefing participants on the WSIS process, and expected outcomes of the Geneva Summit. Speakers included:

- Mr. Deepak Singh, director of an online network for social justice "iwantjustice.net".
- Prof. Mrityunjay Chaterjee from Global Icons
- Mr. Rajiv Misra, an advisor to Reliance
- Athar Haque from e-healthcare, an NGO which gives the rural population online medical advice & providing health care.
- Mr. Kamallesh Raval from Hong Kong Telecom.
- Prof. Ujwal Choudhry, Director Global Institute of Convergence Studies.

The conference ended with an interesting interactive session. The students asked the speakers various questions about the different topics discussed in the earlier presentations. The students belonged to different parts of the country and by the end of the day they already had interesting creative ideas about the application of ICT in their own communities.

Southern Regional Youth Conference

The second regional conference was held in Calicut in India's South on September 27, at the Regional Science Center. It was organized in partnership by the WSIS Youth India team and the Association for Computer Technologists in India (ACT India). The conference started with a welcome speech by 24-year old Mr. Ashwin Gopinath, General Secretary ACT India. He quoted Honorable Indian President Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam 'Dream Dream Dream, for dreams transform into thoughts and thoughts into Action' and also urged to unite forgetting all types of differences, be ambitious, and look forward for a better world and progress of society.

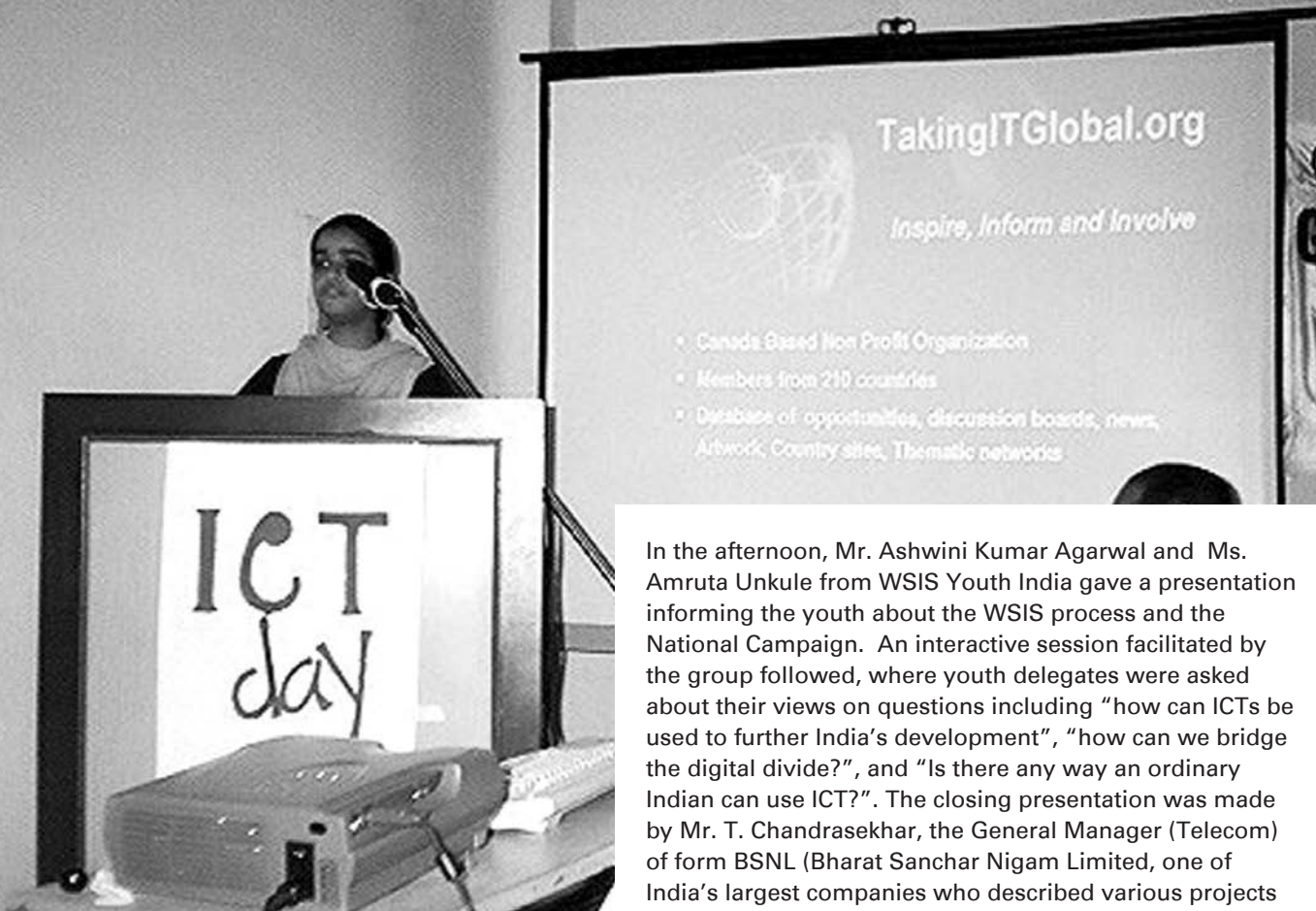


India



Other speakers exploring issues from e-health and education, to the needs of the disabled included:

- Dr C.M. Aboobacker (an eminent pediatrician and popular personality among young professionals)
- Mr. E.T. Muhammed Basheer (former education Minister for Kerala State)
- Mr. Binoy Viswam (Member of the Legislative Assembly who is actively involved with youth organizations and youth development projects in Calicut).
- Mr. V.S. Ramachandran, Project Coordinator to Regional Science Center, and
- C. Sudeesh, State President to ACTIndia, who informed about ACTIndia's activities in the local language.



In the afternoon, Mr. Ashwini Kumar Agarwal and Ms. Amruta Unkule from WSIS Youth India gave a presentation informing the youth about the WSIS process and the National Campaign. An interactive session facilitated by the group followed, where youth delegates were asked about their views on questions including “how can ICTs be used to further India’s development”, “how can we bridge the digital divide?”, and “Is there any way an ordinary Indian can use ICT?”. The closing presentation was made by Mr. T. Chandrasekhar, the General Manager (Telecom) of form BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, one of India’s largest companies who described various projects his company had underway involving youth in creating digital opportunities.



Many enthusiastic youth from various states participated in the workshop, and the event also attracted the press who wrote a number of stories in the local media.

Next Steps

In the days immediately prior to WSIS, the team will be coordinating a major national workshop in Pune, bringing together youth from across the country to provide final input from Indian youth to the Summit process.

Moldova

Country-wide workshops

In Moldova the youth took their national campaign about the WSIS and the emerging Information Society into schools right across the country. It kicked off on September 10th at the first school in Balti, with a seminar on the opportunities the internet offers for youth interaction, communication and sharing of information and experience.

Over the next four weeks, four youth leaders - Natalia Cojuhari, Nelly Amarfii, Adam Oliver (a Peace Corps Volunteer), and Eugeniu Graur traversed the country, visiting 30 schools, 10 universities, and 25-youth related NGOs from all eleven of Moldova's major cities. With five in-depth sessions a day, each engaging 40 youth aged 14-21, the campaign directly reached almost 20,000 people in workshops during October.

Each seminar started with a power-point presentation outlining new concepts inherent in the Information Society, an introduction to WSIS, and the role of young people in the Summit. They then continued with a discussion and debate, as well as the distribution of materials which invite and help the young people to get involved in shaping the Moldovan Information society through creative projects.

Unfortunately, access to the Internet and communication technologies is limited in Moldova. Ninety-percent of the schools still lack access to the Internet, and in rural villages the percentage is worse. The campaign revealed that some young people, especially in the villages had never even heard about the Internet and ICTs.



Development of a Campaign Team

Through the campaigns, a team of forty youth from across the country have been identified to continue to implement the workshops and training on an even broader scale in the coming year. These youth will work together in order to draft a national strategy for the development of Moldova's Information Society – and to suggest ways to spread the benefits of the ICTs as solutions for overcoming poverty. An office has been established to coordinate activities at the University of Balti.

Representatives from various Local Authorities participated in the information campaigns and have offered to provide continued support for the national activities.

Nigeria

In Nigeria, a Youth Coalition on ICTs was formed to develop initiatives around the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). The coalition consists of the West African NGO Network, Paradigm Initiative Nigeria, Nigerian Association of Computer Science Students, YIELD Infotechnologies and the International Young Professional Foundation. The process is tagged the “WSIS Youth Nigeria Policy Train”.

Sponsors of the National Campaign included:

- TakingITGlobal
- British Council-Lagos and Kano
- Digital Peers International
- West African Non-Governmental Network (WANGONET)
- Anpez Centre of Development - Port Harcourt
- Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD)
- British Council - Kano
- National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)
- Human Rights Information Network (HURINET)

Technology Today program on Murhi International Television (MiTV), Lagos

The youth held a one-hour television broadcast, as part of “Technology Today”, a popular and high-profile program anchored by foremost ICT journalist, Don Pedro Agabi and shown on Murhi International Television (MiTV). Held on October 4 2003 at 7pm, the program discussed the role of youth in nation-building and featured ‘Gbenga Sesan (Paradigm Initiative Nigeria), Tope Soremi (West African

NGO Network) and Tope Oketunji (Nigerian Association of Computer Science Students).

A very lively call-in session followed the more formal in-studio discussion - and did not end even after the program went off air! The following weeks were then spent answering questions about the WSIS and Nigerian youth involvement, that could not be treated on the TV show.

Port Harcourt Regional Consultation

An Eastern Regional Consultation was held at the Anpez Center in Port Harcourt on the 11th of October. The first session explored “ICT & Policy” with course materials provided by Association of Progressive Communications (APC). Later, ‘Gbenga Sesan gave an overview of youth involvement in the WSIS process, before the consultation broke into smaller groups for networking and discussion of issues. Participants spoke about best practices, shared experiences, and gave some insight into what they had been able to use in their various projects and how things had worked for them. It was evident that most of the people present were not aware of the WSIS process, and many did not even know that Nigeria has an IT policy.

Kano Regional Consultation

A second regional meeting was held on October 18th at Kano in the North of the country, hosted by the Center for Information Technology and Development at the British Council. The program had two segments – a policy consultation forum, and a visit to Zaura Babba, a Rural Internet Penetration program.

Nigeria

Presentations were made in English and local languages by CITAD's Garba Idris, Garba Mohammed of the National Information Technology Development Agency and a representative of the British Council. The presentation on policy led into an interactive discussion on the need to provide the less privileged with access to the opportunities that ICT offer.

Zaura Babba - Rural Community Awareness Program and Consultation

The team (NITDA, CITAD, Titi Akinsanmi and 'Gbenga Sesan) proceeded to Zaura Babba for the rural internet awareness program. After a warm welcome by the Village Head and almost the entire town population, the program began with an open air address where the youth were urged to learn from the day's training and to make sure they passed the same on to the other members of the community, especially the women. The team noticed that there were no young ladies in their teens present at the "village square address" and Titi Akinsanmi urged the men to involve their sisters, mothers and wives in the use of ICTs.

In a classroom at the Government School, about 40 community members (including the state's Press Secretary) were introduced to computing. The training on, "What is a Computer?", "How does a Computer work?" and "What can a Computer do?" was led by 'Gbenga Sesan and enjoyed interpretation in the local language. Surprise was written all over the faces of the participants as they saw their own pictures that were taken with a digital camera only a few minutes previously, on the computer -- which is referred to as *inji mai kwakwalwa* (a machine that has a brain) in Hausa.





It was then time to proceed to the Mobile Internet Unit, where community members had the opportunity to touch a computer, and use it to connect to the World Wide Web - certainly a first for the majority of them! Activities ranged from mere admiration, to reading news on the BBC Hausa service, creating email accounts and surfing the Zaura Babba website (www.zaurababba.itgo.com) that was quickly put up by 'Gbenga Sesan.

Lagos National Consultation

A national consultation was held as part of the Youth Policy Train at the WANGONeT Secretariat on October 18. Nearly 50 youth leaders participated in the event. The welcome address was read by Ms. Scholastica Wilson of WANGONeT, a member of the Nigerian Youth Coalition on ICTs (NYC-ICTs). Once again, presentations were made introducing the youth to WSIS, participation in policy processes, and background on Information Society issues.

Mr. Chris Uwaje, a foremost IT professional and Managing Director/CEO of Connect Technologies spoke to the delegates on the potential that exists for Nigeria to use ICTs to leap-frog its development. His presentation provoked

discussion around 'youth-friendly' initiatives including the establishment of Youth IT forums, Youth IT Lobby Groups, Special Committee on Technology-Linkage and Opportunities, Campus-Independent IT-Parks, Youth IT Advisory Board, and a "Youth-Diaspora Brain Gain Task Force".

Following the National Consultation, meetings were held to present the results to Mrs. Ibukun Odusote, ICT Head, Office of the Honourable Minister of Science and Technology, and Nigeria's .ng Top Level Domain (ccTLD) administrative contact person, and Dr. Ubaru, Technical Director, National Information Technology Development Agency. In addition, 350 fact-sheets, and 5,000 postcards were distributed through organizations, major youth meetings, Internet cafes and centers.

Declaration of Nigerian Youth

Introduction

This declaration is an outcome of the National Youth Consultation process, tagged "Policy Train" which held in Port Harcourt, Kano and Lagos between the 11th and 22nd of October 2003 and was coordinated by the Nigerian Youth Coalition on ICTs. One hundred and thirteen (113) young Nigerians participated in the process, along with over two hundred (200) members of the Zaura Babba community of Kano state.

Preamble

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) is an initiative of the United Nations. It seeks to provide a framework for governments, non-government

Nigeria

organizations and associations, companies and others. Between the African regional meeting in Bamako and the final preparatory committee meeting in Geneva, Nigerian youths took active roles in the entire process. Through this declaration, we choose to lend our voice to the emergence and conscious establishment of an equitable Information Society that focuses on people and development above technology and profit.

Participants of the Consultation Process:

Recognizing:

- That Nigeria holds high potentials within the global Information Society,
- That Nigeria's youth must take appropriate action in order to safe-guard their future,
- The need for Nigeria's youth to get more involved with national level processes within the Information Society,
- The need for government, civil society, academia, private sector and special interest groups to collaborate on efforts that can deliver Nigeria's Information Technology vision.

Made the following recommendations:

- The need to empower and include youth in national level processes must be pursued to ensure that today's efforts provide the foundation for a sustainable future,
- Awareness on the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) – and the role of such in national development – must be embarked upon as a matter of national urgency,

- Since the barrier of ownership remains for majority of the population, access to ICTs must be top priority for government, the private sector and all stakeholders,
- ICTs are major tools for national development, and Nigeria must embrace and take advantage of this opportunity in order to remain relevant in the emerging information society.

Declaration

Having considered the aforementioned, along with the opportunities that are provided by commitment to the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration Goals (MDGs) and the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), we realise that the future of Nigeria and its relevance in the Information Society depend on the commitment of all stakeholders in the present; and in recognition of this, we commit our resources to the accelerated involvement of our nation in the global Information Society. We invite all to do the same.

Next steps

The Policy Train comes ahead of a Nigerian Youth Summit on the Information Society (NYSIS) which should facilitate the emergence of a Nigerian Information Society Youth Network (NISYN). The NISYN will mobilize and enhance the capacity of Nigerian youths in nation building irrespective of their educational, political, religious or social background. It would also produce dynamic opportunities and improve youth participation in country-level and international events and processes that focus on the emerging information society.

Philippines

1st Philippine Youth Consultative Meeting on WSIS

The first National Philippine Youth Consultative meeting on WSIS was held at the Asian Development Bank Headquarters in Manila, hosted by Young Volunteers for Sustainable Development. Close to a hundred youth participants, coming from student organizations, community youth groups and networks, ICT and broadcast industry and government agencies, including the Youth Advisory Office of the Office of the President, attended the meeting.

The Consultative Meeting featured presentations from high-profile civil society, ICT industry and government representatives covering a wide range of issues such as communication rights, digital divide, gender equality, environmental sustainability, regional and global ICT4D initiatives, and ICT education in an information society.

Among the list of speakers were Allan Alegre (Executive Director of FMA and WSIS co-focal point of the Asian Region), Atty. Kathleen Heceta (Deputy Commissioner of the National Telecommunications Commission, an attached agency of the Department of Transportation and Communications, and Philippine Representative to the WSIS Asia-Pacific Regional Conference), Susan Ellison-McGee (ADB ICT Specialist), and Raymond de Chavez (Information Head of Tebtebba, representing the Global Knowledge Partnership). A high-level official of the Swiss Agency for Development was also present.

In a lively open forum, participants raised their concerns for the lack of youth employment in the local ICT industry, deteriorating quality of ICT education and training, the

need for certification standards, suppression of campus journalism, limited access to ICTs by marginalized groups, regulation of the internet, proliferation of illicit websites and the development of local, relevant content.

After scoping campaign commitments and scanning for resources among attendees, the participants deliberated the working draft of the Philippine Youth Declaration and Plan of Action. In a consensus, the meeting ended with a decision that the draft be further circulated and consulted with other youth, especially among the marginalized and those located in the regions and provinces. The participants expressed enthusiasm to take part in the development of the national campaign and contribute to tangible youth-led ICT4D projects.



Philippines



University WSIS Youth Campaigns (October-November 2003)

As a follow-up to focus group meetings with student organizations, YVSD, in partnership with university student governments and organizations, conducted a caravan of information campaigns and an exhibit on Youth@WSIS in three leading Metro Manila universities – University of the Philippines Diliman Campus, Ateneo de Manila University and Don Bosco Technical College – Makati Campus. These university campaign drives provided opportunities for school-based youth to learn of the WSIS and global youth's perspectives on the information society.

More than 5,000 copies of information kits and flyers, complementing the physical exhibit, were distributed by volunteers from partner youth organizations. Enlarged YCDO and WSIS Youth streamers and banners were displayed in strategic spots of these universities. These posters highlighted the WSIS process and agenda, WSIS Youth Caucus policy inputs and planned Summit activities.

Follow-up and next steps

Since the 1st Consultative Meeting the campaign has focused on raising the awareness and building support of key youth, ICT and government stakeholders around the Campaign – conducting follow-up meetings with groups such as the National Youth Commission, the ADB, the British Council Philippines, and the Consuelo Foundation.

The next step shall be two regional consultative meetings, to provide avenues for youth outside the capital Manila to participate within the process. Partners in organizing these events are the Cagayan State University and the University of Saint Louis (located at the northernmost province of Luzon Island), and West Visayas State University (situated in the Visayas Region).

The culmination of the National Campaign shall be a 2nd Philippine Youth Consultative Meeting on WSIS to be held in the days just prior to WSIS to gain maximum media exposure and finalize the Philippine Youth Declaration and Action Plan.

Romania

As part of their national campaign, two workshops were held at major Romanian universities in cooperation with AEGEE-Europe.

Bucharest Workshop

In Bucharest, AEGEE and the Academy of Economic Studies hosted a two-day youth forum for more than 100 delegates at the Internet Plaza Conference Hall. The forum's goal was to ground the policy dimensions of the Information Society within practical contexts relevant to students – particularly e-learning. On day one, numerous presentations focused on initiatives underway in the Romanian educational system to integrate technology in meaningful ways – increasing interactivity, strengthening research capacities, and bringing teachers closer to students.

In the afternoon, Adrian Pintilie, president of AEGEE-Europe introduced the World Summit on the Information Society, discussed the key issues on the agenda, and briefed participants on Romanian youth involvement so far. Day two gave delegates a chance to present and debate their own perspectives – many presented papers they had written on subjects ranging from e-learning to e-science.

Cluj-Napcoa Workshop

The workshop held at the University of Cluj-Napcoa was oversubscribed. Participants heard a short presentation about the WSIS process, before a lengthy and vibrant discussion. The results of the debate were promoted over the local radio stations and through the AEGEE Network. To promote the event 100 posters were posted throughout the university and the local area. The event received broad press coverage including 3 local radio stations prior to the event, and five stations following it, including CD Radio, Radio Star, Kiss FM, Impuls FM and Radio 21.



Senegal

The national campaign in Senegal aimed at raising awareness among Senegal's large youth population, developing a national WSIS network and offering training sessions in the use of ICTs and the internet. The key themes of the campaign were universal access, capacity-building, gender inclusion, the role of media, cultural diversity, and adapting projects to the local reality. From November 5 to 14, the "Point d'Accès aux info routes pour la jeunesse de Baobab" (PAJE) coordinated the campaign around radio shows, roundtables, forums and training sessions.

Partners:

- Point d'Accès aux info routes pour la jeunesse de Baobab" (PAJE)
- TakingITGlobal
- Oxy-Jeunes Community Radio
- Ndef Lang FM Community Radio



Sensitization Campaign – November 5th to 8th

A sensitization campaign on WSIS was launched on the radio waves of Oxy-Jeunes and Ndef Leng FM, two prominent community radio stations. Youth of Senegal had little or no awareness of WSIS and what is at stake. The lack of information was especially prevalent in the poorer areas due to lack of access to technological infrastructure. Information is held in the hands of the minority. To combat this obstacle, the youth responded with recommendations in the following areas:

- media outlets should become more diversified and present in poorer, rural areas
- ICTs should be accessible to the public at lower costs
- Local languages should become codified and taught in school and eventually integrated in local media (print, radio, television)
- Text font for local languages should be developed and utilized on the web

Roundtable – November 9

This dynamic roundtable was organized by Mr. Mansour BA, coordinator of the campaign, and by Mr. Oumar Diao, journalist for "Radio-Bus" (mobile radio of the Senegalese Association for the Protection of the Environment and Marginalized Children). This live debate was held in the city of Rufisque and involved youth (especially young women) and civil society organizations. The common thread among interventions was that ICTs have brought about great changes in Senegal, and have become necessary tools in the process of social, economic and cultural development.

After an introduction as to “Why WSIS?” by the campaign coordinator, interventions by participants were unanimous in the social benefits by accessing technology. Expectations were high for the Summit in the following areas:

- access to information for all should be the priority seeing the importance and interest of WSIS for the youth of the world
- capacity-building of youth in ICTs to fully enter into the digital world can be realized through the creation of technological infrastructures in developing countries
- community media outlets and Internet should be installed in poorer areas to allow access and local content creation by the most marginalized people
- questions of gender should be eradicated in allowing a greater participation of women in the development process
- Senegalese authorities must provide the means to bridge the divide between themselves and youth, and between the rich and poor.



Youth Forum – November 11

In the University of Dakar, a Youth Forum focused on the integration of ICTs in school curricula, the “brain drain” phenomenon, and how the information society can resolve problems in developing countries like Senegal. The beginning of the forum focused on ICTs as a pedagogical tool: basic understanding of ICTs is necessary, ICT curricula does not work well with all learning areas. It was felt that ICT’s can particularly enhance collaborative learning.

To combat the “Brain Drain”, the most serious threat to the African education system, the financial and material conditions for teachers must be improved to make the university more attractive to young graduates. Concrete goals were set to integrate ICTs in teaching and combat the brain drain including:

- access to ICTs for all students
- improvements in the working environment of teachers and the positive results of the learning process
- improvements in the quality and modernization of the administration of the education system
- development of a national market for creating and editing educational software
- reform of primary, secondary and university curricula to mainstream ICTs, in order to prepare students for the demands of the labour market in the information society
- documentation and development of digital teaching tools and support for a research environment with adapted technological tools

Senegal



Radio Debate – November 13

An interview and radio debate with Madame Fatoumata Seye Sylla, President of the Association “Bok Jang – Bk Jeuf”, was broadcast on Ndef Leng FM and Oxy-Jeunes Community Radio. In the interview with local journalist Oumar Diao, Ms. Sylla explained the role and expectations of civil society in the WSIS process. Also discussed was gender inclusion, insisting on the engagement of marginalized women in an information society for all. For this reason, it’s important that media content respects pluralism and diversity of voices. The interview was followed by a debate on WSIS themes including the digital divide, digital solidarity, media accessibility, and the role of ICTs in economic and social development.

Training Sessions – November 14

More than 80 young people (with no ICT experience) coming from various backgrounds took part in an all-day training session on the use of computers and the internet. Despite the difficulty resulting from few computers, the results were very positive. Each participant had the chance to participate in two training sessions (one on computer orientation and one on internet techniques) and navigate the internet. The campaign was concluded by a closing ceremony at the end of the day with all participants.

Sierra Leone

In a country emerging from years of conflict, the national youth campaign focused on the potential for young people to use ICTs to promote understanding and peace.

Radio Programming

The Campaign kicked off with two major 1-hour interactive radio programs, broadcast nationally on radio stations 96.2 FM and 98.1 FM over the 5th and 6th of October to raise awareness of the upcoming World Summit, and to present the views of youth on the comparative advantages and challenges posed by the introduction of ICTs to Sierra Leone.

With ten young facilitators and presenters, twenty phone-in correspondents, and country-wide coverage, the national programs also featured prominent guests including:

- Ms. Princes Davies, Head of Project Management-Based Academy College in UK
- Mr. Sahr Yilla, National Coordinator for the Campaign for the Blind
- Mrs. Claudine Hingston, Mass Communication Department of Fourah Bay College
- Mr. Ngollo Thomas Katta, National Coordinator, Centre for the Coordination of Youth Activities
- Mr. Pat Lewis, National Commission for War Affected Children.

Public Service Announcements

Prior to the National Interactive Forum, the FM 98.1 D Radio repeatedly broadcast the importance of the WSIS Interactive Forum. The news read; *'The Up-coming Three Days Interactive Forum' organized by TakingITGlobal Sierra Leone Network, YEDEM, iEARN, ECYG-SL, NYMCOS etc will be first of its kind, with potentials to strike unlimited possibilities for our youth whilst opening the eyes of the leaders, to understanding the needs of youth in their quest to access ICTs. Take your first step and go get the ideas at the British Council, running through September 10th to 12th.'*

"The radio discussion and phone-in programmes helped greatly to increasing the level of national awareness about the WSIS, thus bringing ICT and young people in the mainstream of public discussion and opinion. Yet, it was not without its odds, as the British Council was literally overwhelmed with participants beyond the expectant 80."
- Sylvanus Murray, National Campaign Coordinator, Sierra Leone



Sierra Leone

National Forum

The National Forum on the theme 'ICT and the Youth: A Rebirth After War' was held at the British Council Hall, from September 10th-12th 2003 with approximately 100 young participants.

During the three days, the young people of Sierra Leone emphasized not only the importance of ICTs to ensure greater 'access to information', but also aspects of using ICT towards facilitating the poor and the marginalized to communicate, and solve specific problems posed by health, unemployment, education etc. It was strongly felt that ICT innovation had granted Sierra Leonean youth a greater awareness of their assets and capability to build their community and generate prospects of sustainable livelihoods at the dawn of the country's transition towards peace and democracy.

24-year-old Andrew Benson Greene, coordinator of I*EARN Sierra Leone was elected chairman of the forum. Over the three days, the forum also welcomed the presence and inputs of several key stakeholders in the national ICT field who made presentations and engaged in discussion with the young participants.

One of the mostly lively discussions was with Mr. Max Thompson (Acting Controller of Commercial Services), and Mr. Alphonso Pratt, Acting Manager, Computer Data Systems for SIERRATEL, Sierra Leone's state-owned telecommunications company. Many participants expressed the feeling that SIERRATEL monopolized the information sector particularly with the use of ICTs, and Mr. Thompson responded vehemently, noting that SIERRATEL

is making giant strides to bring the Internet closer in spite of the damaged infrastructure during the war in Freetown and other provincial districts. He was inspired by the responses from the youth participants noting that *"this wind of change will give the right insight to government to improve the ICT sector so that youths can be able to access technology"*.

The views were as diverse as the participants themselves. The importance of ICTs, especially unhindered information flow, and freedom of the press, in building a sustainable democracy were emphasized by Mr. Damson Smith of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Vincent, a youth from Voice of Children Radio UNAMSIL discussed the possibilities for Radio and ICT convergence in advancing education, but was wary of the impact of obscene picture messages and characters in mobile phones.

A young presenter and producer from FM 106.6 Radio, Nathaniel Thomas Beckley emphasized the importance of radio, which he felt could sometimes be neglected. He provided practical tips for the other youth on getting their views and perspectives into the mainstream media, explaining the *'media is our friends and we must meet the media and not shy away from it'*. The potential for ICTs to be used to support youth employment for development was explored in a session facilitated by Umar Akin Conteh of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, while another workshop exploring the use of technology by the disabled attracted Sahr Yilla, the national coordinator of the Campaign for the Blind. On the last day, the Director of the British Council, Mr

Sierra Leone

Rajiv Bendre said he shared the deep concern of the youth regarding the extreme difficulties they face in access to ICTs. He described various activities of the British Council to provide free Internet access, and commended the organizers for initiating the Forum.

The key-note address of the National Youth Forum was delivered by the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Prof. Septimus Kaikai. He noted the Forum had made history –providing a forum for young people to come together and discuss the role of technology in Sierra Leone’s development. The Minister said his government was enthused and challenged by the young people to make every effort to increase access to ICTs. Announcing that he would be attending WSIS to further this commitment, Prof. Kaikai said he would now go with a clear message from the youths of Sierra Leone.

Responding to the Minister, Andrew Benson Green

reaffirmed the “clamour and out-cry of the young people of Sierra Leone towards access to ICT for development, and catching up with its global generation”, and urged the Minister to take the bold step to improving these facilities.

Over the three days, the Forum received major media coverage. FM 106.6 SKY Radio ran continuous highlights with youths from the radio media deployed to report back to the Sierra Leone populace. Further, a crew from the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service Television (SLBS-TV) organized live broadcasts on national television from the British Council Hall. The coordinators were also interviewed on 98.1 FM, 106.6 FM, and SLBS-TV News.

Since the Forum, the campaign has continued to gain momentum, with the youth meeting several times with the Minister and government officials and participating in further radio programs to raise awareness of WSIS.





Sierra Leone

Declaration

The declaration and recommendations made by the over 90 youth participants at the three days interactive forum are as follows:

1. Governments presentation at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) should reflect the views and concerns of young people in Sierra Leone on the Information Society.
2. Government to review existing media laws and national policies and provision of basic infrastructure and other facilities to enhance the access and use of ICTs by youths in the community development work.
3. The Ministry of Youth and Sports in collaboration with other line ministries, international, local NGOs and youth serving agencies, organize regular training for youth leaders in collaboration with public relation officers of youth/community based organizations to enhance their knowledge, practice and use of ICTs in enhancing youth development.
4. The Ministry of Youth and Sports should be fully occupied with modern Information Communication Technologies to make it more effective in the discharge of its duties.
5. Sierratel to host a youth in community development web site to showcase profile of youth organizations, activities and events and network events, ideas and resources which will be managed by TakingITGlobal Sierra Leone Network (TIG-SLN) and iEARN Sierra Leone.
6. Precedent to this, TIG-SLN and iEARN should make effective use of the TakingITGlobal Sierra Leone country page web site to showcase the profile of youth community development organizations, activities and events and network events, ideas and resources with other TIG partners.
7. TakingITGlobal Sierra Leone, iEARN, YEDEM and UNOY explore responsibilities to set up community ICT resource centers where youths in development can freely or at a cost effective access and use of ICTs to enhance and smoothen development work.
8. Government should include/sponsor at least one youth delegate to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) 2003 in Geneva.

Togo

To maximize the positive benefits of ICTs for those who are poor and are confronted by barriers on the road to development, the youth association Terre Nouvelle (New World) embarked on an ambitious campaign across the country of Togo in two phases over two months around the World Summit on the Information Society. The general objective was to inform the Togolese youth population on WSIS and its goals, involve them in developing input, and to promote the development of concrete projects using ICTs for sustainable development.

The partners in the Togo National Campaign were:

- Terre Nouvelle
- TakingITGlobal
- Rameau de Jesse
- Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement (JVE)
- Le Centre International pour le Volontariat (CIV-TOGO)
- Togo Telecom
- TogoCel
- Espace Technologique
- TVT, TV2, TV7 (Togo Television Stations)

Activities

The sensitization and animation of youth forums constitute one of the major factors of a better understanding of ICTs among target groups. To this effect, the organizing committee, composed primarily of leaders of Terre Nouvelle, delegates from NGOs and partner associations, organized and led excursions of sensitization and action in diverse institutions (schools, universities and professional organizations). In total, educational establishments were visited covering the whole area of Togo.

The themes discussed were:

- What is at stake in the World Summit on the Information Society
- The question of the «info-poverty» and the potential for ICTs to break down barriers of ignorance
- The definition and importance of ICTs for Togo
- ICTs at the service of sustainable development

Official Launch of the National Campaign – October 2, 2003

A formal launch of the Campaign took place in the headquarters of the *Plan National d'Action pour l'Environnement* with the Minister of Telecommunications, NGOs and other partners in the world of ICTs. The launch began with introductory words by the President of Terre Nouvelle, about the goals, objectives and strategies of his organization to work towards sustainable development and the promotion of ICTs. Following was an introduction to the National Campaign for the sensitization of Togolese youth on WSIS. Five young leaders were identified to lead working groups on a range of themes. The event was concluded by a question and answer session.



Togo



Activity 2 : Presentations in Local Schools – October 3 - 4, 2003

Five interactive presentations in local schools took place during these two days. The themes discussed included the use of ICTs for sustainable development, a solution to “info-poverty” and means of access in rural areas. The objective was to allow students to discover the new possibilities that ICTs present to help face their local problems. The overwhelming response was the need for universal access, especially among students of the interior of the country, who felt marginalized when compared to those in the capital. The youth then proposed to initiate a network to exchange and reflect on ICTs and to follow up with concrete projects.

Nation-wide Consultation Process (October 6 – 10)

Ten young delegates (two per region) led the consultations in their area of the country, which each distributing documents and other materials on the WSIS process throughout their communities. On October 10, the young leaders gathered to summarize the contributions of all participants. The response of youth was extremely high, and the contributions formed a beginning for the Togolese Youth Declaration.

Drafting a Togo youth policy input (October 22, 24, 27 and 30)

These four days of work gathered together the focal points from each working group to synthesize the contributions. The major themes in the consultations were the following:

- ICTs for the eradication of extreme poverty and for a more sustainable development
- ICTS: reducing or increasing the gap between rural and urban areas?
- What are the expectations and outcomes of ICTs for African development
- Means of decentralizing ICT access

The finalized document will be integrated into the final report that will be produced at the end of Phase II. It will also be presented to the Togolese delegation at the World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva.

As a result of activities carried out so far, the Togolese society as a whole is more interested in ICTs, more informal networks of youth are following WSIS, and dynamic groups in educational establishments are promoting the use of ICTs.

Turkey

Survey on Youth towards Information Society

Having already run a series of focus groups and conducted a survey of 450 Turkish youth on WSIS in early 2003, the Youth Association for Habitat and Agenda 21 is now planning to undertake a secondary survey with 1000 youth across 76 cities to determine the interests and concerns of young people related to the Information Society

The Survey has been prepared with the contributions of Cisco Systems and ACNielsen Research Company. The former study has been revised and a methodological approach has been developed to assess the results of the survey.

Moreover, ACNielsen proposed to merge the results of the survey with the internet survey that they have been completed recently (Youth Study 2002). ACNielsen has also proposed the "Youth Towards Information Society Survey" be hosted on the ACNielsen powered youth portal akampus.com. The Survey will be online during the year. Therefore, thousands of young people will be able to participate in the survey. The Survey has been reached to 500 samples all around Turkey. 1000 is targeted before the WSIS Summit. The deadline for the submission of the surveys has been extended to 21 November. Results of the survey will be published and presented in the WSIS Summit.



National Summer School on Project Development and Efficient Use of ICTs

In 7-13 September, Youth for Habitat organized "Local Agenda 21 Youth Parliament-Summer School" where 112 local youth leaders from 56 provinces (out of 81) participated. The theme of the summer school was Project Development and Efficient Use of Information Technologies. The partners of the summer school are UNDP-Turkey, IULA-EMME, and State Planning Organization. In the summer school trainings, presentations and workshops were held. Two days of the summer school (September 11-12) focused on Information Society and Turkey. Speakers included the Coordinator of the government's initiative entitled e-Transformation Turkey, the Coordinator of the pilot city project entitled "Information City-Yalova", the Head of the Training Department of Cisco Systems; and the head of the Turkish Information Society Foundation. Moreover, instructors from two universities trained youth representatives on the relevancy and use of mass communication tools in the information age.

Summer School participants were updated about the WSIS process and they were introduced to the survey on "Youth and Information Society in Turkey".

Youth in the CEBIT-Eurasia International Fair on ICTs September 02-07 2003 Istanbul, TURKEY

CEBIT-Eurasia is the largest and most important ICT trade show in the region and covers the entire spectrum of information technology, telecommunications, software and ICT related services.

Over 850 companies exhibited the very latest integrated technology solutions - informing, influencing and inspiring more than 162,000 visitors from over 50 countries. International Union of Local Authorities provided Youth for Habitat a booth in the fair (27 m²), and Youth for Habitat presented its activities around the WSIS process through posters.

Young People of Turkey Discussing Their Future

Youth for Habitat organized a national meeting entitled "Young People of Turkey Discussing Their Future", May 16-19. The meeting was organized in partnership with UNDP-Turkey, IULA-EMME and Euro-Med Turkey, and held in Ankara. 197 local youth leaders from 64 provinces attended the meeting. The meeting was designed to have to themes together.

The declaration was composed of sections which are European Integration Process and Youth, Sustainable Development and Youth, International Agreements Related to Youth, Youth Participation and Governance, Youth Employment and Information Society and Youth. The declaration was presented to MPs in the Turkish Grand National Assembly in a special session of the parliament.

The "Information Society and Youth" section of the declaration intended to emphasize the place of youth in using, producing and developing information technologies and to draw attention to the digital divide. Members of the Local Agenda Youth Parliament who are local youth councils/centers' representatives and university student council's representatives committed themselves to follow-up the youth declaration.

The Information Society and Youth section in the declaration is as follows:

"Today information and information technologies are one of the powers of countries. The use of information technologies with a specific emphasis on local content provides economic, political and social advantages. Within this framework, the preparations for transition to e-state should be accelerated; pilot practices should be supported and become wide-spread for transparency and effective governance at the local level. Youth is the major group that mostly uses, produces and develops information technologies. However unequal access to information technologies renders youth disadvantaged and lead to a tremendous divide between young people.

Meanwhile the most important problem regarding information technologies both in our country and in the world is the digital divide. It is a necessity today to communicate with the world youth rapidly, economically and effectively. The effects of digital divide should be minimized to gain benefits from such opportunities. Therefore, training and awareness raising programs should be carried out and logistical opportunities should be provided country-wide to make youth in Turkey ready for the information society."

Brief Country Profiles

Argentina

The “First Youth Meeting on the Information Society” was organized by the Argentinean Youth Organization for the United Nations, on International Youth Day, August 12th, at the United Nations Information Center for Argentina and Uruguay in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Around 25 youth leaders participated, especially from secondary schools and universities. The meeting heard from representatives of the academic and the business sector, and then broke into smaller groups to debate the relationship between the World Summit and the UN’s Millennium Development Goals.

Belarus

In Belarus, AEGEE’s Minsk chapter organized an event entitled “E-generation: Realisation of Virtual Possibilities” on November 15 at the European Humanities University. Presentations on social applications of technologies were made by a number of students and local IT companies (including TUT.BY, KOSHT.COM, Internetwork Holdings, and Belsoft). This was followed by vibrant discussion on a number of key themes including: the politics of Internet service providers, spirituality and Internet culture, the positives and negatives of online learning, the development of a Belarussian e-commerce industry, debate over the best types of products to sell online, and finally how to increase employment in the Belarussian IT field.

Canada

Canadian young people have played a leadership role in international youth efforts, however activities have also taken place at a national level. The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Netcorps Canada International, and TakingITGlobal (with support from the Canadian International Development Agency), collaborated to host a six-week long on-line consultation in order to examine the experiences of young Canadians working to build information societies in Canada and around the world. Detailed background papers, especially prepared by former Netcorps Canada interns, served to introduce the topics – “Education, Livelihoods, and Community Development”, “Culture and Marginalized Groups”, “Health Care and the Environment”, and “Governance and Human Rights”. At the end of the consultation, a comprehensive report was submitted to CIDA and other Canadian government departments responsible for WSIS.

Brief Country Profiles

Germany

The German National Information Society Campaign was coordinated by Youth for Intergenerational Justice and Sustainability (YOIS). The major project of youth in Germany has been the publication of a book entitled “What’s Next?” to be presented at the WSIS in December. Young authors from countries all over the world captured their everyday experience with ICTs – describing the potential and the risk they see these changes holding for their country.

In addition, to promote the WSIS among youth in Germany, a national conference was held on the topic of the Information Society and Bridging the Digital Divide. Taking place in late October, the event targeted young people between the ages of 15 and 25. On the agenda were panel discussions with youth, thematic workshops on Internet secure and the potential of ICTs to bridge the digital divide. An exhibition of projects from the ongoing “Proday” initiative (www.proday.org) was also held. One of the most intriguing parts of the conference was a role-play game “Playing the WSIS” – where delegates participated in an innovative simulation of the WSIS negotiations – representing, and then deconstructing the positions of seven different groupings.

Japan

In Japan, National Information Society youth activities were coordinated by the United Nations Student Association of Japan. The association conducted research and surveyed youth in Japan exploring many issues including “ICT crime”, the elderly and ICTs, e-health, ethics of the Information Society, and e-learning. A final report will be published for the Summit in December. In addition, the Association coordinated a number of workshops for school students in Tokyo, where they also presented excerpts from video footage taken at the 3rd Preparatory Meeting.

Netherlands

The Dutch National Youth Council has established an ICT Taskforce to involve young people in the process of the WSIS and to increase the interest of the media in the Summit. The taskforce has created a declaration and produced a brochure outlining issues such as e-education, youth participation and human rights in the Information Society. Coordinating national youth activities is an appointed “Dutch Youth Representative”, Laura Fresco, who is an official member of the Dutch delegation to the Summit. She participated in a large event around the WSIS called “Fill the Gap!” organized by HIVOS, IICD and Oneworld on November 27 in Amsterdam, debating issues with representatives of government and civil society. Following WSIS, the Youth Council’s ICT Taskforce will work with national authorities to integrate the WSIS action plan into local policy.

Tunis

A Young Engineers Day on the Digital Divide (dubbed “YE3D”) was held as a major parallel session to the World Engineers Congress on the theme “Engineering and the Digital Divide”. The Day was organized to engage young Tunisian students and engineers in the process of the World Summit, and allow them to express their opinions and ideas on the key issues. In addition, it provided a unique opportunity to introduce young Tunisians to the international youth process and various international youth organizations in preparation for a more active leadership role in Phase 2 of the Summit. Speakers and guests included Don V.Roberts (Vice President of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations), Parker Mitchell (CEO of Engineers Without Borders), Alex Fielding (Youth Liaison at the WSIS Executive Secretariat), and Antony Marjoram (Mondialogo).



Ukraine

AEGEE Odessa organized a one-day seminar entitled “E-Ukraine’2003” that explored the impact of information and communications technologies in Ukraine, within the context of the upcoming EU-enlargement. Following plenary presentations, the close to seventy participants were divided into four groups exploring key issues. “E-democracy” explored increasing the efficiency and accountability of public interaction with government bodies through the Internet. “E-gender” explored the involvement of women, and especially young women in the Information Society. “E-society” explored social implications – such as privacy concerns around the latest photo-equipped cellular phones. Finally “E-Law” explored issues such as digital signatures, domain names, cyber-squatting and spam. At the end of the day, a dinner reception was held for all participants to continue to network and discussion.



Timeline

Management

The national youth campaigns have been catalyzed and coordinated by TakingITGlobal over a year-long process.

November 2002

A 30-page guidebook is created called “Creating your own National Information Society Youth Campaign”(summarized in the following pages). This guide provided handy tips for youth on putting together a local team, identifying organizations to partner with, hosting a national event, liaising with the media, and communicating with governments.

The guidebook is very well received not only within the Youth Caucus, but by civil society in general. The Gender Caucus, for example, makes slight adaptations and uses it as the key training manual for their own grassroots activities.

February 2003

A meeting of the Youth Caucus is held during the WSIS Prepcom 2 in Geneva to share and brainstorm around potential national youth plans. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO who provided feedback and advice for the youth.

Once back in their countries, youth submit plans for national campaigns and these are collated into a global proposal. Some activities get underway right away, while others are more dependent on international funding.

August 2003

Approximately US\$22,000 funding is secured to support the national campaigns through mini-grants. Funds are provided by the Canadian contribution to the Summit and the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation. All youth are invited to resubmit proposals for roughly \$1000US.

September 2003

With plans finalized, contracts signed, and funds disbursed, the National Campaigns get underway, with a series of forums, media activities and projects around the world.

The Third Preparatory Meeting for WSIS takes place in Geneva, and the national campaigns are promoted through the daily Youth Caucus newsletters.

October 2003

The Campaigns continue to gain momentum. A press release is distributed by the International Telecommunications Union to highlight their activities. Four additional campaigns are funded in Francophone countries.

November 2003

While many activities are still underway, Campaign Coordinators submit reports, photos, media articles and declarations to TakingITGlobal for inclusion in various presentations and this report.

TakingITGlobal sends team member, Jarra McGrath on a round-the-world trip filming national-level activities in the Philippines, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, and Canada, before heading to Geneva. The film is sponsored by GKP and UNESCO.

December 2003

At the World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva, the national campaigns are highlighted through a multimedia presentation in the Youth Hub space, a panel workshop, and individual meetings between youth organizers and their senior government representatives.

Lessons and Recommendations

Lessons and Recommendations

Key Overall Lessons

- **Reaffirmation of young people's leadership.** The campaigns demonstrated that young people are truly playing a leadership role when it comes to the Information Society – bringing together diverse stakeholders and effectively mobilizing their peers.
- **Potential of grassroots activities to generate relevance and interest.** The grassroots nature of the campaigns – run by youth, addressing local realities, and often using very successfully 'low-tech' technologies such as radio to get across their messages, introduced the WSIS to tens of thousands of young people and engaged them in constructive debate, reflection and input on the issues involved.
- **Efficiency of funding local and national level activities, especially those run by volunteers and youth.** The project was extremely efficient, running on a budget of less than \$30,000US (thanks in part to an in-kind staff/overhead contribution of TakingITGlobal). It is unfortunate that this type of efficient, educational and deeply empowering model is not more commonly supported by donors – ironically fellowships to huge events are frequently more easily obtained.

Key Management Lessons

- **Would be best to confirm funds much earlier.** The delay in securing funds to support the plans as submitted by the youth was unfortunate. Young people do not wait around for proposals to be funded – they often have other priorities or develop new projects when things don't move quickly. Some youth organizations change leadership as much as twice a year. This meant additional work changing plans and involving new countries and people.
- **Being organized is paramount.** The project involved significantly more administration than expected, from contract writing to following-up 'lost' bank-wire transfers. Being prepared with clear guides, instructions and forms – and using online groups to communicate helps make it manageable.
- **Connecting youth to other key stakeholders is critical.** Engaging government and business in the planning and implementation of the National Campaigns better guarantees a receptive audience for their recommendations. At the same time, it was a pleasant surprise how well connected many of the youth already were, able to involve government ministers and senior business representatives at short notice .
- **Documentation is critical national activities linked to global processes.** It is difficult to feed formal input and the spirit of local activities into the global processes without clear, inspiring texts and visuals delivered in a timely way for inclusion in reports and presentations.

- **Some coordinators will be more successful than others.** A project like this is inherently a little experimental – the implementing partners are often passionate and connected, yet experiencing a high-learning curve. We should expect diversity in the scope and success of activities launched. A major component of the program is empowering the youth to take risks and carry-out high-impact activities on behalf of their peers.

Key Recommendations

- **Continue to grow and support the National Youth Campaign program through until the Tunis phase of the Summit.** The ongoing framework of the campaigns provide a unique opportunity to engage a key stakeholder – youth – in the implementation of the Geneva Action Plan, and its linkage with national e-strategies.
- **Expand program to 80-100 countries over 2004.** Funds and partnerships with governments and international NGOs should be put in place to see the program expanded to 80-100 countries over the coming year. A program like this benefits from a critical mass of countries, and there is significant demand from both government decision-makers and young people to see it in more places.
- **Increase the amount of funding available per country over 1-year to \$5000US.** Many of the activities conducted this year were outstanding, and it would be important to be able to provide additional funds to support youth activities on an even greater and more sustained basis on 2004-5.
- **Focus on developing and least developed countries only.** To ensure the campaigns reach those who most need support, and maximum efficiency in delivering the activities, the focus should be placed on campaigns in developing and least developed countries only.
- **Increase outreach to South and Central America.** Special attention should be paid to catalyzing national campaigns in South and Central America, as this has been a severely under-represented region in both WSIS and youth activities generally.
- **Increase coordination capacity.** If the program is expanded, the National Campaigns require at least one full time coordinator for every ten campaigns, with an emphasis on skills in project management and languages.
- **Have multilingual communications capacity.** Materials, guidebooks, forms, contracts and reports should be produced in at least French, Spanish and English.
- **Include a budget for evaluation and documentation.** Visiting national campaigns is expensive but important to ensure accountability and to spur development of new activities.

Feedback?

If you have feedback or suggestions on the National Campaigns, please write to Nick Moraitis – nick@takingitglobal.org





CAMPAIGN HOW-TO

A quick guide to creating your
own national youth campaign

(The material in this section has been adapted and updated from "Creating your own WSIS National Information Society Youth Campaign", Copyright November 2002, TakingITGlobal and the International Institute for Sustainable Development).

Introduction

As you can see from this book, national Information Society youth campaigns can serve two vital purposes. First they enable youth to create a real impact on policy-making at a national and local level. Second, they help create a movement to help realize the potential of the information society at a grassroots level, with young people leading the way. Running your own national-level campaign can be a very valuable experience, for both you and your country!

It's true that running a national youth campaign is not the easiest challenge to take on... They involve many elements, from working with government departments and creating a national youth declaration, to running a national workshop or liaising with the media. Some incorporate concrete projects and community service, and include the creation of an ongoing national network of youth to follow-up their recommendations. There are many pieces in the puzzle to consider and plan – and it'll require a good team, probably some funding, and a lot of communication and outreach.

But that's why we've include this mini-guide to help. It outlines the 10 steps that might be involved in your own national youth campaign with tips, strategies and resources to tap to help you get organized.

We pulled together this framework based on our experience in the lead-up to WSIS, and on previous practices such as the Youth Employment Summit's country networks, and national consultation and engagement processes for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Each campaign is a little experimental, but we think the ideas in this guide are a good starting point.

While this document enables you to create what we think is a comprehensive national campaign for youth, it is fine to choose only to implement part of it in your country. Maybe there are other national projects to involve youth in the information society that you can tap into, rather than start-over with something new. Maybe you don't have the resources or the time to commit to something large. Maybe you simply have other ideas that will work better for your own situation or culture. The most important thing is that youth should adopt or adapt the framework in this guide as they want to create their very own national campaign plans to be implemented by young people themselves. And many of the strategies outlined can indeed be adapted for national level activities around other major world issues.

The process of a large international conference such as the WSIS can be complicated, but it can also be extremely rewarding. Over the last two years, it's been tremendously exciting to see a global movement of youth-led national activities emerge around creating digital opportunities and we look forward to seeing them continue to grow!

Keep in touch and good luck!

Getting Started

Congratulations for getting this far! You've now heard lots about the World Summit on the Information Society, and perhaps even participated in Geneva yourself. Now comes the big challenge – actually thinking about organizing activities in your own country.

Is this really for you?

It is very important to make sure you really are the 'person for the job'. The task is not really very glamorous and certainly not easy – it will require a lot of work on your part, especially until you put together a team of amazing young people from your country to help out.

Some of the skills and qualities of national campaign leaders might include:

- Fluency in English, Spanish, French, and/or other languages.
- Sense of humor and diplomacy
- Ability to work in collaborative teams – particularly in a virtual context
- Interest in ICTs and experience working with young people from a wide variety of cultures
- Experience with use of ICTs (Internet, radio, television) for development
- Experience managing content for Web sites and/or moderating online discussion boards
- Experience with international conferences and policy processes
- Educational background in political science, international development and/or sustainable development

Make sure you're not duplicating others' effort

Before you begin developing a national strategy, you should make sure no one else is doing the same thing! Chances are some other young people from your country are also involved in the Youth Caucus and are planning some activities of their own. Try and connect up all the activities in your country and work together: you'll be more effective if you form an alliance. To find out about what other youth in your country or neighboring countries are doing you can consult the listing on the Youth Creating Digital Opportunities Portal (www.ycdo.net).

Putting together a team

One of the first and most important steps you're likely to do is put together a team of young people and youth allies in your country to work with you on the national youth campaign. Forming a team is not only important to help achieve the significant amount of work that is required for an effective campaign. It's also vital so that you can tap the experience, contacts and resources that come with the individuals you involve. Having a group gives you greater legitimacy because it means other people are involved that support you, believe in and agree with your positions and are helping you organize activities. In other words, the credibility and commitment of the youth campaign will be reinforced and people will simply take you more seriously...

Creating a Team

There are at least four types of people to include in a national team:

1) Young people who are leaders of, or very active within organizations, projects or businesses related to information and communications technologies. For example, young people who run telecenters in remote or underprivileged areas, youth who have their own radio programs, or youth who run popular national websites. These young people will form the core of the team and provide the expertise on information society issues.

- You probably already know many of these young people: contact your friends and see if they know any others!
- Try searching the YCDO member database of young people interested in ICTs for Development <http://www.ycdo.net/community/members.html>
- Trade unions are great networks of young people active in an industry – you can find a list of unions active in the ICT industry at http://www.union-network.org/UNIsite/Sectors/IBITS/ICT/EWC_links.htm. If you need help contact you can also contact Youth Coordinator of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions by visiting <http://www.icftu.org/focus.asp?Issue=youth>

2) Young educators and leaders of student (and other youth-run) organizations who offer a perspective on the changing nature of education in the information society, and are also likely able to mobilize many other young students around the campaign.

- You might look up TakingITGlobal's organizational database for youth organizations from your country <http://organizations.takingitglobal.org>
- A good listing of student organizations is maintained by the United Nations at

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/links.htm#STUDENTS>

- Some student and youth groups you might like to involve include local chapters of AIESEC (<http://dmoz.org/Society/Organizations/Student/AIESEC>), and Rotaract (<http://www.rotaract.org/central/clubsearch.php3>).

3) Young people who both understand information society issues and concerns, and who have access to politicians; For example young people who participate in government consultation or representation bodies, such as the leaders of National Youth Councils. These young people will help ensure that government leaders listen to the youth perspectives.

- There are two major “peak” bodies for National Youth Councils. The European Youth Forum lists European National Youth Councils at <http://www.youthforum.org/organisation/members.html>. The World Assembly of Youth can connect you with others (contact them at info@worldassemblyofyouth.org).
- Also consider connecting with youth sections of political parties who can often help you lobby the government on youth issues (search Google to find them).

4) Allies of youth participation in information society issues. These might include people from government agencies involved in the WSIS process such as Departments of Education, Employment, Technology, Telecommunications, Foreign Affairs and International Development, National Commissions for UNESCO, UNDP field offices, and local and global for-profit companies and NGOs. These people will provide advice on how to operate the national

Planning

campaign, connections to governments to ensure youth perspectives are heard, and perhaps financial and other support to help achieve your goals.

- A good place to start is the people who attended the WSIS in December 2003. The participants contact list is linked from the main WSIS site at <http://www.wsis.org> and you can do a search for your country.
- A listing of National Commissions for UNESCO is at http://erc.unesco.org/cp/nclist_portal.asp?language=E#D
- You might contact them to see whether they are involved and want to help out with your activities. Note that National Commissions are generally under-resourced.
- Youth can find listings of UNDP field offices at <http://www.undp.org/dpa/coweblinks/index.html>
- Contact your local (or regional) branch of NGOs such as the Association for Progressive Communications (<http://www.apc.org/english/about/members/index.shtml>)

Once you've put together a team, keep in touch with them online and set up a time to have a meeting. Maybe ask one of the other team members if you can use their office to host the meeting – so that it increases their commitment to the project and makes it seem less like you are 'in charge' of everything. Invite everyone around the table to introduce themselves, their work and their hopes for the WSIS process and national activities

Setting goals and developing a plan

At the first meeting, the main task is to develop a plan for the national youth WSIS process. You should explain

the purpose of the meeting, provide some background on the WSIS process, and outline some of the options for a campaign that are presented in this guide. The agenda might include:

- brainstorming potential activities you hope to achieve together
- discussing any projects people are already doing which could link with the WSIS national campaign
- selection of the best activities
- commitments by individuals and groups to take the lead in organizing elements of the strategy
- identification of needs (such as funding), potential partners not represented at the meeting
- creation of a timeline for the national campaign, including a date for the next meeting of the team.

Once you have finished the meeting, you (or someone else from the meeting) will need to write a Plan for the national youth campaign. The plan will include brief information about the Summit, a listing of the key goals for the campaign, a summary of some of the activities planned, the timeline, the budget and a listing of all the main people and organizations involved. The plan should be between three and ten pages long. When you've finished writing it, create a 1 (or at most 2) page summary.

Fundraising

It is normal that implementation of your plan would require additional resources, for example to employ a young person to act as a part-time coordinator of the campaign, to hire a venue for a national workshop, or for the travel for a young person to participate in one of the Regional

Connecting w/ Gov.

meetings. You may be able to obtain some of these resources as in-kind donations of time or space through your network. In other cases, you may require a financial contribution from an outside source. The important thing is that you clearly describe the importance of obtaining funds, justify why the funding is required and explain how it will be used. You should seek a reasonable amount of funding and certainly enough to cover all your costs (If you don't get it all, at least you tried). The reality is that in some countries you will be able to raise more than within others.

You might submit your plan with a cover-letter requesting the funding (or part of it) to potential donors such as:

- The government department in your country responsible for youth, or the department that is responsible for the ICTs.
- The embassies of some donor countries such as Canada, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.

However, the best source of ideas and contacts will come from within your country – especially your team and their networks.

Connecting with your government

Meeting and talking with your government is a vital part of any national youth campaign. It is likely that your government will share the perspective of the young people in the country on most issues – and you should promote the idea that you are their partner in achieving an information society. On a minority of issues, it is likely that you will want to convince your governments of a different

stance than that they are already taking. Rather than be confrontational, simply provide yourself as an expert and make the suggestion in a well-argued manner. Your goal is simply to point out how they might do it differently – after all, they may have just not been thinking of other options or maybe they didn't have all the information they needed to understand the issues. Of course, you should not present yourself as an expert in areas outside your own experience.

Particular areas you might like to focus on helping your government understand are:

- The need for youth to be a special theme, highlighting the particular leadership of young people in the information society thus far, and outlining strategies to tap the potential of youth as a resource for its continued development.
- The particular concerns and issues of young people in your country related to the Information Society as outlined in your national youth declaration. Preferably pick two or three “priority areas”.
- The concerns of young people at an international level, with a particular focus on educating governments on some of the broader implications of the information society that might not be of particular importance to your own country but which are important to others.

Workshops

Holding a national workshop

One of the biggest activities you might like to organize is a national event for young people about the information society. The event could be large or small, dependent on the need of young people in your country and the resources and time you have available to organize it.

The event could:

- Summarize and validate youth input received through national-level consultations and e-consultations
- Develop concrete recommendations for refinements to your government's domestic policies influencing the emergence of an equitable and sustainable information society
- Develop recommendations for your governments' positions on international ICT policy, such as at WSIS.
- Provide an opportunity for young information society leaders to meet, share experiences, and explore potential future partnerships
- Engage your countries' media in understanding/reporting on the WSIS process
- Provide an opportunity for practical training or workshops on technology, media or education subjects.

Event organizing is a major project and you should not underestimate how complicated or time-consuming it will be. Begin planning well in advance.

Things to consider include:

- The timing of the event – how does this event fit within your wider timeline? Is it far away in advance for you to plan and organize it properly?
- The location – where will the event be held? Is it important to have it in your nation's capitol so that politicians might attend and listen to youth perspectives? Or is there a more central city that would allow participants to travel there more easily? What kind of venue will it be held in – can you get a space donated?
- The participants – how many will you invite? If you invite many, it will be more expensive, as well as more difficult to secure agreement if you are trying to create a declaration. If you invite few, you will have a smaller impact initially but it might be easier to organize and you will have a more 'focused' experience.
- The agenda – what are the topics on the agenda to discuss? How will you determine them? How will you ensure the agenda is flexible in case some participants want to discuss other topics?
- The activities – in addition to developing policy statements, are you planning to hold workshops to help participants have practical experiences, such as learning new skills, sharing knowledge, networking and training?

Communication

You should ensure that the participants are representative of the broader national youth population with respect to age, gender, ethnicity, region, and area of expertise within the information society. In particular, encourage young women and ethnic minorities and indigenous people to participate because they have specific concerns about the information society. At the same time, you may need to make sure that your event caters to different languages, different cultural approaches, and different levels of technical literacy and understanding.

Developing a national youth declaration

One of the important tools you will create through the national youth campaign is a National Youth Declaration on the Information Society. This declaration will summarize all the thoughts and perspectives of the young people involved in the campaign related to the pressing issues, and key opportunities presented by the information revolution.

Some areas you might consider are:

- Access and connectivity
- Producing Content
- Improving Education
- Creating Employment
- Effect on health
- Multilingualism / Diversity
- Environmental impact
- Privacy

The declaration should be developed after a range of consultations for example:

- Create a postcard-sized questionnaire to distribute in schools or with local youth organizations asking

them to write “their vision of the Information Society” or asking them to number their priority issues in order.

- Organize an online consultation across an e-mail mailing list with two or three weeks of focused discussion. You could also create an online discussion group the YCDO.net website.
- Go on the radio and invite people to call-in and discuss some of the key issues.
- After consultations, you should discuss the Declaration at the National event (if you organize one) or within your team to collate and finalize all the writing.

Once it is complete make sure it is translated into your countries’ major official languages and:

- Upload it to the initiatives area on YCDO.net
- Print it and distribute it to all the members of your team and youth organizations in your country. If you can, send a copy to everyone who participated in the consultation so they know that their thoughts are being represented and heard.
- Send it to your governments with a cover letter, and preferably arrange to meet with some officials to present the document and discuss the issues it raises and how these might be included in their own positions.

Include youth on government delegations

One important objective of any national level campaign is to encourage governments to include young people within their own official national delegations to the important global meetings.

Having a youth representative at international meetings is important for young people because it provides a direct link to the intergovernmental decision-making process. Young people who participate within government delegations are able to access parts of the meeting that others are not, they have more direct communication and access to ministers and senior people within their own governments and other governments, and they have easier access to logistics such as phones, faxes, and computers!

You should encourage your government to include a young person on their delegation. If they accept the idea, you should develop a transparent process that accepts nominations or applications and has a selection committee that conducts interviews and makes a final recommendation to the government. You should develop guidelines for the Youth Delegate with a list of responsibilities and duties and make sure the delegate sticks to their commitments.

At the same time, while being on the delegation is useful, the most important thing is ongoing good relationships with the key people from your government working on the WSIS. You should be able to communicate with them both in your own country and meet informally with them at any international meetings.

Communicate effectively

Considering this is a National *Information Society Youth*, it seems almost too obvious to note that communications technologies and the media are very powerful and empowering tools that can support your campaign. Your two communications goals would be to:

- Ensure that you effectively communicate the importance of the World Summit on the Information Society, and your activities to everyone that might be interested.
- Ensure you create opportunities for dialogue and interactivity – it is important to allow many people to participate, including those who are not able to attend even national, let alone international events.

Some communications activities might include:

- Creating an effective “brand”. You might like to come up with a more exciting name than “National Youth Campaign for the Information Society”, something that has a better ‘ring’ to it. Your brand would also include a logo.
- Develop your own newsletter that highlights your latest activities, news from the WSIS process internationally, some of the key concerns you have, a spotlight on a concrete youth-led ICT project in your country, a calendar of upcoming events, and a listing of opportunities to get involved.
- Upload progress reports, pictures, documents, links and other information about your activities to the YCDO.net website.
- Use the media to publicize your involvement in the WSIS process. Send out a press release and tell the media when you hold your event, launch your declaration, or participate in an international meeting. They’ll be excited to hear about what young people are doing to help create an information society. Make sure they focus on some of the concrete projects your team members are doing as well as the policy process.

Follow-up

Connect with the global process

Your participation at a national level is vital, but it is also important that you and your team are able to participate at a global level. You should try and raise funds to help at least one of your team members attend at least one of the meetings towards Tunis 2005. This way, you can share the perspectives of young people from your country with youth all over the world – and at the same time highlight the positive projects youth in your country are leading with information and communications technologies.

- You should keep reading the WSIS Youth mailing list because many pieces of important information about the global process come over this mailing list. To join, go to <http://groups.takingitglobal.org/wsisyouth>
- Generally youth will have to fundraise for their own participation in the international meetings and will also be responsible for their own visa applications (which can sometimes be quite complicated).

Using the Summit to grow the national movement of youth creating digital opportunities

Last, but certainly not least, a key part of your national youth campaign will be to create a legacy from the WSIS process. In essence, you'll use the WSIS process and the many opportunities it presents to support the development of concrete ICT projects led by young people in your country.

The ongoing WSIS process is a good opportunity for this because:

- It will continue to bring together young people active in the areas of ICTs to work together around the policy process, so you will get to know each other – opening opportunities for practical collaboration in the future.
- It will raise the profile of young people as leaders of the information society in your country, and connect you with many senior people at relevant government departments, UN agencies and NGOs. While this contact will also initially focus on the policy side, it will provide the opportunity for you to meet them and for them to understand the type of projects you do and the support you need.

As part of your national campaign you might like to establish a couple of small scale projects (or large ones if you are ambitious) that you want to implement that have an information society theme. Here are some examples:

- Establishing a mentor scheme for young people with computer skills to teach computer classes at schools.
- Creating a computer recycling program whereby young people donate older computers (either their own, or those they collect) to schools, other youth, or community organizations.
- Developing new software or websites for community organizations, governments or schools.
- Setting up a tele-center for young people in the region providing free or low-cost access to the Internet or computer technologies.
- Establishing a printed newspaper or poster-paper for youth (or the general population) in their town discussing current events.
- Creating a local website or network for youth promoting organizations or projects to get involved

with. You could help develop TakingITGlobal country sites (<http://local.takingitglobal.org>)

Follow-up

You should also develop a follow-up strategy that includes a larger scale vision of projects that young people could implement on a nation-wide basis to help promote an information society in your country. With lobbying, you might be able to convince your own government to implement some of these ideas - and you might be able to attract funding and enthusiasm from major organizations participating in the WSIS.

As part of the Youth Creating Digital Opportunity Coalition, a Youth Focal Point is engaged at the Global Knowledge Partnership (<http://www.globalknowledge.org>) to help broker partnerships between youth-led ICT projects and proposals on the one hand, and mainstream initiatives and donors on the other.

Overall, our goal is to turn the WSIS away from being JUST WORDS – and increasing the focus on ACTION – not just after the Summit, but NOW.

Tapping into TakingITGlobal for support

TakingITGlobal is providing some secretariat and campaign support for the Youth Caucus at a global level. We are extremely enthusiastic to be able to play this role because we think young people have a lot to offer this World Summit – and a lot to gain from it.

If you have any questions about the WSIS process, in particular about setting up a national level process, please do not hesitate to contact Nick Moraitis (nick@takingitglobal.org) who is TakingITGlobal's project officer for WSIS and the facilitator of the Youth Caucus. At the same time, please understand that we can only help in small ways.

One of the most powerful things TakingITGlobal (together with our partners IISD and GKP) is providing is the Youth Creating Digital Opportunities Portal at www.ycdo.net, launching in early December 2002. This portal is a global online community of young people active around information society issues. A lot of the information, frequently asked questions, documents and practical logistical information on the WSIS is available or linked to from this website. Further, there is a large database of organizations, events, and funding opportunities on the website.

Thank you and good luck

We really hope that you have found this guidebook useful in thinking about the development of your own national campaign around the World Summit on the Information Society. It is your dedication to the development of an inclusive and exciting information society that is at the heart of the Summit and what makes the youth participation so vibrant and productive. The important thing to remember is that your national campaign needs to be YOUR OWN – responding to your own local needs and circumstances.

We wish you the best of luck with it.

Youth information society campaign

LOCAL VOICES GLOBAL VISIONS

This publication tells the invigorating story of grassroots activities led by youth to "take WSIS local" - out into communities, and direct to their nation's capitals. From Sierra Leone to Brazil, India to the Philippines, young people have held meetings in community halls, gone into schools, published email newsletters, trained other youth in technology skills at internet cafes, talked with decision-makers, and implemented concrete local projects. The campaigns have provided space and support for young people to come together, share experiences on information society issues, and dialogue with key national policy makers on ICTs as a tool for economic and social development.

Inside, policy makers will find key recommendations and lessons to incorporate youth perspectives into national e-strategies, while young people will find inspiration and a practical guide to develop their own local youth ICT campaigns.



Published by TakingITGlobal, 2003 • 19 Duncan Street, Toronto, ON, M5H 3H1 Canada
www.takingitglobal.org

Accra-Ghana
Tel.027-7471051
Email-baidg@yahoo.co.uk

NATIONAL YOUTH ICT ESSAY COMPETITION

The African Youth Initiative in partnership with the youth caucus of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) is organising a National Youth ICT Essay Competition on the topic: INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, MERITS AND DEMERITS

OCTOBER 3-9, 2003

STRAIGHT FROM THE SENATE

By Wendell Glenn P. Gagape

Reclaiming our global commons



RECENTLY, I attended the First Philippine Youth Consultative Meeting for the United Nations

Our national quest for an enhanced information society must address what we call the digital divide

Use Internet for academic growth - Kan-Dapaah

Eugenia Adjei-Mensah

The Minister of Communication and Technology, Mr Albert Kan-Dapaah, has urged the youth to use the Internet to acquire knowledge instead of browsing pornographic sites.

He advised Internet providers to make sure that young people who use their services put the Internet to good use and for its intended purpose. This, he said, would enable them to gain information about the world around them.

He launched the National Youth Information Society Campaign 2003 on the theme: "Realising the Potential of Youth to Create Digital Opportunity" in Accra.

Mr Kan-Dapaah said the Internet has a lot of information which is important to the academic progress of young people and directed them to take advantage of it instead of abusing it.

The programme was organised by African Youth Initiative (AYI), with support from the Canadian Embassy. The Project Co-ordinator and Co-founder of AYI, Mr Leopard L. L. Armah, said AYI is a network of youth oriented NGOs and individuals who

aim at using (IT) to help Africa and all livelihood for the continent.

Prior to the launch and Community essay competition which participated in the national development Seidu Jusu was the winner of his prize, he said accessories. The Summit in December

The World Summit on Information Society will be held in Geneva, Switzerland and the Philippine government will participate in the summit, of which, the outputs of the consultative meeting from the youth sector will at least, help the government officials attending.

To my dismay, the Philippines is not yet ready to embrace that concept of the role of youth in helping build a society that is harmoniously united since the advent of the loss of our national identity due to globalization of culture, trade and services and even intellect.

Reclaiming our national identity to augment our quest for our global commons among people in the global village is a must for us to survive and harmoniously and effectively function.

An informed society manages to think rationally and react to events around them, with more fact and their decisions are based on logical pretexts if they get to be informed.

My only observation was that the Philippines is forever grateful for the few groups of youth leaders who took the initiative to undertake ideas and information in order to make our lives even better, and because of this, we had dispelled the notion that the youths in this country are pathetic and dysfunctional, in fact, the very meeting of young minds at the Asian Development Bank has produced a declaration that is both reflective of our collective aspirations and dreams in the context of information society in the contemporary Filipino nationhood.

... 276082

on Sep

jointly by IT association with Youth Development Activities (CYDA) and India.

... as a current World Summit Society (WSIS) ... later this

the WSIS, a is being org-

... on the Information Society ...

Association of Computer Teachers in India (ACTI) ...

... organised in the World Summit on the Information Society ...

... December



ब्रॉडकास्ट मीडि

... मीडिया ...

... रिलिजस इन्फोर्मेशन के ...

New

interface Ablekpe ...

underway to ... facilities ... of the College ... Education ...

... ncellor of the ... cation, Winr ... namuah-Mer ... at this y ... eremony to a ... to the college ... college had fi

dlar

... വിഷയങ്ങളെ ...

... വിഷയങ്ങളെ ...