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**Workshop on Access to Broadband, Universal Service Opportunities and Challenges**  
**Co-sponsored by NTRA and the International Telecommunications Union for the**  
**Arab Regulators Network- ARNET**  
**Sharm-El Sheikh, Egypt**  
**March 4-6, 2005**

**Trip Report and Workshop Evaluation**  
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Internews Network, Inc.

**I. Summary**

Under the direction of USAID/ANE, the USAID-funded dot-GOV program implemented by Internews Network assisted with five foreign speakers for the Workshop on Broadband Access Universal Service Opportunities and Challenges, held 4-6 March at Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. The Workshop was organized and hosted by the Egyptian National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (NTRA) and co-sponsored by the International Telecommunications Union. The workshop was for members of the Arab Regulators Network (ARNET) who held their annual meeting on 2-3 March at the same locale. The dot-GOV program provided consultants and foreign speakers to enrich the technical discussions during the workshop. The selection of speakers provided followed the specific request of the Egyptian National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority.



The workshop also included discussions on different options of wireless technologies as well as possible technological scenarios for extending telecommunications services to rural areas or areas where access to Internet is still not available or barely accessible. Among the main recommendations resulting from this workshop we find:

1. Exchanging information about and possibly merging pilot projects/experiments in the Arab Region.
2. Create real awareness of the possible use of ICTs- especially in students and other potential users.
3. Explore possibilities for underserved region and find the most appropriate technology to fit each case.

For further information on the Broadband Workshop and the attendees please see Annex I & II of this report.

## **II. Background**

The Arab Regulators Network (ARNET) (formerly known as the AICTRN, Arab ICT Regulators Network) is developing into an international organization that advances the common interests shared by regulatory authorities in the region. ARNET's 2005 meetings build on previous efforts from meetings held in Algeria (2003) and Jordan (2004).

In Jordan, the 2004 AICTRN annual meeting was marked by sharing of common problems encountered by regulatory authorities and developing interventions to address these issues; designing a more cohesive regional network structure; the successful transition of Secretary General Leadership from Algeria to Jordan; and allowing USAID to provide technical assistance during a subsequent professional development workshop to the Annual General Meeting organized by the Telecommunications Regulatory Council of Jordan (TRC). Members of the Arab Regional Association of IT Associations (ARAITA) were invited to join AICTRN in this workshop. This workshop provided training on hot telecommunications and ICT regulatory topics, such as: interconnection, spectrum management, universal service, enforcement and dispute resolution, ethics and conflicts of interest, and capacity building.



At the end of the 2004 meeting, it was decided that the next meeting would be held in Egypt 2005, and a similar professional development workshop would follow the Annual General Meeting. Ms. Muna Hakooz from TRC and Internews/Dot-Gov consultant, Mr. Brian Goulden visited Cairo, Egypt on 22-24 January 2005 to explore the possibilities of cooperation with the Egyptian NTRA. Among other results, it was decided that the NTRA of Egypt have full leadership and responsibility for the logistics and invitations to both the Annual General Meeting and the subsequent Professional Development Workshop. It was also decided that the only assistance that NTRA would need from USAID would for Foreign Speakers (travel arrangements, consulting fees and coordination).

Dot-GOV was asked to handle the travel arrangements for two US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Staff, a speaker from the Italian Communications Authority, and the consultancies of two expert speakers from the U.S. dot-GOV was also asked to fund all the travel, lodging, meals and incidentals for a TRC official, Mr. Abdullah Rifa to attend the ARNET Annual General Meeting.

### **III. Trip Objective**

The Dot-Gov Senior Program Associate traveled to Sharm-El-Sheikh to ensure that the logistical arrangements were in place, for the Foreign Speakers, especially the FCC given FCC restrictions regarding travel funding from a USAID Cooperative Agreement. In particular, the focus was on coordinating arrangements for the FCC Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy and Mr. John Giusti. This assistance included paying for all air and surface travel, accommodations, meals and incidentals and any other logistical issues (trouble-shooting). However, special arrangements were also needed for Mr. Vincenzo Monaci, Italian Communications Authority, whose travel information needed facilitation and attention up to the workshop itself.

### **Consultants and Foreign Speakers provided to ARNET**

**Federal Communications Commission:  
Commissioner Ms. Kathleen Abernathy  
Opening Remarks**

**Federal Communications Commission  
Mr. John Giusti, International Bureau  
Presentation on: *The Path to Universal  
Access***



*Discussion on Broadband Access*

*Trip report, Alejandro-H. Bermudez-Del-Villar, Senior Program Associate, dot-GOV Program, Internews Network Inc.  
21 March 2005*

**Italian Communications Authority**

**Mr. Vincenzo Monaci**

**Presentation on:** *Access to Broadband: Universal Service, challenges and opportunities in Italy*

**University of Colorado at Boulder**

**Mr. Dale Hatfield**

**Presentation on:** *The Possible use of DSL Technology*

**Information Technology Associates of New Jersey**

**Mr. Shawky El-Toukhy**

**Presentation on:** *Broadband Access: Analysis of Its Economic Impacts and Policy Implications*

<b>VI Content and Implementation</b>
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Under the auspices of NTRA and ITU, with speaker funding provided in part from USAID/ANE, the three-day workshop on Broadband Access and Universal Service Opportunities and Challenges for Universal addressed issues dealing with the technical and operational aspects of accessing Broadband as well as how the nations from the region could benefit from this opportunity.



*John Giusti- FCC*

The workshop included discussions on different options of wireless technologies and possible technological scenarios for extending telecommunications services to rural areas or areas where access to Internet is still not available or barely accessible.

Workshop co-sponsor ITU representative Mr. Dēsirē Karyabwite provided a general overview of available technologies and examples of how these technologies have worked in different regions of the world where ITU has offices.

At the end of the Third Day of the workshop, the attendees were asked to organize two groups – one focusing on technical and policy issues and a second one to develop recommendations. For specific topics reviewed in the workshop please see Annex I of this report.



*Working group for recommendations*

## **VII. Conclusion**

### **A. Workshop Recommendations**

1. Encourage exchange of information on and possibly merging pilot projects/experiments in the Arab Region.
2. Create real awareness of the possible use of ICTs- especially in students and other potential users.
3. Encourage and ensure that representative from the Arab countries participate in the various conferences and international events available on the bridging of the “Digital Divide.”
4. Exchange information between and experts from the region and other institutions.
5. Explore possibilities for each underserved region and find the most appropriate technology for each case.

### **B. Audience/participants**

Representatives from different countries of the region attended the workshop, including regulators from Kuwait, Oman, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Morocco, Yemen and Egypt. The audience participated during the regular sessions as well as during the break-out sessions. The group’s synergy and dynamic developed during the three days of the workshop. For a complete list of the attendees please see Annex II of this report.

### **C. Workshop Venue & Logistical Arrangements**

The NTRA decided to hold ARNET’s Annual General Meeting and professional development Workshop (Access to Broadband Universal Service Opportunities and Challenges) at the Jolie Ville Movenpick Hotel. The dot-Gov negotiations with the Hotel management resulted in the speakers receiving accommodation rates and

lodging expenses under the US Department of State's allowed rates. Meals, and other logistical services for the speakers were also sponsored by USAID through dot-Gov.

The venue was appropriate and fulfilled its purpose. The Hotel's services and its technical support were diligent and prompt. Jolie Ville provided wireless Internet access at the Conference room as part of the event package. Internet access at the main hotel section was limited and only available through dial-up.

ANNEX I

**Workshop on  
Access to Broadband**  
**“Universal Service Opportunities and Challenges”**  
**An ARNET Professional Development Workshop**  
**In collaboration with**  
**the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**  
*4-6 March, 2005*  
**Jollie Ville Movenpeck Hotel, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt**

<b>Day One Friday 4 Mar, 2005</b>		
<b>9:00 AM – 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Registration &amp; Coffee</b>	
<b>10:00 AM – 11:00 AM</b>	<b>Opening Ceremony</b>	<b>Holly Quran</b>
		<b>Welcome Address by Eng. Alaa Fahmy Executive President of NTRA</b>
		<b>Word of ITU - BDT Director Hamadon Toure (Tentative)</b>
		<b>Word of ITU Regional Office Director Ibrahim El-Haddad</b>
	<b>Keynote Address</b>	<b>Word of Commissioner K. Abernathy FCC</b>
		<b>Universal Access to Broadband in the 21st Century ITU - BDT Director Hamadon Toure (Tentative)</b>
<b>11:00 AM – 1:30 PM</b>	<i>Friday Prayer</i>	
<b>1:30 PM – 3:00 PM</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>3:00 PM – 5:00 PM</b>	<b>Broadband Technologies Contribution to Universal Service/Access</b>	<b>Revised Definitions of US and UA HE Kathleen Abernathy</b>
		<b>Broadband to Underserved Areas, a Target or an Enabler? ITU</b>
		<b>Panel Discussion</b>

<b>Day Two Saturday 5 Mar, 2005</b>		
<b>9:00 AM – 11:30 PM</b>	<b>New Technological Offerings for the Underserved Areas</b>	<b>Progress in Broad Band Technologies and Solutions ITU</b>
		<b>Wireless Technologies for Rural Access NTRA Egypt</b>
		<b>Broadband on Fixed Services, ADSL Dale Hatfield</b>
		<b>Technological Scenarios for Rural Coverage NTRA Egypt</b>
<b>Panel Discussion</b>		
<b>11:30 PM – 12:00 PM</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
<b>12:00 PM – 1:30 PM</b>	<b>Universal Service and Universal Access in the era of Convergence</b>	<b>VoIP for Rural Access, Opportunities and Challenges ARNET Member</b>
		<b>The role of NGNs in US/UA ITU</b>
		<b>Triple Play Community Centers, Will it be a Reality? ARNET Member</b>
		<b>Panel Discussion</b>
<b>1:30 PM – 3:00 PM</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>3:00 PM – 5:00 PM</b>	<b>Policy and Economical Considerations</b>	<b>From Legacy to Broadband Universal Access Policies FCC</b>
		<b>Economical Policies for Broadband Universal Access NTRA Egypt</b>
		<b>Implementing Universal Access Funds ARNET Member</b>
		<b>Panel Discussion</b>



<b>Day Three Sunday 6 Mar, 2005</b>		
<b>9:00 AM – 10:30 AM</b>	<b>International Case Studies</b>	<b>ITU Perspective</b>
		<b>Region I, II, ... (ITU)</b>
		<b>Case I, II, ... (ELSE)</b>
		<b>Panel Discussion</b>
<b>10:30 AM – 11:00 AM</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
<b>11:00 AM – 12:30 PM</b>	<b>Regional Case Studies</b>	<b>Country I (ARNET)</b>
		<b>Country II, ... (ARNET + Egypt)</b>
		<b>Case I, Case II, ... (ARNET)</b>
		<b>Panel Discussion</b>
<b>12:30 PM – 2:00 PM</b>	<b>Priorities For Arab Regulators; Future Actions at National and Regional Levels</b>	<b>Breakout Groups</b>
<b>2:00 PM – 3:30 PM</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>3:30 PM – 4:30 PM</b>	<b>Closing</b>	<b>Sum up</b>
		<b>Draft Recommendations</b>
		<b>Concluding Panel &amp; Recommendations</b>

**Annex II. List of Participants March 4-6 2005 – Sharm el-Sheikh**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Nationality</b>
Hashem Ali El Sayed Hashem	Kuwait
Fadel Karam Gohar Moh. Ali	Kuwait
Abdel Reda Mah. Moh. Abdin	Kuwait
Hani Mohketar Hussein Kabli	Kuwait
Abdulah Abdelaziz El Hamamy	Yemen
Tarek Aboualam	Egypt
Dr. Abdel Aziz El Manea	K S Arabia
Moh. Ben Ibrahim El Souweil	K S Arabia
Awad El Asaaf (VIP)	KSA
Ahmed Souror	KSA
Ms Zein	Jordan
Mrs Mona Hakooz	Jordan
Ms.Maysa Ismail	Syria
Mesbah Shalash	Syria
Ibrahim El Haddad	ITU.
Dr.Miloud Amzeian	ITU.
Dr. Ali Maarroof	Syria
Eng.Raeouf El Eid	Syria
Mrs Mona Najim (VIP)	Jordan
Mustafa Hussein Hashem	Kuwait
Adreess Aatouf	Morocco
Khaouja Ahmed	Morocco
Mohamed Abdullah el Mahrouki	Oman
Abdullah Salem Abdullah	Oman
Rozalin	Oman
Saleh Hassan Saleh Batouk	Oman
Qias Ben Souad El Zaqwany	Oman
Naashiah Souad El Khourousy	Oman
Ahmed Bouqadoum	Algeria
Mohamed Tawfik Bessai	Algeria
Eng. Alaa Fahmy	Egypt
Dr. Sherif Ganaina	Egypt
Olfat Abdel Monsaf	Egypt
Eng. Hisham Abdel Rahman	Egypt
Mrs. Hoda El Deeb	
Mahmoud Gamal	
Sayed El Gharabawy	Egypt
Mohamed El Tayeb Daghbal	Algeria

Mrs. Sherry Youssef	Egypt
Mr. Haled Shaheen	Egypt
Mr. Renato Labadan	USA
Mrs Mona Kaldas	Egypt
Mr. Dennis Panther	USA
Mr. Hussien Radwan	Egypt
Mr. Mohamed Nasser	Egypt
Mr. Ayman Rashed	Egypt
Mr. Martin Taschdjian	USA
Mr.Dale Hatfield	USA
Mr. Vincenzo Monaci	Italy
Mr. Shawky El Toukhy	USA
Ms. Kathleen Abernathy	USA
Mr. John Giusti	USA
Mr. Abdullah Rifai	Jordan