

ICT POLICY MAKING IN EMERGING ECONOMIES
23rd -27th January 2006

1. INTRODUCTION

Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) have been recognised the world over as a vital tool in achieving sustainable human development. The challenge to developing countries as a result is making ICTs available not just to those who can afford the services but also to the often marginalized communities in both the rural and urban areas. This can only be realised under the guidance of a good policy.

Although policy making is not as new a concept as is regulation in the developing world, sector reforms such as allowing competition into the sector, minimising government involvement in the sector and separation of the policy making role from the regulatory role have brought a new twist to policy making.

Policy makers are often confronted by challenges of:

- Understanding their role in liberalised environments
- Developing ICT policy that is responsive to the development needs of the majority of the citizens
- Using independent regulators to implement policies without eroding the benefits of independence
- Developing policies that:
 - ensure equitable access to ICTs environments of low infrastructure development and low incomes
 - attract investment particularly to high risk areas
- Addressing the need for and approaches to universal access/service
- Etc

A distinctive knowledge divide is emerging between policy makers (the traditional civil servants in the line ministries) and regulator in terms of understanding ICT policy and its impact on development. Most governments in developing countries now put limited emphasis on capacity development, and training budgets are almost non-existent. Regulators, on the other hand, tend to be well resourced, and they have put a lot of emphasis on training. This is dangerous: at the end of the day, "good" regulators cannot be good without good policy, and yet it is the mandate of the civil servants in the line ministries to formulate policy and prepare the cabinet and parliamentary papers. Failure to address this divide will create a missing link.

The proposed workshop will be the first under NetTel Africa of bringing together participants who are pre-dominantly policy makers under the capacity building initiative of NetTel@Africa.

2. WORKSHOP METHODOLOGY/LEARNING APPROACH

- Three day Executive development program on policy and regulation covering policy and regulation aspects, financial and economic aspects as well as technology aspects;
- Presentations followed by discussions on approaches and experiences in selected African and non-African countries in policy development; (1 day)
- Small Working Groups to identify challenges to policy makers on the continent and discuss possible solutions (1 day)

3. TARGET GROUP

This workshop is targeted at middle and top management staff of the policy making organ in Government responsible for ICT Policy and definition of the regulatory environment. The top level is the technocrat level just below the permanent secretaries or equivalent in ministries responsible for the actual formulation of policy documents. The following countries that have been active in NetTel@Africa will be brought together in a bilingual environment:

- (i) Angola
- (ii) Botswana
- (iii) Cameroon
- (iv) Democratic Republic of the Congo
- (v) Ethiopia
- (vi) Kenya
- (vii) Lesotho
- (viii) Malawi
- (ix) Mauritius
- (x) Mozambique
- (xi) Namibia
- (xii) Nigeria
- (xiii) Rwanda
- (xiv) Senegal
- (xv) Seychelles
- (xvi) South Africa
- (xvii) Swaziland
- (xviii) Tanzania
- (xix) Uganda
- (xx) Zambia
- (xxi) Zimbabwe

4. EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the workshop, the participants will be able to:

- Understand how ICT Policy overlaps with the underlying component industries (telecommunications, media and technology);
- Critique the approaches used by different countries in relation to the environments in those countries, and therefore identify best practices in policy formulation and definition of regulatory environment;
- Define roles of various stakeholders in the sector,
- Articulate the process of formulating new policy, objectives, strategies and master plan
- Understand how to evaluate performance of previous policy

This workshop will bring together policy makers, from different countries in Africa, in an interactive forum that shares experiences and thinking in a way that will help African policy makers develop their approach to policy making.

Through the workshop:

- Policy makers shall have direct interaction and acquire first hand information on the experiences of peers in other countries from Africa and elsewhere, which will enable them in designing their approaches of fostering growth of the sector.

Networking among peers shall be fostered enabling further and faster consultations across countries on operational issues. This shall also initiate the peering activities of policy makers under the Nettel@Africa network

5.

ICT POLICY MAKERS WORKSHOP DRAFT PROGRAMME

Time	Activity	Session Chair	Resource person/speaker
Arrival: 22nd January 2006			
1930-2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration • Meet and greet 	Mr. S. Kintu	All Participants
Day 1: 23rd January 2006			
0830-0900	Opening session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self Introductions • Remarks from Nettel@Africa • Keynote Address • Group photograph 	Master of Ceremonies	Minister of Communications RSA
0930-1045	Understanding the concept, structure, and process for successful public policy in democratic environments (expert presentation)		Prof David Souter, University of Strathclyde-UK
1045-1115	Health Break		

1115-1230	Recommended key elements of a national ICT policy in an era of convergence (expert presentation)		Adrian Foster/ Canada
1230-1400	Lunch break		
National ICT Policy: process; elements; governance/institutions			
1400-1420	South Africa		Councillor Lumko Mtimde, ICASA
1420 - 1440	Nigeria		Eng Ernest Ndukwe, Executive Vice Chairman, Nigerian Communications Commission
1440-1500	Senegal		
1500 – 1520	(A country from East Africa)		
1520-1550	Health Break		
1550-1700	Group discussions: Three working groups critique the cases presented with reference to expert presentations 1 and 2, enriched by their own thinking; and start on their ICT Policy Cookbook		
1900	Dinner (hosted by ICASA)		
Day 2: 24th January 2006			
0830-0930	Group work presentations		
Approaches to ICT Policy & Implementation			
0930-0950	India;		Ms Sadhana Dikshit, Sr DDG (LG) Department of Telecom, India
0950-1010	USA;		Nannette Thompson, Alaska
1010-1030	Australia;		Dr Patrick Xavier, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, Australia
1030-1100	Health Break		
Regional Approaches to ICT Policy - Case Studies:			
1100-1120	SADC		TRASA
1120-1140	ECOWAS		WATRA
1140 – 1200	COMESA		ARICEA
1200-1220	EAC		EARPTO
1230-1400	Lunch break		
1400-	10 minutes of fame (1)		

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1500	presentation from 6 participating countries outlining experiences in ICT Policy from their countries (process; elements; governance)		
1500-1530	Health Break		
1530-1700	Group discussion session: Refining ICT Policy Cookbook based on feedback and presentations from the day		
Day 3: 25th January 2006			
0900-1000	Group work presentations		
1000-1100	The Concept, Challenges and Policy Strategies for Universal Service		Dr Patrick Xavier, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, Australia
1100-1130	Health Break		
1130-1200	Governance and implementation structures for Universal Access (expert presentation)		Dr Lishan Adam, Independent Consultant
1200-1230	The NetTel@Africa Regulators Universal Access Cookbook		Dr F F Tusubira, NetTel@Africa Secretariat/Makerere University
1230-1330	Lunch break		
1400-1800	Networking outing: cultural experiences and UA example in South Africa (Ipelepeng Centre & two Soweto Community Service Telephones (CST)		DoC/ICASA
Day 4: 26th January 2006			
0830-0915	Building a Service Strategy for e-Government		Michele Granger/ Canada
0915-1045	Panel Discussion: Two policymakers and two regulators will make up a panel of four, highlighting challenges and experience in interfacing between policymakers and regulators	Dr Maria Beebe or Dr F F Tusubira	
1045 - 1100	Health break		
1100-1200	Interfacing with International Organisations: Challenges to African Policymakers and recommended practice (ITU, WSIS, WTO, ICANN, etc) (expert presentation)		Dr Henry Chasia, Executive Deputy Chairperson, NEPAD E-Africa Commission (subject to confirmation)
1200-1340	10 minutes of fame for all participating countries that would not have made a presentation in		

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	the first time slot; plus any individual who has something very specific and interesting(regarding ICT policy and challenges) to share		
1340-1440	Lunch Break		
1440-1700	Workshop 2: Refining the ICT Policy Cookbook <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group presentations and discussions • Setting up a working group to merge and consolidate the ICT Feedback from Policy makers training needs elicitation questionnaire(to be distributed at the beginning) and discussion		
1900-	Dinner hosted by DoC		
Day 5: 27th January 2006			
0830-0850	The importance of research to sector policy		Dr Alison Gillwald, Research ICT Africa!
0850-0910	Sector Performance Reviews		Dr Lishan Adam
0910-1010	E-Usage		Steve Esselaar, Research ICT Africa!
1010-1030	FAIR Access to the Internet		Mrs. Irene Kaggwa Sewankambo
1030-1100	Health break		
1100-1120	Infostates		Dr F F Tusubira
1120-1220	Policy framework for ICTs in Education		Dr Maria Beebe
1220 - 1250	NetTel and capacity building opportunities for policy makers		Irene Kaggwa Sewankambo and John Stanley Kintu
1250-1320	Evaluation		
1320-1430	Lunch break and end of workshop		