



Annual Report 2007

Internet za socijalnu pravdu i održivi razvoj

ИНТЕРНЕТ ЗА СОЦИЈАЛНА СПРАВЕДЛИВОСТ И УСТОЈЧИВО РАЗВИТИЕ

Internet para sa Kataringang Panlipunan at Likas-Kayang Pag-unland

L'Internet pour la justice sociale et le développement durable

Internet per a la justícia social i el desenvolupament sostenible

Internet për Drëjtësi Shoqërore dhe Zhvillim të Qëndrueshëm

Internet para la justicia social y el desarrollo sustentable

Dokar Yancin Samar Da Bayannai a Internet Domin Daidato
A Tsakanin Al'umma Da Kuma Samarwa Da Cigaba Mai Dorewa

সামাজিক ন্যায়বিচার এবং টেকসই উন্নয়নের জন্য ইন্টারনেট

ИНТЕРНЕТ ЗА СОЦИЈАЛНА ПРАВДА И ОДРЖЛИВ РАЗВОЈ

Annual Report 2007

THE ASSOCIATION FOR PROGRESSIVE COMMUNICATIONS
(APC)

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ANRIETTE ESTERHUYSEN
APC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INTRODUCTION TO THE APC ANNUAL REPORT 2007 BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

APC's annual report provides a remarkable picture of the breadth of the work of the APC community. It tells stories from network members, and includes the reflections of staff on the achievements of APC the organisation.

APC's primary and historical goal is to empower and support civil society organisations (CSOs) and citizen movements through the use of ICTs. During its first decade APC pioneered technologies, skills and people processes to achieve this.

In the last seven years we have broadened this to include advocacy for policy environments that enable effective use of ICTs for human rights, development, gender equity and social justice. APC members define the broad strategic direction and priorities of the network, and they constitute the basis of APC's presence around the world, in thematic, regional, national and local spaces. APC staff work to implement the programmatic action needed to implement APC's vision and strategy, and they also inform and help shape that strategy. Together, APC members and staff form a community that has porous borders; it includes strategic partners, including former members and staff. APC's vision and practice are the product of the action, knowledge and experience of this community, and the constituencies it interacts with.

APC as it exists in 2007 is both a network and an organisation. APC's activities are implemented through three core programmes¹ and supporting management systems.²

The actions of APC staff are framed by the strategic priorities identified by our members in November 2003³ and concretised in the 2004-2008 action plan. These strategic priorities were identified by members for all of APC, and they inform, either directly or indirectly, the work that takes place throughout the network, in APC programmes and those of APC members.

Strategic priorities for 2004-2008

We are coming to the end of the current APC cycle, defined by the following goals:

- Promoting and facilitating strategic use of ICTs by CSOs.
- Strengthening the role and engagement of APC and CSOs in ICT policy processes.
- Growing and strengthening the network of CSOs promoting the use of ICTs for social justice and development.⁴

1 Communications and Information Policy, Strategic Uses of ICTs, and Women's Networking Support.

2 Communications, Network Development, Finance, Human Resources, Strategic Management and Fundraising.

3 APC Council Meeting, Cartagena, Colombia, November 2003.

4 Strategic priorities for the 2000-2004 period were "Building information communities", "Internet rights" and "Mobilising participation and building capacity".

The priorities were cross-cut by two additional themes: sustainable development and gender equality and women's empowerment.

During 2007 APC reflected systematically on our progress in achieving the vision expressed in the 2004-2008 strategic action plan, as well as on its continued relevance, or lack thereof. We did this through establishing an internal monitoring system, and through interactive discussions with the APC board and with members at regional face-to-face events in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, Europe and North America. This mid-term assessment (MTA) process taught us a lot.

As a network we have achieved results in all three priority areas, particularly in engaging policy and building networks. We have also integrated gender awareness across the network. We have not done it alone. APC implements its work as a community of members, partners and staff; but we also form part of a broader social change movement which includes multiple actors. Nevertheless, our role has been an important one, and during this period APC has consolidated our position as a leading network in information and communications for social justice.

The three priorities identified by members proved extremely relevant. One of the results of the assessment, based on feedback from members, was that there is "an overall feeling that the priorities determined for the organisation at the beginning of the period were still valid and important for organisational members. Virtually all organisations who participated in the regional meetings said that all three strategic priorities were relevant for them, and that they were actively contributing to achieving them."⁵

The "sustainable development" cross-cut proved complex. There were different interpretations of exactly what it means. On the one hand many members felt that when APC talks about "development", it is implied that it is "sustainable". On the other hand there were members who interpreted it as requiring APC to engage in more of a programmatic set of interventions aimed at the use of ICTs for environmental sustainability. The MTA report reflects this ambiguity.⁶

APC is a fairly unique organisation. We have grown enormously, in members, staff, activities, outputs, and, we believe, in the outcomes and impact of our work as a network. And we have done this without de-linking from our values, or losing the sense of being a close-knit network that maintains a basis of trust, respect and good faith. We do not always succeed. But we work hard to succeed, and we take failure to maintain this sense of trust and common ownership very seriously.

This is reflected in our relationships with other organisations. One of APC's greatest achievements in the last four years has been the extent to which we are respected, valued and trusted by other organisations in the sector, and beyond.

5 From the MTA Report, by Debbie Budlender, August 2007, p. 8.

6 "The discussions recorded across several regional meetings revealed the need for further discussion of the cross-cut of sustainable development in particular. There is unlikely ever to be complete consensus in how different members understand this cross-cut, or the aspects of this cross-cut that they emphasise. At present, however, it seems that different members may have very divergent understandings. Some, for example, seem to understand this term as referring to APC's contribution to poverty reduction and 'development' more generally. Others understand it as relating to the (potentially negative) impact of communication technology on the environment. Overall, there was probably more support for the first of these interpretations than the second." MTA report, p. 40.

“APC is highly respected. This respect comes from a range of different players and extends over technical, advocacy, and political aspects of its work. The evaluation has shown evidence of the varied partnerships that APC uses in its work. This is reflected not only in the number of partners named for the evaluation, but also in the way it has co-organised many of the events described in this evaluation. The ability to engage in such partnerships is itself an indirect reflection of the esteem that others have for the organisation and its work.”⁷
An independent evaluation of APC’s policy programme

Strategic priorities for 2008-2012

We built on these relationships in 2007 by inviting partners to APC’s tenth council meeting, held in Rio de Janeiro in November 2007. More than 60 people, representing APC members, staff and partners, gathered for a week of intense decision-making and strategic planning. The meeting was hosted with remarkable efficiency and hospitality by APC’s member in Brazil, RITS.

There is always something very special about APC returning to Rio. APC’s first substantial network-wide activity was our involvement in the Earth Summit held in Rio in 1992. A large group of APC people from all over the world provided online information facilitation and technical support to make it possible for thousands of non-governmental organisations who were not able to travel to Rio to participate actively in the preparatory process and the Summit itself.⁸

A powerful link to this part of APC’s history was made in the 2007 strategic planning session when members identified ICTs and environmental sustainability as one of our priorities for the 2008-2012 action plan. APC has not only remained connected with our values, but also with our history.

Members identified seven areas of strategic importance that APC should prioritise for the next five years. Some of these areas build on work we have been doing since 2000, such as internet rights, for example; others are new. Two of the seven priorities relate specifically to strengthening the capacity and sustainability of APC.

7 “Evaluation report on APC’s Communications and Information Policy Programme”, by Debbie Budlender (Community Agency for Social Enquiry), Cape Town, April 2006. www.apc.org/en/pubs/manuals/policy/all/evaluation-report-apcs-communications-and-informat

8 “The Association for Progressive Communications and the networking of global civil society: APC at the 1992 Earth Summit”, by Rory O’Brien and Andrew Clement. www.apc.org/about/history/apc-at-1992-earth-summit
The authors report: “Two years prior to the conference, the UN began working with the APC to disseminate official summit information to NGOs (Information Habitat, 1990). Backgrounders to the issues, draft policies, country briefings, and logistical bulletins were posted by the UN to a set of computer conferences shared internationally on all APC networks. This allowed several thousand civil society groups around the world to be kept informed at very little cost to the UN. During the 10 days of the Summit, an APC contingent of technical and support staff set up two communications centres, one providing service at the official UN site, the other at the NGO Global Forum, the ‘alternative summit’, across town. APC made all its services, including promotion, training and information facilitation, available at no charge to the participants. These facilities allowed groups to be in daily contact with their colleagues attending the conference, as well as with those back home and around the world, making it much easier to evaluate the official governmental declarations and to create and air alternative views. This resulted in modifications to resolutions on the basis of contributions from concerned activists from around the world who were unable to attend in person.”

APC strategic priorities 2008-2012

Access for all

In spite of dramatic increases in access to ICTs, digital exclusion persists and many people are still not able to use ICTs to improve their quality of life. Achieving digital inclusion involves interventions on three levels: 1) access 2) appropriation and 3) strategic use. Access is a prerequisite for appropriation, and both access and appropriation are prerequisites for strategic use. Capacity development cuts across all three of these areas.

Critical engagement with emergent technologies¹

APC will continue to actively engage the potential benefits of ICTs for social justice. We will focus in particular on new and emerging technologies (tools and platforms) that can strengthen networking for justice and development, public participation, and social inclusion. We will also engage the potential harm these technologies can have; for example, harmful impacts on environmental sustainability and on cultural and linguistic diversity.

Environmental sustainability and ICTs

APC will promote the strategic use of ICTs to reinforce efforts to ensure environmental sustainability, and to raise awareness of the environmental impacts of the ICT sector. The APC network will carefully consider its own impact on the environment. We will aim to develop “sustainable consumption” models that can be applied to ICT development and use.

Information and communication rights²

APC will continue and strengthen our work to make internet rights a reality for all people. The internet is a global public space that must be open, affordable and accessible to all. APC believes that the ability to share information and communicate freely using the internet is vital to the realisation of human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1976), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1976), and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, 1981).

Growing the global information commons

APC will promote understanding of the importance of an information and knowledge commons and work towards expanding it.

Strategic priorities related to strengthening APC internally

Mobilising resources

Ensure that APC the organisation and members of the APC network have access to the resources they need to effectively implement the network’s vision and mission.

Network development and governance

Ensure that the APC network remains a vibrant, participatory network that is a hub for innovative and bottom-up approaches to using ICTs for social justice and development.

1 New developments in infrastructure, standards, devices, applications, and energy sources.

2 www.apc.org/en/pubs/briefs/policy/all/apc-internet-rights-charter



APC MEMBERS, STAFF AND PARTNERS AT THE RIO COUNCIL MEETING IN NOVEMBER. PHOTO: MIHALY BAKO

Extending our appreciation

APC's goals are ambitious. Too ambitious in many respects. The fact that we achieve as much as we do is the result of enormous effort and support from many people. I would like to thank them all very much: the APC board and the members, many of whom volunteer for working groups and hiring committees and give their time voluntarily to support APC projects; the staff team who never cease to amaze me with their ability to work incredibly hard and manage to have interesting personal lives at the same time; the small but committed group of consultants that work with us on a regular basis; our strategic partners (both institutions and individuals) who are often willing to make inputs and give advice, or join forces at short notice; and all our donor partners. ■



DANILO LUJAMBIO
APC CHAIR

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE APC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THE LONG ROAD TO UTOPIA MUST BE WALKED STEP BY STEP

In a world where globalisation seems to impose a sole discourse, hegemonic ideas, the use of force and the silencing of voices and projects, it is only natural that the building of consensus, the ability to listen, an appreciation for all voices and the forging of networks is an arduous road, and one which runs in the opposite direction.

This is how APC is trying to work. Our members and staff are striving to build a more just, more plural, more sustainable world. One that is richer in diversity through networks facilitated by technology. This is what 2007 was all about.

We added six members to our network: three from Africa (including two from francophone West Africa), two from the Balkans, and one from Asia. Four of the six come from countries where APC has never had representatives before.

We succeeded in launching the first edition of *Global Information Society Watch*, with reports from 22 countries on the ICT policy realities in their societies. Many of our members participated by reporting on what is happening in their countries.

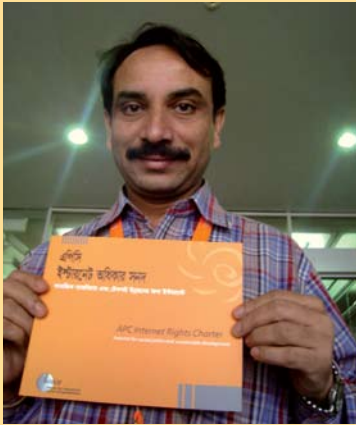
This report has already had a significant effect in some of the participating countries: not only was it quoted in the mainstream media, but it also served as a tool to back demands and proposals for working with local governments to transform existing situations.

We are now working to continue publishing the report on a regular basis, in the hope of making it a truly international monitor of ICT policies by those who are concerned about social justice, equitable development and access for all. In 2008, the theme will be "access".

We continue to struggle for access to communications infrastructure, focused on open access.

In this vein it is interesting to look at the continuation of the Africa community wireless project, which trained local technicians and "computer geeks" how to set up wireless internet access points in areas that otherwise would be unlikely to have internet service. Based on the lessons learned from the project in Africa, ten Latin American APC members organised and initiated the TRICALCAR (Weaving Community Wireless Networks in Latin America and the Caribbean) project. Participants from all over the region, 98 in all, attended intensive workshops in Peru, Mexico and Argentina. The men and women who participated were chosen on the basis of their involvement in the lives of grassroots and rural communities. This ensured that the project directly affects groups located in sectors marked by exclusion or those who work with them.

Wireless technology is showing great potential to provide access infrastructure in places where the market does not deliver responses.



AHMED SWAPAN MAHMUD OF VOICE, BANGLADESH SHARED THE BENGALI VERSION OF THE APC INTERNET RIGHTS CHARTER AT THE ASIA-PACIFIC MEMBER MEETING IN SYDNEY. PHOTO: FREDERICK NORONHA

Along this same line, but in a different region, APC continues to work hard to find a structural solution to affordable, accessible broadband access in Africa. The ultimate goal is to break the monopoly control of submarine cable projects like EASSy and SAT-3, which set the prohibitive access costs currently paid on the continent.

As part of our efforts to promote activities that make strategic use of free and open source software, we awarded the Chris Nicol FOSS Prize. What better tribute to our dear colleague who left us in 2005 than to continue his struggle to see that this type of solution continues to reach communities and groups? The finalists were excellent. We were delighted to award a joint prize to two initiatives: a national-level one which makes it possible for millions of Nepalese

to use software in their own language, and another local effort in Oregon, USA, which trains the unemployed to use and even programme computers that use free and open source software.

Our colleagues in the APC Women's Networking Support Programme continued their tireless work to provide visibility and search for means to overcome gender disparities, creating capacities, producing publications and making their voices heard in public spaces.

They worked on adapting the Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) tool for use in telecentres, rural communities, national ICT policy processes and localisation initiatives.

For the second year in a row, the Take Back the Tech! campaign took place. There are already organisations in more than ten countries taking part in it as a new tool in the fight against violence against women, sparking interest at the international level.

In our communications, we continue to work towards strengthening diversity, making many of our news items available in various languages. This has been an extremely important effort. In 2007, we also redesigned the APC.org website, in order to improve the way we communicate the network's many activities.

Internally, we had in-person encounters with our Asian members in April and our European members in May, in addition to our council meeting in Rio de Janeiro in November. It is always a pleasure to set technology aside and meet face-to-face with our colleagues, to share, discuss, and appreciate different visions. This year the



LEE JONG-HOI OF APC MEMBER JINBONET, SOUTH KOREA, AND CHEEKAY CINCO (PHILIPPINES) OF APC'S STRATEGIC USE PROGRAMME DURING THE RIO COUNCIL MEETING. PHOTO: MIHALY BAKO

encounter was more important than ever, because we established the strategic priorities for the network that we will adopt for 2008-2012. We also approved new bylaws for APC – after five years of development and discussion – which are more appropriate for an organisation that is also a network.

In sum, a year full of life worthy of being told. A life built in a network. A network that is linked through common projects in multiple regions. A network that speaks different languages, that is nourished by different cultures, but which always tries to contribute a view from those with less. A network that seeks to unite and achieve a consensus of voices in national and international arenas in order to bring influence to bear, but which also stands with grassroots groups, rural communities and the most disadvantaged sectors, with the hope that ICTs can help build a more equitable world.

A network that has a lot to learn, a lot to improve, a lot of challenges to overcome, but a network made up of people with a passion for technology and for creating more just and habitable realities for all. ■

APC PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2007

APC ACHIEVES OUR GOALS THROUGH THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF OUR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF MEMBERS AND STRATEGIC ALLIES, AND A SMALL STAFF TEAM. TOGETHER, WE FACE THE CHALLENGES OF CONSTANT CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT IN ICTS ON THE ONE HAND, AND INCREASING SOCIAL INEQUALITY ON THE OTHER.

WE CHANNEL OUR ENERGY AND RESOURCES THROUGH THREE PROGRAMME AREAS: COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION POLICY; STRATEGIC USE OF ICTS; AND WOMEN'S NETWORKING SUPPORT. AS APC IS NOT ONLY A NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION BUT ALSO A NETWORK, WE ALSO INCLUDE A REPORT FROM THE NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION POLICY PROGRAMME (CIPP)

For the APC policy programme, a key moment in 2007 came at the plenary session on access at the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Rio de Janeiro, when long-time APC collaborator Mike Jensen succinctly advocated that achieving the goal of affordable universal broadband in Africa required:

- More competition and innovation in the internet and telecom sector, with effective regulation.
- Much more backbone fibre, national and international, with effective regulation of non-discriminatory access to the bandwidth by operators and service providers.
- More effort to build demand, especially by national governments to build useful local applications.
- Improved availability of electric power.
- Better indicators for measuring progress.

This is the approach to access that is being followed by the government of Kenya and it will take off across the East African region once the TEAMS submarine cable is landed in Mombasa some time in 2009. It is the approach adopted by the Connect Africa Summit in Kigali in October 2007. It is unusual to see a convergence of thinking about access taking place simultaneously at national, regional and global levels of policy, as well as between different stakeholders – governments, the private sector and civil society – in a global policy space like the IGF. The views on access coming out of three IGF multi-stakeholder workshops on access (one led by ISOC, one by the private sector, and one by APC) also converged in their views as to what should be done to increase access to the internet across the world. This is the main purpose of the CIPP: to build consensus on ICT policy matters across national, regional and global spaces simultaneously.

Decision-making becoming transscalar and polycentric

Global public policy that impacts on how the internet develops, how it is regulated, and ultimately on how global civil society and citizens are able to access and use the internet is complex and dispersed. Decision-making is becoming less “national” in character and more “transscalar”¹ – i.e., it is affected by regional relations as well as the

1 We take this term from Scholte, Jan Aart (2008) *Reconstructing Contemporary Democracy*, *Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies*, Vol. 15(1), p. 2.
papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1077587#PaperDownload

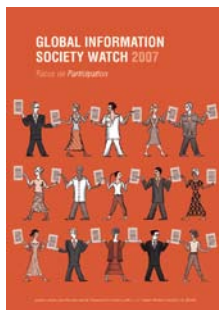


APC'S KATERINA FIALOVA REPORTING BACK AT AN IGF WORKSHOP IN NOVEMBER. PHOTO: WILLIE CURRIE

interaction of governments, the private sector and civil society in global policy spaces, and is no longer purely carried out at national level. A greater variety of institutions are involved in regulating the internet at all three levels simultaneously, leading to regulatory powers that are distributed across global, regional and national spaces simultaneously in the form of “polycentric networks”.²

Citizens and communities are no longer solely subject to national legislation but are affected by these transscalar and polycentric dimensions of policy. People living in nation states in Europe can hold regional citizenship in the European Union. Nowadays an online citizen can be part of a community in another country in the way that many people in Africa are affiliated with English soccer clubs.

Charting results on the ground and learning lessons



This is what CIPP is grappling with in its practices and this is exemplified by the successful launch of the Global Information Society Watch report in 2007.³ The report combines an analysis of the impact of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and its post-WSIS policy spaces like the IGF, with an analysis of some of the polycentric institutions engaged in global governance with regard to ICTs and the internet, such

GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY WATCH 2007
FOCUSED ON PARTICIPATION.
ILLUSTRATION: MATIAS BERVEJILLO FOR APC

2 Scholte (2008) p. 2.

3 www.apc.org/en/pubs/reports/policy/world/global-information-society-watch-2007

LESSONS FROM NATIONAL ADVOCACY EXPERIENCES

- ICT4D policy processes are dynamic, fluid and sometimes chaotic.
- ICT4D policy processes need appropriate and comprehensive background research.
- A broad range of stakeholders in the ICT4D policy process need to be involved.
- Strong communications and dissemination activities must be built into the ICT4D policy process.
- Moving the ICT policy process toward implementation is not fully understood.

as ICANN and the ITU. It also presents a number of country reports that give a perspective on global ICT policy from a national perspective. The report charts the results on the ground for citizens in national policy spaces after the effects of the negotiations and actions in these various transscalar, multi-stakeholder domains of policy-making, together with a consideration of the impact of some polycentric institutions of global ICT governance.

In 2007, APC also sought to draw on the lessons learnt from its participation in a number of national ICT policy advocacy processes through the Catalysing ICT Access in Africa (CATIA) programme, the Building Communication Opportunities (BCO) alliance, and an APC network process to develop ICT policy portals with APC members and partners. A successful workshop was held with BCO partner IICD (the International Institute for Communication and Development) in Cape Town in February 2007 to share the different experiences IICD and APC had had with regard to national advocacy processes in Uganda, Bolivia and Bangladesh.

APC produced a guide for national ICT policy animators⁴ on how to use multi-stakeholder partnerships in ICT4D. The guide was based on the CATIA experience of running ICT policy advocacy networks in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Kenya that sought to use multi-stakeholder partnerships to influence policy. APC also reflected on the experience of building national ICT policy networks, and concluded that such policy networks:

- Provide increased visibility and recognition to a policy issue and are seen to be authoritative reference points for ICT policy issues, particularly when they are the only voice in a country.
- Provide a strong informational base for activism and in bringing civil society perspectives to bear on national policy debates and policy-makers.
- Need to be supplemented by face-to-face strategies to engage all stakeholders in national ICT policy debates and processes.

4 www.apc.org/en/pubs/manuals/policy/all/frequently-asked-questions-about-multi-stakeholder

Ensuring plural communities can participate in governance in the new policy environment



APC AND ALER CO-ORGANISED A WORKSHOP ON PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICY AND COMMUNITY RADIO IN LATIN AMERICA. A FRUITFUL PARTNERSHIP EMERGED WHICH HAS DONE SIGNIFICANT WORK AT THE REGIONAL POLICY LEVEL. PHOTO: ALER

The focus on national policy processes in 2007 fed the workshop on equitable access that APC organised in Rio de Janeiro just before the IGF opened. The workshop sought to spread APC's experience at national and regional policy levels into a global policy arena. It also drew on APC's campaign in Africa on open access models for access. As part of the Connect Africa Summit held in Kigali in October 2007, APC organised a civil society workshop which made a statement⁵ on behalf of a number of civil society organisations. The statement advocated for the harmonisation of policy and regulation to ensure low-cost cross-border connectivity, and called for universal access funds to be redefined to include a wider range of initiatives towards filling the access gap, including community-owned networks, community radio, and locally owned small-scale enterprises supporting voice and data services.

In Latin America, APC pursued a long and arduous campaign to have civil society participation in the eLAC2010 ICT action plan recognised. Many governments opposed allowing for civil society access to the proceedings and activities of eLAC2010, despite the fact that they were signatories to the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, which specified that all national, regional and global information society processes should be conducted with the participation of the private sector and civil society.

5 www.apc.org/en/press/civil-society-calls-new-governance-make-internet-a-0

HOW LATIN AMERICANS ARE USING APC RESOURCES TO BUILD PARTICIPATION

APC's policy programme in Latin America offers ICT policy skills-building for civil society and the ICT policy monitor website "lac.derechos.apc.org". We asked people how they've used the site.

"We learned about what was happening in Brazil and we used this information to put together a civil society proposal for the Connectivity Agenda for Ecuador [Ecuador's national ICT strategy]."

"I wrote a course on e-government and e-citizenship in Colombia and Latin America."

"I was giving a course to Chilean community radio broadcasters and I talked to them about ICT policy, using materials from the monitor, because it's really important that this sector knows what's happening at the national policy level."

"We've used information from the monitor in our radio programme [for and by Bolivian indigenous groups]. We've also used it for training with rural communities, as we work in the area of communication for development and to improve productivity."

By the end of 2007, the governments conceded and the way was open for civil society participation in the next eLAC2010 meeting in February 2008. Such gains may seem slight but they go to the heart of ensuring that plural communities can participate in governance in the new transscalar policy environment with its polycentric regulatory institutions, and to demonstrating the value of participatory governance to the quality of the policy and regulatory outcomes that are achieved rather than simply for its own sake.

Building strategic alliances in Latin America

Inspired by a policy workshop co-organised with APC, ALER – a Latin America-wide network of progressive community radio stations – set up its own policy action group in 2007.

This group supported a campaign in Argentina to abolish a draconian radio-broadcasting law which dates from the dictatorship, and at the level of regional policy, it has worked together with APC to influence the implementation of eLAC2010.

Together we have produced proposals to open the process to civil society participation that were favourably received by governments and other NGOs. We also ensured the mainstreaming of gender throughout the whole process, and the participation of a civil society representative in the group to coordinate and monitor the action plan.

This brings us back to the IGF as an example of our integrated approach to the transscalar domains of ICT policy, which manifest themselves simultaneously in national, regional and global policy spaces, and how we work to have an impact on the polycentric institutions that manage global governance of the internet. Such an ap-

proach aims to give voice to civil society perspectives within these transscalar spaces of ICT governance and to find multi-stakeholder solutions to problems that arise in the regulation of the internet.

Looking for the convergence of views: It’s all about access

In 2007, APC built on its strategy of 2006 which was to get the theme of “internet access” onto the agenda of the IGF at its first meeting in Athens. For the second IGF meeting in Rio, we had to do more than discuss access as a policy issue. So the CIPP team undertook to analyse the content of the three workshops and the plenary session on access to see to what extent there was a convergence of views.⁶

Whilst recognising that the IGF is currently viewed and operates primarily as a space for discussion, it is also a space in which consensus can lead to “recommendations”.⁷ The recommendations can then be repeatedly asserted independently in workshops, and strategically reinforced at different levels of the IGF – influencing governments, technical bodies and think-tanks.

CONVERGENCE OF VIEWS ON INTERNET ACCESS AT THE IGF

- Competition and incentives are needed if all citizens are to have affordable, available access.
- Rural and local communities need suitable ICT and telecoms policies. Current policies – which usually serve urban areas – need adaptation.
- ICT regulation and policy need to complement local development strategies.

APC then took this virtual consensus on access to the IGF’s open consultations for the third IGF meeting to be held in Hyderabad in 2008 and proposed that stakeholders work together to concretise these recommendations from the access workshops in Rio into a manifesto on access to be supported by all stakeholders at the IGF in Hyderabad.

Internet Rights Charter in eighteen languages

Willie Currie, APC’s policy manager, calls the APC Internet Rights Charter “a national ICT policy on a strip of paper”. First developed in 2001-2002 by APC members and partner organisations at internet rights workshops held in Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa, and updated in 2006, the charter enshrines the rights of people and organisations to use the internet freely, particularly in their work for social, economic and environmental justice, and was published in English, Spanish and French.

6 www.apc.org/en/pubs/issue/openaccess/all/building-consensus-internet-access-igf
 7 APC’s recommendations to the IGF: www.apc.org/en/pubs/briefs/policy/world/apc-statement-2007-internet-governance-forum



Bytes For All (Pakistan chapter) translated the charter into Urdu following online consultations with more than a hundred activists to nail down the right terminology. “Not even general ICT policy-related info is available in Urdu. Even Pakistan’s various policy documents are available only in English. The APC Internet Rights Charter in Urdu is a very important document that we are sharing widely in government circles, with civil society, media and educational institutions,” said Shahzad Ahmad of Bytes For All.

As part of our commitment to producing key policy resources in local languages, with a small amount of funding members of the national policy network translated and printed the charter in:

- Albanian
- Bengali
- Bulgarian
- Catalan
- Croatian
- Czech
- Filipino
- Hausa
- Khmer
- Macedonian
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Russian
- Urdu
- Yoruba

The translations make the charter available in more widely spoken languages – such as Portuguese (sixth in the world),⁸ Bengali (seventh), Russian (eighth) and Urdu (twentieth) – as well as numerous lesser-spoken languages such as Macedonian and Catalan. ■

8 According to the Ethnologue index: www.ethnologue.com

STRATEGIC USE PROGRAMME (SUP)

APC's Strategic Use Programme responds to a common need among social justice organisations: to be able to make use of ICTs strategically. That means knowing what technology options are available to help meet their mission. It is about having the skills and knowledge to use those tools effectively and securely. And it is about understanding their own organisational contexts and needs and how technology can best be of assistance.

Availability and accessibility: SUP's focus in this area lies with promoting and supporting free and open source software and other low-cost computing and connectivity options (such as wireless technologies and refurbished computers) and endorsing the use of open and/or flexible licences for training materials.

Here is an example that brings the two together. During 2007 the Latin American community wireless project TRICALCAR trained 60 computer enthusiasts to set up wireless internet access points in their communities. The training materials produced were added to the ItrainOnline trainers' resource website, where anyone in the world can download them.¹

Skills development and awareness: ICTs are constantly evolving and it is difficult for individual CSOs to keep abreast of developments. The latest social networking tools (known as Web 2.0 tools) may look too bandwidth-hungry for use in development contexts. In 2007 we joined a new partnership of organisations to research the impact of Web 2.0 on development work and find appropriate ways of exploiting Web 2.0.

Community wireless in Latin America and the Caribbean

A major community wireless internet connectivity capacity-building project took off in Latin America in February. It was motivated by the idea that wireless technologies can offer the region a low-cost complement to existing wired infrastructure and that community-owned and maintained networks can lower the cost of access to the internet and decrease the dependency of communities on commercial service providers and their willingness – or not – to service remote or low-income areas.



THE COMMUNITY OF CUSUBAMBA, ECUADOR, HAVE SPONTANEOUSLY TAKEN TO CALLING THEIR NEW INFO-CENTRE "WACHINET". PHOTO: PACO OLAYA

1 ItrainOnline remains the main repository where training materials from numerous APC projects are published. The site had a monthly average of 88,000 page views in 2007, and the top ten user countries included Mexico, Egypt, Brazil, South Africa, India and Colombia. The most-used sections relate to basic computer skills, open source software, networking and databases, computer security, wireless networking and website design. www.itrainonline.org/itrainonline/english/index.shtml

In the Andean and Southern Cone regions of South America,² telecentre operators, local ICT trainers and community leaders with strong technical skills participated in a six-day training workshop where they learned the basic principles of wireless physics and networking. They made antennas from recycled materials and together built functioning wireless links connecting the communities hosting the workshops to the internet. The rigorous selection process, hands-on training and comprehensive training materials provide a strong basis to encourage these new wireless techies to set up wireless networks once they return home.

TRICALCAR³ learned from and built on the model of a similar project that APC implemented in Africa in 2005-2006. The training materials written for the African training were translated into Spanish, updated and adapted, focusing not only on the technical side but tackling community and gender issues that can arise when running community networking initiatives.



A new development in the Latin American project – motivated by the fact that the TRICALCAR coordinators were seasoned technicians and trainers from the region – is that the networks that were set up during training workshops have remained to be used by the hosting communities, and not disassembled once the training was over.

As a result, a long-distance connection between rural telecentres in the Huaral Valley in Peru and an urban link providing connectivity to a telecentre serving a marginalised indigenous community in Argentina remain operational.

2 The project was expanded to include Central America and the Caribbean in 2008.

3 TRICALCAR stands for “Tejiendo Redes Inalámbricas Comunitarias en América Latina y el Caribe” (Weaving Community Wireless Networks in Latin America and the Caribbean). The project’s implementation started in February 2007 with financial support from the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas. Project partners are APC and its member organisations Nodo TAU (Argentina), CEPES (Peru), ESLARED (Venezuela), Colnodo (Colombia) and LaNeta (Mexico), the APC Women’s Networking Support Programme (APC WNSP), the Swedish organisation IT +46 and the WiLAC.net portal. For more information see apc.org/en/projects/wireless/lac/wireless-lac-tricalcar and wilac.net/tricalcar

TRICALCAR PARTICIPANTS REPORT ON IMPACTS AFTER RETURNING HOME



WIRELESS CONNECTIONS SET UP IN BOLIVIA BY THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND ADVANCEMENT OF CAMPESINOS.
PHOTO: FREDDY BOHORQUEZ

Juan Cadillo, Peru: Juan reports that his organisation, the Peruvian Alliance for Knowledge Management (*Alianza Peruana para la Gestión del Conocimiento*), has installed wireless networks in two district municipalities in Ancash (a northern department on the Pacific coast), improving the use of existing VSAT satellite links and providing internet access to nearby schools. Two universities have incorporated TRICALCAR materials into their courses, so that students can now choose wireless network implementation as a final project for degree programmes.

Juan Pablo Neira, Colombia: Juan Pablo is assisting the FundeWilches Foundation, which promotes development in a community of oil palm growers, to install four networks which will provide access to 48 remote locations, including 21 educational centres, one senior citizens' home, eighteen organisations, five businesses and three hospitals.

Freddy Bohorquez, Bolivia: Freddy works for the Centre for Research and Advancement of Campesinos (*Centro de Investigación y Promoción del Campesinado*). The centre has improved the inter-institutional network in San Ignacio de Moxos (capital of one of the country's largest provinces) which currently interconnects fourteen institutions and eight private connection points via a satellite connection shared through the centre's wireless network. One month after the workshop, they helped the Santa Rosa del Sara municipality in Santa Cruz set up its municipal wireless network. At the moment their largest effort is centred on

the installation of a community educational network in the municipality of Aymara de Viacha. This network will provide a telecommunications platform for the initial establishment of three services for Aymara indigenous communities: access to the municipal telephone exchange (through VoIP), access to the internet, and access to local educational portals in the municipality of Viacha.

Paco Olaya, Ecuador: Upon returning from the workshop, Paco worked on the installation of a wireless network for a financial institution in the coastal province of Machala (financed by the IADB) in order to optimise micro-credit in the region. It established links between agencies in three provinces over a 52-km link with 50-metre and 35-metre towers. This is a banana-growing region, with very tall, dense vegetation. Paco also received a scholarship for more training in Italy.

Juan de Urraza, Paraguay: Juan reported that participation in the Rosario workshop was useful for checking the topology of the Oportunet project's network, evaluating other devices and protocols, as well as experimenting with VoIP and possible applications not currently permitted in Paraguay. Thanks to the new skills acquired at the workshop, the Oportunet project successfully applied for a CISCO Foundation grant for equipment valued at \$24,376 USD to establish point-to-point connections and retransmit the Oportunet signal to areas beyond the original one hundred points.

By the end of 2007, the project had built a vast, lively network of people from nine countries able to set up wireless networks in their schools, telecentres or businesses; people willing to share information on their advances with each other and support others in their struggles with WiFi wireless data transmission technology. The network is connected to experienced trainers and developers in the field of community wireless and related open source applications, and through them it is linked with the wider community wireless movement.

IMPACT OF WIRELESS TRAINING IN AFRICA

In 2005-2006, APC trained over one hundred community wireless technicians. A 2007 survey of trainees showed that:

- 53% have installed one or more wireless networks, 83% of which are non-commercial in nature.
- 58% have trained others.
- More than 50% have passed on training materials.
- Nearly half have provided advice.
- One-third are maintaining or administering a wireless network.
- One in five is now managing a project using wireless technology.

“There were some principles that I learned in the APC workshop that have helped me to work in resource-constrained environments,” said Alex Gondwe of the Baobab Health Partnership.* Alex is setting up connections between health institutions to improve patient care and HIV/AIDS data collection.

1. Keep it simple. We have been able to set up wireless links using cheap hardware. We acquired some Cisco

bridges which were lying idle after an organisation decided to make changes to the type of hardware that they use on their network. We use these on our longer links.

2. Stable power is a challenge, especially in rural areas. We designed a battery power backup system. When the power on the grid is out, the backup system can sustain the network and all the computers for six hours. The computers we use consume very little power. We have also set up windmills as a source of power for rural areas.
3. Construct free-standing, cheap and reliable steel towers for connections. This has proved to be more cost effective in the long run than having to pay rentals on tall buildings or existing towers.
4. Use GNU/Linux for both servers and workstations. No worries about licences and anti-viruses. Our workstations do not have hard drives. We install the OS on an onboard chip. We use no mouse or keyboard; they have touch screens which is ideal for our often rural set-ups.

* www.baobabhealth.org

Cutting-edge without cutting-edge access: Web 2.0 tools and development

While the media sing the praises of Facebook and YouTube for social networking online, APC is concerned with what Web 2.0 tools can do for people who do not have California-style levels of internet access and equipment. We joined several like-minded partners to organise the first large public debate where Web 2.0 tools were looked at closely through the lens of the role they play in development contexts.⁴

Web2forDev conference and training

For the first time, a large group of people involved in one way or another with development work met to discuss the potential benefits and drawbacks of sophisticated web-based applications in situations of low bandwidth and access to less powerful hardware. Many of them had the chance to experiment with Web 2.0 tools in a workshop APC co-organised at the conference, and many have stayed involved with the Web 2.0 for development or “Web2forDev” movement since then. The interest of the community gradually growing under the Web2forDev label focuses around exploring how cutting-edge technology can help to close the gap in access to ICTs, as opposed to widening it further.

ON THE WEB2FORDEV CONFERENCE

<p>“I’m from Mali and I have been using Web 2.0 tools such as Flickr and some Google resources for personal reasons. But I never knew that there were tools like these, and sometimes free, that are easy to use and extremely efficient for social and professional purposes. I never knew that there was a possibility for individuals living in different places to be able to work on the same document at the same time. ... As soon as I came back, I organised a training for all our staff so that all of us could use these tools to work more efficiently.”</p>	<p>“The real impact of such a conference, with the networks that were created and the energy started, will only be felt in the years to come. From Uganda, we are already reaping the benefits. I am now sharing knowledge and experiences about Web2forDev with an added ‘global’ perspective acquired during the conference. A group of farming communities will have interesting stories to tell after the training that we are planning to conduct in the first quarter of 2008.”</p>
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Taking the issue from conference halls and online spaces to the ground, the Strategic Use team together with the Institute for International Cooperation and Development (IICD) went to East Africa. We prepared a skills-sharing workshop for ICT trainers who live and work in an environment where bandwidth is so limited that downloading an email with a pdf attachment can grind your computer to a halt for several minutes. During the three-day event, local trainers learned how their peers

⁴ The Web2forDev conference, Rome, 24-27 September 2007. For more information see the Web2forDev partners wiki hosted by APC at wiki.web2fordev.net or search the internet for Web2forDev tags.

use Web 2.0 applications, were introduced to some new tools, and tried them out in hands-on sessions.

The poor connectivity in Uganda quickly demonstrated the real potential and limitations of these tools in low-bandwidth environments.

WEB 2.0 WITH UGANDAN CONNECTIVITY

“After the Kampala workshop, I created a wiki platform for the Busoga Rural Open Source and Development Initiative (BROSDI). This helped the team to put documents in one central place where everyone can contribute. I also managed to figure out how to go about RSS and how to use Google reader. Before, there were these many websites that I kept checking for news in terms of calls for proposals and events related to ICT policy. This was so time consuming and given the bad connectivity, I could end up opening a number of pages and some of them didn’t even ever open. But right now, I get feeds in one central place and ‘dismiss’ those that are not very useful. I use less bandwidth since I get to read the feeds

first before going to the actual pages that may actually take a lot of time to open.”

Lillian Nalwoga, CIPESA, Itrainer

“I introduced blogs to some members in a community back in Tororo. They were really excited to start using blogs, although the slow internet connectivity and power cuts frustrated both me and them. ... I also trained some staff of the Centenary Rural Development Bank on wikis and I plan to do a follow-up to find out how far they have gone.”

Onyuthi John, Itrainer

“I have tried to use Web 2.0 tools for my classes. Connectivity issues continue to be a major challenge. Otherwise they thrill everyone.”

Gerald Kavuma, Itrainer

Promoting free and open source software

Free and open source software (FOSS) offers a viable alternative for those who cannot or do not want to use often costly proprietary software. However, there are still obstacles to FOSS being embraced en masse. Many excellent projects remain unknown to the general public. Users struggle to find satisfactory training and support. And FOSS is plagued by myths, both positive and negative.

The Strategic Use team works on breaking down these barriers and myths through working with FOSS, assessing it and promoting discussions about it in many projects we are involved in.

APC Chris Nicol FOSS Prize

In November 2007, APC awarded the first Chris Nicol FOSS Prize. Chris Nicol was a member of the APC community from the mid-1990s until his untimely death on 29 August 2005. Chris was one of the first people in APC to raise the issue of free software, to start using GNU/Linux on his desktop, and to develop projects to support organisations migrating their desktop environments to free and open source software. He was deeply committed to APC strengthening its advocacy role related to FOSS.



CHILDREN USING WORD-PROCESSING SOFTWARE THAT HAS BEEN TRANSLATED INTO NEPALI AS PART OF NEPALINUX'S WORK TO BRING FOSS TO ALL. PHOTO: NEPALINUX

The prize recognises people doing extraordinary work to make FOSS accessible to ordinary computer users. What matters is the nominated initiative's contribution to FOSS promotion and demystification. Over 50 free software initiatives applied for the \$4,000 USD prize, and two initiatives were selected as the joint winners.

NepaLinux began as an attempt to find makeshift solutions for electronically cataloging books in Nepali, the official language of Nepal. But as fonts were hard to come by, and there were difficulties in sorting text, NepaLinux saw the opportunity to create software that can be used by 40 million Nepali speakers worldwide, and developed a Nepali version of free software for PCs. The government and the private sector have taken the news about NepaLinux's award with great interest.

Joint winner Free Geek is an Oregon-based initiative that has been "helping the needy get nerdy" since 2000 with a thrift store selling recycled parts, hardware grants and training to become certified GNU/Linux technicians for the unemployed. ■

WOMEN'S NETWORKING SUPPORT PROGRAMME (APC WNSP)

In 2007 the issue of women's rights came into sharper focus in all of the APC WNSP's work. It manifested in the creative use of the internet and other tools that contributed to the worldwide activism to end violence against women. It was expressed through the assertion of women's right to expression as well as privacy, especially in relation to sexuality, in international policy debates around content regulation of the internet. It was deepened through evaluations that surfaced lessons about women's discrimination and oppression which remain largely unaddressed in most ICT for development projects.

This sharper focus was also achieved by mobilising and building the capacity of women's rights activists and organisations to use information and communication technologies in empowering and transformative ways in countries such as Argentina, Chile, South Africa, Mali, Malaysia, India, Mexico, Uruguay, Uganda, Canada, the UK, and Cambodia. And in a parallel way, understanding women's rights as a critical component of gender equality was the APC WNSP's message for ICT for development organisations who worked with grassroots communities mostly in rural areas in countries like Bangladesh, Colombia, Peru, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mali, Pakistan, and Nigeria.

Taking control of technology for women's rights advocacy

In our own voice: African women activists use digital storytelling to fight against violence

The digital storytelling workshop held in Durban, South Africa¹ by APC-Africa-Women in partnership with Women'sNet sums up so much of the APC WNSP's work in 2007.

The Women's Electronic Network Training (WENT) workshops offered by APC WNSP members since 1999 emphasise the importance of demystifying technology, ensuring that it speaks to women's lives and activism. The APC WNSP has found that digital stories – short videos using images and sound to tell a personal story – hold tremendous power for bringing about change. Training increases one's personal ICT skills and provides trainees with a new advocacy and documentation tool with the full impact of images and the spoken word.

In its third WENT workshop in Africa,² APC-Africa-Women chose to focus on digital storytelling specifically for women who document violence against women.

1 The workshop was held 25-29 August 2007, with twelve participants and five trainers and assistants. WENT 2007 workshop blog: went-07.livejournal.com

2 WENT workshops were first developed by APC WNSP Asia-Pacific members as training sessions by and for women. They aim to build the skills and capacities of women and their organisations to utilise ICTs in women's empowerment, social development work and policy advocacy. APC-Africa-Women holds WENT workshops every two years.

"I never knew technology could be so useful to transform one's life until after the five-day workshop on digital storytelling. Seriously, there was more to this than just telling a story." *Bambi Fatoumatta Drammeh, Gambia*



COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVISTS CAME TOGETHER TO LEARN HOW TO MAKE DIGITAL STORIES, USING ICTS TO IMPROVE THE IMPACT OF THEIR REPORTING AND DOCUMENTATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN. PHOTO: ASSÉTOU DIARRA

Digital storytelling methodology has several steps. The first focuses on planning one's story, and features a story circle to share and receive feedback on the story idea. This is a privileged moment, as Women'sNet trainer Janine Moolman reports: "Sharing personal stories about experiences of violence requires courage. Listening to stories about experiences of violence requires humility, sensitivity and compassion. The story circle provided a supportive and confidential space for the twelve participants to share painful, powerful and poignant stories. For many it was the first time they spoke about their experiences. As facilitators and participants listened and gave each other feedback on the scripts and story ideas, it was clear that the act of sharing stories, and the act of listening to them told, hold transformative power."³

3 Janine Moolman, "Report on the Digital Story Telling Workshop", Women'sNet, October 2007, p. 5.

VOICES FROM WENT AFRICA

“The fact that I came out of the workshop with something tangible, the DVD, and the skills and knowledge that no one can rob me of brings so much satisfaction. I continue to celebrate.”

“We look different, sound different, speak different languages, live different lives, but we are all the same. We have the same experience of being media professionals who are at the same time women who have dealt with violence. We have one story and it is of the triumph of spirit. Technology is a tool – something used for a purpose. It is

always about the people, the connection with others, the shared story. People are always at the centre of technology.”

“The question of free software is important.... so that the cycle can be complete: women appropriating from freedom against violence, politicising the technologies they learn, which as much as everything else, are far from neutral.”

Participants learned about free and open source software, Creative Commons licensing and blogging as well as making digital stories.

Breaking stereotypes about women, girls and technology in the Czech Republic

Taking control of technology for women's advocacy took a different tack in the Czech Republic, where APC WNSP Europe introduced the project “Women into IT” to challenge stereotypes around women and ICTs and attract more women into the IT field. The project was sponsored by IBM and aimed at secondary school-leavers, women reinserting themselves into the labour market after maternity leave (which can last up to four years), and those attracted to IT but lacking the confidence to pursue a job in the sector.

During the year gender and IT awareness sessions, training sessions and public roundtable discussions were held in the cities of Prague and Brno. Twenty women in high-level positions at IBM exemplified the diversity of professions in the IT field and were keen to support the project, serving as role models during sessions, talking about their work, and challenging myths around women and IT. The project was very well received by educators, media, other IT companies and women's organisations, who all participated in the public roundtable discussions, and especially by women and girls who took part in the workshops. The major point emphasised by participants in their evaluations was that the project provided not only technical training and know-how, but also a space to share and reflect on women's personal and work-related goals and issues, their relationship to ICTs, and their motivation to work in technology.



“WOMEN INTO IT” INCLUDED IT CAREER ORIENTATION FOR GIRLS IN SECONDARY SCHOOL.
PHOTO: JANA PRADLOVA

Fighting violence against women through ICTs: Take Back the Tech!

Take Back the Tech! is a collaborative global campaign that calls on all ICT users – especially women and girls – to take control over technology and consciously use it to end violence against women. The 2007 appeal brought together new partnerships and collaboration between advocates working on women’s rights and those working on communication rights, and enabled everyday ICT users to become activists.

Localising Take Back the Tech!

The enthusiastic response the campaign received in 2006 encouraged the APC WNSP to shift focus in 2007 to support local, self-defined campaigns – offering adaptable

TAKE BACK THE TECH! AROUND THE WORLD

g2g and Mediatatica (Brazil) created an autonomous Portuguese *Retome a Tecnologia* campaign site, after researching FOSS solutions and learning more about server administration to do so. They translated daily actions, “redecorated” streets with posters and made TBTT a central part of the first Brazilian Eclectic Tech Carnival.

Women’sNet (South Africa) and WOUUNET (Uganda) partnered to initiate an SMS campaign, “Stand Out, Speak Out”, where 170 participants from thirteen countries on five continents subscribed and submitted SMS messages against VAW.

Open Institute (Cambodia) translated the campaign daily actions and icons into Khmer, networked with local women’s groups to monitor news reports on VAW, initiated a white ribbon campaign, wrote editorials about VAW and blogged.

AZUR Développement (Republic of Congo) organised a workshop on VAW and ICT for local women’s rights groups, created digital postcards, and wrote analytical articles on the current status of legal protection against domestic violence.



LANETA INVITED WOMEN ACTIVISTS IN CHIAPAS, MEXICO TO USE THE CLOTHES THEY WEAR TO TAKE THE TAKE BACK THE TECH! MESSAGE OFF THE INTERNET AND ONTO THE STREETS. PHOTO: ERIKA SMITH

LaNeta (Mexico) travelled to different states in Mexico with the campaign, giving workshops on using Web 2.0 for activism, creating postcards and a video on the action, as well as using these actions to initiate discussions on VAW and ICT.

Réapproprié-toi la technologie! (Canada) emerged from a loose collective of activists who created a French-language TBTT website and collected resources on how to communicate safely online.

campaign imagery and an open source content management system to facilitate direct autonomous publishing and multiple languages. The global website became an important space for collecting local action outputs, aggregating blogs in a variety of languages, and pointing to local online campaign sites and spaces.

“The extent to which the campaign was localised caught us a little by surprise,” admitted Jac sm Kee, campaign coordinator. “At a conference in Malaysia, I stumbled upon a Take Back the Tech! brochure in Bengali, calling for women’s access to community radio in Bangladesh. This was definitely a strong indicator of the relevance and adaptability of the campaign to local needs and priorities.”

To date, as far as we are aware, there are autonomous Take Back The Tech! sites in Portuguese, French and Khmer, and various parts of the information from the global campaign site translated into languages as diverse as Korean, Macedonian, Greek, Tagalog (Philippines), Xhosa (South Africa), Spanish, Romany, Malay and more.

Rights-based approach to ICT Policy

Many women’s rights groups regard ICTs as a depoliticised tool unrelated to their advocacy issues. Important connections are yet to be made between traditional advocacy issues in women’s movements and emerging political priorities such as communication rights, like the rights to freedom of expression and access to information. As ICTs and the information society become increasingly part of our lives and work, there is an urgent need for stronger feminist and women’s rights perspectives in debates on issues such as universal access, content regulation and intellectual property rights – indeed in ensuring a just and transformative information society.⁴

The APC WNSP’s approach to policy advocacy seeks collaboration with other women’s rights and ICT for development advocates. As one gender and ICT advocate summed up: “Simply fitting women into the existing market- and private sector-oriented ICT policy framework is not sufficient to ensure gender equality. The framework needs to be re-understood from a public policy [and] social justice standpoint.”⁵

GenderIT.org: Connecting the dots between gender and ICT policy

The GenderIT.org policy monitor focuses on making connections between women’s rights issues and ICT policy issues, and targets the women’s movement as well as ICT policy-makers. The site pools case studies, analysis, resources and feminist editorials on gender and ICT policy in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

In 2007, GenderIT’s thematic bulletin *Gender Centred* focused on women’s health and ICT policy, access and gender, and content regulation and censorship. Articles probed the enormous potential of mobile ICT health services, for example in addressing rural women’s health care, but also surveyed basic health services going online in

4 Jac sm Kee, “Technology and Feminist Inflections on Media”, paper presented at the Strategy Planning Workshop of the Feminist Network on Gender, Development and Information Society Policies, Bangalore, India, 5-7 October 2007. wiki.itforchange.net/images/Jac_Presentation.pdf

5 Mridula Swamy from India, quoted in the Workshop Report of the Strategy Planning Workshop of the Feminist Network on Gender, Development and Information Society Policies, Bangalore, India, 5-7 October 2007, p. 21. wiki.itforchange.net/index.php/Main_Page

diverse national settings and the potential risk to privacy. One article examined how ICTs play a crucial role in the campaign against and awareness around female genital mutilation. In an attempt to apply a gender lens to the different layers of access, pieces from Ghana, Peru, Uruguay and the Arab region examined women’s experiences with digital inclusion initiatives and the links between empowerment and access to ICTs.

Shaping debate on content regulation: “Between big brother and little sister”

One of the clearest ways to illustrate the significance of women’s rights in ICT policies is to delve into the debate around pornography and content regulation, where women’s bodies are centre-stage but women’s advocates are seldom consulted. For this reason the APC WNSP has steadily deepened its analysis on content regulation, bringing a feminist lens and a diversity of perspectives to shape the debate. Content regulation is just one small step away from censorship and surveillance practices.

A controversial paper by Namita Malhotra⁶ commissioned by the APC WNSP argues that the debate swings between “big brother and little sister” policies of state regulation and protection. It questions representation in decision-making regarding “harmful content” and its definition, and explores solutions including different models of content regulation such as community standards, peer-to-peer monitoring, filtering software and self-regulation.

THE WORLD WIDE WEB OF DESIRE: CONTENT REGULATION ON THE INTERNET

“In the developing world, laws are being used to regulate not just obscene speech (or pornography) but also political dissidence and rebellious voices of women and men. The law is being used to police sex and sexuality rather than to control what can be clearly determined as ‘harmful content’,” argues Namita Malhotra in this APC issue paper.

Policy interventions at the second Internet Governance Forum

The APC WNSP deepened the debate at the second Internet Governance Forum (IGF) with the panel “Content regulation and the duty of states to protect fundamental rights”. The panel brought together voices from government, feminist media activists and internet service providers (ISPs), and took off from the endpoint of the APC WNSP panel at the first IGF in Athens, which emphasised the distinctions between “illegal content” – something fixed or set by law – and “harmful content”, a relative concept depending on one’s socio-political and cultural context. In this second round, the panel probed at uncovering different understandings of harmful content and the tensions between content regulation, freedom of expression and women’s human rights advocacy. Panellists put

6 www.genderit.org/en/index.shtml?w=r&x=95478

forward possible solutions, including self-regulation accompanied by citizen education, and emphasised the need for effective, transparent mechanisms and tools.

The APC WNSP also became part of the formation of the Dynamic Coalition on Gender and Internet Governance, in order to ensure that the principles of gender equality are not sidelined in internet governance processes where issues of transcendental importance to women such as privacy, content regulation, access, and freedom of expression are addressed.

Learning about women's rights in local communities



AT THE GLOBAL TRAINERS EXCHANGE IN KUALA LUMPUR, TRAINERS LOBBIED VIGOROUSLY FOR THEIR PREFERRED NAMES FOR THE GEM PRACTITIONERS NETWORK ONLINE SPACE, FINALLY DUBBED THE GEM ZONE. PHOTO: ERIKA SMITH

The APC WNSP has long emphasised and advocated learning from practice, which is how the Gender Evaluation Methodology for Internet and ICT Initiatives, or GEM, first evolved in 2001. GEM was designed to guide organisations in learning to integrate gender evaluation practice in the implementation of their projects, and is available as a manual featuring a step-by-step evaluation tool laced with examples and experiences from past evaluations, as well as practical tips and recommendations.

Going from gender-blind to transforming gender relations

GEM findings in dozens of projects in Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America provide valuable evidence of the use of ICT to change women's conditions of discrimination and oppression.

GEM workshops to introduce or apply the methodology continue to be in high demand, with workshops in 2007 in Bhutan, Cambodia, Nepal, the Dominican Republic, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Spain. GEM workshops are essential components in building the capacity and commitment of ICT practitioners in examining the layers of injustice and inequality in gender relations in the context of communities.

Local and national governments also expressed interest in GEM in developing their digital inclusion policies. INDOTEL, the Telecommunications Institute in the Dominican



“GEM transformed our entire concept of when and where gender should be taken into consideration. Localisation efforts sometimes get labelled as ‘gender neutral’ because they focus on software – translating software to local languages and contexts. Originally, when looking at the intersection of gender and localisation, people had end-users in mind. Using GEM has helped me look at gender breakdown throughout all phases of localisation, in setting up software development teams, in the language used for translation, in community uptake...” *Sana Gul, Pakistan*

Republic, brought together over 50 participants, the majority of whom were public officials, for two workshops. In Extremadura, Spain, Fundación Ciudadanía in collaboration with the regional government brought together 30 public telecentre managers. GEM trainer Dafne Sabanes Plou commented: “These workshops with public servants were especially useful on two fronts. First, officials were able to understand gender and ICT issues and see the possibility of developing their projects with these concerns in mind, which also necessitates contemplating such issues as development and inclusion. Second, women were seen as protagonists in information and communication processes, and the need to measure the impact of this on their participation as active citizens in their communities and neighbourhoods was recognised.”

Reaching more community-based projects

2007 launched a new period in reaching more community-based projects, especially in rural areas, through evaluation and research into strengthening gender evaluation in four ICT4D themes: localisation, rural ICT4D projects, telecentres and national ICT policy advocacy. The APC WNSP is partnering with nineteen ICT4D initiatives in over fifteen⁷ countries to strengthen the sector’s overall capacity in understanding gender dimensions of poverty and disempowerment.

More than 30 experienced GEM users and ICT4D practitioners new to GEM came together in late July for the GEM Trainers Exchange in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to build a community of GEM facilitators and trainers who can potentially be core advocates in deepening learning about digital literacy, local content development, women’s access and participation and women’s roles, and in finding common strategies to transform technologies as tools of empowerment. ■

7 Including Cambodia, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Nigeria, Philippines, Mali, Peru, Colombia, India, Chile, Kenya, Bangladesh and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Initiatives are mainly local with regional projects operating in several countries.

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION

APC's network development strategy aims to build a diverse community of people who will collectively contribute to realising APC's vision of a world in which all people have easy, equal and affordable access to the creative potential of ICTs to improve their lives and create more democratic and egalitarian societies.

Responding to this challenge requires building a multitude of relationships, formal and informal, with organisations and individuals from civil society, academia, government, the internet community and policy-makers, and providing opportunities for networking, skills sharing, knowledge exchange and building common agendas for social change. Members, staff, partners (i.e., organisations we work with), interns and volunteers all have a role to play in achieving this goal.

APC members – the heart of the network – define APC's strategic direction



EUROPEAN MEMBERS AND APC STAFF MET IN BARCELONA IN MAY 2007.

In November 2007, the APC membership met in Rio De Janeiro to assess the work of the network during the previous four years, and to define APC's strategy for 2008-2012.

To prepare for this, members met in regional groupings during 2007 and were asked to address three issues:

- Had APC achieved its strategic priorities for 2004-2008 (our previous planning cycle), and if so, to what extent?
- APC's future priorities
- Development of collaborative activities that respond to regional priorities.



“I could never have anticipated how motivating and inspiring it would be to work at APC. As an organisation at the forefront of research and advocacy in the ICT4D field, APC provided me with the opportunity to learn immense amounts about the relationship between ICTs, access to knowledge, and development. I was particularly struck by the way in which APC’s staff and its members and partners combine relevant, action-oriented policy research with advocacy to achieve concrete results.” *Natalie Brown worked with the APC policy programme.*

To assess APC’s work, over 250 activities that had been implemented in the 2004-2007 period were documented by staff, and members were asked to select activities they had participated in for assessment. Members largely agreed that APC had done well in responding to its strategic challenges for the 2004-2008 period, but identified various issues that needed to be addressed in future work.

Latin American members felt that APC needed to address cultural and linguistic diversity more seriously. In Asia, access to knowledge and building the global commons were identified as priorities by the members, particularly in relation to greater restrictions on intellectual property that unfairly impede access to information and knowledge. North American members proposed ICTs for peace and reconciliation as an important counterpoint to the predominant preoccupation with “security” and “terrorism” by policy-makers the world over. African members reaffirmed affordable access to the internet and capacity building for local organisations as top priorities, and European members echoed and underscored an issue prioritised by all members: that one of the most critical issues the global community faces today is the collective responsibility for the sustainability of the planet.

All of these issues have been incorporated into APC’s new strategic plan for 2008-2012.

APC membership diversifies

APC’s recruitment strategy prioritises attracting locally rooted organisations and national and regional networks involved in supporting ICTs for development and social and environmental justice, particularly from parts of the world that are struggling for digital inclusion.

In August 2007, APC welcomed our 50th member: AZUR Développement, the first ever APC member from the Republic of Congo. AZUR Développement’s membership was a milestone in the meeting of our goal to continue to diversify and strengthen the network culturally, geographically and linguistically, as our number of francophone members reached a critical mass. AZUR Développement, PROTEGE QV (Cameroon), ENDA Tiers Monde (Senegal) and Alternatives (Canada/Democratic Republic of Congo) are working together with French-speaking staff to develop content, activities and workspaces that have significantly increased APC’s ability to work in the francophone world.

At the end of 2007, APC had 51 members in 36 countries and had welcomed new members from Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Congo, Uganda and Bangladesh. The Balkan members are the first representatives from those countries in the APC network.

Funding for member collaboration¹

The Membership Exchange Fund (MEF) uses membership dues to provide small grants of up to \$2000 USD to support collaboration among APC members. Organisations use the grants to spend valuable face-to-face time together, for skills sharing, project planning, providing emergency technical assistance, etc.

The fund has been running for three years now and during this time, nine exchanges have taken place involving sixteen members from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe.

2007 MEMBER EXCHANGES

British developers assisted Bulgarian environmentalists to make the best technical choices for a new website.

BlueLink, GreenNet: 27 February-5 March

Free software developers from Bogota, Lima and Prague planned Latin American capacity building.

Econnect, Colnodo, CEPES: 23-25 July

Volunteers and interns

Volunteers and interns played a significant role in APC's work in 2007 for the first time. Through collaboration with the Canadian International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and APC's Canadian member Alternatives, APC staff and members welcomed several highly motivated, talented and committed young people who worked with members in Bangladesh (providing computer training for grassroots activists), Mexico (on the Take Back the Tech! campaign) and Uruguay (supporting ICT policy work). Interns also worked with APC staff on the Chris Nicol FOSS Prize, helped to develop APC's environmental sustainability and ICTs strategy, and provided key support to the policy and communications staff.

Interns found their experience with APC to be "inspirational" and "a great learning experience", and whether their internships are over or not, they consider themselves a part of the APC community. We thank them for their passion, commitment and contribution to APC's part in creating a more just and equitable world. ■

¹ www.apc.org/en/projects/all/all/member-exchange-fund-mef

APC MEMBERS IN 2007

AFRICA

Cameroon - PROTEGE QV www.protegeqv.org

Egypt - ArabDev www.arabdev.org

Kenya - African Regional Centre for Computing (ARCC) www.arcc.or.ke

- Arid Lands Information Network-Eastern Africa (ALIN-EA) www.alin.or.ke

Nigeria - Fantsuam Foundation www.fantsuam.org

Republic of Congo - AZUR Développement www.azurdev.org

Senegal - ENDA-Tiers Monde (ENDA-TM) www.enda.sn

South Africa - Community Education Computer Society (CECS) www.cecs.org.za

- Southern African NGO Network (SANGONeT) www.sangonet.org.za

- Ungana-Afrika www.ungana-afrika.org - Women'sNet www.womensnet.org.za

Uganda - Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA)

www.cipesa.org - Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET) www.wougnet.org

ASIA-PACIFIC

Australia - apc.au (formerly c2o) www.apc.org.au

Bangladesh - Bangladesh Friendship Education Society (BFES) www.bfes.net

- Voices for Interactive Choice and Empowerment (VOICE) www.voicebd.org

Cambodia - Open Forum of Cambodia www.forum.org.kh

Japan - Japan Computer Access for Empowerment (JCAFE) www.jcafe.net/english

- JCA-NET www.jca.apc.org

Philippines - Foundation for Media Alternatives (FMA) www.fma.ph

- Institute for Popular Democracy (IPD) www.ipd.ph - WomensHub www.womenshub.net

South Asia - Bytes For All www.bytesforall.org

South Korea - Korean Progressive Network Jinbonet www.jinbo.net

EUROPE

Bosnia and Herzegovina - OneWorld Southeast Europe (owpsee)

www.oneworldsee.org

Bulgaria - BlueLink Information Network www.bluelink.net

Croatia - ZaMirNET www.zamirnet.hr

Czech Republic - Econnect www.ecn.cz

Germany - ComLink www.comlink.org

Hungary - Green Spider www.zpok.hu

Italy - Kinè www.kine.coop

Macedonia - Metamorphosis Foundation www.metamorphosis.org.mk

Romania - StrawberryNet www.sbn.ro

Slovakia - ChangeNet www.changenet.sk (until September)

Spain - Pangea - www.pangea.org

United Kingdom - Computer Aid International www.computeraid.org

- GreenNet www.gn.apc.org

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Argentina - Nodo TAU www.tau.org.ar - Wamani www.wamani.apc.org

Brazil - Rede de Informações para o Terceiro Setor (RITS) www.rits.org.br

Colombia - Colnodo www.colnodo.apc.org

Dominican Republic - Networks & Development Foundation (FUNREDES)
www.funredes.org (until May)

Ecuador - INTERCOM-EcuaneX www.ecuaneX.net.ec (until September)

Mexico - LaNeta www.laneta.apc.org

Peru - Centro Peruano de Estudios Sociales (CEPES) www.cepes.org.pe

Uruguay - Instituto del Tercer Mundo (ITeM) www.item.org.uy

Venezuela - Fundación Escuela Latinoamericana de Redes (ESLARED)
www.eslared.org.ve

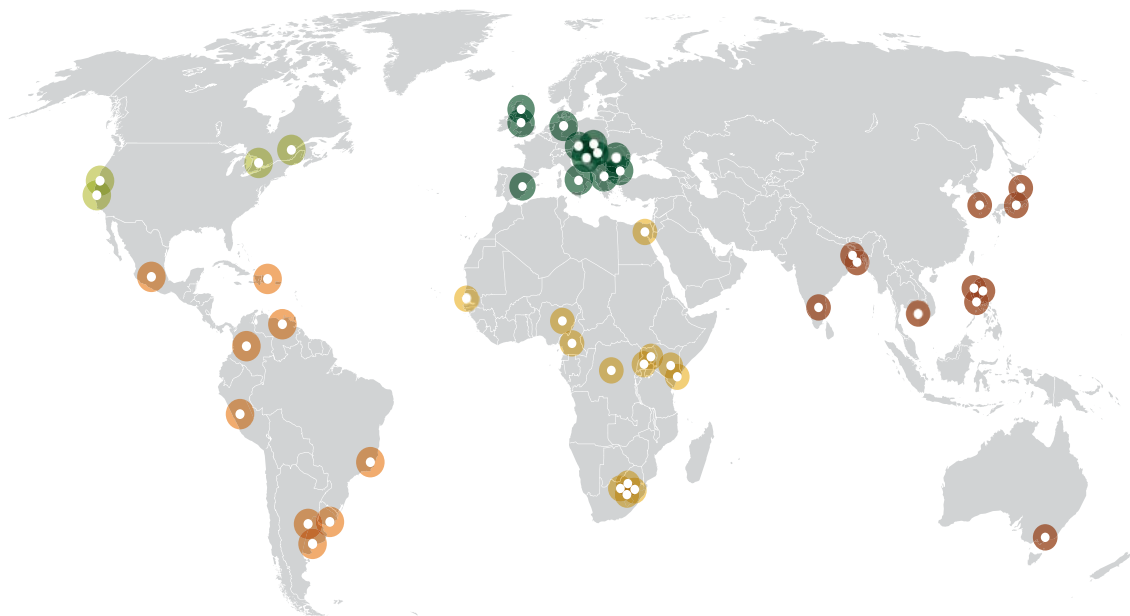
NORTH AMERICA (not including Mexico)

Canada - Alternatives www.alternatives.ca - Web Networks www.web.net

United States of America - Institute for Global Communications (IGC) www.igc.org

- LaborNet www.labor.net.org

NEW APC MEMBERS IN 2007



LOCATION OF APC MEMBERS IN 2007. GRAPHIC: APC

AZUR Développement

AZUR Développement is a women's organisation created by young women from the Republic of Congo. AZUR works in three main programme areas: ICTs, health rights for women and vulnerable population groups, and environmental information. Its main beneficiaries are women, children, minority ethnic groups and civil society organisations. Through the ICT programme, it organises training activities for young women leaders, supports the networking of telecentres, and contributes to ICT policy-making.

AZUR Développement itself currently acts as a network for other organisations. It provides support to civil society organisations as well as media professionals in the Congo and seventeen other francophone countries in Africa through the AIDS Africa Network (Réseau Sida Afrique).

AZUR Développement: www.azurdev.org (APC member since July 2007)

Bangladesh Friendship Education Society (BFES)

BFES is a non-governmental development organisation based in Bangladesh. It was founded in 1993 by educators and development practitioners to support education projects in rural areas.

One of the first efforts undertaken by BFES was an initiative funded by Japanese donors, involving a school scholarship programme at the village level to help keep rural children from dropping out of the education system. This idea was subsequently adopted by the government of Bangladesh, which now provides scholarships for schoolchildren.

Today, BFES considers the immense power of ICTs to be central to the implementation of its activities. Its current ICT-based projects include school support programmes, a rural development programme, and activities to provide the poor with access to information technology.

BFES: www.bfes.net (APC member since April 2007)

Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA)

Based in Uganda, CIPESA helps Africans to better understand the policy-making processes that affect them, especially in the area of ICT and development. Its objectives are to raise awareness about key issues, provide useful information to assist African participation in policy-making, and promote discussion and debate. Decision-making related to the use of ICT for poverty reduction is a primary area of interest.

CIPESA also works to increase the capacity of East and Southern African stakeholders to participate in international ICT policy-making, so as to promote the effective representation of African interests in policy-making processes and ensure that international policy decisions are translated into positive outcomes for Africa. It does this by facilitating dialogue among stakeholder groups in the region, organising workshops, and disseminating policy analysis, briefing materials and other publications, among other activities.

CIPESA: www.cipesa.org (APC member since July 2007)

Metamorphosis Foundation

Metamorphosis calls itself “a think-and-do-tank”, gathering experts and activists devoted to the development of a Macedonian information society. Based in Skopje, its main goals are to contribute to the development of democracy and prosperity by promoting a knowledge-based economy and information society.

Its efforts focus on empowering NGOs to become active participants in the development of the information society, and to enable citizens to take part in democratic processes using ICT, promoting the transparency and accountability of institutions. One of the main obstacles to Macedonia’s development in this regard is a lack of knowledge and awareness. Metamorphosis works with both decision-makers on the policy level and with citizens and organisations on issues affecting their daily lives.

Metamorphosis Foundation: www.metamorphosis.org.mk

(APC member since March 2007)

OneWorld Southeast Europe (owpsee)

Sarajevo-based OneWorld Southeast Europe is a recognised information service organisation and partner for social change, collaborating with around 200 partner organisations across the region and the world.

Registered as a foundation in 2005, OneWorld Southeast Europe envisions an active and efficient online community in South East Europe, unified in efforts to promote faster democratic development and positive social change within civil societies of the region, and cooperating through interactive platforms at local, national, regional and international levels.

The foundation’s main areas of interest are local content in local languages, capacity building, knowledge sharing/transfer, and networking and regional cooperation. Two cross-cutting issues are an integral part of its work: “open” information and communication policy, and a gender-sensitive approach.

OneWorld Southeast Europe: www.oneworldsee.org

(APC member since August 2007)



PROTEGE QV HEADQUARTERS PHOTO: PROTEGE QV

PROTEGE QV

PROTEGE QV is a Cameroonian association of people who are passionate about educating and empowering youth, women and local leaders so that they can play their roles as citizens in full, and in this way contribute to the betterment of their communities. PROTEGE QV is currently working in four programme areas: clean energies, leadership, micro-entrepreneurship and ICT for development.

PROTEGE QV emerged from the realisation that a substantial amount of good practices and research results rarely get channelled through to the beneficiaries for whom these studies have been performed in the first place. The Yaoundé-based APC member catalyses innovative solutions and good practices to those who need them, particularly rural populations and women.

PROTEGE QV: www.protegeqv.org (APC member since March 2007)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM APC MEMBERS IN 2007

APC MEMBERS ARE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY PROVIDERS, BUT THEY ARE ALSO, UNIQUELY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVISTS IN THEIR OWN RIGHT. WE CALL THEM "SOCIAL TECHIES".

MANY OF OUR MEMBERS REGULARLY SEND US NEWS OF THEIR WORK PROMOTING ICTS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND DEVELOPMENT IN THEIR COUNTRIES AND REGIONS – WORK THAT WE FEATURE IN OUR REGULAR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER, *APCNEWS*, AND ITS SISTER SPANISH VERSION, *APCNOTICIAS*. OTHERS SENT US INFORMATION ABOUT SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS TO INCLUDE IN THIS REPORT.¹ WHAT FOLLOWS ARE SOME OF THE OUTSTANDING STORIES FROM APC MEMBERS AROUND THE WORLD IN 2007.

ALTERNATIVES, Canada First independent study on internet infrastructure in Africa's third largest nation

In early August 2007, Alternatives released the first independent feasibility study² on the implementation of the vast internet infrastructure needed to meet the needs of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the third largest country in Africa. Carried out by Congolese researchers, the study proposes that the implementation of the network be carried out in partnership with the Société Nationale d'Electricité du Congo (Congolese National Electricity Company, SNEL). The new network could then use SNEL's surplus high-voltage infrastructures, and be expanded at the same time as the electric power network, which would mean substantial savings. Contrary to previous evaluations, which placed the cost of a project like this at around two billion dollars, the study estimates a cost of \$231,000,000 USD.



MICHEL LAMBERT OF ALTERNATIVES PRESENTS THE PROPOSAL THAT WOULD MAKE INTERNET AFFORDABLE IN THE DRC FOR THE FIRST TIME. PHOTO: ALTERNATIVES

For the moment, the deplorable state of communications in the DRC is an undeniable obstacle to development and the fight against poverty. High-speed computer connections are via satellite, which is very costly – up to 1,000 times more expensive than in Europe. The authors of the study emphasise the need for a network that is part of an open access model, to maintain the lowest costs while providing access for the largest number of users possible.

Alternatives: www.alternatives.ca

1 Other organisations that were members of APC in 2007 include ChangeNet, ComLink, ENDA-Tiers Monde, Green Spider, IGC, INTERCOM-EcuaneX, IPD, VOICE, Wamani, and the new members listed in the previous section.

2 www.rdc-tic.cd/?q=node/75

AFRICAN REGIONAL CENTRE FOR COMPUTING (ARCC), Kenya

Taking free software to secondary schools

In 2007, ARCC established a total of twenty resource centres in twenty rural secondary schools. Most of the computers used in these centres were old refurbished machines donated by government ministries, while others came from local NGOs. Each school received ten computers, five of which were installed with PCLinuxOS, a free and open source operating system for personal computers aimed at ease of use. Over the school holidays (three per year) ARCC organised training sessions on basic computer skills for 180 school students and kids from slum areas around Nairobi.

Meanwhile, at its own offices, ARCC offered technical internships to sixteen students and college graduates from around the country. It also offered a number of ICT seminars for primary school teacher training colleges.

ARCC: www.arcc.or.ke

APC.AU, Australia

Rights Online: Arts Law Week 2007

Artists were pioneers on the net... now the net is pioneering artists. Is MySpace truly your space? Does YouTube care about you? What can you do, what can't you do, and who owns what you put there?

These are the questions that were addressed at the Rights Online forum³ co-hosted by apc.au and OPEN CHANNEL during Arts Law Week in Victoria, Australia in May 2007.

Andrew Garton, the managing director of apc.au, presented an introductory paper on online rights issues accompanied by four short films. The forum was targeted to artists, filmmakers and musicians.

apc.au: www.apc.org.au

3 blog.apc.org.au/2007/05/19/rights-online-forum

ARID LANDS INFORMATION NETWORK-EASTERN AFRICA (ALIN-EA), Kenya

Connecting communities in Lukwanga Parish, Uganda



A VOLUNTEER TRAINED BY ALIN CONDUCTING A TRAINING SESSION WITH CHILDREN.
PHOTO: ALIN-EA

ALIN-EA, in collaboration with Environmental Alert in Uganda, established the Lukwanga community knowledge centre (CKC) launched in October 2007. The centre serves 7,000 people spread across eight villages. It offers telecentre services to the local communities to enhance their capacities for information generation, access and dissemination, as well as skills development. The centre is equipped with one computer and an internet connection through a mobile phone network.

Thanks to the CKC, communities are able to generate and widely disseminate local knowledge, mostly on agriculture and the environment.⁴ Although the CKC is a new idea in the area, communities are already benefiting. Information on subjects like tree planting and building modern chicken brooders and granaries for maize storage has already had a clear impact on local livelihoods.

ALIN-EA: www.alin.or.ke

4 Locally produced content can be accessed here: 196.201.231.147/eNRICH

ARABDEV, Egypt Putting ICTs to work for Egyptian women artisans

Handicrafts are an income-generating activity for many women in Egypt, but as producers these women often receive the lowest profit in the trading chain. This is why women artisans and organisations that support them asked ArabDev to help them find ways to market their goods online.

ArabDev conducted a market study that showed that the global crafts market is a highly competitive arena, both in price and quality, and that exporting is not a realistic option for most Egyptian female artisans. For larger numbers of low-income women to benefit from ICT-supported marketing, they would need to be organised in a collective enterprise that handles the various stages of product design, quality control and marketing.



ARTISANS FROM SIWA, EGYPT.
PHOTO: LAILA AHMED FOR ARABDEV

In the meantime, however, ICTs can be useful tools to promote quality standards, generate creative design ideas and give local craftswomen a taste of global wares so that they have more incentives to improve their crafts for the local market. The study, which is being shared with relevant stakeholders, found that the most promising market for local craftswomen would be a domestic outlet, and ICTs have an important role to play in this scenario.

ArabDev: www.arabdev.org



IMAGE: MOIS
MOSHEV MONSTARA.
AWARDSPACE.COM

BLUELINK, Bulgaria BlueLink launches freedom of e-speech campaign

In 2007 BlueLink initiated an internet campaign in support of everyone's right to use the web to freely exchange information and ideas.

The campaign was triggered by the investigation of a Bulgarian blogger by the General Directorate for Combating Organised Crime. His only "crime" was reporting protests by environmentalists in support of a nature park.

The campaign does not focus solely on this particular case. Its aim is to uphold the right of freedom of speech on the internet, in accordance with the democratic principles laid down in Bulgarian law.

The campaign website⁵ includes links to the legislation regulating communication on the web, information about similar campaigns, and related publications from the media and blogosphere.

BlueLink: www.bluelink.net

5 www.freenet.bluelink.net

BYTES FOR ALL, South Asia ICT policy in Pakistan in the spotlight

It was an extremely active year for Bytes For All in Pakistan,⁶ one of the countries where this South Asian network has volunteers. Being at the centre stage of global power dynamics, international politics and the “war on terror”, with an army-led dictatorship in power, it was a testing time for civil society. The country has experienced some of the worst practices of internet censorship and surveillance and media blackout, with websites like YouTube frequently blocked due to the presence of allegedly “blasphemous” content. Meanwhile, a draconian cyber-crime bill was enacted to curb the use of the internet for civic activism. Despite these measures, Bytes For All continued to campaign to provide a voice for civil society.

Bytes For All also focused on reviewing Pakistan’s IT Policy and IT Action Plan. The study is being undertaken from a civil society perspective in order to identify the gaps and analyse their implications on community use of ICTs. Pakistan’s current ICT policies are outdated and need major overhauling to incorporate the new realities of the digital age. Although Pakistan has seen some impressive developments in the ICT field in recent years, this has been a result of market dynamics, rather than effective policies.

Bytes For All: www.bytesforall.org

CEPES, Peru Wireless technology for traditional Peruvian agriculture in the Huaral Valley



THIS SMALL BOY IS A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY IN HUARAL, ALL OF WHOM DERIVE DIRECT BENEFITS FROM THE INFORMATION SYSTEM. PHOTO: CEPES

Huaral is a coastal valley in Peru with a desert climate and little rainfall. Since 2001, CEPES has worked in conjunction with the local irrigation association to implement an agrarian information system.⁷ During 2007, innovative technological mechanisms were incorporated into the system to further enhance the generation, systematisation and dissemination of agrarian information, as well as to promote the appropriation of ICTs by the smallholders in the valley.

These mechanisms involve the development of a geo-referenced local information system, the transmission of digital audio, and the implementation of a pilot project in high-technology portable communication devices, with the goal of proving that greater access and effective use of ICTs and information sources will improve agricultural production.

CEPES: www.cepes.org

6 pakistanictpolicy.bytesforall.net

7 www.cepes.org.pe/huaral

COLNODO, Colombia Focus on telecentres, ICT policies and online government in 2007

During 2007, Colnodo joined with other national organisations to promote community appropriation of government-run telecentres, with a specific focus on boosting the impact of three telecentres in southwest Colombia.⁸ It also actively participated in coordinating the Fourth National Telecentres Conference, where close to 90 telecentre administrators and coordinators shared experiences and received training.

Also in 2007, Colnodo worked with other organisations to hold a consultation on information and communication technology policies⁹ in which 432 people from around the country participated. The results were presented to the designers of the National ICT Plan currently being developed in Colombia.

Meanwhile, Internet for Accountability,¹⁰ one of the online government projects in which Colnodo participates, was extended to almost 400 new municipalities through the Connectivity Agenda programme of the Colombian Ministry of Communications. There are now 1,024 municipalities using this tool, which allows for greater local government accountability and transparency through their websites. It was also adapted for use in seven municipalities in Nicaragua.

Colnodo: www.colnodo.apc.org



TELECENTRE ADMINISTRATORS IN COLOMBIA SHARE EXPERIENCES AND LOOK FOR SOLUTIONS TO COMMON PROBLEMS.
PHOTO: PAOLA ANDREA LIÉVANO

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMPUTER SOCIETY (CECS), South Africa Want to learn how to use free software? Visit FLOSSLit



FREE AND OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE BETTER SERVES THE NEEDS OF THE NON-PROFIT WORLD, ESPECIALLY IN AFRICA, SAYS ARNOLD PIETERSEN OF CECS.
PHOTO: MIHALY BAKO

In 2007 CECS launched FLOSSLit.org.za, a “free knowledge for ICT literacy” portal.¹¹ The portal was developed after months of consultations with more than 200 organisations in the Southern African region. Developed in collaboration with the Mereka Institute, a free software promoter, it explains and provides a curriculum to bring imaging, text and email client software closer to those who most need it.

FLOSSLit.org.za is based on the premise that free and open source software better serves the needs of the non-profit world, especially in Africa. Free software is based on open standards and any developer is free to study, use, modify and share it.

CECS: www.cecs.org.za

8 www.telecentros.org.co

9 www.cmsi.colnodo.apc.org

10 www.iprc.org.co

11 www.flosslit.org.za

COMPUTER AID INTERNATIONAL, United Kingdom

Computer Aid International wins prestigious Nominet award



THE COMPUTER SUPPLIED BY COMPUTER AID SHOWS A LUNG X-RAY FROM RUBYA HOSPITAL, TANZANIA. THE WHITE MASS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LUNGS IS TUBERCULOSIS. WITHOUT TELEMEDICINE, THIS COULD HAVE REMAINED UNDIAGNOSED, WITH POTENTIALLY FATAL RESULTS. PHOTO: COMPUTER AID

The year 2007 witnessed a number of significant milestones for the world's largest not-for-profit supplier of computers to the developing world. Computer Aid International shipped its 100,000th computer and also won the prestigious Nominet award for its work in opening up access to ICT in some of the world's most disadvantaged communities. Having embarked on a number of ambitious and innovative projects, the charity continues to focus on getting computers to where they are needed the most.

The charity's Telemedicine Outreach Programme in partnership with the African Medical and Research Foundation is striving to improve the provision of healthcare in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. By equipping dozens of remote hospitals with computers to implement telemedicine, doctors are able to speed up diagnosis and treatment with

potentially lifesaving results. Beyond this, Computer Aid International continues to work closely with organisations in over 100 developing countries to improve ICT in sectors as diverse as education, healthcare, food security, disability access and gender equality.

Computer Aid International:

www.computeraid.org

ECONNECT, Czech Republic

Harnessing new media for civil society

In 2007 Econnect launched the New Media for Civil Society project, a response to the trend of newscasting online but this time targeted specifically to non-profits.

The project encompasses two key objectives. The first is the development of a newscasting portal that easily carries multimedia output, including video and audio recording, online streaming of internet-related events and more. The second objective is to hold seminars and consultations with non-governmental organisations focused on practical instruction about new online tools and how they can be used in the strengthening of Czech civil society and NGOs.

All of this development uses FOSS as part of Econnect's political commitment to sustainable technology.

Econnect: www.econnect.cz

ESLARED, Venezuela For the second year in a row, a new wireless connection record

In April 2006, ESLARED set a world record with a 279-kilometre wireless connection. One year after this first experiment made waves around the world, the organisation broke its own record by establishing a link of 382 kilometres.¹²

ESLARED also worked on documenting what they did, so that it is possible for others to replicate. The ultimate goal is for communities in different parts of the world to access this type of internet connection, which is much more economical than fibre optic or satellite connections. The possibility of using WiFi wireless data transmission technology over such long distances makes it a serious contender against WiMAX, a newer technology hailed as faster and able to cover longer distances than WiFi. While WiMAX can offer greater coverage and bandwidth, WiFi is considerably more advantageous in terms of costs.

All the software used is free and open.

ESLARED: www.eslared.org.ve



ESLARED TEAM ESTABLISHING THE 382-KM LINK IN PLATILLÓN, VENEZUELA.
PHOTO: ESLARED

FANTSUAM FOUNDATION, Nigeria Climbing above the stereotypes



OMOLAYO SAMUEL CLIMBING THE 45-METRE COMMUNICATIONS TOWER.
PHOTO: FANTSUAM FOUNDATION

In August 2007 Omolayo Samuel, a young woman in Fantsuam's ICT department, became a role model for women in ICT when she became the first female technician to climb a communications tower in northern Nigeria, and quite likely in the whole country.

When asked if she would like to climb the 45-metre communications tower to tune the radios, a task which had until then only been taken up by men (and only those without a fear of heights), Omolayo rose to the challenge – literally.

Women remain severely under-represented among Nigeria's ICT professionals. While many of the factors that prevent women from entering the field also affect men – such as living in rural areas where access to and knowledge about ICTs is low – widespread attitudes towards the social roles women should adopt, as well as assumptions about their capacities, work to maintain the gender imbalance in the ICT field. Fantsuam Foundation is working to redress the inequality.

Fantsuam Foundation: www.fanstuam.org

12 www.apc.org/en/news/wireless/lac/sky-s-limit-new-wireless-connection-record-382-kil

FOUNDATION FOR MEDIA ALTERNATIVES (FMA), Philippines

A digital arts contest with a social dimension

WebSining (web art)¹³ is a digital arts competition originally run by the Philippine Commission for Culture and Arts. In 2007, FMA took over prize coordination and added a progressive spin; while this is FMA's first foray into the world of artists and cultural workers, it opened the awards to include technologists, social activists and NGO workers.

The competition itself attracted more than 200 entries in three categories (digital still photography, digital animation and software art).

In addition, FMA ran a series of roundtable discussions with local artists in three regions, where it introduced emerging social issues: intellectual property rights/restrictions, FOSS and the intersection of art and advocacy. These forums were also venues for artists to learn about FOSS multimedia tools and alternative content licences.



ONE OF THE WINNERS OF WEBSINING 2007 POSES BEFORE A REPRODUCTION OF HIS DIGITAL ARTWORK. PHOTO: FMA

FMA made valuable linkages with the cultural sector, an important stakeholder in its emerging access to knowledge work, which includes the continuing advocacy of intellectual property reform, and protecting and enhancing the digital and information commons.

FMA: www.fma.ph

13 websining.net

FUNREDES, Dominican Republic

A year of transition

Having closed down local activities in the Dominican Republic,¹⁴ for FUNREDES 2007 was a year of transition, reorganisation, and preparation for a relaunch in 2008 as a think tank.

In the interim, though, they did not stand still, producing *Brecha digital, brecha social, brecha paradigmática*,¹⁵ (*Digital Divide, Social Divide, Paradigm Divide*). Based on many years of experience in the field, this study is being used to demonstrate the need for a holistic vision to fight the digital divide, as well as the importance of computer literacy.

In late 2007 Daniel Pimienta, president of FUNREDES, received the IFIP WG9.2 Namur Award, on behalf of FUNREDES and the MISTICA¹⁶ virtual community, for efforts to promote a holistic vision of the social impact of ICTs.

FUNREDES: www.funredes.org

14 funredes.org/undp.do

15 funredes.org/mistica/castellano/ciberoteca/tematica/brecha_paradigmatica.pdf

16 funredes.org/mistica

GREENNET, United Kingdom Experimenting with new web logics



FOREST MONITOR IS ONE OF THE WEB PROJECTS DEVELOPED BY GREENNET. PHOTO: SYLVAIN ANGERAND, LES AMIS DE LA TERRE

GreenNet's web development journey took an interesting and unexpected turn during 2007. Thanks to a combination of rapidly evolving open source web solutions, an increasingly confident and skilled web projects team, and a growing willingness to experiment amongst their clients, GreenNet found their project priorities shifting.

"The emphasis was no longer on simply getting content to hang together in a manageable, functional and presentable way," said Anna Feldman of GreenNet. "Instead we began experimenting with new web logics – exploring information structures, designs and strategies – and using them to meet the increasingly sophisticated communication needs of our civil society users."¹⁷ And it seems to have worked: against the odds, GreenNet is still holding out against the invading hordes of internet venture capitalists. APC also chose

GreenNet to develop the new four-language APC.org.

GreenNet was also involved in the localisation of the Take Back The Tech! campaign in the UK,¹⁸ developing a local website and working together with several women's organisations to raise awareness on violence against women through ICTs.

GreenNet: www.gn.apc.org

ITEM, Uruguay Blogging on the impact of multilateral finance institutions

ITeM has been coordinating IFlwatchnet¹⁹ since 2005. This novel initiative in international NGO networking, currently in its sixth year of operation, connects organisations worldwide that monitor international financial institutions (IFIs) such as the World Bank, the IMF and regional development banks.

Formed in response to a call by civil society groups to maximise the effectiveness of their communications and networking efforts, it is rapidly developing into a key tool for ever increasing degrees of collaboration between "IFlwatching" groups at national, regional and international levels.

Blogs hosted by IFlwatchnet are being used to spread news and bring fresh, unbiased updates from IFI meetings. With the participation of guest bloggers from various civil society organisations who were in Washington D.C. during the 2007 World Bank and IMF annual meetings, the blog covered a number of important topics discussed there, including IMF reform, extractive industry projects and the Development Committee agenda, among others.

ITeM: www.item.org.uy

17 www.gn.apc.org/services/gallery/webproject

18 www.takebackthetech.org.uk

19 www.iflwatchnet.org

JCAFE, Japan

Interactive portal for Japanese NGOs and volunteers

JCAFE manages a web portal for NGOs and volunteers called ViVa!,²⁰ which stands for Vital Information for Voluntary Action. ViVa! was started a decade ago to coordinate volunteering efforts following the chaos that erupted in the aftermath of a major environmental disaster in the Sea of Japan.

Since then, ViVa! has grown into the biggest portal of this kind managed by civil society organisations in Japan. It allows Japanese NGOs to share information about their activities and events, post news stories, book reviews and other materials, recruit and train volunteers, advertise staff openings, and much more.

In 2007 JCAFE faced difficulties in maintaining the site due to a staff shortage. But thanks to the encouragement offered by many NGOs who depend on its services, management and technical staff cooperated in developing a new style of editing to resolve the problem, and soon Japanese NGOs were posting up to 150 articles per month.

JCAFE: www.jcafe.net

JCA-NET, Japan

G8 media network off the ground

In 2007 JCA-NET participated in the launch of the G8 Media Network,²¹ which gathered together activists involved in monitoring and raising awareness around the G8 Summit held in July 2008 in Toyako, Hokkaido.

The network's mission was to gather and disseminate news and information on the Summit, especially the stories that would not be reported in the mainstream media. It offered a voice for both individuals and NGOs that tackle global issues such as poverty and development, the environment, human rights and peace.

20 www.viva.ne.jp

21 g8medianetwork.org

Throughout 2007, the network worked on building its community of members and setting up media centres and websites for video and text content in preparation for the event, to ensure that participants could effectively reach a global audience with their alternative coverage of the Summit.

JCA-NET: www.jca.apc.org

JINBONET, South Korea

Data retention legislation threatens right to privacy and freedom of expression



A PRESS CONFERENCE CALLED BY KOREAN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS OPPOSED TO THE NEW LEGISLATION, HELD IN FRONT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON 2 JULY 2007. PHOTO: JINBONET

In 2007, the Korean National Security Agency drove a legislative process to amend the country's Protection of Communications Secrets Act. The revision sought to legally oblige telecommunications companies and internet service providers to retain "communications data" for at least three months to one year, and would require mobile phone service providers to redesign their networks to permit wiretapping. Up until this time, data retention was voluntary.

Jinbonet was concerned that these measures would severely jeopardise Koreans' right to privacy and freedom of expression, and actively participated in the opposition to this amendment of the Act. It called on the Korean parliament to halt the revision process and conduct a public hearing or consultation to solicit the opinions of the public, including those of civil society and human rights organisations.

Jinbonet: www.jinbo.net

KINÈ, Italy

Participatory videos for NGOs and volunteers



BEHIND THE SCENES: SHOOTING AT THE BAOBAB SHOP OWNED BY ISABELLE, THE LEAD IN ONE OF THE DOCUMENTARIES PRODUCED. PHOTO: KINÈ

During 2007, Kinè ran a “Show! Your Story”²² workshop on audiovisual communication for national associations working in international solidarity and cooperation. Trained by Italian filmmakers and producers, the participants learned how to think about their subjects from a cinematic perspective and translate their stories into videos, documentaries and audiovisuals for social development.

The results – three short documentaries – have been shown widely, with the “actors” appearing at presentations in person. This social documentary and participatory video approach has been used to get social workers, volunteers and non-profit organisations involved in productions and projects by providing them with support and training.

Kinè also acts as a production company and communications advisor for NGOs and local institutions.

Kinè: www.kine.coop

LABORNET,

United States of America

Protecting workers’ right to communicate, at home and worldwide

In 2007 LaborNet USA continued with its efforts in labour education and developing an international labour media network. LaborNets have now been established in the United Kingdom, Austria, Germany, Korea, Turkey and Japan.

LaborNet was also instrumental in linking up workers in solidarity campaigns for democracy in the labour movement and for the use of new communication technologies for working people. As part of its efforts to protect the democratic right of workers to communicate and use the internet, it works to defend the internet from censorship and the privatisation of information that would limit and destroy workers’ rights to communicate and build world unionism.

In 2007 LaborNet conducted training sessions for workers in the US and internationally, which is vital to build a democratic and independent trade union and workers movement.

LaborNet: www.labornet.org

22 www.trentinosolidarieta.it/showyourstory

LANETA, Mexico Technology against violence against women

Six of every ten women in Mexico are victims of some type of physical, sexual, economic, psychological or verbal violence. In 2007 LaNeta decided to contribute to the struggle against this situation by structuring its ICT training workshops for women around this theme.

LaNeta began its MUJEMTIC (“Women Empowered by ICTs”)²³ training workshops in 2004 to promote reflection and collective learning about information technologies with a gender perspective. In 2007, MUJEMTIC II was geared towards activism, and the workshops focused on the use of Web 2.0 tools (such as blogs and wikis) to act against violence against women. Women from six states took part in the training sessions and went on to participate in international campaigns against violence against women, including Take Back the Tech!

LaNeta: www.laneta.apc.org



PAINTING T-SHIRTS AS PART OF THE OFF-LINE ACTIVISM OF THE TAKE BACK THE TECH! CAMPAIGN. PHOTO: LANETA

NODO TAU, Argentina Wireless links for breaking barriers



INSTALLING THE ANTENNA IN THE TOBA NEIGHBOURHOOD. PHOTO: NODO TAU

At the end of 2007, through a joint initiative between Nodo TAU and the city government of Rosario, a wireless link was formally inaugurated after a long construction process between a cooperative in a neighbourhood of the indigenous Toba community and an antenna near the northwest district.

This link was set up as part of the regional TRICALCAR project, whose goal is to create wireless connection capacities for disadvantaged communities in Latin America and the Caribbean. The purpose of this link is to provide internet connectivity to the community telecentre run by the cooperative, which was also established with the help of Nodo TAU.

Nodo TAU: www.tau.org.ar

23 mujeres.laneta.org

OPEN FORUM OF CAMBODIA, Cambodia

Citizens better informed and more involved in local issues

In 2007 Open Forum focused on training, website development and research. It conducted media training for print and audio community media in Svay Rieng province, as part of the Community Information for Local Governance Reforms project. It also gave workshops on blogging, both for the general public and journalists, as a means of promoting greater freedom of expression in the country.

Open Forum created two major websites: the Community Information Centre website,²⁴ aimed at providing development-related information to Cambodians; and the Khmer Rouge Trial web portal,²⁵ created to inform people from Cambodia and abroad about the genocide that took place 30 years ago.

Open Forum of Cambodia:
www.forum.org.kh



YOUTH REPORTER CARRIES OUT AN INTERVIEW FOR THE COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRE.
PHOTO: OPEN FORUM OF CAMBODIA

PANGEA, Spain

Information to combat violence against women in Catalonia



Assumpció Guasch, Lorena Merino and M. Jesús Querol, volunteer collaborators at Pangea's Women's Space (Espai de dones),²⁶ selected resources available in Catalan to put together a "Resource guide to combating violence against women: Abuse of ICTs and how to respond".²⁷

The guide is the result of research carried out in 2005 under the auspices of the Catalan Women's Institute (ICD) and was published in digital format thanks to the launch in May 2007 of the new collection of online manuals downloadable from the ICD website.

The guide analyses the current status of information on violence against women on the web, with plans to improve and facilitate knowledge on how to handle and eradicate it.

Pangea: www.pangea.org

24 www.cambodiatic.info

25 www.krtrial.info

26 www.pangea.org/dona/

27 www.gencat.net/icdona/docs/pub_manuals2.pdf

RITS, Brazil

Internet governance seen from Latin America

The second Internet Governance Forum took place in November 2007 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.²⁸ RITS actively participated in this process, both in preparatory events as well as the forum itself. In order to understand internet governance from a Latin American perspective, its Centre for Research, Study and Education (NUPEF) organised two seminars (in July and September) which gave rise to the creation of the Brazilian Internet Governance Caucus. Issues discussed there included possible governance models, open standards, access to knowledge, and gender. Outcomes of the debates are available online, on the NUPEF website.²⁹

RITS also organised a meeting among civil society representatives in the region, held a few days before the official inauguration of the forum. Out of this came the proposal to create a Latin American chapter of the Internet Governance Forum which, following the same principles as the global forum, would allow for the development of proposals and alternatives for concrete solutions that the region could later present to the global gatherings.

RITS: www.rits.org.br

SANGONET, South Africa

Celebrating twenty years of linking civil society through ICTs

The Southern African NGO Network (SANGONeT) celebrated its twentieth anniversary in 2007, an important milestone for an organisation which is one of very few NGOs in Africa involved in ICT for development issues.

A special publication to celebrate the occasion, *The SANGONeT Story, 1987-2007*,³⁰ was released at a gala dinner during the Third Annual SANGONeT ICTs for Civil Society Conference and Exhibition on 17 July in Johannesburg. This book pays tribute to everyone who has contributed to SANGONeT's achievements over the past twenty years. The 2007 winners of the South African NGO Web Awards, an annual competition organised by SANGONeT, were also announced at the gala dinner.³¹

Later in the year, SANGONeT published *Prodder: NGOs and Development in South Africa 2008*,³² a print directory of South African NGOs and development organisations, as part of its twentieth anniversary celebrations. SANGONeT is using the book to raise awareness about NGOs' online information resources off-line.

SANGONeT: www.sangonet.org.za



SANGONET NGO WEB AWARDS. PHOTO: SANGONET

30 www.sangonet.org.za/conference2007/images/SANGONeT_Story/sangonet20years_smallfile.pdf

31 www.sangonet.org.za/portal/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7626&Itemid=442

32 www.sangonet.org.za/portal/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8407&Itemid=474

28 www.intgovforum.org

29 www.nupez.org.br

STRAWBERRYNET, Romania Internet governance also matters in Romania

StrawberryNet, together with the Association for Technology and Internet (APTI),³³ held a multi-stakeholder consultation on internet governance in Romania in February 2007.

The APC Internet Rights Charter, translated into Romanian by StrawberryNet, was introduced to the participants and was an excellent catalyst for starting debate, with several interventions relating back to specific points of the Charter.

During the general discussions, some NGO representatives were quite critical of the consultation processes (or lack thereof) being undertaken by the government on the issue of internet governance. They considered these efforts insufficient and lacking in genuine commitment. On the other hand, representatives of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology participating in the workshop expressed their need for more feedback from civil society.

StrawberryNet: www.sbnet.ro

UNGANA-AFRIKA, South Africa Connecting rural paralegal advice offices



PARALEGALS LEARNING HOW TO USE CASE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE. PHOTO: RUDI VON STADEN

Ungana-Afrika has for a long time been preaching the importance of bundling capacity building with any technology project. In 2007, they were able to demonstrate the value of this approach through their Rural Connectivity project³⁴ in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa.

The beneficiaries of the project were a group of under-resourced paralegal advice offices working in rural areas. Paralegals assist community members with legal and community matters, such as arbitrating disputes, organising workshops and facilitating access to government services.

Ungana-Afrika was able to connect these offices to the internet with mobile data cards, and provided training, support and encouragement with visits throughout the year. Rudi von Staden, the project manager, was very pleased with the uptake: "This has been our first attempt at a mixed-revenue model. It is encouraging to see that not only are the paralegals able to use and benefit from the connectivity, but they are willing to pay a premium if it comes with capacity building and support."

Ungana-Afrika: www.ungana-afrika.org

33 www.apti.ro

34 www.ungana-afrika.org/projects/rural_connectivity_project.htm

WEB NETWORKS, Canada Canadian literacy award for Inuit software



PHOTO: THE PIRURVIK CENTRE

Tusaalanga (which means “let me hear it”) is a Web Networks e-learning application that helps students learn Inuktitut, the language of the aboriginal Inuit people of northern Canada. Developed in association with Web’s Inuit partner, the Pirurvik Centre, Tusaalanga won Canada’s National Literacy Award in 2007.

Tusaalanga is a dynamic website³⁵ that brings Inuktitut learning to the world wide web. It features hundreds of vocabulary items, dialogues, sound files and grammar notes, all organised into a series of lessons. The open source Drupal application on which it is based is also now being used in Guatemala with learners of the Mayan language K’iche’.

Web Networks: www.web.net

WOMENSHUB, Philippines Violence against women documentation and reporting system

The National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women³⁶ employed the technical know-how of WomensHub to study and develop the technical specifications for an integrated database on cases of violence against women (VAW) in the country. The data will be gathered from local front-line units of the government: the police, social workers, hospitals and judicial offices.

This VAW Documentation and Reporting System aims to provide an accurate record of the number of VAW cases, and to track service efficiency to see if survivors’ needs are being addressed. It also attempts to lessen the trauma suffered by the survivor by ensuring that her experience is properly documented from her first interview.

WomensHub recommended a distributed system with a centralised national data centre model using Martus³⁷ as the data collection tool. Martus is an open-source software application developed by Benetech for documenting human rights violations, and has been used for this purpose in the Philippines and internationally. It also has the advantage of being a secured application, since confidentiality and security of data are essential in cases like these.

WomensHub: www.womenshub.net

35 www.tusaalanga.ca

36 www.ncrfw.gov.ph

37 www.martus.org

WOMEN'SNET, South Africa Engendering cell phones for development



PHOTO: KIWANJA.NET

In 2007 Women'sNet was engaged in a UNICEF-driven speed assessment³⁸ of fifteen projects that apply mobile phones towards development objectives in Africa, with a particular focus on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care.

Women'sNet was asked to join the study because of the gendered nature of development issues in general, and of HIV/AIDS in particular. For biological, economic, and social reasons, women and girls are at the greatest risk of contracting the virus and consequently make up a mounting proportion of the global HIV/AIDS-infected population.

Women face significant barriers to accessing and benefiting from ICTs, and many development projects and programmes fail to effectively consider the gendered nature of development issues and/or the digital divide. Women'sNet incorporated gender concerns into its research for the rapid assessment, looking at how women and men use cell phones differently, women's levels of access, and whether gender is adequately incorporated into projects' design, implementation, and monitoring.

Women'sNet: www.womensnet.org.za

WOUGNET, Uganda Text message campaign to prevent violence against women

WOUGNET, together with APC member Women'sNet and APC-Africa-Women, organised a 16-day SMS campaign against violence against women, as part of the international 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence campaign. A total of 170 participants from thirteen countries on five continents took part and submitted SMS messages condemning violence against women.

The African theme for 2007 was "I commit to preventing violence against women! What about you? Speak out, reach out, stand out!" Organisations used a wide range of activities, including marches, conferences, rallies, dramas, talk shows, community outreach, video screenings and media events, to encourage as many people as possible to add their voice and efforts and commit to preventing violence against women in their personal relationships, extended families, communities and nations as a whole.

WOUGNET had strong support from participants with more SMS's received than they could actually send out without overloading their mobile phone inbox. However, no message was disregarded, and all of them have been posted on the internet, on a blog set up for this purpose on the APC WNSP Take Back the Tech! campaign site, as well as on the WOUGNET blog.

WOUGNET: www.wougnet.org

38 www.unicef.org/southafrica/SAF_resources_cellphones4dev.pdf

ZAMIRNET, Croatia

Making e-government accessible

In late 2007 ZaMirNET organised a national workshop with representatives of government agencies, academia and the business sector to exchange information about current e-government initiatives, as part of the Inclusive e-Government Network project. The Croatian government has been investing significant resources in the development of various e-services, and ZaMirNET wanted to point out the lack of compliance with recognised standards of web accessibility,³⁹ which is prejudicing people with visual impairments.

Only the latest portal undertaken by the Central Administrative Office for e-Croatia actually complies with world-wide standards, while the websites of agencies such as the Croatian Employment Service and various ministries still use formats that computer screen-readers cannot decode. As a result, people with visual impairments who use screen-reading software cannot fully access websites and students have complained of lost job opportunities.

However, there appears to be interest from the business sector in developing computer training methodology and materials, both printed and interactive, adapted to the needs of people who are blind or partially sighted.

ZaMirNET: www.zamirnet.hr

³⁹ For more information: www.w3.org/WAI

DIRECTORY: GOVERNANCE AND STAFF



APC'S NEW BOARD WAS ELECTED IN NOVEMBER. BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: MICHEL, MAGELA, DANILO, JAMES, ANRIETTE. FRONT ROW: AL, ANDREW, VALENTINA, JAN.

INCOMING BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN 2007 (November 2007-November 2010)¹

Daniilo Lujambio, Argentina (chair)
Janine Moolman, South Africa
(vice chair)
Andrew Garton, Australia (secretary)
Magela Sigillito, Uruguay (treasurer)
Alan Alegre, Philippines
Anriette Esterhuysen, South Africa
(executive director)
Michel Lambert, Canada
James Nguo, Kenya
Valentina Pellizzer, Italy

OUTGOING EXECUTIVE BOARD IN 2007 (October 2005-October 2007)

Natasha Primo, South Africa (chair until
July 31); Mark Graham (acting chair
August-October)
Olinca Marino, Mexico (vice chair)
Danijela Babic, Croatia (secretary)
Mark Graham, USA (treasurer)
Mihaly Bako, Romania
Daniilo Lujambio, Argentina
Kong Sidaroth, Cambodia
Valentina Pellizzer, Italy
Alternates: Andrew Garton, Australia;
John Dada, Nigeria

¹ In accordance with new bylaws approved by the APC council in November 2007, the executive board is now known as the board of directors, the length of a term on the board increased from two years to three, and the executive director is a board member *ex-officio*.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES IN 2007

AFRICA

ALIN-EA, Kenya

James Nguo

ArabDev, Egypt

Leila Hassanin

ARCC, Kenya

Alfred Orimbo, David Wasonga (until July), Steven Yogo

AZUR Développement, Republic of Congo

Victorine Diaboungana, Georges Mbouala

CECS, South Africa

Arnold Pietersen

CIPESA, Uganda

Vincent Bagiire, Lillian Nalwoga

ENDA-TM, Senegal

Laye Kante, Masse Lo

Fantsuam Foundation, Nigeria

John Dada, Kazanka Comfort

PROTEGE QV, Cameroon

Sylvie Siyam, Avis Momeni

SANGONeT, South Africa

David Barnard, Fazila Farouk (until April)

Ungana-Afrika, South Africa

Toni Elias, Tshepo Thlaku

Women'sNet, South Africa

Natasha Primo (until July), Sally Shackleton (from August), Janine Moolman (from October)

WOUGNET, Uganda

Goretti Zavuga Amuriat, Milton Aineruhanga

ASIA-PACIFIC

apc.au, Australia

Andrew Garton, Justina Curtis (until January), Grant McHerron (from January)

BFES, Bangladesh

Reza Salim, Rashiduzzaman Ahmed

Bytes For All, South Asia

Partha Pratim Sarker, Frederick Noronha, Shahzad Ahmad*

FMA, Philippines

Alan Alegre

IPD, Philippines

Bobby Soriano

JCAFE, Japan

Onoda Mitoye, Okabe Kazuaki

JCA-NET, Japan

Fujino Satoshi, Hamada Tadahisa

Jinbonet, South Korea

Oh Byoung-il, PatchA, Lee Jong-Hoi*

Open Forum, Cambodia

Im Sokthy

VOICE, Bangladesh

Ahmed Swapan Mahmud, Farjana Akter

WomensHub, Philippines

Pi Villanueva

EUROPE

BlueLink, Bulgaria

Pavel Antonov, Milena Bokova

ChangeNet, Slovakia

Norbert Brazda (until September)

ComLink, Germany

Stefan Hackenthal

Computer Aid International, UK

Tony Roberts, Sonia Sinanan

Econnect, Czech Republic

Vaclav Klinkera

GreenNet, UK

Cedric Knight, Michael Moritz, Liz Probert*

Green Spider, Hungary

Zoltan Varady, Robert Fridrich (until August), Peter Dunajcsik

Kinè, Italy

Valentina Pellizzer (until March), Denisa Gollino, Paolo Busetta (until December), Silvia Conotter

Metamorphosis, Macedonia

Bardhyl Jashari, Jordanka Petrusevska

OneWorld Southeast Europe (owpsee), Bosnia and Herzegovina

Valentina Pellizzer

Pangea, Spain

Leandro Navarro, Assumpció Guasch

StrawberryNet, Romania

Mihaly Bako

ZaMirNET, Croatia

Danijela Babic, Gabrijela Ivanov

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

CEPES, Peru

Maicu Alvarado, Jaime Torres*

Colnodo, Colombia

Julián Casasbuenas, Olga Paz

ESLARED, Venezuela

Edmundo Vitale, Ermanno Pietrosevoli (until January), Lourdes Pietrosevoli

FUNREDES, Dominican Republic

Daniel Pimienta, Senaida Jansen (until May)

ITeM, Uruguay

Magela Sigillito, Pablo Accuosto

LaNeta, Mexico

Olinca Marino, Erika Smith

Nodo TAU, Argentina

Danilo Lujambio, Eduardo Rodriguez

RITS, Brazil

Paulo Lima, Carlos Afonso (until September), Graciela Selaimen

Wamani, Argentina

Carlos Alvarez, Rodolfo Rapetti

NORTH AMERICA (not including Mexico)

Alternatives, Canada

Michel Lambert, Daphnée Dion-Viens (until April)

IGC, USA

Mark Graham, Mitra

LaborNet, USA

Steve Zeltzer, Erika Zweig

Web Networks, Canada

Oliver Zielke

* Representative at the 2007 APC council meeting, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

STAFF TEAM IN 2007

Management systems staff

Executive director: Anriette Esterhuysen, South Africa

Assistant to the executive director: Katherine Walraven, Mozambique/Canada

Operations manager: Estelle Baker, South Africa (until August)

Network development manager: Karen Banks, United Kingdom

Network development assistant: Vanessa Purper, Brazil

Logistics coordinator: Mylene Soto, Philippines/Switzerland

Finance manager: Maya Sooka, South Africa

Finance and human resources assistant: Fatima Bhyat, South Africa

Accounting and financial consultant: Misty McWilliams, South Africa*

Communications, media and promotions manager: Karen Higgs, Uruguay

Information coordinator: Frédéric Dubois, Germany/Canada

Specialist editor: Analía Lavin, Uruguay

Technical information coordinator/systems administrator: Adolfo Dunayevich, Mexico

Communications associate: Kelly Loverock, Uruguay/Canada (from September)*

Programme teams

APC Women's Networking Support Programme (APC WNSP)

Women's Networking Support Programme manager: Chat Garcia Ramilo, Philippines

APC-Africa-Women coordinator: Jennifer Radloff, South Africa

APC-Africa-Women co-coordinator: Sylvie Niombo, Republic of Congo

Central and Eastern Europe regional coordinator: Lenka Simerska, Czech Republic (until February)

LAC regional coordinator: Dafne Plou, Argentina

GEM Practitioners Network coordinator: Cheekay Cinco, Philippines

GEM research coordinator: Angela Marianne Kuga Thas (from March)

GenderIT.org coordinator: Katerina Fialova, Czech Republic

Communications coordinator: Erika Smith, Mexico

Women's Rights and ICT Project coordinator: Jac sm Kee, Malaysia

Technical & systems administrator: Sarah Escandor Tomas, Philippines

GenderIT.org Spanish-Portuguese site editor: Flavia Fascendeni, Argentina/Brazil*

Communications and Information Policy Programme (CIPP)

Communications and Information Policy Programme manager: Willie Currie, USA

National ICT Policy Advocacy (NIPA) coordinator: Natasha Primo (from October)

NIPA intern: Natalie Brown, South Africa/Canada (from September)*

Africa research coordinator: Abiodun Jagun, Nigeria/UK (until October)

Africa ICT Policy Advocacy coordinator: Coura Fall (from June)

Africa ICT Policy Monitor and Chakula editor: Alan Finlay, South Africa*

Latin America policy (CIPP-LA) coordinator: Valeria Betancourt, Ecuador

Communications advisor to CIPP-LA: Analía Lavin

CIPP-LA website editor: Clio Bugel, Uruguay (until February), Florencia Flores, Uruguay* (from March)

Strategic Use Programme (SUP)

Strategic Use Programme manager (acting): Riff Fullan,

Canada/Switzerland (until April), Karel Novotný, Czech Republic (from May)

Knowledge-sharing coordinator: Karel Novotný, Czech Republic

Project worker: Anna Feldman, United Kingdom (until September),

Cheekay Cinco, Philippines (from October)

ItrainOnline coordinator: Ann Tothill, Australia/South Africa (until April)

ItrainOnline Spanish editor: Adolfo Dunayevich, Mexico

Community Wireless in Africa coordinator: Ian Howard, Canada*

* Consultants and/or temporary staff who worked with APC during 2007

APC COMMUNITY FACE-TO-FACE

Events that saw an APC presence in 2007

10-18 JANUARY

Harambee workshop, Kampala, Uganda

15-16 JANUARY

Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) East Asia members meeting, Manila, Philippines

15-21 JANUARY

Fourth African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) Conference, Niamey, Niger

18-20 JANUARY

IT4Change Development in the Information Society Workshop, Delhi, India

20-25 JANUARY

World Social Forum, Nairobi, Kenya

22-30 JANUARY

Asia Source II, Sukabumi, Indonesia

22-30 JANUARY

OpenNet Initiative meeting, Manila, Philippines

23-24 JANUARY

Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) Africa Resource Mobilisation Training Workshop, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

24-27 JANUARY

APC WNSP Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) training workshop for the PAN Localization Project, Thimphu, Bhutan

3-10 FEBRUARY

APC staff meeting, Stanford, South Africa

12-13 FEBRUARY

10th UN Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

12-14 FEBRUARY

International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD)/APC ICT policy workshop, Cape Town, South Africa

13-14 FEBRUARY

Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Multistakeholder Advisory Group open consultation, Geneva, Switzerland

18-20 FEBRUARY

Building Communication Opportunities (BCO) partner meeting, Johannesburg, South Africa

26-28 FEBRUARY

Communications Regulators' Association of Southern Africa (CRASA) Annual General Meeting, Windhoek, Namibia

27-28 FEBRUARY

Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) Strategy Council Meeting, Santa Clara, United States

4 MARCH

International Studies Association Annual Conference, Chicago, United States

4-5 MARCH

International Development Research Centre (IDRC) indicators workshop, Singapore, Singapore

7-10 MARCH

Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action (CREA) Violence Against Women and ICTs campaign, Delhi, India

12-17 MARCH

TRICALCAR Latin America and the Caribbean wireless project coordination meeting, Lima, Peru

15-17 MARCH

Patagonian Social Development Institute (INPADES) and PARM LAC workshop with rural producers, Comodoro Rivadavia, Argentina

20-23 MARCH

APC WNSP Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) workshop for the Informatics for Rural Empowerment and Community Health (iREACH) project, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

22 MARCH

Panel discussion on the trafficking of women, Buenos Aires, Argentina

24-30 MARCH

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) 28th International Public Meeting, Lisbon, Portugal

9-13 APRIL

OURMedia 6 International Conference, Sydney, Australia

15-17 APRIL

APC Asia-Pacific regional meeting, Sydney, Australia

19-20 APRIL

Second National Meeting of Women Mayors, Buenos Aires, Argentina

23 APRIL-4 MAY

African Network Operators' Group (AfNOG) and African Network Information Centre (AfriNIC) meetings, Abuja, Nigeria

27-29 APRIL

Yale University Access To Knowledge 2 (A2K2) Conference, New Haven, USA

27-28 APRIL

National Telecentres Conference, Montevideo, Uruguay

1-2 MAY

Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice board meeting, Amsterdam, Netherlands

1-4 MAY

Computers, Freedom and Privacy Conference, Montreal, Canada

7-9 MAY

APC North America members meeting, Montreal, Canada

14-25 MAY

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) action line follow-up meetings and World Information Society Day, Geneva, Switzerland

16 MAY

Joint facilitation meeting on WSIS action lines on information and communication infrastructure (C2), capacity building (C4), and enabling environment (C6), Geneva, Switzerland

18 MAY

OpenNet Initiative Conference, Oxford, United Kingdom

21-25 MAY

UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) meeting, Geneva, Switzerland

21-25 MAY

Latin American and Caribbean Internet Addresses Registry (LACNIC) and INET meetings, Isla Margarita, Venezuela

22 MAY

Joint meeting of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) and the Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID), Geneva, Switzerland

22 MAY

Global Information Society Watch report launch, Geneva, Switzerland

23 MAY

Internet Governance Forum (IGF) consultation meeting, Geneva, Switzerland

27-29 MAY

APC Europe members meeting, Barcelona, Spain

28-30 MAY

Second International Conference on ICT for Development, Education and Training (eLearning Africa), Nairobi, Kenya

30 MAY

APC Building Communication Opportunities (BCO) impact assessment meeting, Barcelona, Spain

31 MAY-2 JUNE

APC executive board meeting, Barcelona, Spain

3 JUNE

Reclaim the Web, London, United Kingdom

4-6 JUNE

Regional Workshop on Communication Policies and Popular Radio in LAC and National Public Forum on Communication and the Constituent Assembly Process in Ecuador, Quito, Ecuador

11-12 JUNE

Global Development Network (GNet) Conference on Knowledge Management as an Enabler of Change and Innovation in Africa, Cairo, Egypt

4-7 JULY

Society for International Development (SID) 50th Anniversary International Congress, The Hague, Netherlands

4-8 JULY

World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) Women's International Network workshop, Managua, Nicaragua

15-19 JULY

New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) ICT conference, Nairobi, Kenya

16-19 JULY

Freedom of Expression Project Africa Workshop, Nairobi, Kenya

17-18 JULY

SANGONeT ICTS for Civil Society Conference, Johannesburg, South Africa

19-20 JULY

APC Africa members project management training, Johannesburg, South Africa

21 JULY

APC Africa members meeting, Johannesburg, South Africa

22-24 JULY

APC WNSP Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) facilitators training, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

23-25 JULY

International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) 50th Anniversary Conference, Paris, France

25-27 JULY

APC WNSP Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) adaptation workshop, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

1-2 AUGUST

International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD) facilitation for facilitators workshop, Atuntaqui, Ecuador

6-9 AUGUST

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) 10th Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, Quito, Ecuador

25-29 AUGUST

Women's Electronic Network Training (WENT) digital storytelling workshop, Durban, South Africa

31 AUGUST-2 SEPTEMBER

European Digital Rights (EDRI) data retention meeting and general assembly, Berlin, Germany

3 SEPTEMBER

Internet Governance Forum (IGF) consultation, Geneva, Switzerland

4-5 SEPTEMBER

Global Information Society Watch partner meeting, Geneva, Switzerland

6-8 SEPTEMBER

Building Communication Opportunities (BCO) partner meeting, Berne, Switzerland

9-13 SEPTEMBER

Digital Citizen Indaba and Highway Africa, Grahamstown, South Africa

10-11 SEPTEMBER

LAC Regional Telecentres Conference, Santiago, Chile

10-14 SEPTEMBER

SAT-3 submarine cable workshop and First WATRA/ECOWAS Mobile Roaming Conference and Exhibition, Abuja, Nigeria

10-14 SEPTEMBER

Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Inter-Institutional Consultation on eLAC, Santiago, Chile

13-14 SEPTEMBER

Second Ibero-American Conference on the Millennium Development Goals and ICTs, Santiago, Chile

17-21 SEPTEMBER

APC WNSP Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) workshop for the Research Centre for Women's Action (CIPAF) and National Commission for the Information Society, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

21-23 SEPTEMBER

European Feminist Forum programming meeting, Warsaw, Poland

23-28 SEPTEMBER

African Network Information Centre (AfrINIC) open policy meeting, Durban, South Africa

24-27 SEPTEMBER

Web2forDev 2007 conference, Rome, Italy

4-5 OCTOBER

Latin American and Caribbean regional preparatory meeting for the LAC Ministerial Conference on the Information Society, Buenos Aires, Argentina

5-7 OCTOBER

Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) Community of Expertise on Gender, Development and Information Society Policies strategic planning workshop, Bangalore, India

7-10 OCTOBER

International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) Conference, Montevideo, Uruguay

15-19 OCTOBER

Third Latin American and the Caribbean Communication Congress (COMLAC), Loja, Ecuador

18-21 OCTOBER

APC WNSP Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) South East Europe workshop, organised by OneWorld Southeast Europe, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

22-27 OCTOBER

TRICALCAR Latin America and the Caribbean wireless project regional workshop, Rosario, Argentina

28 OCTOBER

APC open access event, Kigali, Rwanda

29-30 OCTOBER

Connect Africa Summit, Kigali, Rwanda

1-2 NOVEMBER

International Forum on Learning Networks in Latin America and the Caribbean and Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) LAC regional meeting, San José, Costa Rica

4 NOVEMBER

APC executive board meeting, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

5-9 NOVEMBER

WALC 2007 Latin American and Caribbean internet networking workshop, Coro, Venezuela

5-9 NOVEMBER

APC council meeting, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

7-9 NOVEMBER

African Wireless Broadband Forum, Nairobi, Kenya

10 NOVEMBER

APC public event on equitable access, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

12-15 NOVEMBER

Internet Governance Forum (IGF), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

21-22 NOVEMBER

WINDS Latin America Regional Conference, Buenos Aires, Argentina

22-23 NOVEMBER

Institute for International Cooperation and Development (IICD)/APC networking capacity-strengthening workshop for Infodesarrollo.ec, Quito, Ecuador

22-27 NOVEMBER

Burmese Tech Skills Workshop, Chiang Mai, Thailand

26-30 NOVEMBER

APC WNSP Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) workshop, Caceres, Spain

28 NOVEMBER

Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative (GeSCI) annual meeting, Dublin, Ireland

29-30 NOVEMBER

e-Society.mk International Conference, Skopje, Macedonia

11-13 DECEMBER

Third Global Knowledge Conference (GK3), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

11-14 DECEMBER

iTrainers workshop, Kampala, Uganda

PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH FROM APC

Adam, L., James, T. and Munyua Wanjira, A. (September 2007) ***Frequently asked questions about multi-stakeholder partnerships in ICTs for development: A guide for national ICT policy animators*** Johannesburg: APC

www.apc.org/en/system/files/catia_ms_guide_EN-1.pdf (English)

www.apc.org/en/system/files/catia_ms_guide_FR-1.pdf (French)

APC and ITeM (May 2007) ***Global Information Society Watch 2007*** Montevideo: APC and ITeM

www.globaliswatch.org/download

APC (2007) ***APC Internet Rights Charter***¹ (additional languages)

www.apc.org/en/system/files/APC_charter_SQ.pdf (Albanian) Sarajevo: owpsee

www.apc.org/en/system/files/APC_charter_BN.pdf (Bengali) Dhaka: VOICE

www.apc.org/en/system/files/APC_charter_BG.pdf (Bulgarian) Sofia: BlueLink

www.apc.org/en/system/files/APC_charter_CA.pdf (Catalan) Barcelona: Pangea

www.apc.org/en/system/files/APC_charter_BHS.pdf (Bosnian-Serbian-Croatian)

Sarajevo: owpsee

www.apc.org/en/system/files/APC_charter_CS.pdf (Czech) Prague: Econnect

www.apc.org/en/system/files/APC_charter_PH.pdf (Filipino) Quezon City: FMA

www.apc.org/en/system/files/APC_charter_HA.pdf (Hausa) Kafanchan: Fantsuam

Foundation

www.apc.org/en/system/files/APC_charter_KH.pdf (Khmer) Phnom Penh: Open Institute

www.apc.org/en/system/files/APC_charter_MK.pdf (Macedonian) Sarajevo: owpsee

www.apc.org/en/system/files/APC_charter_PT.pdf (Portuguese) Rio de Janeiro: RITS

www.apc.org/en/system/files/APC_charter_RO.pdf (Romanian) Sfintu Gheorghe:

StrawberryNet Foundation

www.apc.org/en/system/files/APC_charter_RU.pdf (Russian) Sofia: BlueLink

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1 All charters: www.apc.org/en/pubs/briefs/policy/all/apc-internet-rights-charter

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Gómez, G. (November 2007) *Digital television and radio: Democratisation or greater concentration?* Quito: APC
www.apc.org/en/system/files/digital_TV_radio_EN_web.pdf (English)
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Malhotra, N. (November 2007) *The World Wide Web of Desire: Content regulation on the internet* Rio de Janeiro: APC WNSP
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Simerska, L. (2007) *Women for IT and IT for Women: Questionnaire survey among women applicants for Women into IT trainings in 2007*
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Fialova, K. (October 2007) "Ženy a informa ní technologie" and "Ocho te si technologie! Násilí na ženách a informa ní technologie" in *Informa ní technologie - prostor pro ženy*

Jagun, A. (September 2007) "Micro-enterprise and the 'mobile divide': New benefits and old inequalities in Nigeria's informal sector" in *ID21 insights* (69)
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PARM LAC (July 2007) "Community, Gender and ICTs" in *TRICALCAR manual* Buenos Aires: TRICALCAR

Sabanes Plou, D (April 2007) "Mundo virtual, mundo tambien violento" in *Violencia invisible, violencia de género: aportes para el debate sobre su tratamiento en los medios* Córdoba, Argentina: CECOPAL
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NEWSLETTERS

APCNews and **APCNoticias**: APC's general monthly newsletter on the use of ICTs for social justice and sustainable development, produced in English, Spanish and beginning in 2008, French.

Chakula: ICT policy news from Africa from the APC Africa ICT Policy Monitor. Issues covered in 2007: Opening access to Africa; Global Information Society Watch Africa reports.

Latin American and Caribbean bulletin on ICT policy and internet rights: ICT policy news from Latin America and the Caribbean from the APC LAC ICT Policy Monitor. Thematic editions in 2007: Internet Governance Forum; Global Information Society Watch Latin America reports; popular radio as a strategy for digital inclusion; regional information society action plan (eLAC); ICT in rural areas.

Gender Centred: A GenderIT.org thematic bulletin. Thematic editions in 2007: content regulation & censorship; access and gender; women's health and ICT policies.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2007

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2007		
	2007 (USD)	2006 (USD)
ASSETS	1,166,706	1,641,234
Non-current assets	2	2
Equipment	2	2
Current assets	1,166,704	1,641,232
Accounts receivable	21,202	19,477
Accrued income - consulting	2,240	1,907
Accrued income - grants	298,232	613,987
Cash and cash equivalents	845,030	1,005,861
TOTAL ASSETS	1,166,706	1,641,234
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES	1,166,706	1,641,234
Reserves and sustainability funds	460,893	644,065
Sustainability funds	460,893	602,771
Retained income	-	41,294
Current liabilities	705,813	997,169
Accounts payable	94,992	259,214
Deferred income from project implementation	-	-
Deferred income from grants	610,822	737,955
TOTAL RESERVES AND LIABILITIES	1,166,706	1,641,234

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007		
	2007 (USD)	2006 (USD)
INCOME	2,184,173	3,279,122
Grant and contract income	2,083,048	3,161,769
Earned Income	101,125	117,353
Consulting revenue	63,613	69,374
Interest	6,582	5,744
Membership fees	29,600	27,500
Sponsorship	-	6,013
Sales and sundry	1,330	8,722
EXPENDITURE	2,367,345	3,013,429
Auditors' remuneration	775	11,400
Meetings (staff, executive board and council)	260,074	173,035
Operational expenses	75,384	75,850
Personnel costs	425,599	399,666
Programme and project expenses	1,532,021	2,286,064
Telephone and fax	3,274	3,424
Translation	8,046	8,069
Travel, accommodation and per diems	37,662	35,499
Website (includes re-design)	24,510	20,422
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(183,172)	265,693

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Annual report editor: Karen Higgs, APC communications manager khiggs@apc.org

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- **Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS)**
Core support to APC
- **Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst e.V. (EED)**
National ICT policy portals
- **Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)**
IMARK module on Web 2.0 and Social Networking for Development
- **Ford Foundation**
Core support to the APC policy programme (CIPP)
- **Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries (Hivos)**
Core support to CIPP and APC-Africa-Women
- **International Development Research Centre (IDRC)**
Capacity Building and Institutional Support (INSPRO); Institutional strengthening and assessment of KICTANet; GenARDIS; Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) II; Harambee
- **Open Society Institute (OSI)**
Africa Wireless Capacity-Phase II planning meeting
- **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**
Gender and ICT policy advocacy
- **UK Department for International Development (DFID)**
APC as part of the Building Communication Opportunities (BCO) alliance; Catalysing Access to ICTs in Africa (CATIA) Component 1c

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ALIN-EA	Arid Lands Information Network-Eastern Africa, Kenya*
AMARC	World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters
APC	Association for Progressive Communications
ARCC	African Regional Centre for Computing, Kenya*
BCO	Building Communication Opportunities alliance
BFES	Bangladesh Friendship Education Society, Bangladesh*
CATIA	Catalysing Access to ICTs in Africa
CECS	Community Education Computer Society, South Africa*
CEPES	Centro Peruano de Estudios Sociales (Peruvian Social Studies Centre), Peru*
CIPESA	Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa, Uganda*
CIPP	APC Communications and Information Policy Programme
CSOs	civil society organisations
DFID	UK Department for International Development
DGIS	Directorate-General for International Cooperation of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
EASSy	Eastern Africa Submarine Cable System
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EED	Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (Church Development Service), Germany
eLAC	a regional ICT policy strategy developed by governments for Latin America and the Caribbean
ENDA-TM	ENDA-Tiers Monde (Environment and Development Action in the Third World), Senegal*
ESLARED	Fundación Escuela Latinoamericana de Redes (Latin American Networking School Foundation), Venezuela*
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FMA	Foundation for Media Alternatives, Philippines*
FOSS	free and open source software
FUNREDES	Fundación Redes y Desarrollo (Networks and Development Foundation), Dominican Republic*
GAID	Global Alliance for ICT and Development
GEM	Gender Evaluation Methodology
GenARDIS	Gender, Agriculture and Rural Development in the Information Society
GKP	Global Knowledge Partnership
Hivos	Humanistisch Instituut voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking (Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries), Netherlands
ICANN	Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
ICTs	information and communications technologies

ICT4D	information and communications technologies for development
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IGC	Institute for Global Communications, USA*
IGF	Internet Governance Forum
IICD	International Institute for Communication and Development
IMARK	Information Management Resource Kit
IPD	Institute for Popular Democracy, Philippines*
ISP	internet service provider
ITeM	Instituto del Tercer Mundo (Third World Institute), Uruguay*
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
JCAFE	Japan Computer Access for Empowerment, Japan*
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
MEF	APC Membership Exchange Fund
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	non-governmental organisations
OSI	Open Society Institute
owpsee	OneWorld Southeast Europe, Bosnia and Herzegovina*
PROTEGE QV	Promotion des Technologies Garantées de l'Environnement et de la Qualité de Vie (Promotion of Technologies that Guarantee the Environment and Quality of Life), Cameroon*
RITS	Rede de Informações para o Terceiro Setor (Information Network for the Third Sector), Brazil*
SANGONeT	Southern African NGO Network, South Africa*
SAT-3/WASC	South Atlantic 3/West Africa Submarine Cable
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SUP	APC Strategic Use Programme
TEAMS	The East African Marine System undersea cable
TRICALCAR	Tejiendo Redes Inalámbricas Comunitarias en América Latina y el Caribe (Weaving Community Wireless Networks in Latin America and the Caribbean)
VAW	violence against women
VOICE	Voices for Interactive Choice and Empowerment, Bangladesh*
VoIP	voice over internet protocol
WNSP	APC Women's Networking Support Programme
WOUGNET	Women of Uganda Network, Uganda*
WSIS	World Summit on the Information Society

* APC member organisations

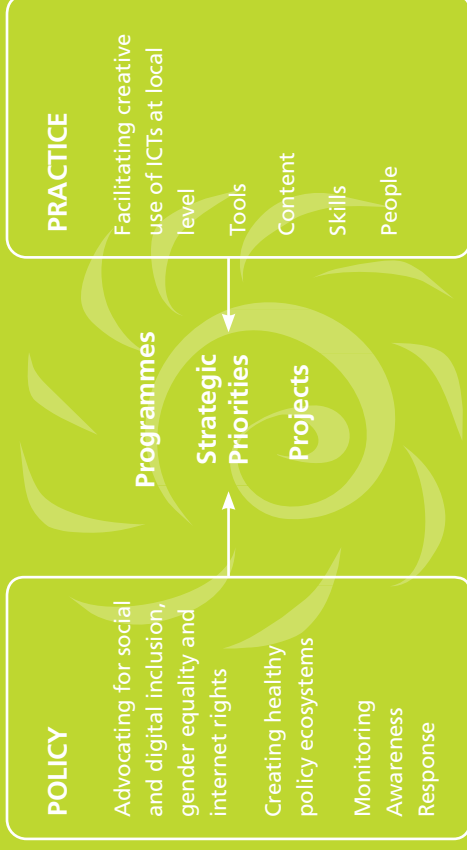
Is APC a network or an organisation?

APC is both a network *and* an organisation. APC members are organisations working in their own countries – the majority of which are based in the global South – to advance the same mission as APC. Together as APC the network they have a strong voice internationally. APC members set APC the organisation's strategic priorities each five years.

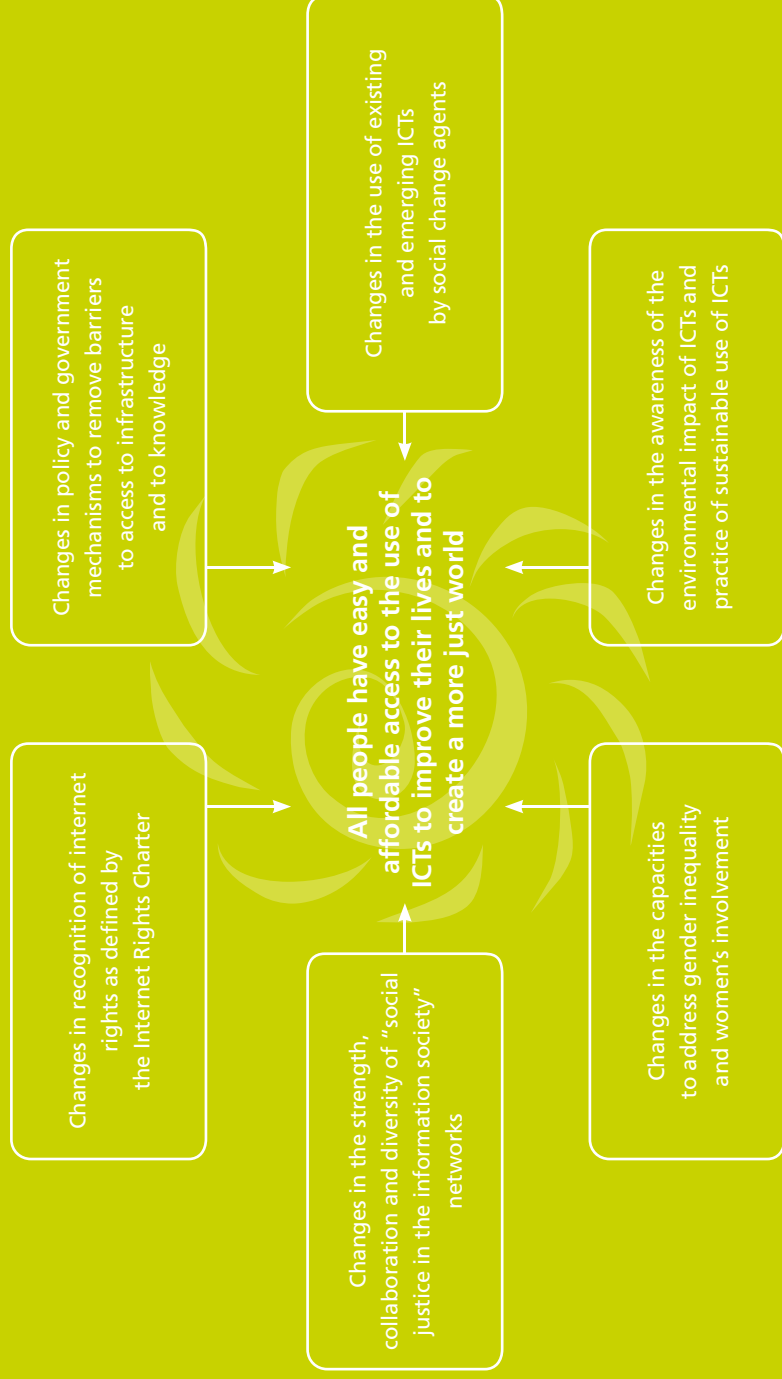
APC also works closely with multiple partners, to enable us to widen our reach, help support local institutions and build stronger, locally owned networks.

What makes APC different is that we work in both *policy* and *hands-on* with the technology and the people using it.

What is our theory of change?



APC's seven dimensions of change



អ៊ីនធឺណិតសម្រាប់យុត្តិធម៌សង្គម និងការអភិវឌ្ឍន៍ប្រកបដោយនិរន្តរភាព

Internet for social justice and sustainable development

Internet pentru justiție socială și dezvoltare durabilă

انٹرنیٹ برائے سماجی انصاف اور پائیدار ترقی



Annual Report 2007

www.apc.org

Association for Progressive Communications
Asociación para el Progreso de las Comunicaciones
Association pour le progrès des communications

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