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Annual Report 2006

**THE ASSOCIATION FOR PROGRESSIVE COMMUNICATIONS
(APC)**

APC Annual Report 2006
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ANRIETTE ESTERHUYSEN
APC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INTRODUCTION TO THE APC ANNUAL REPORT 2006 BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

APC's work in 2006 involved a strong focus on network building. Reaching out beyond our immediate network, we continued to focus on the importance of affordable access to information and communications infrastructure. Within APC we worked on strengthening our network by holding regional member meetings, conducting peer exchanges, and building more robust communications, management and monitoring systems.

Network infrastructure

Working with journalists, regulators, internet service providers and academic networks, we sought to promote an "open access" approach to the undersea fibre-optic cables that supply international internet connectivity to Africans. We convened public forums on the East African Submarine Cable System (EASSy), which could have provided the first non-satellite internet connections for the whole of the Eastern region of Africa and much of Southern Africa too, as well as a regulators' forum on the existing West Coast undersea cable to bring down inflated connectivity prices.

APC's approach to open access is people-oriented. We believe that access to information, content and tools is possible for all people. Bandwidth costs less now than ever before. Mobile telephony has expanded enormously and mobile and internet network infrastructure is converging. Mobile phones are becoming instruments that have the potential to interact directly with internet-based content and applications.

The Tunis Agenda¹ adopted at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in 2005 highlighted the importance of infrastructure and recognised the need for more financial resources. But very few international ICT initiatives address the infrastructure gap systematically. Debates on whether infrastructure should be financed by public investment or through a market-based approach continue, even though the solution is obviously a combination of both. Where governments have taken a lead, as in the case of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), a cumbersome bureaucracy emerges and action is repeatedly delayed.

In the development and development finance sectors there is still a great degree of scepticism about the value of ICTs for development. In spite of a gradual integration of ICTs into development work, particularly in education and health, there are very few comprehensive approaches to addressing the infrastructure gap.

To keep access on the agenda globally, APC was actively involved in convincing the Internet Governance Forum to give it priority, and we issued a revised and updated version of our Internet Rights Charter. But keeping access on the agenda is an uphill battle.

1 www.itu.int/wsis/documents/doc_multi.asp?lang=en&id=2267%7C0

Why is information and communications infrastructure so fundamental to development and social change?

I believe the answer lies in the layered nature of information and communications infrastructure. It has a physical layer (e.g. the internet backbone, radio spectrum, computers), a protocol or logical layer (e.g. open standards to ensure all sectors of the internet “talk” to each other), and content and applications.

Yet one can also argue that there is another layer, one which is constituted by the social processes that are facilitated by the infrastructure. It can be termed the “interactional” or “relational” layer of ICT infrastructure. I like to think of this layer as having two primary components.

First, it is where the narratives of globalisation, diversity, inclusion and exclusion are located. ICT expansion has positive and negative consequences. E-governance and reliance on the internet for access to information can increase exclusion and contribute to the formation of new elites. New applications and services emerge every day, but usually require access to credit cards and bank accounts.

But it is also in this layer where people, individually and in groups, appropriate the infrastructure and claim space for protest, self-expression, sharing and learning. It is a kind of macro-microcosm. Blogging, podcasting, social bookmarking, photo sharing, citizens’ journalism: there are many different labels and tools. There is an ongoing tug of war between developers, markets, people and cultures of use.

What about people who do not have access? Is the global communications infrastructure a public good to which all people should have access?

APC believes the answer is “yes”. People who live in poverty, who are socially, economically and politically disempowered, deserve access to means that will enable them to speak, to be heard, to use online services and to participate in decisions that impact on their lives.

The second component of the interactional or relational layer of this infrastructure is the public participation or social justice component. In a real sense it can facilitate transparency and accountability, participatory policy formulation and implementation, mobilisation, solidarity and protest. This does not happen because of the existence of the internet. It happens because people, communities and organisations use the internet to organise and/or obtain the information they need to improve their lives.

Thinking sequentially

APC has always advocated for an integrated approach to ICTs for social justice. We believe that community building, organisation, content development, capacity building, learning, innovation and investment in tools and technologies should all happen concurrently.

But in parts of the world where there is simply no infrastructure it is necessary to prioritise building it.

The potential for people to appropriate ICTs to meet their own needs is greater than ever before. The convergence of mobile telephony and internet network in-

infrastructure neutralises the argument that all that people in Africa need are more and cheaper mobile phones. Yes, there is a need for content and applications, but without infrastructure, people won't be able to access them. And with access to infrastructure, communities and citizens can create their own content, and more effectively demand the services and inclusion in public decision-making that they are entitled to.

At the same time, however, efforts to develop new infrastructure have to consider broader trends in internet development and regulation if we want to ensure openness and a rights-based approach to access.

Contested terrain

Globalisation has been supported by communications infrastructure and has promoted its expansion. But the specific nature of the infrastructure and its resulting interaction with social processes means that there is an element of unpredictability in its evolution and its use. People, interest groups and communities that are not part of the mainstream have as much need to appropriate this infrastructure as do comfortably off online shoppers. This inevitably leads to contestation between interest groups that try to restrict, control and predict access and use to increase profit, and those that want to ensure an open approach. Unless advocates for increased access remain mindful of this, market-led infrastructure development initiatives could come as package deals with limitations to openness "hardwired" into them.

Public interest-oriented collaboration between business, the public sector and civil society in addressing the infrastructure gap cannot afford to ignore this. Most public-private partnership initiatives tend to avoid addressing openness head on.

Underlying the potential of open access are forces that work to restrict access. In some cases governments control access to content, but far more common are corporate attempts at enclosing the commons and shaping the internet environment in ways that ultimately subvert openness.

At the physical layer, there is a struggle around whether the public sector is distorting the workings of the free market – for example, by a municipality wanting to provide broadband access through open wireless networks as a public good to its citizens. At the logical layer there is the ongoing tussle between the purveyors of proprietary software and the free and open source software (FOSS) movement and its collaborative approaches to software development and usage and promotion of open versus proprietary standards. At the content layer, there is the bitter struggle over intellectual property rights and the maximalist approach to copyright expansion pursued by the United States government and the content and software industries – an approach that serves to entrench an unbalanced monopoly by copyright and patent holders across the world and a global intellectual property regime that does not recognise the different needs of developing countries, or even recognise that there is a case for the fair use of content by consumers.

In this contest, private corporate power is pitted against open public use of the internet in what has been described as "the battle over the institutional ecology

of the digital environment.”² We have long known that open access to the internet cannot be taken for granted – either by those billions of people without access or by the one billion people who do have access. At the same time as there is a struggle to connect people in the developing world, there is a struggle to keep the internet open, part of the commons, a global public good for all. APC is aligned in this struggle – for access, for openness, for social justice and an internet open for all.

Remembering a friend and colleague



MICHAEL DE BEER (LEFT) WITH APC COLLEAGUES AT A WORKSHOP IN 2002. PHOTO: APC

We dedicate this year’s annual report to Michael de Beer (1973-2006). Mike was a staff member of APC and of the US-based APC member IGC (the Institute for Global Communications). He died unexpectedly on 6 August 2006 from an apparent heart attack.³

2 Benkler, Y. (2006) *The Wealth of Networks: How Social Production Transforms Markets and Freedom*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

3 blog.apc.org/en/index.shtml?x=5039458

Mike believed that the route to social change was through empowering communities to take action in their own lives. This belief is central to APC's values and we honour him and will always remember him. Mike helped APC make the transition to free software in his role as technical manager during the development of ActionApps, one of the first FOSS content management systems geared to the specific needs of civil society organisations. He also initiated our work in secure online communications, testing materials in Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine. At the time of his death he was pouring his amazing talent and passion into Richmonders Involved to Strengthen Our Communities (RISC) in Richmond, Virginia. Mike was very young when he died; however, few of us can say that at 33 they had lived so fully.

A note of thanks

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to APC members, particularly to the APC board, and to all the supporters and partners who make our work possible. Thanks to all APC staff and the many individuals who work with us in various capacities. ■



NATASHA PRIMO
APC CHAIR

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE APC EXECUTIVE BOARD

“THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT WSIS WAS A MORE SUBSTANTIVE, INCLUSIVE AND MEANINGFUL EXERCISE IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE BECAUSE OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY MOBILIZATION PIONEERED BY [THE] CRIS [CAMPAIGN] AND MANAGED SO IMPRESSIVELY BY APC.”¹

The APC Annual Report 2006 is another opportunity for APC staff and member organisations to assess the challenges and opportunities to advance poor people’s access to information and communication technologies, with a view to furthering broader development agendas. It is also part of our responsibility to reflect annually on the work of the APC network.

Following up on WSIS promises

2006 followed on the formal closure of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) processes, which unfolded from early 2002 to the end of 2005. APC and its members had invested a lot of time, energy and passion into the WSIS, and it made sense to approach 2006 from the angle of ensuring that the commitments made by governments and the private sector on the delivery of appropriate policy frameworks and approaches, as well as infrastructure, did not just evaporate.

So APC sought to direct its efforts – in a more targeted way – at making sure that civil society actors at national and regional levels have the capacity to hold WSIS actors to their promises. Concerted effort has gone into building national capacities to understand the ICT for development (ICT4D) policy issues and to engage in multi-stakeholder forums.

A holistic approach to access

Another thrust of APC’s work in 2006 was to ensure that the main global spaces for policy dialogue on ICT do not lose a “development” focus. APC’s work at the Internet Governance Forum in Athens to highlight the ongoing relevance of a focus on “access” was part of its effort to influence debates on ICT4D policy. Other policy spaces in which APC strove to put the issue of access on the agenda included the iCommons Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the Asia Commons conference in Bangkok, and the AirJaldi

1 Mueller, M. et al. (2007) “Democratising Global Communication? Global Civil Society and the Campaign for Communication Rights in the Information Society” in *International Journal of Communication* 1 (2007), pp. 267-296. research.yale.edu/isp/a2k/wiki/images/8/84/Mueller-cris-wsis-cs.pdf



LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN-BASED MEMBERS AND STAFF IN MONTEVIDEO IN DECEMBER. PHOTO: APC

Wireless Summit in Dharamsala, India. In these cases, the discussion on access looked more directly at issues of open content on the one hand, and open source, open standards and open infrastructure on the other.

In open content and “access to knowledge” debates, APC has been careful to stress the relationship between access to knowledge and the ability of remote regions and poor people to access infrastructure, and at costs that are affordable. In this holistic approach, APC has played a key role in influencing the debates by not separating the issues. This inter-relationship is clear when we consider the continued lack of access in developing regions like Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the EU accession countries from Central and Eastern Europe.

Debates on the information society and access to knowledge ring hollow when there is no access to infrastructure, and where usurious costs are imposed because of continuing monopolies on access to international bandwidth. Thus, in Africa, APC joined efforts to open debates about widening different stakeholders’ access to international bandwidth via the existing SAT-3 and the proposed EASSy submarine cable systems. Similarly, APC is supporting research into open access models and community networking that can inform national policy advocacy processes in all the regions where APC members and partners operate, such as in Latin America and the Caribbean. Here, APC staff and members are hard at work building CSO understanding of the issues and strengthening their capacity to participate fully in regional ICT policy forums (such as the upcoming eLAC2007).

Strengthening our network

Within its network of staff, members and partners, APC has set up mechanisms that strengthen the community. The dedicated thrust at network development – started in 2005 – has begun to show fruits with the extension of the Membership Exchange Fund (MEF), which uses membership fees to finance member-to-member collaboration. In addition, an existing travel fund that originally focused on allowing members to participate in regional and global policy events has been expanded to also include technical training events.

Since 2004, APC has fundraised to host two regional member and staff meetings per year. In 2006, it was the turn of the second APC Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting, the first having taken place in late 2004, and the first African regional meeting. Regional meetings bring APC members together to share experiences and explore potential opportunities for project-based collaboration. Further, regional meetings serve the important tasks of building regional community among APC members, shaping shared understandings of the common and divergent policy challenges and ICT4D issues facing the region, and expanding individual APC members' pool of available strategies for addressing regional, national and local ICT4D challenges.

This year, APC was joined by four new members: the Networks and Development Foundation (FUNREDES) of the Dominican Republic, the Institute for Popular Democracy from the Philippines, Japan Computer Access for Empowerment (JCAFE) from Japan, and Voices for Interactive Choice and Empowerment (VOICE) of Bangladesh. FUNREDES is APC's only Caribbean member, and VOICE is our first from Bangladesh. We welcome these organisations to the APC fold. Very often, new members become aware of the value of the network because they attend APC regional and global training events to build capacity in the strategic use of ICTs. The steady growth of the APC network is a testimony to the relevance of both policy advocacy and strategic use and capacity-building events to the broader network and, of course, to new members.

Measuring our successes and weaknesses

As a membership-based organisation, APC is also centrally concerned about the extent to which both staff and members' work remains relevant to the priorities and goals it is aimed at achieving. It is of the utmost importance – for the network as well as the people in whose names we engage in these advocacies – that we are able to measure and name our successes, as well as the areas where we remain challenged.

The APC Women's Networking Support Programme (APC WNSP) innovated in developing a Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) for ICT4D projects and building the tool over a period of five years. At the end of 2006, it was poised to extend and customise the GEM tool for application to the specific areas APC prioritised at its 2003

council meeting in Cartagena, Colombia, such as promoting access to and uptake of FOSS tools, as well as issue areas that relate to the overall themes of access, such as GEM for telecentres.

As a future challenge we need to build our collective capacity to assess our impacts, informed and tempered by the willingness to admit where we fall short. Inasmuch as APC is a civil society-based network able to provide leadership in the global ICT4D arena, the need remains great, and the scope for improvement ample. ■

APC PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2006

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 CAPACITY BUILDING; AND WOMEN'S NETWORKING SUPPORT. APC ALSO HAS SEVERAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, AND WE INCLUDE REPORTS FROM THE NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS, MEDIA AND PROMOTIONS SYSTEMS HERE.

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION POLICY PROGRAMME (CIPP)

For the APC policy programme, 2006 was a year of transition. The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process reached its zenith in Tunis in November 2005. In its aftermath, it was necessary to review the policy terrain and see what dynamics were coming into play.

The WSIS also had a knock-on effect on regional policy spaces. UN regional economic commissions started to focus on their regional e-action plans, and initiatives that had developed during the WSIS period – such as the East African Submarine Cable System (EASSy) project – reached a critical point in their adoption. At national levels, the Catalysing ICT Access in Africa (CATIA) programme came to an end. So 2006 was a year of endings, transitional shifts and new beginnings, with the highlight being the convening of the first meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Athens.

A number of CIPP projects were evaluated in 2006: the APC policy portals (global, regional and national), our 2003 guide *ICT Policy: A Beginner's Handbook*¹ and policy training curriculum,² and the efforts to involve civil society in the WSIS. One of the evaluation reports³ found that:

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.

It also suggested that:

APC needs to firm up its monitoring and evaluation. This need has been clearly expressed by donors. It was also evident in the evaluation in the over-ambition of some targets, and the failure to report neatly against targets.

APC should probably focus on two or three key policy issues while providing lesser support on others. Internet governance seems an obvious candidate as one of the issues given APC's recognised experience and expertise on this. The other issues should be ones on which it is easier to work at national level.

1 rights.apc.org/handbook

2 rights.apc.org/training

3 rights.apc.org/documents/apc_cippevaluation_2005.pdf

“APC’s network of affiliated organisations involves and incorporates actors from nearly all communication-information policy issues, and its network contains an unusual degree of technical knowledge about the Internet and telecommunication. APC have put particular emphasis on broadening access to ICTs in the developing world. But they were never just an ICT4D group; they also promoted free expression rights, privacy rights and gender equality as well. [...] ...when the WSIS debates shifted toward Internet governance APC alone was well prepared to handle it. That flexibility and scope, coupled with the facilitation and organising skills of APC’s professional staff, accounts for its centrality and influence.”

*Conclusion of Milton Mueller et al in a case study on the role of advocacy groups in international communication and information policy.*⁴

Global policy spaces

At the global level, the challenge was to find a way of engaging with the process of WSIS implementation as laid out in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society.⁵ A bewildering set of implementation structures based on the “action lines” identified in the Geneva Plan of Action⁶ needed to be explored. The eleven action lines which divided up the policy agenda for building a global information society focused on policy issues like infrastructure, security, access to knowledge, the media and capacity building. One of them on ICT applications had a further eight sub-action lines on issues like e-health, e-agriculture and e-government. In addition, broad monitoring and follow-up responsibility was given to the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), a body that had played no role whatsoever in the WSIS. Such are the Byzantine vagaries of the UN system.

APC’s approach was to attend the various initial meetings of the action lines in Geneva and get a sense of what was happening. APC also offered to co-facilitate the C2 action line on infrastructure with the ITU. Not much happened during 2006 – it was as if the WSIS policy life cycle has peaked in Tunis in 2005 and we were all at the bottom of the trough, trying to find our bearings within an implementation process that was to run until 2015. Looking back over the WSIS period from 2002 to 2005, APC reflected on the gains and losses that had been made.⁷

The policy arena that generated the most energy was the process leading up to the first meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Athens in November. APC engaged in the series of consultations convened in Geneva by the IGF secretariat⁸ regarding the agenda and programme for the Athens meeting. It made submissions on

4 Mueller, M. et al. (2007) “Democratising Global Communication? Global Civil Society and the Campaign for Communication Rights in the Information Society” in *International Journal of Communication* 1 (2007), pp. 267-296. research.yale.edu/isp/a2k/wiki/images/8/84/Mueller-cris-wsis-cs.pdf

5 www.itu.int/wsis/documents/doc_multi.asp?lang=en&id=2267j0

6 www.itu.int/wsis/implementation/index.html

7 “Pushing and prodding, goading and hand-holding: Reflection from APC at the conclusion of the World Summit on the Information Society” rights.apc.org/documents/apc_wsis_reflection_0206.pdf

8 www.intgovforum.org

content and process, and vigorously promoted the issue of development and access to the internet being one of the four broad themes of the meeting, as well as engaging in the process of making nominations for the multistakeholder advisory group whose role was to assist the UN with the Athens meeting.

The IGF meeting itself was a great success as a space for multistakeholder dialogue on internet governance. APC participated actively in organising workshops on access, content regulation, capacity building and the environment, as well as proposing speakers for the plenary debates on access, openness, diversity and security.⁹ APC chair Natasha Primo spoke in the high-level opening panel on behalf of civil society. We also revised the APC Internet Rights Charter¹⁰ and distributed it in English, French and Spanish at the meeting, and an issue paper by David Souter on developing country and civil society participation in the WSIS¹¹ was also launched.

On the ICT for development (ICT4D) front, APC attended the inaugural meeting of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID)¹² in Kuala Lumpur in June 2006, and APC's executive director Anriette Esterhuysen was appointed to the panel of high-level advisers to GAID. GAID identified four issues on which it planned to focus: health, education, entrepreneurship and governance. APC together with other partners proposed to form a Community of Expertise on Public, Social and Community Entrepreneurship,¹³ which was accepted by the GAID Steering Committee in December 2006.

Regional policy spaces

APC is active in regional policy spaces in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and South Asia.

APC's policy work in the African region

In Africa, APC's main focus was on access to infrastructure. APC ran a series of workshops and consultations on existing and proposed submarine cables and on other forms of local access. We launched a Fibre for Africa campaign website, reached out to national and regional media to publicise the debate, and started major research on the missed opportunities that have been part of the monopoly-held West African submarine cable.

Submarine cables for Africa and monopolies

Africa currently has to pay for some of the most expensive bandwidth in the world, and the money it pays in hard currency for this service leaves the continent. Because East Africa does not have international fibre connections, it is paying more than countries connected to the SAT3 fibre on the other side of the continent.

9 www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=5041512

10 rights.apc.org/charter.shtml

11 rights.apc.org/papers.shtml

12 www.un-gaid.org

13 www.un-gaid.org/en/node/161

The price of international bandwidth is a significant barrier to the region’s development. It makes it more expensive to do business here: for example, it is harder for new call centres to compete with their global competitors. And in terms of its social development, there are many areas where cheap international access would give East African citizens, professionals, students and decision makers access to knowledge, expertise and involvement in regional and global discussions.



APC'S FIBREFORAFRICA.NET PROVIDES BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT INTERNATIONAL BANDWIDTH IN AFRICA, ITS COSTS AND THE EXISTENCE OF MONOPOLY ACCESS TO IT. IT FOCUSES ESPECIALLY ON THE PROPOSED EAST AFRICAN EASSY CABLE PROJECT AND THE ENDING OF THE MONOPOLY OF THE WEST AFRICAN SAT-3 CABLE.
 GRAPHIC: UTOPIA COMMUNICATIONS AND ACACIA/IDRC

In response to these issues, the East African Submarine Cable System (EASSy) consortium was set up in 2003 to build a fibre route that will connect countries on and near the east coast of Africa. However its governance and the terms under which access to the new capacity will be available were not set. The policy issue at stake was whether it would follow the monopolistic practices of its predecessor, the SAT-3/WASC/SAFE submarine cable on the west coast of Africa, or offer an “open access” regime to increase competition and lower prices, and give consideration to development needs.

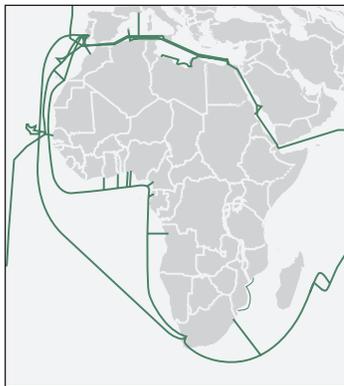
APC organised a consultation in Mombasa, Kenya in March 2006 to bring together key stakeholders who could have an influence on the model that the consortium might choose. “A few weeks before the event, it became clear that the level of interest was much higher than expected. Last minute requests to participate came unexpectedly from groups that had no previous contact, so that on the day, instead of the initially expected 30 participants, a total of 90 arrived,” said APC policy manager Willie Currie. Participants came from Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. The meeting received extensive coverage in African¹⁴

14 For example, South Africa’s Mail & Guardian: www.mg.co.za/articlePage.aspx?articleid=267024&area=/insight/insight_economy_business

and international¹⁵ media and APC launched the Fibre for Africa website to provide information on access to infrastructure in Africa.¹⁶

After a day of debate the meeting participants decided that the concerns about the EASSy process should be taken up with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Subsequently, NEPAD, East and Southern African governments, regulators and the EASSy consortium agreed to a set of policy and regulatory conditions for EASSy, which were contained in a protocol agreed to in principle by a meeting of communications ministers from fifteen member states on 6 June 2006. A process for formal ratification of the protocol by participating governments was also put in motion.¹⁷

The South Atlantic 3/West Africa Submarine Cable (SAT-3/WASC) is a submarine communications cable linking Portugal and Spain to South Africa, with connections to several West African countries along the route. APC together with partners convened a workshop for the Communications Regulators' Association of Southern Africa (CRASA) in Johannesburg on 24-25 July 2006 on the SAT-3/WASC/SAFE submarine cable to address what happens when national monopolies end, and what this means for regulators.



EASTERN AFRICA DOES NOT HAVE A SINGLE INTERNATIONAL FIBRE OPTIC CONNECTION. EXISTING SUBMARINE CABLES ARE SHOWN IN GREEN. MAP: APC

The African regulators, policy advisors, operators, businesspeople, civil society delegates, and consumer lobby groups attending the meeting issued a media statement¹⁸ which stated that SAT-3 prices must come down significantly and ultimately be aligned with costs in order to encourage the full and proper adoption of broadband access, so that its competitive, economic and developmental potential can be realised. The statement also stressed that future regulatory decisions regarding SAT-3 should be in the interests of the industry as a whole and the African consumer, rather than in the sole interest of any single operator or consortium of operators.

In November APC together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) convened a workshop in Johannesburg for dialogue and exchange on promising options and critical issues for national policy and advocacy on "open access" at local and national levels.¹⁹

15 For example, BBC Online: news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/4787422.stm

16 www.fibreforafrica.net

17 The protocol included principles to ensure non-discriminatory open access to the two networks as well as a price-cap regime to prevent monopolistic pricing on bandwidth. This was a successful milestone achieved by the participation of all stakeholders in the process led by NEPAD's eAfrica Commission. However, consensus was not to last. Some operators in the EASSy consortium balked at the regulatory regime EASSy was to operate under and they started to undermine the protocol using non-transparent back-door manoeuvres. The Kenyan government indicated it was not happy with the delays around EASSy and announced that it would develop its own cable. Eventually only 12 of the 23 governments had signed the protocol by December 2006. There are now three initiatives in addition to EASSy planning to lay submarine cables along the east coast of Africa.

18 [fibreforafrica.net/main.shtml?x=5039240&als\[MYALIAS6\]=Regulators%20issue%20SAT3%20statement%20&als\[elect\]=4887798](http://fibreforafrica.net/main.shtml?x=5039240&als[MYALIAS6]=Regulators%20issue%20SAT3%20statement%20&als[elect]=4887798)

19 africa.rights.apc.org/index.shtml?apc=n30084e_1&x=5043863

The pressure of initiatives like the workshops with CRASA and the UNDP and the signing of the NEPAD protocol on EASSy has indirectly caused a downward trend on prices on SAT-3 as the operating consortium tries to preempt regulatory intervention to lower prices. The SAT-3 monopoly ends in 2007 and the South African government announced in early 2007 that it would take steps to regulate the SAT-3 landing station near Cape Town as an essential service, which would open it to access by competing telecom operators in South Africa.

The workshop brought together almost 40 practitioners, advocacy groups and selected policy makers and regulators from Southern and Eastern Africa, who shared an interest in the concept and application of open access, in terms of national and “first-mile” infrastructure, as well as in related notions of “community-driven networks”, i.e. local level community-owned networks capable of providing ICT services and internet access along with low-cost voice over internet protocol (VoIP) service for use by local communities unable to afford mobile telephony.

The next steps are to explore the possibility of developing pilot community-based networks in the four East African countries where UNDP research shows there is a viable technical and business plan.

SAT-3/WASC research

In 2006 APC commenced a large scale research project – “SAT-3/WASC Post-Implementation Audit: Country Case Studies” – which will document the effect that the SAT-3/WASC submarine cable has had on communications on the African continent, as well as the opportunities that have been missed and the reasons behind these. The overriding objective of the research is to identify and document both positive and negative lessons that can be learned from the development, implementation and management of the cable.

The APC SAT-3 research focuses on the entire life cycle of the cable to date and analyses:

1. What happened and why? A global view of the construction of the cable.
2. What is happening and how? National perspectives of the effect SAT-3 has had on the ICT environment in Angola, Cameroon, Senegal and Ghana.
3. What can be made to happen? Lessons to be learned, negative factors to avoid, positive points to imbibe.

The results of this research will be useful in two ways. First, it will give current and future infrastructure-oriented campaigns better insight in explaining the problems that have occurred as a result of the adoption of a particular set of decisions regarding SAT-3/WASC. In this way, arguments pointing to the pitfalls of “closed” decision-making will be supported by the presentation of facts and real-life examples.

Second, in cases where there have been positive initiatives undertaken despite the conditions under which SAT-3/WASC was implemented, the results of the study would prove useful to campaign partners and operators should similar directions in decision-making be taken on current and future infrastructure projects.

Africa ICT Policy Monitor and Chakula

The Africa ICT Policy Monitor²⁰ began a process of review with regard to its aims and objectives following an evaluation of APC's policy websites. The goal is to be less "encyclopaedic" in trying to capture every policy document, news item or activity in Africa, and instead to focus more on issues and countries in which APC is active in policy advocacy campaigns. This is partly because the evaluation of the APC ICT Policy Monitor indicated that it was visited more by international users than African ones. The newsletter *Chakula*²¹ is also changing strategy to use "push" approaches to reach out to a wider audience within Africa, rather than expecting them to have the bandwidth to reach our website. Chakula special editions in 2006 focused on Africa at the WSIS²² and interviews with national policy advocates.²³

APC's policy work in the Latin American and Caribbean region

In Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), APC's focus was on a number of interlocking issues. In 2006, APC worked hard to open up the LAC region's only regional policy space following on from the WSIS, eLAC2007. We strengthened partnerships with members and other organisations that are active in policy issues, and worked together to build our capacity to understand and participate in policy processes, whether regional, thematic or national. As in Africa, LAC adopted the open access framework to guide our different activities.



One of the main challenges during 2006 was to identify new spaces and ways to facilitate the engagement of grassroots activists and communities in ICT policy processes. As a way forward, we'll be working on popularising ICT policy and internet rights content, materials and research in 2007.

20 africa.rights.apc.org
 21 africa.rights.apc.org/en-chakula.shtml?x=5059183
 22 africa.rights.apc.org/en-chakula.shtml?x=4958931
 23 africa.rights.apc.org/en-chakula.shtml?x=5040480

Networking and advocacy

“Participation has always been the Achilles’ heel of eLAC2007,” the regional plan of action for the information society adopted by Latin American and Caribbean governments in 2005, says APC’s LAC policy coordinator, Valeria Betancourt.²⁴ In 2006 APC developed a proposal for the inclusion of civil society participation in the eLAC2007 implementation process.²⁵ The proposal was submitted to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), which is responsible for coordinating eLAC2007, and the eLAC2007 implementation mechanism, made up of the governments of Ecuador, El Salvador, Brazil and Trinidad and Tobago. It included measures to combat the lack of information and the absence of consultative channels, and became a formal input to the Third eLAC2007 Coordination Meeting held in Santiago de Chile on 27 and 28 November 2006.

Several measures have since been adopted by ECLAC, including the production of a newsletter to provide updates on the status of implementation and meetings related to eLAC2007, and a foresight study that includes interviews with regional actors and a public survey about ICT-related issues, aimed at providing inputs for future regional action plans on the information society.²⁶

APC held a LAC regional ICT policy workshop in Montevideo in November 2006.²⁷ The workshop brought together a group of around 30 people working with ICTs for development from different perspectives. It was a platform for policy dialogue between practitioners, advocates, researchers and academics around issues like open access, internet governance, and mobile telephony for poverty reduction, among others. It also reviewed the situation of ICT policies in different countries in the LAC region, from civil society perspectives. The workshop offered opportunities for enhancing the capacity of members and partners to understand critical policy issues. New alliances were formed as a result of the workshop and older ones were strengthened. The workshop identified approaches, issues and initiatives around which regional collaboration could be cemented.

In all, the APC LAC policy programme was present at around ten key events in 2006. APC policy work has become highly respected in the region and the LAC ICT Policy Monitor project is considered as one of the key players and references for both civil society and public sector bodies and actors. Participation in events has also contributed to expanding and strengthening partnerships.

Research and evaluation

The LAC ICT Policy Monitor was involved in a number of research activities during 2006. The first was a collaboration with the World Association of Community Broadcasters (AMARC) and the APC Women’s Networking Support Programme (APC WNSP) to research “Effective access of rural communities to broadcasting in equal opportunities:

24 www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=5038735

25 www.apc.org/espanol/news/index.shtml?x=5041566

26 www.elac2007.info/?da=6f96 , www.cepal.org/SocInfo

27 www.apc.org/tiki/tiki-index.php?page=Taller+de+Políticas+de+TIC

A key strategy for digital inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean”. The project posed the question, “How can broadcasting be used as a digital inclusion strategy?” and identified the barriers and restrictions that rural communities face to access broadcasting effectively. It also highlighted specific case studies and best practices in public policies.

The second was a collaboration between APC and the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD) as part of the Building Communication Opportunities (BCO) Alliance to assess ICT4D policy process learning and evaluation, and in particular, the policy participation around ICT4D processes in Bangladesh, Bolivia and Uganda.

In Bolivia, we learned important lessons about intervening in a national ICT policy context. One of the main lessons was the need to consistently bear in mind the complexity of the policy process. The temperature of the political climate needs to be measured constantly, and policy advocates need to make different risk analyses.

There was clear evidence of the need to ensure the inclusion of all stakeholders, particularly rural and poor communities, to determine the *real* priorities that the policy process should include in order to truly enhance development, as well as the need to advocate strongly around their inclusion in policy formulation and implementation. The social and economic conditions of Bolivia demanded research at the earliest stages of the policy process in order for advocates to have a solid understanding of the context in which the ICT4D policy processes would play out.

Content and information

The APC LAC ICT Policy Monitor website was revamped and re-launched on 26 October 2006.²⁸ The new version of the website responds to the need for improved design and structure and to reflect the evolution of the project’s objectives, including new thematic areas and resources (like the national statistics section). A number of thematic newsletters were published in 2006, on issues like the Creative Commons in Latin America, the eLAC2007 regional ICT policy process and the EU, and the World Social Forum in Caracas.²⁹

APC’s policy work in the South Asian region

APC convened an Asia ICT Policy Consultation Meeting³⁰ in Dhaka in April to pinpoint ICT policy priorities and advocacy strategies in Asian countries, particularly in South Asia, and explore ways of networking and coordinating to effectively influence ICT policy research and advocacy in the region. One concrete outcome of the meeting was the agreement to establish a regional consortium of civil society organisations that are involved with FOSS and localisation issues in South Asia.

28 lac.derechos.apc.org

29 lac.derechos.apc.org/es-newsletter.shtml

30 www.apcasiaictpolicy.net



PARTICIPANTS AT THE ASIA ICT POLICY CONSULTATION IN DHAKA TAKE A BREAK. PHOTO: CHEEKAY CINCO

APC also supported national policy advocacy processes in Bangladesh (broadband policy),³¹ India (open access to ICT4D content online and audiovisual content including an online space regarding information and communication policies for India)³² and Pakistan (community radio).³³

National policy spaces

APC, as the lead implementer of the CATIA programme’s component 1c on African-led advocacy for ICT policy reform, supported six national advocacy processes in Africa. Our CATIA work started in March 2004 and finished in August 2006, and was carried out by supporting existing initiatives and developing the capacity of informed advocacy groups and individuals from the private sector, civil society, and the media.

In the process, we developed a practice of how to support national ICT policy advocacy campaigns. The practice depended on a combination of four factors:

- Capacity building of national policy animators through regular workshops and individual mentoring.
- A multistakeholder approach to encouraging national ICT policy dialogue that includes government, the private sector, civil society and the media.
- Devolvement of control of the process to the national animator.
- Encouraging the national animator to form policy networks as a platform to drive advocacy.

31 www.bfes.net

32 www.IS-watch.net

33 www.bytesforall.org

Positive policy and regulatory reform really took off in Kenya from as early as 2005. KICTANet, as a multistakeholder advocacy network, undertook a range of inclusive policy debates with the government, private sector, media and consumers, and collaborated closely with the government in the formulation of the ICT policy that was approved by the Cabinet in January 2006.³⁴ Its efforts included online and face-to-face consultations on the Kenya ICT policy with stakeholders. At the regulatory level, KICTANet advocacy played a direct role in the liberalisation of VoIP by the regulator.

KICTANet created a replicable model of a multistakeholder advocacy network, which included participation of the private sector (ISPs), civil society organisations and consumer groups, and the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Information and Communications.

In Senegal, greater awareness of the value of ICTs has been raised among members of the media in order to promote better coverage of ICT policy issues. The CATIA animators also started up a TV programme on ICT policy called DebaTIC.

Coura Fall, CATIA animator in Senegal:

In our first national consultation in 2005, we invited different ICT actors from the private sector, civil society and the media. Initially we identified three priority areas: ICT access, capacity building and ICT regulation, but decided to focus on capacity building in the media. We talked together to try to understand why ICTs are not very well written about. The journalists said they don't have the understanding or knowledge about ICT policies and issues. Most don't even have computers in the newsroom. So we chose to reinforce their capacity, their views and understanding and knowledge about ICTs.

Dorothy Okello, WOUNET in Uganda:

We are carrying out an evaluation of the Rural Communications Development Fund. The Fund is essentially looking at universal access, particularly targeting the rural areas where development is needed. These are defined as those counties that the national operator has identified as uneconomically viable to operate in. [...] We're not interested in how many telecentres have been set up, but in the utilisation and uptake of the services being offered from a gender perspective. How many men, how many women and

what services are being used. Often we get challenged: "Okay, you're saying that, but where is your data to back that up?" This will give us some data to say: "Look, this is going on." This kind of survey hasn't been done before in Uganda.

Dawit Bekele, CATIA animator, Ethiopia:

I can say with confidence that a year and a half ago there was practically nobody who could understand what FOSS is, what the policy issues are, what the advantages are. Now we have quite a number of people pushing the FOSS agenda.

Jummai Umar, CATIA animator in Nigeria:

Sometime early this year the president granted a second community a radio licence. Just one; but to us this is an indication that the message is getting through. I think it is a matter of time. Even the government itself sees and understands the need for that sector to come up in relation to aspirations. [...] Although a committee has not been formed, the president has approved the formation of a committee that would recommend criteria to the government for a policy framework. These are indicators that the government is listening.

34 www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=3870218

“We are actively involved in creating a media space for ICT reporting. We are producing a TV show called DebaTIC which is a debate about ICTs. In Senegal, we don’t have a show talking about ICTs, we don’t have ICT magazines.” *Coura Fall*



COURA FALL (PICTURED, LEFT), CATIA ANIMATOR IN SENEGAL, BEING INTERVIEWED DURING A WORKSHOP ON ICT POLICY AND THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA. PHOTO: M. DIOP

A civil society-based network (DMTIC) came together in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as part of CATIA to engage policy makers and use research to inform advocacy on a national backbone network based on open access principles. At this time the DRC has no fibre optic connection to the international internet.

In Ethiopia, a civil society network (EFOSSNet) successfully completed a number of training programmes in July 2006 and held Linux Professional Institute examinations for trainees in Addis Ababa in October. EFOSSNet formed a women’s FOSS group called Lucyinyx, which held an event in September on Software Freedom Day that was attended by government representatives.

In a country of 130 million people, Nigeria has only one community radio and no policy on community broadcasting in place. However there are hopeful signs that things are changing. In Nigeria, the advocacy coalition engaged government to appoint a multistakeholder Community Radio Policy Committee. The committee produced a report on guidelines for community radio in December 2006, but the government has yet to make a decision.

In Uganda a women’s ICT network, the Uganda Women’s Caucus on ICTs (UWCI), was reactivated and the Rural Communication Development Fund (RCDF) is being evaluated using the APC WNSP Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM)

to advocate for gender-sensitive approaches to rural development and ICTs. A number of issue papers were produced, including one on convergence by Kate Wild³⁵ and another on open access to infrastructure in Africa by Mike Jensen,³⁶ both in English and French.

An evaluation of the CATIA process was undertaken by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), and component 1c of the programme – for which APC was the lead implementer – was favourably assessed.³⁷ APC also supported a number of articles on the CATIA process and lessons learned.³⁸

National ICT policy network



THE "GALAXY" OF NATIONAL POLICY PORTALS SHOWS WHERE DIFFERENT NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS SHARE POLICY ISSUES. PHOTO: ANDREW GARTON

The national ICT policy initiative was established to support members in their national advocacy strategies, through improved networking amongst the various national processes (learning from what the others are doing) and support for their engagement in global processes.

35 rights.apc.org/documents/convergence_EN.pdf
 36 rights.apc.org/documents/open_access_EN.pdf
 37 www.catia.ws/archive.php?s=LatestResources
 38 www.catia.ws

The project began in 2004 with eleven members³⁹ on board. Each member built an ICT policy monitoring portal for increasing awareness amongst local civil society activists about local issues, strategies for influencing public policy debates and monitoring of the WSIS process. Often they were the first such initiative to collect information on ICT policy in their countries. By 2006, another seven organisations⁴⁰ had joined the network.

In 2006 APC re-focused on supporting members in content and campaign development as part of their advocacy strategies. All members were invited to a workshop for content skills capacity building in London in June 2006. The event proved to be an important turning point in the initiative – a time of network strengthening, skills sharing and increased energy for pursuing new ideas. The workshop was instrumental in helping members gain a fuller understanding of key regional and global ICT policy-making spaces and opportunities for ongoing advocacy in the post-WSIS implementation phase, such as the Internet Governance Forum and GAID. It also highlighted emerging new spaces such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) as important spaces for policy debates around “access to knowledge”. The workshop gave everyone a clearer sense of how their national work was located in the broader APC ICT policy framework.

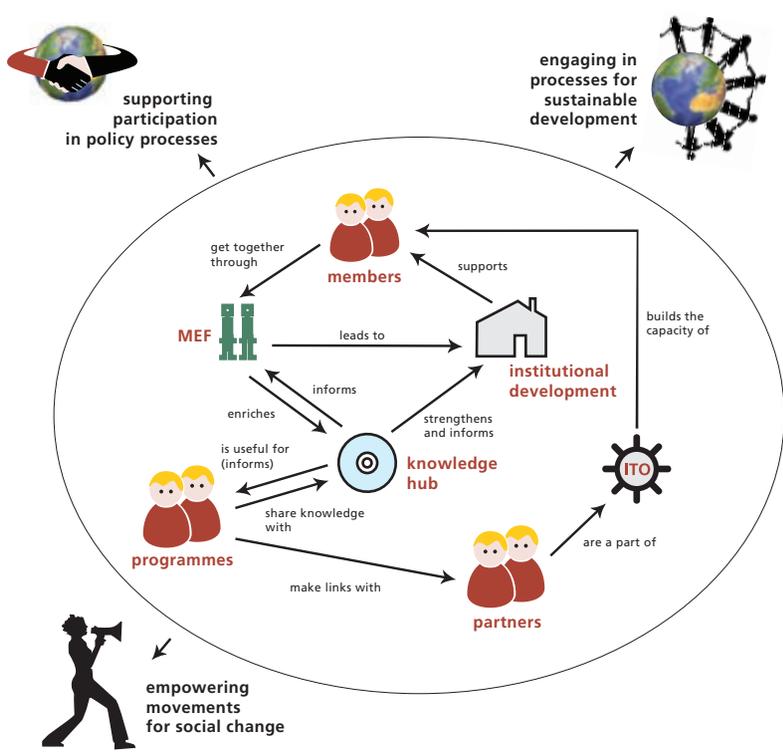
By the end of 2006, the value of the workshop was even more evident as members reported on new engagements with national civil society and governmental processes, including announcements from eight members on plans for national level public consultations during 2007. ■

39 Colnodo (Colombia), BlueLink (Bulgaria), LaNeta (Mexico), c2o (Australia), Pangea (Spain), FMA (Philippines), Nodo TAU (Argentina), GreenNet (UK), Unimondo (Italy), IteM (Uruguay), and Alternatives (Canada/Democratic Republic of Congo).

40 Bytes For All (Bangladesh), Bytes For All (Pakistan), ArabDev (Egypt), Open Institute (Cambodia), StrawberryNet (Romania), ZamirNet (Croatia), and RITS (Brazil).

STRATEGIC USE AND CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMME (SU&CB)

APC's Strategic Use and Capacity-Building (SU&CB) Programme was created in response to a common need among social justice organisations for greater capacity to use ICTs in strategic ways that increase their effectiveness and sustainability. SU&CB's direct constituency consists of APC partners, members and other APC programmes, but key considerations in the design and implementation of SU&CB's activities are how they might have a broader benefit and how they can fit into and enhance complementary ICT for development (ICT4D) efforts being undertaken outside APC.



THE DIAGRAM SHOWS HOW THE KNOWLEDGE HUB CONCEPT CAN SUPPORT "STRATEGIC USE" LINKS WITHIN THE NETWORK AND BEYOND. IMAGE: APC

During 2006, SU&CB's work focused on capacity building through our continued support and development of the ItrainOnline (ITO) trainers' resource base and the skills-sharing activities of the community wireless project. SU&CB also coordinates the APC member exchange fund (MEF), which is reported on in the Network Development and Participation section of this report. We also took time during 2006 to regroup as a team and discuss new areas for innovation and skills sharing that can direct and define our work through the rapid changes that are occurring in the practical use and application of ICTs for development and social change. A role for the programme was mapped out which takes advantage of our location at the centre of the APC network. This puts the programme in an ideal position to operate as a "knowledge hub", facilitating the exchange of support, development and ideas between APC members and ICT4D practitioners beyond the network – matching projects to trainers, tools, and expertise.

Wireless in Africa

As 2006 was the final year of APC's Capacity Building for Community Wireless Connectivity in Africa¹ project, the focus was on harnessing the momentum of the last three years to devise next steps and new project ideas.

The project partners² worked at building wireless skills and awareness across Africa through face-to-face training, disseminating tools and information resources, and facilitating the sharing of local knowledge around wireless technologies.

The project was motivated by the idea that wireless technologies could offer developing countries a low-cost and dynamic complement to their existing wired infrastructure. It was becoming clear that open wireless standards were opening up low-cost technical opportunities, and bringing the decentralised internet model to an area that had previously been dominated by traditional telecommunication operators.

The project responded with four linked components: materials development; pilot face-to-face workshops; the development and maintenance of a distributed knowledge base on wireless for development; and the building of partnerships and knowledge networks. The primary target audience were potential "champions" – people such as technical implementers, managers and trainers who would be able to apply and share the skills and knowledge acquired during the training.

Materials development which had begun in 2005 continued into 2006, with translation and localisation into four languages (English, French, Arabic and Spanish). These fed into the 2006 regional capacity-building workshops in Senegal (for Francophone West Africa in January) and Morocco (for Arabic North Africa in July). In both cases, the demand for participation was high – exceeding both our expectations and available places. Senegal and Morocco 2006 built on the pilot curriculum which was first launched during the 2005 East Africa and Southern Africa workshops. The Morocco workshop was a particularly important milestone for the project as it became a platform

1 www.apc.org/wireless

2 Dr. Onno Purbo, wire.jess.dk, Ecole Supérieure Multinationale des Télécommunications (ESMT), Champaign-Urbana Community Wireless Network (CUWiN), Kyle Johnston, Dr. Alberto Escudero-Pascual.



WIRELESS TRAINERS PUT LABELS ON A MAP OF AFRICA TO INDICATE WIRELESS INITIATIVES THEY ARE AWARE OF NOW FUNCTIONING AS A RESULT OF THE FOUR TRAININGS CARRIED OUT IN 2005-2006. PHOTO: APC

for testing the recently released Arabic training materials. Along with the updated French and English versions, all training units were then made available for download on the ItrainOnline repository of training resources.³

The final evaluation carried out among participants in all of the workshops showed that over half had gone on to train others in using wireless technology, and a similar number were responsible for building wireless networks themselves after receiving the training.

Another key element of the project involved building partnerships and knowledge networks. This led to a new engagement with the community radio sector during awareness-building sessions on the use of wireless technology for radio broadcasters at the AMARC 9 meeting in Amman, Jordan in November. Participation was enthusiastic

3 www.itrainonline.org/itrainonline/mmtk/wireless.shtml



PARTICIPANTS AT THE ARABIC WIRELESS TRAINING WORKSHOP IN IRFANE, MOROCCO SHOWING THE WIRELESS "CANTENNAS" THEY HAVE LEARNED HOW TO BUILD. PHOTO: ANAS TAWILEH

and helped to strengthen links with community broadcasters. It also gave rise to new project ideas based on wireless broadcasting using community radio.

As partnership networking opportunities began to exceed available project resources, a CD was released with all language versions of the training materials along with other useful software and documentation. This allowed us to have a virtual presence at other relevant events, including the AirJaldi Summit⁴ on wireless technologies in Dharamsala, India in October.

APC concluded this phase of the project with a strategy meeting in London in December 2006 for more than 40 people actively involved in wireless networking in Africa. They gathered for two days of intensive networking and planning. As well as strengthening the network built up over the previous two years, this final meeting also served to build a consolidated picture of community wireless initiatives on the continent which was then used as a basis for strategising around new directions. It concluded with specific recommendations for a second phase of the project, all of which were documented in the final project report.

And in Latin America

APC is always looking for South-South networking opportunities. While the wireless project was firmly located in Africa, from the outset SU&CB felt that it should also function as a platform for exploring similar opportunities in other regions.

Information about the project workshops was circulated amongst APC members from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), and Americo Sanchez from Peruvian member CEPES was selected by his peers to participate in the first East Africa workshop

4 drupal.airjaldi.com

WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAID ABOUT THE 2006 WIRELESS WORKSHOPS

"It's mainly community. Getting all the people to meet together, blend their experience with good training and with others' experience. Connecting people is also important. I always wondered whether we have other people who are into wireless in the region? Now I know." *Participant from Egypt at the Morocco workshop*

"The programme was an eye-opener to cutting-edge technologies with a direct impact on our work environments and societies." *Participant from Malawi at the South Africa workshop*

"Having access to proactive, passionate practitioners was fabulous. Whether or not we are able to expedite de-regulation in Zimbabwe, being kept up-to-date with technology is essential for an IT4D-oriented organisation like ours." *Participant from Zimbabwe at the South Africa workshop*

held in Zanzibar in 2005. He used the opportunity to present the case of a wireless project in the Huaral Valley,⁵ where thousands of agriculturalists were using technology to improve their irrigation methods in this arid part of Peru. On his return to Lima, he worked on a funding proposal to set up a similar project in the LAC region together with other technicians in APC-LAC. He shared his Zanzibar experiences with colleagues and facilitated a discussion about how to localise the African project. In 2006, a team of APC-LAC members, APC partners and SU&CB staff worked together to finalise a LAC wireless proposal.

The initial project design was largely a LAC reflection of the African project, but as the team monitored the strengths and weaknesses of the emerging Africa workshops, the project was reconfigured. The final proposal⁶ puts more emphasis on constructing permanent usable networks that will be left to communities who host workshops, as well as on developing a strong network of LAC experts and community network administrators. This differs considerably from the Africa project, which was primarily concerned with developing training materials that are reusable by wireless networkers anywhere.

Evaluating the impact of prizes

APC has been offering prizes to recognise the social use of technology since 2000. In 2006 we took stock of this practice. Having evaluated the impact of the prizes in the short and medium terms, we looked at the impact of the prizes over the long term for finalists who had been short-listed for the 2002 APC Africa Hafkin Prize.

5 news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/4071645.stm

6 TRICALCAR (which stands for "Tejiendo Redes Inalámbricas Comunitarias en AL&C") and its implementation started in 2007 with financial support from the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas. The project coordinators 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.

The Hafkin Prize's theme changes from year to year. For the 2002 prize, the theme selected was "People-Centred ICT Policy in Africa". What was unusual about the prize in 2002 was APC's ability to link it directly with our own capacity-building initiatives, by inviting all of the finalists to attend the first ever ICT Policy for Civil Society Workshop, held in Addis Ababa. The training received by the finalists was a significant bonus to being connected with the prize.

In Nigeria, finalist Paradigm Initiative Nigeria (PIN) went on to work in ICT policy regionally and internationally as well as locally. In 2006, the organisation explained: "To us at PIN, ICT policy was not a major focus [at the time they applied for the Hafkin Prize]. However, after the Addis conference, we realised the importance of influencing the process and not just changing things one unit at a time." PIN went on to be involved in the establishment and management of the Lagos Digital Village, the Nigerian Youth ICT4D Network, the African Youth ICT4D Network and the global Youth Caucus to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). They also produced a book presented to the public at the WSIS II summit in Tunisia (November 2005) called *Global Process, Local Reality*.⁷

For many applicants, the prize is their first introduction to APC, and vice versa. In some cases this has led to discussions of collaboration and membership in APC, which extends and enriches both their own work and that of the APC community. Hafkin Prize finalist Bridges.org (South Africa) was commissioned to produce ICT policy training materials on "real access"⁸ (which were later translated into Spanish and French by APC) and to train other trainers from the APC community. Meanwhile, Kubatana (Zimbabwe) became part of our international team training civil society activists in how to work online securely in situations of state repression. Kubatana members have also attended training sessions to enhance their technical capabilities in wireless connectivity and free software, with all expenses paid by APC.

Chris Nicol FOSS Prize

Nowadays, more and more free and open source (FOSS) applications are being developed and many of them are achieving standards of usability that not only meet the standards of proprietary software, but in some cases exceed them. But FOSS is not a magical "no cost" alternative to costly software. Some free software advocates see FOSS as the universal panacea to challenges related to using technology for development. It's true that FOSS has real potential, but we shouldn't get caught up in the myth.



CHRIS NICOL. PHOTO: APC

⁷ http://www.pin.org.ng/global_process.php

⁸ http://rights.apc.org/training/contents/ictpol_en/ictmodule.2006-05-18.6637944641/ictunit.2006-06-11.2229256982?set_language=en

A lot of effort is still needed if everyday users in community and civil society organisations are to start using FOSS en masse. There is a real need for good software manuals, technical support, training, and open critique and assessment of FOSS, as well as for ongoing software development.

APC has been involved in FOSS-related projects since 1999, and many of our members since much earlier. We recognise that FOSS has a key role to play if ICTs are going to make a difference to human development. However, we also see the reality. For most ordinary people, FOSS is still difficult to use, because they just don't have information about the software available or how to use it, or they don't have access to decent, ongoing technical support or training.

Chris Nicol, a member of the APC community from the late 1990s until his untimely death on 29 August 2005, believed as we all do in the APC community that computers and the internet should be used for making the world a better place. In his honour and memory, APC created the APC Chris Nicol FOSS Prize.⁹ The biennial USD 4,000 prize commemorates his life and work and was launched in August 2006 in Mexico City.

ActionKit

The ActionKit began as an idea of Central and East European APC members looking for improved ways of building campaign websites for their communities of non-profit users. In 2005 this concept was developed into a project to design a "tool for aiding online advocacy for the South." At that time, ActionApps was the content management system (CMS) of choice for most APC members. The challenge for this project was to improve its campaigning functionality. Research into successful online campaigning amongst CSOs suggested that the Drupal CMS offered the most practical solutions. And so the ActionKit took shape as a project to develop a series of modules which allow Drupal's campaigning functionality to be integrated into ActionApps-based websites.¹⁰

The development work was put out to tender amongst APC member networks. By July 2006 a usability report and a raft of localisation, documentation and integration modules¹¹ had been developed. In addition, the project has also prompted a number of exchanges between these members and others in the network, as members work to share and develop their Drupal expertise and experience. This in turn is leading to the exploration of new development strategies with plans for 2007 including looking at ways to improve the accessibility of content sharing and social networking tools in the development context.

⁹ www.apc.org/english/chrisnicol

¹⁰ There are hundreds of ActionApps-based websites in Colombia, the Czech Republic, Peru and Chile, to mention just a few countries.

¹¹ Sharing contents between Drupal and ActionApps using RSS: actionkit.zpok.hu/actionkit-rss-doc; Displaying contents of Drupal inside ActionApps: actionkit.zpok.hu/actionkit-gcapi-doc; Drupal's page, node and block building for display mechanism: actionkit.zpok.hu/page-block-building.odt; Content sharing & integration: actionkit.gn.apc.org and drupal.org/project/actionapps; Usability report: actionkit.zpok.hu/DrupalUsability.pdf

ItrainOnline

ItrainOnline is a partnership initiative¹² of eight organisations with particular experience in capacity building in development contexts. ItrainOnline currently has two main thrusts: the ItrainOnline portal is a gateway to a wealth of online resources to help development and civil society organisations use ICTs effectively, and the ItrainOnline Multimedia Training Kit (MMTK) is a collection of workshop kits to help trainers working with telecentres, NGOs, community media organisations and the development sector to present effective training courses on a wide range of ICT and non-ICT topics.

Throughout 2006 work continued on the ItrainOnline portal¹³ with the regular addition of new resources in English, Spanish and French. The site had a monthly average of 60,000 page views; among the top ten user countries were South Africa, Mexico, Turkey, India, Colombia, Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela and Morocco. Most-used sections related to basic computer skills, open source software, networking and databases, radio, web design and resources for trainers.

The MMTK section of the site – training materials sharing a common modular format – was increased significantly by the addition of sixteen units on wireless networks in English, French and Arabic.

In October 2006 the partners met to consolidate their shared vision of ItrainOnline as a partnership of organisations with a strong interest in ICT4D capacity building, with a core set of products and services: a forum and network for sharing and developing approaches to capacity development and supporting those involved in ICT4D capacity development; learning materials in a variety of formats and via a variety of processes, including both “expert”-driven and collaborative and peer production; and a platform to support all ItrainOnline areas of activity, including a learning object repository and interactive spaces for trainers.

Harambee: Strengthening African voices through collaborative processes

Harambee is a Swahili word that means “let’s work together”. It’s all about community uniting around a common goal – in this case, to enhance African-based organisations’ use of ICTs for collaboration, so that they can play a leading role in the development dialogues and actions that affect them.

Harambee is a two-year project that started up in 2006, and is coordinated by a partnership of Bellanet International, Bellanet Africa, APC (through the APC-Africa-Women network) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). The fruits of the project will be seen in 2007.¹⁴

¹² Current ItrainOnline partners are APC, Bellanet, FAO, International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD), International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP), OneWorld.net, Telecentre.org and UNESCO.

¹³ www.itrainonline.org

¹⁴ www.harambeeafrica.net



ANN, SECOND FROM LEFT, AT ONE OF THE NUMEROUS WORKSHOPS COORDINATED BY SU&CB UNDER HER WATCH. PHOTO: APC

Ann Tohill, manager of APC's SU&CB Programme, resigned in August 2006. Ann joined APC in 2001 to run the Online Resource Centre project. This project eventually integrated with ItrainOnline, an online resource built by APC and partner organisations. ItrainOnline, under Ann's coordination, grew into a major online clearinghouse of training and self-instructional resources targeting the non-profit sectors, especially those in developing countries.

However, while there was an abundance of information on using ICTs on the web, it was difficult to locate high-quality resources for trainers that could easily be adapted and localised. Translation is expensive and the format of most training materials was not conducive to localising materials cost-effectively.

Ann addressed this challenge through the coordination of the innovative ItrainOnline Multimedia Tool Kit (MMTK) format. The MMTK format revolutionised the process of developing and localising training materials. Using templates, training units consist of different yet standardised components, which makes

localisation, translation and further development much easier.

In the course of her term as SU&CB manager, from 2003 to 2006, Ann built a team of skilled and committed staff and implemented several significant projects that produced resources which will remain useful for many years. These include, among others: training materials on wireless networking in English, French and Arabic, which were also used in training 145 participants from Africa in how to build community wireless networks; APC's contribution to the Information Management Resource Kit (IMARK) self-instructional units developed by FAO; MMTK materials for UNESCO community multimedia centres, which included some of the first available training materials on open source software; and the conversion of APC's initial ICT policy curriculum into MMTK format.

APC will miss Ann, for both her humour and her expertise. APC staff and members who worked with Ann all gained from the experience. We wish her all the best for the future and hope to continue our association with her in new ways. ■

WOMEN'S NETWORKING SUPPORT PROGRAMME (APC WNSP)

The APC WNSP is both a programme within APC and a network of women throughout the world committed to women's empowerment through ICT. In 2006, the APC WNSP's action areas of policy advocacy, evaluation and research, and technical capacity building became increasingly intertwined, with each area informing and strengthening the work of the other areas. The best example of this is our new campaign, Take Back the Tech!, which combines policy advocacy, content creation, and capacity building to combat ICT-generated violence against women.

Our focus on violence against women is one way of making ICTs relevant to women worldwide and locally. But in 2006 the APC WNSP made strides in putting gender on the mainstream ICT agenda as well, going beyond tokenism to taking a look at key ICT issues such as censorship through a gender lens at a major global ICT forum, the Internet Governance Forum.

2006 also found the APC WNSP team and APC members taking up new ICT tools for activism, gaining and sharing technical skills and promoting free and open source software (FOSS) in our four priority regions: Latin America, Asia-Pacific, Africa and Europe. And as part of our commitment to diversity, we have sought to make more gender and ICT tools and information available in multiple languages, launching our gender and ICT policy monitor GenderIT.org in Spanish and Portuguese, and publishing our Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) for ICTs in four languages.

Gender and ICT policy advocacy

GenderIT.org

GenderIT.org, the APC WNSP gender and ICT policy monitor launched in 2005, maps the interconnections between women's issues and ICT issues. Geared towards women's organisations and movements as well as ICT decision makers, the site has been called "a tremendous resource" by gender and ICT advocates because of its commitment to providing quality, analytical and original writing.¹

In 2006, the APC WNSP launched GenderIT.org in Spanish. Like its English-language sister site, the Spanish version features articles, resources, policy analysis, interviews, events and a who's who in the gender and ICT policy field. The Spanish version of GenderIT.org is not a simple mirror of the English site, but seeks to address the different priorities and issues for women in Latin America and ensure that their voices are not absent in global and regional ICT policy issues.

¹ In the GenderIT.org 2006 website survey, almost 50% of GenderIT.org English users reported visiting the site several times a month, with 80% of those surveyed citing original writings and articles as the most useful element of GenderIT.org and 69% citing its aggregated content, such as case studies or gender assessments.

In 2006, GenderIT.org published five thematic newsletters honing in on specific ICT issues with a gender lens and from diverse national realities.

A pool of regular contributors based in India, Pakistan, the Philippines, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Uruguay, Peru, Argentina and Venezuela provided stories.

Editions analysed the gender dimension of ICT education and training, freedom of expression, international advocacy and the Beijing Platform for Action, internet governance, national ICT policy advocacy, and women and FOSS community participation.

Every GenderIT.org edition examines critical issues from various angles to reveal the gender dimensions that are usually missing from mainstream ICT discourses. It also brings opposing perspectives to animate debate.

“The GenderIT.org Spanish site is one of the few references in this language on the internet specifically addressing the issue of women and ICT policies,” says Graciela Selaimen Baroni, long-time Brazilian technology activist. Almost one thousand² resources are pooled on the GenderIT.org site, of which around 40% are in Spanish and Portuguese. “The large number of Spanish resources was due to the fact that we were collecting resources in the three languages from the outset. The launch of the Spanish GenderIT.org was in reality the launch of a Spanish interface to these resources,” explains GenderIT.org coordinator, Katerina Fialova.

GenderIT.org’s Feminist Talk, the monitor’s event and issues blog, is a magnet for gender and ICT advocates with its critical and frequently humorous onsite coverage of events. In 2006, GenderIT.org provided blogging coverage of six events, including the polycentric World Social Forums, Highway Africa and the Internet Governance Forum in Athens.

IN PRAISE OF GENDERIT.ORG:

“A tremendous resource for us – for gender advocates – women’s organisations and movements across the world who are just beginning to explore gender issues in the deployment and application of ICTs, and need to understand the intersections with key women’s issues.” *Jrhyen*

“Thanks for another set of great resources and articles. I really like GenderIT and I use it not only for reference but I recently used it in my teaching as well (a university course on Gender, Development and Globalization at Univ. Mass./Boston).” *Sonia Jorge, Consultant in Communications Policy, Regulation, Gender and Development*

“...I was extremely happy to read ‘Reclaiming women’s space at the peace table’ [...] which is one of the very few articles I’ve read to date on ICTs and their role in strengthening gendered perspectives and frameworks for peacebuilding. The parent website of the article, GenderIT.org, is a treasure-trove of information on ICTs and gender.” *Sanjana Hattotuwa*

2 Figures from April 2007: 606 English-language resources and 382 in Spanish and Portuguese.



DO NOT LOOK AT PORN

This video short by Namita Malhotra commissioned by the APC WNSP set the tone for debate on content regulation at the Internet Governance Forum.³

Gender and the first Internet Governance Forum

The APC WNSP brought gender to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) held in Athens, Greece in November 2006. The panel discussion organised by the WNSP, “Content regulation from gender and development perspectives”, brought together voices of ISPs, feminist media activists and international agencies to debate the issue of pornography on the internet from diverse perspectives and consider the tensions between content regulation, freedom of expression and women’s and children’s human rights advocacy. In conjunction with other gender and ICT advocates, the APC WNSP issued the statement “Women Setting the IGF Agenda”, stating that the IGF failed to understand how gender intersects with internet governance and to learn from decades of practice that development initiatives which take gender perspectives seriously are more likely to meet their objectives. The declaration called on men and women interested in ensuring the principle of gender equality to join forces in coalition at the IGF, to demand parity in IGF activities and to include women’s representation and gender experts in the agenda-setting of IGF II.⁴ Feminist Talk’s provocative bloggers offered critique online and onsite at IGF, enriching all of our understanding of what internet governance means.⁵

National policy advocacy

National ICT policy advocacy is a slow process, and an APC WNSP priority in 2006 was its advocacy of gender perspectives in national ICT policy processes. In addition to GenderIT.org’s efforts to document national case studies and build capacities in gender-sensitive policy content at the national level, and the Latin American network’s work with community radio enthusiasts, the APC WNSP team worked closely with gender and ICT advocates in Uganda, the Philippines and the Czech Republic.

3 www.genderit.org/en/index.shtml?apc=r90501-e95021-1

4 www.genderit.org/en/index.shtml?w=r&x=95000

5 www.genderit.org/en/index.shtml?apc=f--e--1&nocache=1

Uganda

APC-member WOUNGNET's⁶ initiative "Engendering the Uganda National ICT Policy Processes" built the capacity of policy makers and the media to articulate gender issues in the ongoing policy processes in Uganda and specifically evaluated the implementation of a government-led rural communication development fund. APC's policy and women's programmes provided advice to WOUNGNET throughout the project as the Ugandan organisation determined to what extent the fund had provided universal access to rural communications and whether the implementation process had taken gender concerns into consideration for the equitable benefit of women and men.

Philippines

The APC WNSP provided advice and feedback on a research paper exploring gender and ICT issues in the Philippines⁷ by APC member Foundation for Media Alternatives (FMA).⁸ The paper specifically targets the Philippine Commission on ICT and gives specific recommendations for existing structures and mechanisms which can potentially help in mainstreaming a gender perspective in national ICT policies, programmes and projects.

Czech Republic

In 2006, APC WNSP Europe injected gender awareness into a national conference on e-government in the Czech Republic.⁹ Although this was the annual conference's ninth year, it was the first time ever that gender equality was put on the agenda. The APC WNSP panel, "ICT and Equal Opportunities of Women and Men", brought together a diverse range of participants including the Czech minister of Informatics, the head of the Governmental Council for Equal Opportunities of Women and Men, and a delegate from the Roma youth association, Athinganoi.¹⁰ Prior to the conference, APC WNSP Europe conducted a survey among Czech women mayors, who often head up small cities and rural localities where ICT infrastructure, services and access are still lacking. The survey findings, along with a session on women, ICTs and e-government, were also presented at the annual meeting of Czech women mayors in Ostrava (May 2006). The articles emerging from the two experiences¹¹ rank amongst the most popular in the GenderIT.org archives.

6 www.woungnet.org

7 A draft of the paper is available from: www.genderit.org/en/index.shtml?w=r&x=95064

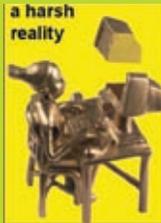
8 www.fma.ph

9 The conference was organised by Internet in Public Administration and Self-Government (ISSS), Local and Regional Information Society (LORIS) and the Visegrad Group for Developing Information Society (V4DIS). See: www.issc.cz/archiv/2006/v4dis

10 Reports on the panel and the event are available from: www.genderit.org/en/index.shtml?apc=a--e94245-1
www.issc.cz/archiv/2006/v4dis/detail.asp?id=385

11 "Linking Czech women and e-government": www.genderit.org/en/index.shtml?apc=a--e94245-1

"E-government: When the gender lens is missing": www.genderit.org/en/index.shtml?apc=a--e94244-1



Decision makers need hard data to prove the extent of the gender digital divide in Francophone Africa, says APC WNSP member Marie-Hélène Mottin-Sylla of APC member ENDA-TM in Senegal and author of *The Gender Digital Divide in Francophone Africa: A Harsh Reality*, which was translated into English from its original French by APC in 2006. Image: ENDA-TM

Bulgaria and Poland

APC WNSP members in Central and Eastern Europe adapted the APC ICT policy curriculum¹² based on an assessment of the key ICT policy issues and capacity-building needs of the region. Case studies on gender and ICTs in Bulgaria and Poland provided an interesting contrast on how eBulgaria and ePoland programmes affected women and girls.

Latin America

In Latin America, the APC WNSP worked in close collaboration with APC's policy programme, APC members and the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) on a gender-inclusive strategy for digital inclusion for rural community broadcasting. This research initiative, to be finalised in 2007, identified best practices in public policy for community radio, as well as barriers to effective use, and includes close-up case studies on rural media policy, technology, regulation and practice in Peru, Colombia and Chile.

Increasing gender and ICT awareness

In 2005, the APC WNSP developed a series of briefing papers regarding key gender and ICT concerns. The issues addressed include the connections between ICTs and the trafficking of women and violence against women, and the use of ICTs for poverty reduction.¹³ The briefing papers have proven to be a very effective tool for engaging women and women's organisations with ICTs, as well as explaining why gender matters in ICT policy development. In 2006, these papers were translated into Spanish and produced in print format for easy distribution at over a dozen events in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America.

The APC WNSP regularly engages in awareness-raising workshops around gender and ICTs, speaking on the issue wherever they are called. For example, in conjunction with the

¹² rights.apc.org/training

¹³ "Paddling in Circles While the Waters Rise: Gender Issues in ICTs and Poverty Reduction": www.genderit.org/en/index.shtml?w=r&x=91782
 "Cultivating Violence Through Technology? Exploring the Connections between Internet Communication Technologies (ICT) and Violence Against Women (VAW)": www.genderit.org/en/index.shtml?w=r&x=91306
 "Digital Dangers: Information & Communication Technologies and Trafficking in Women": www.genderit.org/en/index.shtml?w=r&x=91637

APC Latin American Policy Monitor, the APC WNSP organised the Internet and Society Forum, a five-day seminar during WALC 2006, the Latin American internet networking workshop.¹⁴ The seminar addressed internet rights and gender and ICT issues and drew over 100 participants, including policy and regulation experts. During the International Symposium on Policy and Strategy for Digital Opportunities from Gender Perspectives in Seoul,¹⁵ the APC WNSP's participation helped in forming a regional alliance for gender and ICT policy for development, and specifically to encourage exchange between municipal governments around the incorporation of gender in local ICT policy.

Increasingly, the APC WNSP has been called on for guidance by state agencies and governments, such as the national women's institutes of Venezuela and Uruguay, and has put gender on the agenda for the first time in spaces such as the Fifth National Activity for Digital Inclusion in Brazil.

Connecting violence against women and ICTs: Take Back the Tech!

The root cause of violence against women (VAW) lies in unequal power relations between men and women in almost all facets of life. The field of ICTs faces the same gender disparity. This means that VAW that happens in physical spaces like the home and streets is now also taking new forms and occurring in digital spaces, such as cyber-stalking or digital voyeurism. As technology has become smaller and more inexpensive, installation of tiny, hard-to-discover cameras facilitate peeping and spying. Images of women, recorded in intimate moments, without their knowledge or consent, are being sold as pornography on the internet. In the hands of tech-savvy domestic violence abusers, spyware and global positioning systems (GPS) are used to track and control their partner's mobility.

The APC WNSP believes that both ICTs and VAW affect our capacity to fully enjoy our human rights and fundamental freedoms. Our rights to information and expression, to self-determination, to meaningful participation in social, economic, cultural and political life, to free movement without harassment or threats to our safety, and to equality and non-discrimination also apply to digital spaces.

For this reason, during the Sixteen Days of Activism against Gender Violence from 25 November to 10 December 2006, the APC WNSP called on all who use ICTs to "Take Back the Tech!"¹⁶ and reclaim technology for the fight against VAW with any ICT tool at hand – using cell phones, instant messengers, blogs, websites, digital cameras, email or podcasts.

The Take Back the Tech! campaign aimed to create awareness on how ICTs are connected to VAW, strengthen the ICT capacity of women's rights advocates, create original and varied content regarding VAW and ICTs, and begin building a community that will continue to strategise around eliminating VAW through digital platforms.¹⁷

14 www.walc2006.ula.ve

15 www.women.or.kr/board/view.php?id=Newsletter_English&no=5

16 www.takebackthetech.net

17 G2G (Brazil), Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action (India), the KOMAS People's Communication Centre (Malaysia), Women'sNet (South Africa), Silence Speaks (US) and the Association for Women's Rights in Development (international) partnered with the APC WNSP to make the first round of Take Back the Tech! a success.



APC WNSP, TAKE BACK THE TECH!

For each of the sixteen days of the 2006 round of Take Back the Tech!, the campaign site featured a different action: one day users of ICTs were asked to change the default home page at cybercafés to websites on VAW or the Take Back the Tech! site; another called for the “feminist-ing of Wikipedia”, while another asked participants to change email signatures.

The site also provided tips for online safety, including resources that explore the interconnections between VAW and ICTs and practical guidelines for women to communicate more securely online. Campaigners sent in translations of Take Back the Tech! campaign materials in Malay, Czech, Spanish and Portuguese, with new language resources coming in every day.

Bloggers were invited to join ka-BLOG! For those new to the blogosphere, tutorials and how-to guides were shared to make starting a new blog and tagging posts simple. “The campaign was a good reason – or incentive – to start blogging, however timidly. I feel that there is still a long way to go before I really develop my voice as a blogger... and really feel safe in this new interface, which, in actual fact, is not that safe. I reflected on the differences between blogging under one’s real name or with a nickname,” comments a campaigner in Brazil, where partner G2G translated material into Portuguese and encouraged local women’s organisations to participate in every facet of the campaign. Ka-BLOG! brought together more than 30 bloggers – female and male – with at least 150 posts in eight languages, including Korean, Malay and Portuguese.

Digital postcards from Rwanda, South Africa, Uruguay, Mexico, the Philippines and other countries offered eloquent images and ideas recreating a vision of technology founded on equality.

“Take Back the Tech! rejected a discourse of victimisation,” says Jac sm Kee, the coordinator of the campaign. “It really is about looking at digital spaces as politically relevant, and setting aside sixteen days in taking simple, creative yet concrete actions to address violence against women. In the process, knowledge is built, familiarisation with technology is instilled, and importantly, an attitude about women’s relationship with technology is changed.”

Deepening women's ICT skills and strategic use by women's organisations

The APC WNSP capacity-building action area aims to deepen women's technical skills by enhancing informed choice and use of technology among women's organisations. Training run by the APC WNSP provides practical, hands-on sessions that focus not on the tools themselves but on what women and their organisations need. The APC WNSP sees capacity building as rooted in technology planning and inseparable from the political aspects of technology's implications for building inclusive rather than exclusive societies. In this context, the APC WNSP is a strong promoter of FOSS and collaborative tools that help get women's content published on the internet, in their languages and on their terms. The APC WNSP promotes women mentoring other women in ICTs, either locally or by taking advantage of international meetings to share knowledge.

FOSS FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



TRAINERS AND INTERPRETERS FROM THE APC WNSP AT KNOW HOW. PHOTO: WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

The 2006 Know How Conference in Mexico City, which brought together hundreds of feminist information specialists from around the world, offered the perfect scenario for hands-on FOSS training for women's organisations. The ambitious two-day workshop with eighteen women and men from several countries in Latin America and Asia, as well as from Russia and Canada, introduced concepts of free and open source software, FOSS tools for Windows operating systems, and the steps needed for a full-on migration to a GNU/Linux operating system using Ubuntu.

The workshop was planned online and led by APC WNSP members from several continents, in English and Spanish. In preparation for the event, the APC WNSP team learned how to install and use Drupal to host the workshop materials and blogs, as part of the programme's emphasis on exploring new FOSS tools.¹⁸ According to Know How organisers, the APC WNSP workshop was the first to reach capacity, two months before the conference itself.

18 www.apcwomen.org/knowhow

APC WNSP MEMBER IN MEXICO RELEASES TRAINING CD FOR WOMEN OVER 35

Modemmujer developed an innovative, animated graphics-based training CD geared toward Latin American rural women over age 35 who've never had access to computers. The training programme allows women to go at their own pace learning about women's rights, gender, violence against women, and how to use a computer and connect to the internet.¹⁹

As Lenka Simerska, APC WNSP European regional coordinator and trainer in the Czech Republic sums up, "Training should link the technology that women use to the policy framing it, the origins of technology solutions, who is making the profits, how much control a user has over applications, understanding security implications and what happens in your machine when you install an application. In our trainings we don't just want to provide tools, we want to empower participants' choice of tools."²⁰

Training offered by the APC WNSP in 2006 included a technology planning session for the human rights advocacy group Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action (CREA) in New Delhi, India, as well as a strategic internet use training for indigenous women from the Enlace Continental network of the Americas, and FOSS content management tools for web designers and content editors in the Czech Republic, in collaboration with Women's Information Technology Transfer (WITT), to name just a few.

Skills-building for rural women: GenARDIS small grants

The Gender, Agriculture and Rural Development in the Information Society (GenARDIS) small grants fund was developed in 2002 to support work on gender-related issues in ICTs for agricultural and rural development in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions. It recognises the constraints and challenges encountered by rural women particularly – challenges which include cultural factors that hinder ICT access by women, lack of time to participate in ICT training and use, minimal access to technologies such as radio, mobile phones and computers, and lack of relevant information in local languages, adapted to local realities. APC-Africa-Women coordinates the fund,²¹ and grants were issued in 2003 and 2005.

In July 2006, a knowledge-sharing workshop with GenARDIS 2005 grant beneficiaries and honourable mentions was held in Uganda.²² The APC WNSP coordinated the event, which featured case studies of each small grantee, a local telecentre visit, a

19 www.modemmujer.org/mujerrural

20 www.apcwomen.org/news/index.shtml?x=93802

21 GenARDIS is funded in partnership by Hivos, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD) and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA).

22 www.apcwomen.org/genardis

The beneficiaries of the projects supported by GenARDIS are mainly women smallholders. In Burkina Faso, the Manegbzanga Association used GenARDIS funds to provide basic French language and ICT training for 30 women. Trainees are now able to use computers to write reports and communicate via internet.



THE OPENING PLENARY OF THE UGANDA WORKSHOP. PHOTO: APC-AFRICA-WOMEN

workshop on gender evaluation using APC WNSP’s GEM for ICTs, and the drawing out of ICT policy recommendations for rural development. As with all APC WNSP activities, probing the interconnections between policy and practice was essential.

Scholarships for skills-building

The APC WNSP also offered scholarships to increase women’s participation in technical events where it’s usually hard to find a female face. Three women – Kazanka Comfort from APC member Fantsuam Foundation in Nigeria, Lilian Chamorro Rojas from Colnodo in Colombia, and Cheekay Cinco, the APC WNSP Asia-Pacific regional coordinator in the Philippines – attended the AirJaldi Wireless Network Training for Community Empowerment held 22 October to 4 November 2006 in Dharamsala, India. “Women’s participation at AirJaldi was really low, especially in the technical workshop where there were only seven women out of 50 participants,” observed Lilian, adding, “The APC WNSP is one of the few organisations that address technology with a gender focus.”

In collaboration with APC member ESLARED, for the second year the APC WNSP offered two scholarships for women from the APC WNSP to attend the WALC Latin American and Caribbean internet networking workshop, in the track on content management.

Such scholarships have proven fruitful. In 2005, APC WNSP member Maria Cristina Ojeda's participation in the wireless networking track at WALC gained her entry into a 2006 onsite roaming wireless networks training session in Paraguay,²³ where she was the only woman technician present. In 2007 she and Lilian will participate as trainers in the Latin American APC member wireless project, TRICALCAR. Having women leading technical training is hugely important when it comes to breaking down stereotypes around women and technology.



CHEEKAY, KAZANKA AND LILIAN IMPROVED THEIR WIRELESS SKILLS IN INDIA. PHOTO: AIRJALDI PARTICIPANT

APC-Africa-Women supported four members to attend Highway Africa,²⁴ encouraging women's blogging and content creation at this important African media event, which in the past has been notable for its lack of women both as panellists and participants. Blogging is also a way the APC WNSP has linked new internet skills to women's original content production.

APC WNSP's GEM: Gender Evaluation Methodology for Internet and ICTs

GEM is the only available evaluation tool that provides a systematic guide to integrating gender analysis and perspectives in ICT for development (ICT4D) projects. From 2001 to 2005, the APC WNSP produced innovative material and enhanced learning through the evaluation of 32 ICT projects spread over 25 countries in Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America. These evaluations provided evidence of the use of ICTs to address gender inequalities and contribute to women's empowerment, which was synthesised into the current version of GEM. GEM provides a suite of resources – including a step-by-step evaluation tool, documented evaluation findings, links to other evaluation resources and support from GEM facilitators and consultants within the APC WNSP network – designed to guide organisations in learning to integrate gender evaluation practice in the implementation of their projects.

²³ www.genderit.org/en/index.shtml?w=a&x=94890

²⁴ www.highwayafrica.ru.ac.za

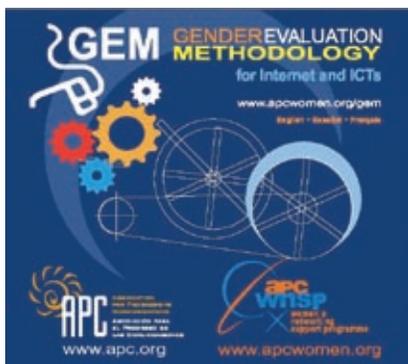
In 2006, the practice of GEM grew beyond its development phase as demand for its application in ICT4D projects increased. Nine demand-driven workshops were held for organisations of indigenous women, rural women’s networks, community radio practitioners, ICT4D practitioners and academics from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Mexico, Costa Rica, Argentina, Uganda, Cameroon, Trinidad, Kenya, Jordan and other countries. In addition, APC WNSP members worked as GEM consultants for four rural ICT projects, assisting in ensuring gender perspectives in project development and evaluation in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Brazil and in a project involving initiatives in Africa and the Caribbean.

Enthusiasm for the tool is high. One participant in India commented that the GEM “steps” represented a relief from the “usual rather pedantic report-writing” and a way to get the entire work team involved. Feedback has shown that GEM’s application has served ICT4D organisations in conceptualising project grants, and in developing inbuilt evaluation mechanisms from the moment a project is launched.

GEM practitioners’ network

The GEM project has built the APC WNSP’s overall capacity to deliver a gender evaluation service to a wider audience. Since its inception, the project has trained 31 GEM workshop facilitators from 20 countries speaking 18 languages. Nineteen are offering consulting skills in gender evaluation and the network has completed six GEM-related consultancies with governments, United Nations agencies and other international organisations.

GEM has also built the capacity of more than 100 ICT practitioners in 36 countries to conduct gender evaluation. Organisations that have participated in testing GEM and using it to evaluate projects reported a more profound and concrete understanding of how their interventions can contribute to the empowerment of their constituencies. Many reported improved gender planning capacity, based on lessons learned from their evaluation experience, through setting indicators, collecting data and analysing results.



GEM 2: Closing the circle – from learning to policy to practice

GEM’s biggest boost in 2006 was the successful negotiation with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) for Phase 2 of GEM development, which will focus on adapting the tool further. GEM 1 explored the terrain and developed a tool with which to navigate it. It built the capacity of an emerging network of navigators and mapmakers and inspired a diverse range of practitioners to examine their projects from a gender perspective. GEM 2 will build on this process by adapting the tool to various circumstances, applying it, building capacity and providing support and resources.

“I recommend using GEM, especially at the beginning of a project so that a gender perspective is present throughout the entire project. In my opinion, GEM isn’t just an evaluation methodology; it’s also a tool for project design and development. In fact, I’d say for any communication project, not just ICTs.”

Olga Paz, Administrative and Project Coordinator, Colnodo, Colombia

GEM 2’s ultimate goal is to strengthen gender evaluation practice among key actors in the field of ICT4D. This will be done through research in the four thematic areas, development of gender evaluation resources, formation of a sustainable practitioners network, and training of evaluators in Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America. GEM 2 will also focus on the strengthening of the GEM practitioners network and advocacy work based on findings.

“What makes GEM so useful,” explains Chat Garcia Ramilo, APC WNSP coordinator and GEM project manager, “is that GEM not only helps organisations analyse specific gender and ICT issues; GEM underscores the value of evaluation overall, which is still new for many projects. It also helps organisations decide how to take action once gender awareness is achieved.” Marcia Hernández, a telecentre coordinator from Bogotá, observed that GEM got the centre leaders to value the importance of women’s use of ICTs and encourage increased involvement by women in project development.

Print publications of the GEM manual in English and Spanish and its accompanying CD are now for sale, and help GEM workshop participants and practitioners ease through GEM’s phases and steps one by one. Each step is laced with experiences and examples from past evaluations, as well as practical tips and recommendations. The manual also includes important conceptual documents around evaluation and gender and ICTs. GEM has also been translated into French and Portuguese.²⁵

More than 40 women in Sao Paulo, Brazil, members of the popular educators network Rede Mulher de Educação (RME), piloted GEM’s Portuguese version in May 2006, with the ambitious goal of reorienting the network’s feminist popular education methodology from an ICT perspective. According to Vera Vieira, RME director, debate amongst participants emphasised the use of ICTs for democratising power and responsibilities as well as exploring the gender dimensions of ICTs. ■

²⁵ All available for download on the GEM website: www.apcwomen.org/gem

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION

community values and ways of working equality
 democracy justice respect transparency
 social change openness participation communication
 networking international global focus

APC MEMBERS IN LATIN AMERICA WERE ASKED, "WHAT VALUES DO YOU ASSOCIATE WITH APC?"

APC’s network is extensive and growing. By December 2006, it included 45 member organisations in 34 countries and a vast community of partnerships with individuals, organisations and networks all over the world, working in a range of areas from human rights to sustainable development, grass-roots literacy work to appropriate and low-cost connectivity, internet governance to gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Building and sustaining a strong, vibrant network that spans such a diverse range of regions, languages and interests takes concerted effort. One of the keys to fostering a sense of community, ownership, equality and respect among each and every one of our members is by promoting activities and opportunities that respond to their individual realities and needs.

The extent to which APC works as a real network is directly related to the extent to which members are involved and see their own realities and priorities reflected in APC’s programme activities.

Members get involved by sharing information, discussing activities, developing policy positions and participating in general planning, working in a range of online community spaces. We offer small grants to members to develop collaborative projects together and opportunities to participate in events that are relevant to our collective strategic priorities. We hold regular face-to-face and online meetings for members at the regional and global levels. And there’s constant interaction between staff and members.

Membership exchange fund (MEF)

The MEF aims to support member-driven skills-sharing, internships, and planning for collaboration among APC members, by funding travel costs for APC member staff to visit one another when effective collaboration requires on-site work or face-to-face meetings.

APC members around the world offer internet and technical services to non-profits and rural communities which would otherwise be without internet access, and to local governments looking to interact with their citizens with greater transparency.

Member exchanges make a valuable contribution to these efforts. During 2006, five member exchanges were supported, all of which involved technical training, and all based on free software.

GreenNet from the UK hosted a technician and Linux expert from Spanish member Pangea, who assisted GreenNet with server migration and design and delivery of training on migrating to Linux desktop. Shortly after, GreenNet started offering open source software training to their non-profit community. A technician and ActionApps software expert from Econnect in the Czech Republic visited Colombia to assist APC's Colombian member Colnodo with the upgrade of a large ActionApps-based system, which provides websites for hundreds of local e-government initiatives.

Representatives from the Fantsuam Foundation in Nigeria and ESLARED in Venezuela collaborated in high-level community wireless training in London. ESLARED has extensive experience in wireless networking and set up the world's longest connection in 2006. Fantsuam, thanks to training opportunities facilitated by APC, is setting up the first rural wireless internet access to rural Kafanchan. A technician from London-based GreenNet travelled to Mexico to give training on the open source content management system Drupal to the staff of Mexican APC member LaNeta. LaNeta offers web services to non-profit clients in Mexico, and the new system will allow them to expand services and improve self-sustainability by providing new types of quickly built, customisable websites.

MEMBERS TALK ABOUT THEIR MEF EXPERIENCE

LaNeta, Mexico: "This exchange has given LaNeta a strong foundation for its new service area providing quick-to-build, customisable websites and has made for easy online learning and follow-up with the GreenNet and Drupal community, given the 'common language' developed in the face-to-face sessions."

GreenNet, UK: "We achieved the goals we had set out for our end of the exchange. On top we learned a

lot about Pangea. I think we could even benefit more from spending time together, learning how to do things or working on different approaches."

Pangea, Spain: "The member exchange was a great opportunity to share information about your own activities and learn about activities of others. It was also a good way of getting to know people face to face and establishing links for present and future collaboration."

Member travel fund (MTF)

In 2006, dozens of APC members were actively engaged in a variety of issues reflecting APC's expanding thematic priorities, both current and emerging in the coming years. The APC travel fund, which was originally policy-related, was expanded in 2006 in response to the overwhelming interest.

The fund covered the participation of members in events like the AirJaldi Wireless Summit in India (members from Venezuela, Nigeria and India), the Asian Conference on the Digital Commons in Bangkok (our member in Japan), and the iCommons Summit in

Rio de Janeiro (our member in Australia), with several members participating in the inaugural Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Athens (members from Japan, Uruguay, Croatia, Romania and Bulgaria).

“My attendance at the AirJaldi Summit had a very direct outcome: I contacted Dr. Eric Brewer, from Berkeley University, who has been doing modification to the WiFi protocol to make it more effective for long distance applications. He proposed that we test the modification they made to the WiFi protocol for high throughput at long distances on the 279 km path that I had identified. So, on 28 April a team from ESLARED equipped with wireless routers supplied by Dr. Brewer set up to repeat the trial and succeeded, achieving a whopping data rate of 3 Mbps in both directions, opening the way for very long distance applications of an inexpensive wireless technology. The next day, we moved to an even longer path, 382 km, and again we were able to establish communication, even a video link. Although the data rate was lower and the link would occasionally drop, we did establish a new world record for standard WiFi technology.”

Ermanno Pietrosemoli, ESLARED, Venezuela

“APC MTF has provided practically the only opportunities BlueLink has had to be active at the international level in the field of ICTs. Unfortunately, all international institutions organising events in that area consider Bulgaria a developed country and don’t provide funding for Bulgarian civil activists to take part. As a result, in all ICT events not only Bulgaria but the whole area of South East Europe is poorly represented and the interests of the people living in these countries are not taken into consideration.

“Another gap that the APC MTF has helped fill is the absence of environmental sustainability on the agenda at international ICT events. Thanks to the fund BlueLink has been able to put this topic on the table and provoke discussions at the WSIS events in Geneva and Tunis and at the IGF in Athens.”

Milena Bokova, BlueLink, Bulgaria

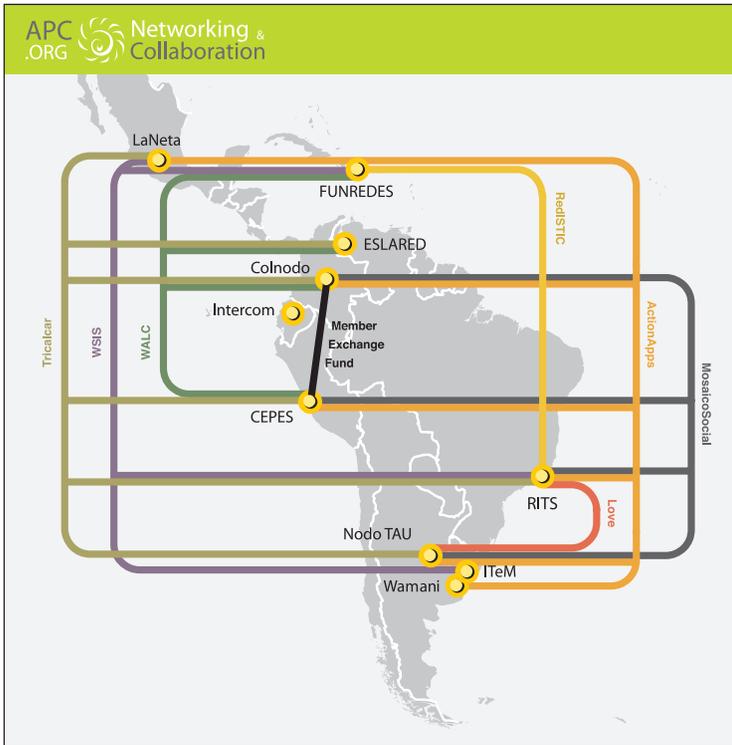
APC getting face-to-face

Face-to-face meetings for APC members are an essential element in building the strength and well-being of the APC network. Since 2004, APC has raised funds to host two regional member meetings per year. We hold one face-to-face APC council meeting attended by all APC member organisations every two years and one online council meeting per year.

In 2006, we began an APC-wide assessment of our work from 2004 to 2008. This effort involves all members and staff, reflecting on over 200 activities through a series of exercises that help us determine to what extent our work is – and is not – contributing to our collective goals. The assessment outcomes will feed into the 2007 APC council

meeting, which will bring together representatives from every APC member organisation to determine APC’s priorities through to 2012. The mid-term assessment and strategic planning work has been a major part of regional member meetings in 2006 and 2007.

Two regional member meetings were held in 2006. In November 2006, members from Africa met in Johannesburg, South Africa, and members from Latin America and the Caribbean met in Montevideo, Uruguay. In both cases, the member meetings were preceded by ICT policy training and capacity-building workshops involving many of the partners we work with in our national and regional work.



LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN MEMBERS MAPPED OUT THEIR COLLABORATION DURING THEIR TIME IN MONTEVIDEO. APC LATER DIGITISED THE MAP. IMAGE: APC

In both meetings, members were invited to participate in an exercise which mapped the collaboration between the various members and programmes. These maps, which were constructed on wall-sized pieces of paper, demonstrated the extensive networking, collaboration and solidarity that exist both amongst the members and between members and staff. The regional maps are being digitised and compiled into an international map of APC collaboration.¹ ■

1 www.apc.org/english/about/network_map

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA

APC’s communications activities help build APC’s public profile by ensuring an active, recognisable, representative APC presence in the media and in our target communities. 2006 was a year of strategising and expansion of the communications team. The real fruits will be seen in 2007-2008.

APC’s membership grew from 39 member organisations in 2005 to 45 in 2006, and each year APC has more projects and a higher profile, especially in global ICT-for-development (ICT4D) and ICT policy circles. In response, during 2006, APC’s communications team expanded from two people to five, with four working part-time (see Directory: Governance and Staff). Staff members include native speakers of English, French and Spanish, with a staff writer from India. In 2007, we will be expanding to work with a freelance team of writers based all over the world.

APC.org: Time for change

APC’s website continues to be one of the most visited in its field on the internet.¹ In 2006, APC.org received more than 500,000 unique visitors accessing more than three million pages. It’s a site that attracts people from all over the world. The most visitors come from the USA, with Brazil and Colombia in third and fifth place respectively. Brazilians accessed over a quarter of a million pages on the APC site in 2006.

APC.org 2006	UNIQUE VISITORS	NUMBER OF VISITS	PAGES
Viewed traffic ²	537,768	823,380	3,113,197

APC.org has been providing original content in English and Spanish since 2000 and was last redesigned in 2002. While we work consistently to improve the quality and quantity of our news, articles and resources, the site’s structure is now quite limited and not really adequate for a virtual community that needs to be able to easily share information.

That’s why, throughout 2006, we carried out deep research and planning for a new APC.org website, one that will reflect APC’s work, our field and the network as it is today and for the next four to five years. The process to produce the specifications for the new website was arduous and took the best part of the entire year. The new website will be based on priorities identified by numerous different users through surveys and other analyses. These included tens of pages of “user scenarios” which charted the routes (successful, frustrated and roundabout) that site visitors took to

1 APC ranked near the top 15,000 sites globally according to Alexa.com in July 2006. www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=5039161

2 APC began to analyse our logs with AWStats in 2006. This software rejects hits produced by robots and other machine-generated visits and counts only human-generated (viewed) traffic.

get to the information they wanted, as well as personal interviews and a public survey in English and Spanish.

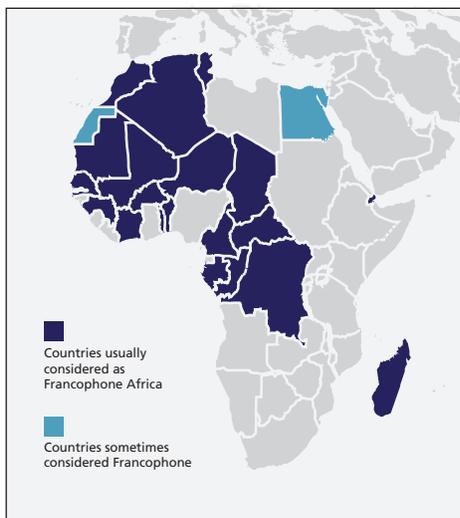
The designers of the new website were selected following a competitive call made in December to APC members who are website developers. The successful bidders have chosen a free software content management system called Drupal on which to base most of the site. Several APC members are already active or would like to be more so in the Drupal community, so we hope that the new APC.org will provide APC as a whole with a major opportunity to become more familiar with the system and contribute to its ongoing development.

APC.org in French and Portuguese from 2007

In 2006, we also recruited people with the skills to effectively run the four new APC.org websites, which will be in English, Spanish and – for the first time – French and Portuguese.

Moving into French has been a long-time goal for APC. 2006 saw us laying the groundwork for the launch of the new APC.org and a monthly newsletter in French (*APCNouvelles*) in 2007 by hiring French-speaking staff, recruiting quality translators for our freelance team, and producing a quadrilingual glossary of ICT terms and other language resources for our writing teams. These new staff are also involved in networking within and beyond APC with the French-speaking community.

The Portuguese site will be a limited version of the other APC.org language versions, though it will provide all the most relevant information about APC and our work. “For a long time RITS had been trying to broaden the ICT4D debate in Portuguese. As part of this effort, we realised – that an APC.org in Portuguese – with its high-quality news and cutting-edge ideas – would enrich the discussions going on, and open them up to the more than 210 million people who speak Portuguese,” explains Paulo Lima, director at RITS, an APC member in Rio de Janeiro. APC will coordinate the new site with support from RITS, who were instrumental in proposing the idea of an APC.org in Portuguese in 2005. ■



APC IN FRENCH: INFORMATION ABOUT ICTS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND DEVELOPMENT WILL REACH A BROADER AUDIENCE, ESPECIALLY IN AFRICA. IMAGE: WIKIPEDIA

APC MEMBERS IN 2006

AFRICA

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

ArabDev, Egypt www.arabdev.org

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

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

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

Fantsuam Foundation, Nigeria www.fantsuam.org

Southern African NGO Network (SANGONeT), South Africa www.sangonet.org.za

Ungana-Afrika, South Africa www.ungana-afrika.org

Women'sNet, South Africa www.womensnet.org.za

Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET), Uganda www.wougnet.org

ASIA-PACIFIC

Bytes For All, South Asia www.bytesforall.org

Community Communications Online (c2o), Australia www.c2o.org

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

Institute for Popular Democracy (IPD), Philippines www.ipd.org.ph

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

JCA-NET, Japan www.jca.apc.org

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

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

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

WomensHub, Philippines www.womenshub.net

EUROPE

BlueLink Information Network, Bulgaria www.bluelink.net

ChangeNet, Slovakia www.changenet.sk

ComLink, Germany www.comlink.org

Computer Aid International, United Kingdom www.computeraid.org

Econnect, Czech Republic www.ecn.cz

GreenNet, United Kingdom www.gn.apc.org

Green Spider, Hungary www.zpok.hu

Kiné (ex Unimondo), Italy www.kine.coop

Pangea, Spain www.pangea.org

StrawberryNet, Romania www.sbn.ro

ZaMirNet, Croatia www.zamirnet.hr

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Centro Peruano de Estudios Sociales (CEPES), Peru www.cep.es.org.pe

Colnodo, Colombia www.colnodo.apc.org

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

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

INTERCOM-EcuaneX, Ecuador www.ecuanex.net.ec

LaNeta, Mexico www.laneta.apc.org

Networks & Development Foundation (FUNREDES), Dominican Republic www.funredes.org

Nodo TAU, Argentina www.tau.org.ar

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

Wamani, Argentina www.wamani.apc.org

NORTH AMERICA (not including Mexico)

Alternatives, Canada www.alternatives.ca

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

LaborNet, United States of America www.labornet.org

Web Networks, Canada www.web.net

NEW APC MEMBERS IN 2006

Networks & Development Foundation (FUNREDES)

The Networks & Development Foundation (FUNREDES) comes into the APC fold from the Dominican Republic, with an almost 20-year history in ICTs, a key geographical position (it is the only member in the Caribbean) and a wide array of focus areas that range from cultural and linguistic diversity to the ethical dimension of ICTs. The social impact of ICT (and how to make it positive) is the theme that inspires all FUNREDES' programmes and activities. The organisation has begun and led a vibrant virtual community of actors, MISTICA (Methodology and Social Impact of ICT in Latin America and the Caribbean), that "has marked a period for ICTs in the region, creating bridges between academia and civil society, fomenting collaboration and creating opportunities for collective work through networks and the issue of diversity," says FUNREDES director Daniel Pimienta. The organisation is currently in the process of transition towards becoming a think tank (group for study, consultancy and education).

FUNREDES: www.funredes.org (APC member since May 2006)

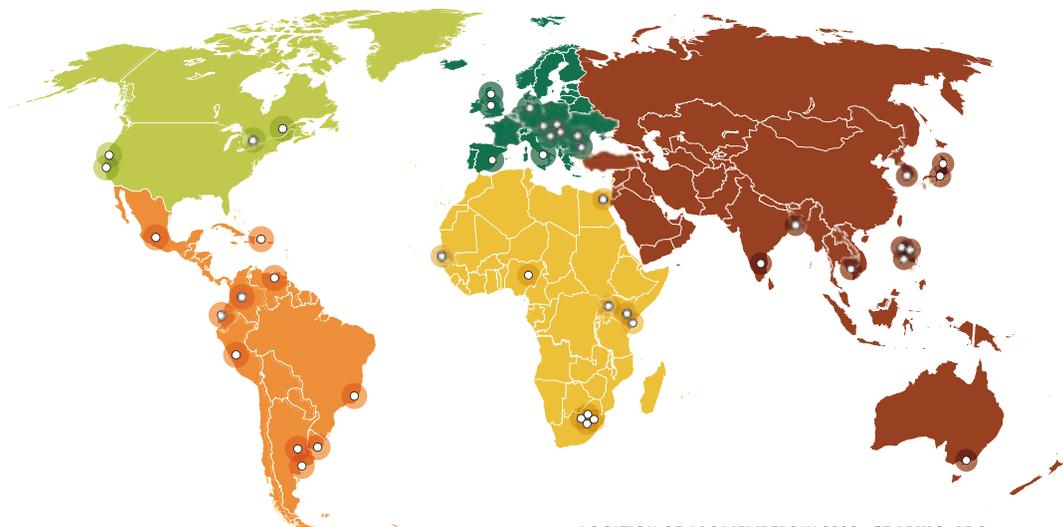
Institute for Popular Democracy (IPD)

Research for change, advocacy for democracy, analyses for action, education for empowerment. Going beyond the slogans is the Institute for Popular Democracy (IPD), a Philippines-based two-decade-old group. A fairly large organisation by non-profit standards, the IPD takes an overtly political stance towards the challenges facing the country it's operating in. The organisation's goal is to do political and economic research serving social movements, non-profit organisations and progressive local government officials. It provides advocacy training at local, sub-regional and regional levels and popularises its work through a diverse publication and dissemination strategy. The IPD began working with ICTs in 1998 through its political mapping (PoIMap) work. After assessing the impact of this project, the IPD decided to incorporate ICTs more strategically through the Applied Technologies and Information Solutions (ATIS) team. ATIS is the institute's ICT project and advocacy centre (www.atis.com.ph).

IPD: www.ipd.org.ph (APC member since June 2006)

Japan Computer Access for Empowerment (JCAFE)

Skills for the people. That's the motto of Tokyo-based Japan Computer Access For Empowerment (JCAFE). JCAFE's agenda is to fill the gap between the potential offered by the net and the blocks to accessing it – especially for NGOs who lack the technology and skills to take advantage of this exciting new medium. JCAFE has 100 members, and supports 400 NGOs in Japan. Its priority is "capacity building for NGOs," says JCAFE



LOCATION OF APC MEMBERS IN 2006. GRAPHIC: APC

chair Tadahisa “Taratta” Hamada. “We have seminars about the technical and social aspects of ICT, on themes like web accessibility, the digital divide and web-designing.” JCAFE (along with its close working partner and fellow APC member JCA-NET) has particular experience and expertise in relation to “civil liberties” issues such as surveillance, data retention, harvesting and monitoring, wiretapping, and invests much time and energy in awareness raising, lobbying and campaigning around these issues nationally, regionally and internationally. It also has a specific interest in promoting civil society participation in public policy processes, as is demonstrated by its long-time commitment to the WSIS process – often at its own expense.

JCAFE: www.jcafe.net/english (APC member since November 2006)

Voices for Interactive Choice and Empowerment (VOICE)

Voices for Interactive Choice and Empowerment (VOICE) is located in the Shyamoli locality of Bangladesh’s capital, Dhaka. VOICE describes itself as “a research and advocacy organisation working through partnership and networking.” VOICE works with internet and radio to increase access to information, as a means of enabling organisational and community self-determination and empowerment. It focuses on the issues of corporate globalisation, the role of the international financial institutions, media and communication rights, information and communication technology, and food sovereignty. VOICE works locally and nationally, and has been active in the WSIS process both globally and through national level mobilisation. It promotes access to ICTs as a human right and is very active in the CRIS (Communication Rights in the Information Society) Campaign

VOICE: www.voicebd.org (APC member since June 2006)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM APC MEMBERS IN 2006

APC MEMBERS ARE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) PROVIDERS, BUT THEY ARE ALSO, UNIQUELY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVISTS IN THEIR OWN RIGHT. WE CALL THEM "SOCIAL TECHIES".¹

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.² WHAT FOLLOWS ARE SOME OF THE OUTSTANDING STORIES FROM APC MEMBERS AROUND THE WORLD IN 2006.

ALTERNATIVES, Canada: Boosting access and development through research in Africa

For the past six years, Alternatives has been active in community development, advocacy and capacity building in ICTs in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). 2006 was no exception.

Alternatives conducted a feasibility study for an internet backbone for open access in the DRC. The objective was to investigate and propose strategies for infrastructural development and the implementation of policies for the development and management of this infrastructure on an open model, promoting affordable bandwidth that is more accessible to all Congolese people.



PRESENTING THE FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR A NATIONAL BACKBONE. PHOTO: ALTERNATIVES

The public, private sector and civil society were invited to give inputs to the conceptual framework of the study, which was launched in June.

Alternatives: www.alternatives.ca

1 "Appropriating the Internet for Social Change: Towards the strategic use of networked technologies by transnational civil society organisations," Mark Surman and Katherine Reilly/Social Science Research Council (SSRC), November 2003. www.ssrc.org/programs/itic

2 Other organisations that were members of APC in 2006 include ArabDev (Egypt), ComLink (Germany), ChangeNet (Slovakia), Econnect (Czech Republic), IGC (United States), INTERCOM-EcuaneX (Ecuador), JICA-NET (Japan), Open Forum (Cambodia) and Kiné, ex Unimondo (Italy), and new members FUNREDES, IPD, JCAFE and VOICE.

ARID LANDS INFORMATION NETWORK-EASTERN AFRICA (ALIN-EA), Kenya: Youth, development and information exchange

In 2006 ALIN-EA focused an important part of its work on community knowledge centres. These centres are established in collaboration with partner organisations and each is equipped with at least one computer, a printer and an internet connection. They are used as a public access point by network members in the neighbourhood and communities in general. These centres are a great opportunity for community information volunteers³ to get in touch with real life. That's why ALIN-EA ran a one-year programme for graduates of communication, aimed at involving youth in development activities while improving their skills in preparation for the job market.

ALIN-EA has also taken advantage of the revolution in ICTs to enhance rapid information exchange and content creation among communities through innovative projects such as Knowledge Infrastructure with and between Counterparts (KIC), the Open Knowledge Network,⁴ the Online Information Service for Non-Chemical Pest Management in the Tropics⁵ (in collaboration with PAN Germany), and WorldSpace⁶ digital satellite receivers. Other information ventures include the Baobab journal,⁷ which is published three times a year.

ALIN-EA: www.alin.or.ke

AFRICAN REGIONAL CENTRE FOR COMPUTING (ARCC), Kenya: ICTs for all, from children to policy makers



DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS, ARCC RUNS FREE KIDS COMPUTER CAMPS FOR VARIOUS AGES. THE KIDS ALSO "GRADUATE". JAMES REGE, KENYAN MINISTER FOR INFOCOM, GIVES A CERTIFICATE FOR THE BEST PERFORMANCE. PHOTO: ARCC

In 2006 ARCC conducted training sessions on various aspects of ICTs. Trainees ranged from schoolchildren to senior policy makers from both the private and public sectors. ARCC also offered employment opportunities at different times to many Kenyans, directly or otherwise. ARCC has become a popular home to university and polytechnic students looking for internships or industrial attachment. In 2006, ARCC took on eighteen interns, and some of them have already secured jobs.

ARCC also ran several ICT seminars, conferences, public lectures, exhibitions, workshops, and school lectures throughout the year. It mounted promotional campaigns through the local and regional press, and published various newsletters, magazines, and the proceedings of conferences and workshops.

Finally, ARCC serviced and repaired machines and IT products for schools and a broad-based clientele, and successfully solicited and donated PCs to schools, hospitals and other public non-profit institutions (as well as computer accessories and software).

ARCC: www.arcc.or.ke

3 www.alin.or.ke/work/volunteer.asp

4 www.openknowledge.net

5 www.oisat.org

6 www.worldspace.com

7 www.alin.or.ke/publications/baobab.asp

BLUELINK, Bulgaria: Online petition mobilises thousands of activists



THE CAMPAIGN WEBSITE ENCOURAGED PROTESTS IN BULGARIA, MACEDONIA, GERMANY, AUSTRIA AND THE NETHERLANDS. PHOTO: BLUELINK

An online campaign⁸ to save Bulgarian nature, developed by BlueLink, was launched as part of the “Let Nature Live in Bulgaria!” initiative. So far, over 15,000 protesters have signed an online petition demanding that Bulgarian institutions take specific steps to prevent destruction and inappropriate development in NATURA 2000 sites (a network of protected areas in European Union countries). The online tool also sends a carefully crafted message to Bulgarian authorities on behalf of the signers.

In addition to the petition, users of the campaign website can subscribe to email alerts, respond to polls on nature protection issues, and sign up to volunteer or donate money. They can also read about potential threats to protected areas, as well as case studies on outrageous legal violations and destructive projects in the Bulgarian mountains, wetlands and Black Sea coast.

BlueLink: www.bluelink.net

8 www.bluelink.net/zaprirodata

BYTES FOR ALL, South Asia: Deploying mailing lists indirectly

During 2006, Bytes For All put its untypical style of “planned chaos” to work in promoting numerous electronic mailing list-based ventures,⁹ often by seeking the active involvement of other groups and individuals.

The most successful initiative was the Docuwallahs2 network,¹⁰ which linked more than 54 participants, mostly documentary filmmakers. Sharing the latest documentary film information has revitalised a sector that is currently growing in India and promises to have a bigger impact on the developmental debate. Some of India’s most prominent names from the world of documentary film were part of this network. Best of all, this was achieved with zero funding, using simple and freely available tools.

Bytes For All: www.bytesforall.org



MAILING LISTS ARE OLD TECHNOLOGIES, HARDLY GLAMOROUS ANYMORE AND SELDOM TALKED ABOUT. BUT IN AREAS OF THE GLOBE STILL STRAPPED FOR BANDWIDTH, THEY REMAIN A USEFUL SHARING TOOL.

9 These include Chhattisgarh-net (groups.yahoo.com/group/Chhattisgarh-net) and Autism-India (health.groups.yahoo.com/group/autism-india).

10 groups.yahoo.com/group/docuwallahs2

CEPES, Peru: Rolling out applications for action in the Andes



RITA CALIXTO OF CEPES SELECTS AND DISSEMINATES AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION. PHOTO: CEPES

For the last three years, CEPES has been promoting website solutions for a variety of actors working in Peru's rural and often remote districts. It has introduced smallholders and farmers, environmental activists and civil servants from the Ministry of Agriculture to ActionApps,¹¹ a content management system first developed by APC. "We've been spreading the web-based tool as a way to support rural development," say the CEPES staff.

The cornerstone of CEPES' approach is bringing the channels for participation closer to the people. "Small farmers and regional staff from government or NGOs need to be able to produce their own input with tools that make sense to them," CEPES maintains. "This is what we need, a decentralised network of citizens, who create rural development from the field up to the ministry."

CEPES: www.cepes.org.pe

COLNODO, Colombia: Appropriating information and communication technology



TAKING THE TELECENTRE TO THE COMMUNITY AND VICE VERSA IN VILLAPAZ, SOUTHWEST COLOMBIA. PHOTO: OLGA PAZ, COLNODO

In 2006 Colnodo began a pilot project for ICT appropriation in three telecentres in southwestern Colombia that are part of the government's Compartel¹² programme. The project's training efforts have focused on ICT use by children, women, senior citizens and community leaders, groups and organisations. Colnodo also supported virtual training processes for youth groups and communicators from different areas of the country through the Avanza¹³ portal.

Another major Colnodo initiative in 2006 was the "Internet for Accountability"¹⁴ project, which assisted local mayor's offices in creating websites to increase transparency and accountability in municipal government operations. The project was extended to nearly 625 municipalities, a whopping 60% of all local government offices in Colombia. A third edition of this "good government" tool was produced, which records and displays indicators for measuring compliance by municipalities with the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In addition, Colnodo developed a new version of the ICT policies portal¹⁵ and released a report on the state of ICTs nationally.

Colnodo: www.colnodo.apc.org

12 www.colnodo.apc.org/index.shtml?apc=plel--&x=18269

13 www.avanza.org.co

14 www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=17998

15 www.cmsi.colnodo.apc.org

11 www.apc.org/actionapps



ANDREW GARTON (SEATED, RIGHT) AT THE PANEL "MUSIC, MULTIMEDIA AND VIDEO: THE CULTURAL COMMONS" IN ISUMMIT 2006. PHOTO: RAFAEL RIGUES

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION ONLINE (c2o), Australia: Getting alternative films into cyberspace

In 2006 c2o became involved in EngageMedia,¹⁶ a video-sharing initiative distributing works about social justice and environmental issues in Southeast Asia, Australia and the Pacific. This partnership came out of a member exchange with Korean APC member Jinbonet. The team worked to build a web-based video content management system focused on socially relevant and critical video.

Also in 2006, c2o assisted in raising funds for Transmission.cc,¹⁷ a video-for-internet application workshop held in Italy in June 2006 and followed up in October in London. Here EngageMedia applications were shared and discussed, the aim being to contribute to the building of real world usable tools for distributing and sharing video online.

Copyright issues are key to online video production and Andrew Garton, c2o's director, attended the iCommons Summit held June 2006 in Rio de Janeiro, where alternative licences such as Creative Commons were discussed. According to Andrew, it was a "controversial and separatist" but also "informative and inspirational" event.¹⁸

c2o: www.c2o.org

¹⁶ www.engagemedia.org

¹⁷ www.transmission.cc

¹⁸ rights.apc.org.au/culture/2006/09/me_myself_and_i_the_summit.php

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMPUTER SOCIETY (CECS), South Africa: Marrying FOSS with maths

In 2006 CECS worked on an ICT training course for "computer literate" secondary school mathematics teachers in Gauteng, South Africa. The goal was to equip mathematics teachers with the skills and knowledge to use a word-processing programme to develop resources like test and exam papers or assignments which incorporate formulae and complex diagrams such as hyperbolas and quadratic/cubic functions.

CECS focused on developing a user-friendly software manual geared toward mathematics teachers for OpenOffice Writer (an open source word-processing programme). It also provided hands-on software training for mathematics teachers in a workshop setting. The programme is unique in seeking to enhance computer literacy among teachers in disadvantaged areas and is "the only one of its kind in South Africa," the organisers said.

CECS: www.cecs.org.za



BRAILLE IS MORE TIRING THAN USING A COMPUTER BECAUSE OF THE PHYSICAL EFFORT REQUIRED. PHOTO: GLENN EDWARDS FOR COMPUTER AID

COMPUTER AID INTERNATIONAL, United Kingdom: Computer Aid passes 80,000 PC milestone

In 2006 Computer Aid moved a step closer to reaching its Make IT Happen campaign target, by refurbishing and shipping their 80,000th PC. Donations from UK organisations made this feat possible. The Make IT Happen campaign was launched by Computer Aid in July 2006 to help meet the organisation's target of refurbishing 100,000 PCs by its 10th birthday in October 2007.

Hundreds of schools and community organisations received computers in the last year from Computer Aid. The majority of these have gone to sub-Saharan Africa, but thousands were also shipped to Latin America and the South Asian sub-continent. Approximately 50% of the PCs went to educational institutions, with the remainder going to community organisations working in fields as diverse as HIV/AIDS, the environment, human rights, and primary healthcare.

Computer Aid provides computers for use by blind children in many developing countries.

Computer Aid International:
www.computeraid.org

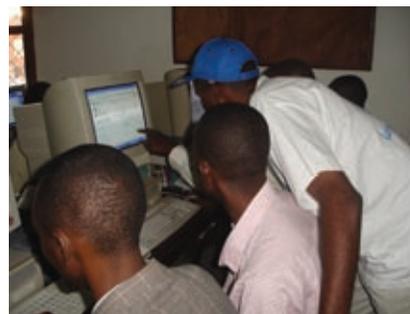
ENDA-TM, Senegal: ICTs for shared knowledge

In 2006, ENDA-TM joined forces with LEAD Francophone Africa to roll out a major project establishing multifunctional resource centres on a sub-regional scale through national LEAD associations.¹⁹ The entire year was dedicated to the establishment of these centres in Mali, Senegal and Togo, with the goal of enabling grassroots populations to benefit from the services offered by ICTs.

ENDA-LEAD also organised a capacity-building workshop for media and communication professionals on the use of ICTs in December 2006 in Bangui, Central African Republic.

In addition, to help overcome obstacles to access to common knowledge exchanges, the ENDA Cyberpop²⁰ Open Knowledge Network (OKN) project endeavoured throughout 2006 to develop and implement a strategy to promote the production of more substantial content and a higher volume of exchanges. The ultimate goal of the project is to provide the various players with the means to improve their capacities for action and intervention for local development.

ENDA-TM: www.enda.sn



A MULTIFUNCTIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE IN ACTION. PHOTO: ENDA-TM

¹⁹ fa.lead.org

²⁰ www.enda.sn/cyberpop

ESLARED, Venezuela: Wireless connection world record

In April 2006 ESLARED broke the world wireless connection record by establishing a 279-kilometre-long link in Merida, Venezuela. The goal was not to get into the Guinness Book of Records, but to show the possibilities of wireless networks and to encourage others to push the boundaries further in providing wireless connectivity.

Although it was just a test, this experiment proved that the myth that it's impossible to establish links over long distances is just that: a myth. Following this achievement, concrete projects were developed to link towns that had previously been cut off from the internet, as a means of building networks amongst organisations catering to basic needs: schools, hospitals and community centres.

The production of handmade antennas played a key role in reducing costs and making these initiatives more widespread and visible. The antennas provide internet access and are also used for voice communication.

ESLARED: www.eslared.org.ve



JAVIER TRIVINO AND ERMANNIO PIETROSEMOLI OF ESLARED CONSTRUCT AN ANTENNA AT EL BAÚL IN MERIDA, VENEZUELA. PHOTO: ESLARED

FANTSUAM FOUNDATION, Nigeria: Technology provides vulnerable children with a support line in Nigeria



SATURDAY MORNINGS AT THE CHILDREN'S COMPUTER CLUB IN KAFANCHAN. PHOTO: FANTSUAM FOUNDATION

In 2006 the Fantsuam Foundation launched a service for vulnerable children as part of its rural HIV/AIDS programme. This innovative project addresses the growing problem of orphans and vulnerable children in the rural communities where Fantsuam works. ICT is a central part of the project and has proved an effective way of reaching children who are coping with poverty and hunger as well as life-threatening diseases.

The Children's Computer Club takes place in rural Kafanchan every Saturday morning beginning at 10.00 am. "The children's excitement is such that they begin to arrive at our centre from eight in the morning," said John Dada, Fantsuam coordinator. "They have games, story-telling sessions, drama and introduction to basic computer skills."

But it's not all fun and games. The Children's Computer Club is a forum for frank discussion amongst the children themselves and with support staff regarding their welfare. "It was at one of these sessions that we first detected a thirteen-year-old who was looking after his invalid grandmother," the staff explained.

Fantsuam Foundation: www.fantsuam.org

FORUM FOR MEDIA ALTERNATIVES (FMA), Philippines: Policy, praxis and public interest

“Policy, Praxis and Public Interest: Engendering Strategic InfoComms Policy Research in the Philippines” is a research initiative through which seven policy papers on strategic areas of ICT governance and communication rights were drafted. The strategic areas included national domain reform (.ph), FOSS and education, gender mainstreaming, intellectual property rights, the national digital divide and civil society participation in ICT policy.

A collaborative and multistakeholder approach was used, where key actors in each policy area convened to define the research agenda and strategy, and research outputs were presented in roundtable discussions and validation workshops. This approach allowed a civil society constituency to evolve and mature, which is crucial in policy advocacy and the monitoring of policy implementation.

FMA: www.fma.ph

GREENNET, UK: A story that goes back online 20 years

2006 was a milestone in the GreenNet story. Supporters, workers, users and friends from over the years all came together for a great party to celebrate 20 years of collective networking for social change. The blog²¹ brimmed with messages and memories, and GreenNet people had a chance to reflect on the vision and efforts of those early activist techies and to see the links with their work today.

In 2006 there were changes in web development, as GreenNet diversified into new content management tools. This led into new and exciting solutions for office intranets, out-of-the-box activist websites, mapping modules to display information geographically, and community networking tools. The organisation also focussed more on accessibility, building sites with more navigable menus, and using cleaner semantically correct code.

The APC Member Exchange Fund (MEF) opened up more opportunities for collaboration between GreenNet and other APC members. This included training in GNU/Linux support with Spanish APC member Pangea and a Drupal (content management system) skills exchange with Mexican member LaNeta. GreenNet also helped APC make friends with London. It hosted two major events in 2006: the National ICT Policy Initiatives workshop in June-July²² and the Wireless Connectivity for Africa meeting in December.²³

GreenNet: www.gn.apc.org

²¹ anniversary.gn.apc.org

²² rights.apc.org/policy_sites.shtml

²³ www.apc.org/wireless

GREEN SPIDER, Hungary: Another Hungary is possible

Green Spider's main achievement in 2006 was the launching of a new community portal, LMV!²⁴ "LMV!" is an abbreviation for "Lehet Más a Világ!", which means "another world is possible" – the motto of the World Social Forum movement – in Hungarian. The portal is a space where activists, communities, NGOs and others can share information about their activities, campaigns, events, publications, and other projects. This in turn gives visitors to the site the opportunity to become actively involved in these initiatives.

Green Spider: www.zpok.hu

ITEM, Uruguay: New face and partnership for Uruguayan information and communication policies portal

In mid-2006 ITeM re-launched the Uruguayan portal on ICT policies,²⁵ joining the galaxy of national APC policy portals. AMARC-Latin America's legislation programme is a leader in Uruguay's ICT policy debate, giving rise to the idea of working together on this project.

The portal serves as a thermometer on progress and setbacks in freedom of expression, community media, legislation, and the country's participation in regional and international processes. The goal? To promote participation by all sectors in policy processes through in-depth and critical information.

ITeM: www.item.org.uy

JINBONET, South Korea: Struggling against the Korea-US Free Trade Agreement



DEMONSTRATION AGAINST KOREA-US FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (KORUS FTA). PHOTO: JINBONET

In 2006, the Korean Progressive Network Jinbonet actively participated in the opposition to the Korea-US Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA). The proposed agreement would mean a highly restrictive intellectual property protection regime, similar to or even stronger than US IP laws, which threatens the Korean people's right to health, information and culture. Jinbonet founded the Korean Civil Society Coalition against KORUS FTA on Intellectual Property Rights (KCSC)²⁶ to fight the trade treaty's intellectual property provisions.

Jinbonet also supported online activism to stop the FTA. It developed and managed the website of the Korean Alliance against the KORUS FTA,²⁷ which gathered together 282 trade unions, political parties, small-scale farming organisations, NGOs and social movement organisations. Jinbonet provided technical support for newsletters and webzines as well.

Its commitment to fighting against repressive intellectual property laws led Jinbonet to participate in Korean-Wide Action on HIV/AIDS,²⁸ a movement devoted to the protection of the human rights of people living with HIV/AIDS. The movement's main issues are drug patents, compulsory licensing and people's right to have access to medicines, as well as Korea's AIDS Prevention Act, which severely threatens the privacy of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Jinbonet: www.jinbo.net

24 lmv.hu

25 infoycom.org.uy

26 nofta-ip.jinbo.net

27 www.nofta.or.kr

28 www.aidsact.or.kr

LABORNET, USA: Labour and the digital revolution

In 2006 LaborNet participated in the organisation of a successful LaborTech²⁹ international conference, which took place in November in San Francisco. The conference focused on “The Digital Revolution and a Labour Media Strategy”. It brought together video, computer and media activists and educators who all specialise in labour to advance knowledge and use of the internet and multimedia by working people. The conference was completely podcasted and an array of video and audio files were uploaded.

LaborNet also supported the initiative to help launch an International Labour Media Network that would feature video, music, cartoons, text and graphics. One of the tasks of this network is to fight the digital divide with training and help bring publicly run broadband to all countries and communities.

LaborNet: www.labornet.org

LANETA, Mexico: Women expressing themselves through ICTs



PARTICIPANTS AT LANETA'S “WOMEN EMPOWERED BY ICTS” WORKSHOPS. PHOTO: SYLVIA BARINGER

In 2006, LaNeta invested heavily in ICT training. The organisation brought Web 2.0 tools to over 600 representatives of civil society organisations throughout Mexico, and finalised a year-long process of ICT training with more than 130 women, the majority of them over 35 and using ICTs for the first time.

Through the MUJEMTIC (“Women Empowered by ICTs”) workshops, LaNeta responded to a need for hands-on training combined with reflection and analysis around women’s representation on the internet and gender and ICT issues.

The training sessions were billed as “a space for reflection and practical learning about communication and internet for women” and participatory, collective analysis played a fundamental role. Women signed up to get a better understanding of technology and ended up “forming a consolidated group, feeling identified and aware of their own skills for using ICT in their organisations and personal lives,” commented LaNeta director Olinca Marino.

Free and open source software (FOSS) evoked considerable interest amongst the women, and they proposed the formation of a FOSS women users’ support group. The workshop series also explored access to information and expression through internet radio.

LaNeta: www.laneta.apc.org

29 www.labortech.net

NODO TAU, Argentina: Telecentre aids indigenous community's struggle for social inclusion



THE TOBA COMMUNITY TELECENTRE IS LOCATED ON THE PREMISES OF A BUILDING COOPERATIVE. PHOTO: NODO TAU

Since 2001 Nodo TAU has been committed to the creation of community computer telecentres, training local men and women, and especially young people, in their operation. The telecentres are spaces for computing and internet service whose goal is to strengthen the projects carried out by local organisations and foster digital inclusion. Nodo TAU's support for the telecentres includes both the training of coordinators and ongoing technical assistance.

The most recent community telecentre now operating was set up by a cooperative formed by members of the Toba indigenous community. This new space has revolutionised the area where they live: there are no internet cafés in their marginal neighbourhood and local men and women often experience ethnic discrimination when they venture outside. The Toba believe this new access to information will over time help them break through their current social exclusion.

Nodo TAU: www.tau.org.ar

PANGEA, Spain: Catalan civil society is keen on Drupal

In 2006 Pangea continued doing what it does best: using computing tools in its collaborative work. One of its goals was to share not only computer programmes with civil society organisations – as part of its ongoing commitment to free and open source software – but also methodologies to maximise their potential.

For those unaccustomed to using these technologies, there's nothing like live demonstrations. That's why Pangea organised a workshop on Drupal so that the associations could see this powerful content administration system in operation. The course continued on the web with virtual training sessions. In addition, instructional material (such as useful examples of successful cases, links, etc.) was made available both to Pangea's partner organisations and the general public.³⁰

Pangea: www.pangea.org

30 linux.pangea.org/ca/Apunts

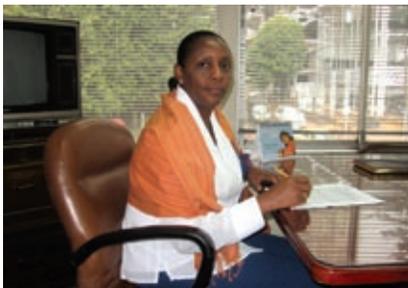
RITS, Brazil: RITS pieces together a Latin mosaic

With the goal of producing and disseminating relevant content on current Latin American reality from a civil society perspective, RITS, in partnership with other South American organisations (including other APC members), launched the Social Mosaic³¹ news and information portal in July 2006. The initiative is part of the RitsLAC project, aimed at forming a regional network of organisations working towards integrating and strengthening civil society in the region.

The issues and events addressed by Social Mosaic do not simply mirror those covered by major newspapers and other big media outlets. "We are going to create our own agenda for discussion, keeping in mind important issues that may be neglected by the media or by national political agendas," say the Social Mosaic editors.

As well as minimising the imbalance between the amount of content produced in English as opposed to content in Portuguese and Spanish, the initiative strengthens regional integration and helps to dispel the myth that Portuguese-speaking Brazil is isolationist with its back to the largely Spanish-speaking Latin American region.

RITS: www.rits.org.br



AN INTERVIEW WITH THE COLOMBIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND DIRECTOR MARY LUCÍA HURTADO MARTÍNEZ (PICTURED) BY SOCIAL MOSIAC WOULD NEVER HAVE MADE IT TO THE PAGES OF THE MAINSTREAM MEDIA. PHOTO: PAOLA ANDREA LIEVANO

SANGONET, South Africa: Practical applications and FOSS highlighted at second ICTs for Civil Society Conference



THE II SANGONET ICTS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY CONFERENCE. PHOTO: SANGONET

SANGONeT's second annual ICTs for Civil Society Conference was held in early March 2006 in Johannesburg. Many delegates expressed their enthusiasm for this event and their hopes that it will become a regular feature on the annual South African NGO calendar.

Building on the success of the 2005 event, this second conference focused specifically on a wide range of new and practical ICT services, solutions and applications relevant to the work of CSOs in Southern Africa.

The objectives of the 2006 conference were to learn more about the day-to-day experiences of CSOs in adopting and applying ICTs, as well as to present and demonstrate relevant and practical applications that can further strengthen the impact of their work. The conference had a strong focus on free and open source issues and applications.

SANGONeT: www.sangonet.org.za

31 www.mosaicosocial.org

STRAWBERRYNET, Romania: Raising awareness of ICT policy impact on Romanians' lives



STRAWBERRYNET'S EMILIAN BURDUSEL (LEFT) AND ROZI BAKO (CENTRE) DURING A COMMUNICATION TRAINING SESSION FOR ENVIRONMENTALISTS. PHOTO: STRAWBERRYNET

In 2006 StrawberryNet remained true to its environmental values and continued to offer internet services, free software support and ICT training to environmental campaigns and civil society organisations. But this year it also broadened its activities to become actively involved in ICT policy.

From copyright law to the politics of free and open source software (FOSS), StrawberryNet worked on setting up Romania's first ICT policy portal³² (as part of a national policy network supported by APC), in preparation for its launch in 2007. Much of its policy work focuses on FOSS, content licensing, digital inclusion and other ICT policy issues that already have an impact on Romanian people's lives. "Copyrights are more and more enforced, especially regarding software. People are not informed about the implications of copyright laws on software and alternatives to it," said Mihály Bakó, StrawberryNet co-founder.

StrawberryNet: www.sbnet.ro

UNGANA-AFRIKA, South Africa: Expanding and strengthening the Southern African network of development sector-oriented ICT consultants

To address the ICT capacity crisis faced by most non-profits, in 2006 Ungana-Afrika expanded and strengthened the network of development sector-oriented ICT consultants ("eRiders") across the Southern African region. The aim was to initiate sustainable projects that provide ICT capacity building and support to non-profits in the region.

The programme is based on the expertise Ungana-Afrika has built by helping other organisations understand and implement "eRiding" as a new model to address the cross-cutting ICT needs of non-profits in their own countries. This expertise comes from roll-outs of workshops, training and consultancy in South Africa, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Senegal.

Ungana-Afrika: www.ungana-afrika.org



NEWLY TRAINED ERIDERS IN ZAMBIA DISCUSS MODELS TO FOLLOW WHEN IMPLEMENTING THEIR PROJECTS. PHOTO: UNGANA-AFRIKA

32 politic.ngo.ro

WAMANI, Argentina: New, dynamic website a boon to educational workers' union

The Confederation of Education Workers of Argentina (CTERA) is a long-time client of Wamani. In 2006, the trade union confederation's website³³ made a quantitative leap following a policy decision to reorganise the enormous volume of information accumulated over the years. This allowed Wamani to design a new and dynamic site with a simple and easily managed structure.

According to Wamani director Carlos Álvarez, "people [in the union] were amazed at the clarity with which the information restructuring was carried out and the ease in entering new data. This tool allowed them to handle a medium that was previously quite confusing." The next step will be to link the organisation's operations through an intranet. But that signifies yet another challenge.

Wamani: www.wamani.apc.org

WEB NETWORKS, Canada: Delivering literacy in difficult conditions



CHILDREN FROM GUATEMALA WHO ARE LEARNING HOW TO WRITE IN THE MAYAN LANGUAGE K'ICHE'. PHOTO: WEB NETWORKS

In 2006 Web Networks completed a working prototype of a unique online tool to deliver literacy to poor communities in Central and South America. "Yodigo"³⁴ incorporates the "conditional cash transfer" approach (which rewards learners with cash or other incentives) within an interactive, video-based learning environment that can be provided online or on DVD.

2006 brought exciting news to Yodigo (an initiative that started in 2005). First, it became fully open source. "Our partners in Central and South America were committed to the philosophy behind free and open source software (FOSS), and so is Web Networks," said the organisation's executive director, Oliver Zielke. Also in 2006, Web Networks began to work with its Guatemalan partner association Ajb'atz' Enlace Quiché to produce Yodigo lessons for learners in the Mayan language K'iche'.

Web Networks: www.web.net

33 www.ctera.org.ar

34 www.yodigo.tv

WomensHub, Philippines: For overseas migrant workers, emergency assistance is just one SMS away

In 2006 WomensHub worked with the Centre for Migrant Advocacy (CMA) – an NGO that helps overseas contract workers, who are in a particularly vulnerable position – in setting up an SMS helpline project. Thanks to this initiative, text messages (SMS) sent by overseas Filipino workers in distress are automatically forwarded to the Philippine department of foreign affairs for action and archived in a database for follow-up and analysis.

“Emergency assistance is just a text (SMS) away,” say the promoters of the project. It is targeted especially at women working as domestic workers or caregivers in private homes, and irregular or undocumented migrant workers. Overseas Filipino IT workers themselves had a role to play in building the system.

WomensHub: www.womenshub.net

WOMEN’SNET, South Africa: Digital stories for social transformation



DIGITAL STORYTELLERS GET ENTHUSIASTIC DURING THEIR MAY WORKSHOP. PHOTO: WOMEN’SNET

The Women’sNet Digital Stories project³⁵ puts technology directly in the hands of ordinary women and men and equips them with the skills to tell their own stories, in their own words. In May 2006, a group of women came together during a week-long digital story workshop. These storytellers wrote their own script and then recorded their stories on digital voice recorders, to create a “voice-over” for their movies. Using old photographs that they had brought with them, or taking new pictures with a digital camera, the women each produced a three-to-five-minute digital story. The stories are available on a DVD produced by Women’sNet, accompanied by a manual with ideas on how to use the stories for human rights education and training.

The digital story process is about more than simply “telling stories”; it creates a space in which women are able to articulate their needs and interests using technology, and encourages and supports the production of media products that are framed by the experiences of women as producers and storytellers.

Women’sNet: www.womensnet.org.za

³⁵ www.womensnet.org.za/services/digital_stories/digital_stories.html

WOUGNET, Uganda: Making noise with ICT policy

Beginning in 2004, the Catalysing Access to ICTs in Africa (CATIA) programme³⁶ worked towards strengthening the context for the vibrant adoption and use of ICTs in various African countries. WOUGNET joined the process at the end of 2005, and 2006 was a very active year for the organisation in terms of ICT policy advocacy.

WOUGNET's focus was on gender and capacity building. Its members ran several workshops, the first one for themselves! They were trained in the APC Women's Networking Support Programme's Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM), and then went on to target policy makers, ICT experts and journalists. They also organised a public forum where they presented findings of a previous study.

"Now we are strong. Now we have an impact. It has given us a push and shown policy makers that we are serious. Now we have made a noise, and had workshops. So they know," concluded Goretta Amuriat, WOUGNET ICT programme manager.

WOUGNET: www.wougn.net.org

ZAMIRNET, Croatia: Online content for peacebuilding

In 2006 ZaMirNET ("za mir" means "for peace") expanded the content of its online magazine for civil society and urban culture, ZaMirZINE,³⁷ to introduce themes related to the country's past. Even today, more than a decade after the last military operations in its territory (during the 1991-1995 war), the Republic of Croatia lacks a comprehensive strategy of peacebuilding that addresses its recent history, marked by violence and war crimes.

Mainstream media treatment of political and social processes frequently serves certain political interests. Coverage tends to focus on "ceremonial" political events (or non-events), while failing to provide more substantial and critical analysis.

For this reason, the ZaMirZINE editorial board decided to put an emphasis on topics dealing with the past, in order to raise public awareness of the concepts of peacebuilding and transitional justice. The special column devoted to these issues is produced in collaboration with IzMir, an association of Croatian war veterans for peace.

ZaMirNET: www.zamirnet.hr

36 www.catia.ws

37 www.zamirzine.net

DIRECTORY: GOVERNANCE AND STAFF



APC'S EXECUTIVE BOARD (LEFT TO RIGHT, ANDREW, DA, MARK, VALENTINA, MISI, OLINCA, NATASHA, DANILO, DANIJELA) MET TWICE FACE-TO-FACE IN 2006. PHOTO: APC

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS IN 2006

(October 2005-October 2007)

Natasha Primo, South Africa (chair)
 Olinca Marino, Mexico (vice chair)
 Danijela Babic, Croatia (secretary)
 Mark Graham, USA (treasurer)
 Mihaly "Misi" Bako, Romania

Danilo Lujambio, Argentina
 Kong "Da" Sidaroth, Cambodia
 Valentina Pellizzer, Italy
 Alternates: Andrew Garton, Australia
 and John Dada, Nigeria

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES IN 2006

AFRICA

ALIN-EA, Kenya

James Nguo

ArabDev, Egypt

Leila Hassanin, Manal Hassan

ARCC, Kenya

Alfred Orimbo, David Wasonga

CECS, South Africa

Arnold Pietersen

ENDA-TM, Senegal

Youba Sokona (until October 2006),
 Laye Kante and Masse Lo
 (from November 2006)

Fantsuam Foundation, Nigeria

John Dada, Kazanka Comfort

SANGONeT, South Africa

David Barnard, Fazila Farouk
 (from December 2006)

Ungana-Afrika, South Africa

Toni Elias, Ryan Jacobs (until September
 2006), Tshepo Thlaku (from October 2006)

Women'sNet, South Africa

Natasha Primo, Sally Shackleton

WOUNET, Uganda

Goretta Zavuga Amuriat, Milton
 Aineruhanga

ASIA-PACIFIC

Bytes For All, South Asia

Partha Pratim Sarker, Zunaira Durrani (until July 2006), Frederick Noronha (from August 2006)

c2o, Australia

Andrew Garton, Justina Curtis

Forum for Media Alternatives (FMA), Philippines

Alan Alegre

Institute for Popular Democracy (IPD), Philippines

Bobby Soriano

JCAFE, Japan

Onoda Mitoye, Okabe Kazuaki

JCA-NET, Japan

Fujino Satoshi, Hamada Tadahisa

Jinbonet, South Korea

Oh Byoung-il, PatchA

Open Forum Cambodia, Cambodia

Kong Sidaroth and Norbert Klein (until July 2006), Im Sokthy (from December 2006)

VOICE, Bangladesh

Ahmed Swapan Mahmud, Farjana Akter

WomensHub, Philippines

Pi Villanueva

EUROPE

BlueLink, Bulgaria

Pavel Antonov, Milena Bokova

ChangeNet, Slovakia

Norbert Brazda

ComLink, Germany

Stefan Hackenthal

Computer Aid International, United Kingdom

Tony Roberts, Sonia Sinanan

Econnect, Czech Republic

Vaclav Klinkera

GreenNet, United Kingdom

Cedric Knight, Michael Moritz

Green Spider, Hungary

Zoltan Varady, Robert Fridrich

Kiné (ex Unimondo), Italy

Valentina Pellizzer, Denisa Gollino

Pangea, Spain

Leandro Navarro, Assumpció Guasch (from March 2006)

StrawberryNet, Romania

Mihaly Bako

ZamirNet, Croatia

Danijela Babic, Lada Dobrovsak (until April 2006), Gabrijela Ivanov (from May 2006)

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

CEPES, Peru

Carlos Saldarriaga Vidalon (until July), Maicu Alvarado

Colnodo, Colombia

Julián Casasbuenas, Olga Paz

ESLARED, Venezuela

Edmundo Vitale, Ermanno Pietrosemoli

FUNREDES, Dominican Republic

Daniel Pimienta, Senaida Jansen

INTERCOM-EcuaneX, Ecuador

Jimmy Carrión

ITeM, Uruguay

Magela Sigillito, Pablo Accuosto

LaNeta, Mexico

Olinca Marino, Erika Smith

Nodo TAU, Argentina

Danilo Lujambio, Luis Martinez

RITS, Brazil

Paulo Lima, Carlos Afonso

Wamani, Argentina

Carlos Alvarez, Rodolfo Rapetti

NORTH AMERICA (NOT INCLUDING MEXICO)

Alternatives, Canada

Michael Lambert, Daphnée Dion-Viens

IGC, USA

Mark Graham, Mitra

LaborNet, USA

Steve Zeltzer, Erika Zweig

Web Networks, Canada

Oliver Zielke

STAFF TEAM IN 2006

Management Systems Staff

Executive director: Anriette Esterhuysen, South Africa
Operations manager: Estelle Baker, South Africa
Network development manager: Karen Banks, United Kingdom
Network development assistant: Vanessa Ourique Purper, Brazil
Logistics coordinator: Mylene Soto Sol Cruz, Philippines (from September)
Finance manager: Maya Sooka, South Africa
Finance assistant: Fatima Bhyat, South Africa
Communications manager: Karen Higgs, Uruguay
Information coordinator: Frédéric Dubois, Germany
Specialist editor: Analía Lavin, France/Uruguay
Technical information coordinator/systems administrator: Adolfo Dunayevich, Mexico (from May)
Technical information coordinator: Fatima Bhyat (until April)
Systems administrator: RITS, Brazil (until April)*
Accounting and financial consultant: Misty McWilliams, South Africa*
Finance and logistics support: Coco Belgarrab, South Africa*
Staff writer: Frederick Noronha, India*

Programme Managers

Women's Networking Support Programme: Chat Garcia Ramilo, Philippines
Communications and Information Policy Programme: Willie Currie, USA
Strategic Use and Capacity-Building Programme: Ann Tothill, Australia (until August)
Acting Strategic Use and Capacity-Building Programme manager: Riff Fullan, Canada/Switzerland (from September)

Programme Teams

APC Women's Networking Support Programme (APC WNSP)

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

APC-Africa-Women co-coordinator: Sylvie Niombo, Rep. Congo (from April)

Asia-Pacific regional coordinator: Cheekay Cinco, Philippines

LAC regional coordinator: Dafne Plou, Argentina

Europe regional coordinator: Lenka Simerska, Czech Republic

GenderIT.org coordinator: Katerina Fialova, Czech Republic

Gender and ICT awards coordinator: Mylene Soto Sol Cruz, Philippines (until August)

Communications coordinator: Erika Smith, Mexico

GenderIT.org English editor and policy advocacy researcher: Jac sm Kee, Malaysia (from April)

Technical coordinator: Sarah Escandor Tomas, Philippines*

Communications and Information Policy Programme (CIPP)

LAC ICT Policy Monitor coordinator: Valeria Betancourt, Ecuador

LAC ICT Policy Monitor information worker: Clio Bugel, Uruguay (until December)

Africa research coordinator: Abiodun Jagun, Nigeria/UK (from March)

Asia ICT Policy Monitor content coordinator: Partha Pratim Sarker, Bangladesh/Canada (until May)

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

EASSy and SAT-3 campaign and content researcher: Ory Okolloh, Kenya/South Africa*

Strategic Use and Capacity-Building Programme (SU&CB)

Knowledge-sharing coordinator: Karel Novotny, Czech Republic

Projects worker/national policy monitors coordinator: Anna Feldman, UK

ItrainOnline manager: Ann Tohill, Australia/South Africa (from September)

ItrainOnline Spanish editor: Adolfo Dunayevich, Mexico

ItrainOnline portal coordinator: Erika Smith, Mexico (until September)

Wireless project manager: Ian Howard, Canada*

ActionKit coordinator: Zoltan Varady, Hungary*

* Consultants and/or temporary staff who worked with APC during 2006

APC COMMUNITY FACE-TO-FACE

Events that saw an APC presence in 2006

8-18 JANUARY

Africa Source 2: Free and Open Source Software for Local Communities, Kalangala, Uganda

14 JANUARY

United Kingdom Government consultation on Internet Governance follow-up, London, UK

17-19 JANUARY

Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) workshop for Women of Uganda Network (WOUNGNET) Policy Project, Kampala, Uganda

19-20 JANUARY

Oxfam/Oxford Internet Institute (OII) eCampaigning Forum, Oxford, UK

19-23 JANUARY

World Social Forum (WSF) Africa, Bamako, Mali

24-29 JANUARY

World Social Forum (WSF) Americas, Caracas, Venezuela

24-28 JANUARY

APC Francophone region wireless workshop, Dakar, Senegal

26-28 JANUARY

Building Communication Opportunities (BCO) Alliance meeting, Katmandu, Nepal

30-31 JANUARY

Innovation Funders Network 2006 Summit, San Francisco, USA

2-4 FEBRUARY

Asian Consultation on Strategic Action Planning on Advocacy, Bangkok, Thailand

2-4 FEBRUARY

Social Science Research Council (SSRC) and Oxford Internet Institute (OII) meeting on organisational innovation, Oxford, UK

6-8 FEBRUARY

Catalysing Access to ICT in Africa (CATIA) 1A regulators training, Lusaka, Zambia

8-12 FEBRUARY

Isis-Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE) board meeting, Kampala, Uganda

10-12 FEBRUARY

Diplo Foundation International Conference: Internet Governance: The Way Forward, Malta

13 FEBRUARY

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Consultation on the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, Geneva, Switzerland

16-17 FEBRUARY

United Nations consultations on the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), Geneva, Switzerland

20-23 FEBRUARY

APC/International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD) ICT policy training workshop: Influencing ICT policies from the field: training workshop for TICBolivia Network, Santa Cruz, Bolivia

21-22 FEBRUARY

Where to go from Tunis? Implementation of and follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the role of civil society in this process, Copenhagen, Denmark

23-25 FEBRUARY

Second Idlelo Conference on Free and Open Source Software (FOSS), Nairobi, Kenya

23-26 FEBRUARY

Women's Information Technology Transfer (WITT) FOSS Training, Prague, Czech Republic

24 FEBRUARY

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) consultation on the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), Geneva, Switzerland

26-28 FEBRUARY

International Association for Development of the Information Society (IADIS) Web-Based Communities 2006 Conference, San Sebastian, Spain

26-27 FEBRUARY

World Social Forum (WSF) Southeast Asia preparatory meeting, Bangkok, Thailand

27 FEBRUARY-4 MARCH

Collaborative and Networked Approaches to Global Communications Policy Research and Reform, Bellagio, Italy

7-9 MARCH

Second Annual SANGONeT ICTs for Civil Society Conference and Exhibition, Johannesburg, South Africa

8 MARCH

World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) Global Media Monitoring Project panel, Buenos Aires, Argentina

10 MARCH

Eastern Africa Submarine Cable System (EASSy) consultation for key stakeholders in East Africa, Mombasa, Kenya

14-26 MARCH

APC executive board and staff meeting, Johannesburg and Ithala, South Africa

20-22 MARCH

UNESCO Information for All Programme (IFAP) Council meeting, Paris, France

20-25 MARCH

Catalysing Access to ICT in Africa (CATIA) 1A champions training, Johannesburg, South Africa

24-29 MARCH

World Social Forum (WSF) Asia, Karachi, Pakistan

27-31 MARCH

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) meeting, Wellington, New Zealand

29-31 MARCH

Catalysing Access to ICT in Africa (CATIA) management meeting, Mombasa, Kenya

29-31 MARCH

Ford Foundation international workshop: Changing Windows into Doors, Montevideo, Uruguay

31 MARCH-2 APRIL

Women, Action & the Media 2006: Making Noise, Making Change, Cambridge, USA

2-4 APRIL

9th Internet in Public Administration/Local and Regional Information Society (ISSS/LORIS) Conference, Prague, Czech Republic

4-7 APRIL

Workers' Education & Workers' Media in a Global Economy International Workshop, Cape Town, South Africa

6-8 APRIL

Launch of the Society for International Development (SID) Netherlands Roundtable and 83rd SID Governing Council session, The Hague, Netherlands

7-8 APRIL

Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice board meeting, The Hague, Netherlands

19-22 APRIL

APC South Asia ICT policy meeting and APC Asia members meeting, Dhaka, Bangladesh

21-23 APRIL

Access to Knowledge Conference, Yale Law School, New York, USA

24-27 APRIL

APC Women's Networking Support Programme (APC WNSP) Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) Asia workshop, Delhi, India

25-28 APRIL

Workshop on the Management of International Networks for Knowledge Sharing, St. Gallen, Switzerland

28-29 APRIL

4th European Union-Latin America and the Caribbean (EU-LAC) Ministerial Forum on the Information Society, Lisbon, Portugal

2-5 MAY

Computers, Freedom and Privacy Conference, Washington, USA

4-7 MAY

European Social Forum (ESF), Athens, Greece

5-6 MAY

Building Communication Opportunities (BCO) impact assessment working group meeting, Colombo, Sri Lanka

8-9 MAY

Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) International Forum: Creating Prosperity through Innovation, Colombo, Sri Lanka

9-11 MAY

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)/International Telecommunication Union (ITU)/UNESCO Global Symposium on Promoting the Multilingual Internet, Geneva, Switzerland

11 MAY

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) meeting on Action Line C4: Capacity building, Geneva, Switzerland

11 MAY

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) meeting on Action Line C6: Enabling environment, Geneva, Switzerland

12 MAY

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) meeting on Action Line C8: Cultural diversity and identity, Geneva, Switzerland

15-16 MAY

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) consultation on Action Line C5: Information security, Geneva, Switzerland

15 MAY

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) meeting on Action Line C11: International and regional cooperation, Geneva, Switzerland

16 MAY

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) meeting on Action Line C1: The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development, Geneva, Switzerland

16 MAY

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) meeting on Action Line C7: E-government, Geneva, Switzerland

17 MAY

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) meeting on Action Line C7: E-business and E-employment, Geneva, Switzerland

17-22 MAY

APC Women's Networking Support Programme (APC WNSP) Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) workshop, Sao Paulo, Brazil

18 MAY

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) meeting: Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) open panel, Geneva, Switzerland

18 MAY

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) meeting on Action Line C2: Infrastructure, Geneva, Switzerland

18 MAY

Public Interest Registry (PIR.org) meeting: Organizar 06: Internet y Sociedad en Ecuador, Quito, Ecuador

19 MAY

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) meeting: Internet Governance Forum (IGF) consultations, Geneva, Switzerland

22-23 MAY

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) meeting: Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Advisory Group meeting, Geneva, Switzerland

24-25 MAY

World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Roundtable: Community Radio for Social Change, Lima, Peru

26-28 MAY

APC wireless trainers preparatory workshop, London, UK

30-31 MAY

NetSquared Conference 2006, San Jose, USA

1-15 JUNE

Gender Research in Africa into ICTs for Empowerment (GRACE) writing workshop, Durban, South Africa

5-9 JUNE

5th Digital Inclusion Workshop, Porto Alegre, Brazil

6-8 JUNE

Asian Conference on the Digital Commons, Bangkok, Thailand

7-10 JUNE

Transmission meeting on International Video Distribution Projects for Social Change, Rome, Italy

12-13 JUNE

Telecentre.org meeting on open curriculum and peer production, Toronto, Canada

14-15 JUNE

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

15-16 JUNE

Building Communication Opportunities (BCO) impact assessment meeting, London, UK

19-20 JUNE

Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) meeting, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

23 JUNE

CIVICUS World Assembly, Glasgow, Scotland

23-25 JUNE

iCommons Summit, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

24 JUNE

Centre for International Governance/Diplo Foundation follow-up meeting on the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), Wilton Park, UK

26-30 JUNE

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) meeting, Marrakech, Morocco

28 JUNE-2 JULY

APC national portals content workshop, London, UK

29 JUNE

Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative (GeSCI) meeting, London, UK

3-7 JULY

Gender, Agriculture and Rural Development in the Information Society (GenARDIS) knowledge sharing workshop, Entebbe, Uganda

3-6 JULY

Catalysing Access to ICT in Africa (CATIA) animators meeting and output to purpose review, Johannesburg, South Africa

3-28 JULY

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Substantive Session 2006, Geneva, Switzerland

11 AND 17 JULY

APC North African wireless workshop trainers meetings, Ifrane, Morocco

12-16 JULY

APC North African wireless workshop, Ifrane, Morocco

13-15 JULY

Centre for International ICT Policies Central and West Africa (CIPACO) workshop on internet governance, Dakar, Senegal

18-22 JULY

International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD) workshop: Harvesting ICT4D Training Materials Development Expertise, Lusaka, Zambia

24-25 JULY

SAT-3 workshop, Johannesburg, South Africa

24-28 JULY

WALC 2006 Latin American and Caribbean internet networking workshop, Quito, Ecuador

27-29 JULY

Community Technology Centers' Network (CTCNet) 15th Annual National Community Technology Conference, Washington, USA

31 JULY-2 AUGUST

World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC)/APC meeting: Broadcasting for Social Inclusion, Montevideo, Uruguay

3-4 AUGUST

Big Brother Awards, Prague, Czech Republic

3-4 AUGUST

Catalysing Access to ICT in Africa (CATIA) component lead meeting, Johannesburg, South Africa

17-19 AUGUST

LaNeta Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) workshop, Mexico City, Mexico

20-25 AUGUST

Women in the Information Society: A Global Context and Tools for Ensuring Full Participation of Women in Latin America and International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) World Computer Congress 2006, Santiago, Chile

21-26 AUGUST

International Know How Conference 2006: Weaving the information society: a gender and multicultural perspective, Mexico City, Mexico

25-27 AUGUST

Alternatives Weekend Retreat 2006, Montreal, Canada

31 AUGUST-1 SEPTEMBER

Building Communication Opportunities (BCO) meeting, The Hague, Netherlands

31 AUGUST-1 SEPTEMBER

Oxford Internet Institute (OII)/Berman Institute Internet Governance Forum (IGF) meeting, Oxford, UK

3-5 SEPTEMBER

APC management team meeting, Prague, Czech Republic

4-5 SEPTEMBER

International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD) workshop for strengthening the Infodesarrollo.ec network, Pueblo, Ecuador

5-7 SEPTEMBER

Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Meeting, Quito, Ecuador

6-7 SEPTEMBER

APC executive board meeting, Prague, Czech Republic

11-15 SEPTEMBER

Highway Africa, Grahamstown, South Africa

13-15 SEPTEMBER

Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice board meeting, The Hague, Netherlands

25-26 SEPTEMBER

Andean Forum on the Information Society, Quito, Ecuador

29 SEPTEMBER-4 OCTOBER

Informatics for Rural Empowerment and Community Health project team meeting and project site visits, Cambodia

6 OCTOBER

Catalysing Access to ICT in Africa (CATIA) follow-up meeting, Kampala, Uganda

12-16 OCTOBER

Feminist International Radio Endeavour (FIRE) seminar, Costa Rica

15-16 OCTOBER

InfoAndina Strategic Evaluation and Planning Workshop, Lima, Peru

16-19 OCTOBER

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Action Line follow-up, Paris, France

22-23 OCTOBER

Society for International Development (SID) International Conference: One Year after the United Nations Millennium Summit – Global Security and Sustainable Human Development: Delivering on Our Promises, Netherlands

22-25 OCTOBER

AirJaldi Summit 2006: Empowering Communities through Wireless Networks, Dharamsala, India

25-27 OCTOBER

World Congress on Communication for Development, Rome, Italy

28-29 OCTOBER

ItrainOnline partners meeting, Rome, Italy

30 OCTOBER-2 NOVEMBER

Internet Governance Forum (IGF), Athens, Greece

6-7 NOVEMBER

APC/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) dialogue and exchange on promising options and critical issues for national policy and advocacy on "open access" at local and national levels, East and Southern Africa workshop, Johannesburg, South Africa

8-10 NOVEMBER

Forum on ICT4D Research in Contribution to the Millennium Development Goals, Lima, Peru

8-9 NOVEMBER

APC Africa members meeting, Johannesburg, South Africa

9-11 NOVEMBER

Money and Movements International Meeting, Oaxaca, Mexico

11-17 NOVEMBER

World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) 9th World Conference, Amman, Jordan

12-14 NOVEMBER

Women and ICT Task Force meeting: Re-Engineering Development: Engendering ICTs, Paris, France

17-18 NOVEMBER

Regulatel international conference: Connecting the Future: Strategies to reduce telecommunication access gaps, Lima, Peru

17-19 NOVEMBER

LaborTech Conference 2006: The Digital Revolution and a Labor Media Strategy, San Francisco, USA

29 NOVEMBER-3 DECEMBER

APC Latin America and the Caribbean members meeting and ICT policy workshop, Montevideo, Uruguay

4-5 DECEMBER

Building Communication Opportunities (BCO): APC/International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD) impact assessment meeting, Johannesburg, South Africa

9-10 DECEMBER

APC Wireless Capacity Building Stakeholder Meeting for Phase 2, London, UK

12-16 DECEMBER

APC Women's Networking Support Programme (APC WNSP) 2006 evaluation and 2007 planning meeting, Rome, Italy

PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH FROM APC

APC (October 2006) *APC Internet Rights Charter* (updated version) Montevideo: APC
rights.apc.org/documents/apc_charter_EN.pdf (English)
rights.apc.org/documents/APC_charter_ES.pdf (Spanish)
rights.apc.org/documents/APC_charter_FR.pdf (French)

Spanish, French and Portuguese translations of: Ramilo, C. and Cinco, C. (August 2005) *Gender Evaluation Methodology for Internet and ICTs: A Learning Tool for Change and Empowerment* Philippines: APC WNSP

Ramilo, C. and Cinco, C. (March 2006) *Metodología de evaluación con perspectiva de género para internet y TIC: Una herramienta de aprendizaje para el cambio y el empoderamiento* Mexico: APC WNSP
www.apcwomen.org/gem/gemdownloads/GEM_ESPANOL_042006.pdf (Spanish)

Ramilo, C. and Cinco, C. (March 2006) *Méthodologie d'évaluation du genre pour Internet et les TIC: Outil d'apprentissage pour le changement et l'habilitation* Mexico: APC WNSP
www.apcwomen.org/gem/gemdownloads/GEM_francois_042006.pdf (French)

Ramilo, C. and Cinco, C. (March 2006) *Gender Evaluation Methodology for Internet and ICTs: Aprendizado para a Transformação* Mexico: APC WNSP
www.apcwomen.org/gem/pdf/GEMPORTUGUES.pdf (Portuguese)

English translation of: Mottin-Sylla, M. H. (2005) *Fracture numérique de genre en Afrique francophone: une inquiétante réalité* Senegal: ENDA-TM

Mottin-Sylla, M. H. (May 2006) *The Gender Digital Divide in Francophone Africa: A Harsh Reality* Montevideo: APC
www.genderit.org/resources/africa_gender_divide.pdf

ISSUE PAPERS

Jensen, M. (October 2006) *Open Access: Lowering the costs of international bandwidth in Africa* Johannesburg: APC
rights.apc.org/documents/convergence_EN.pdf (English)
rights.apc.org/documents/convergence_FR.pdf (French)

Souter, D. (October 2006) *Whose information society? Developing country and civil society voices in the World Summit on the Information Society* Johannesburg: APC
rights.apc.org/documents/wsis_EN.pdf

Wild, K. (October 2006) *The importance of convergence in the ICT policy environment*
Johannesburg: APC

rights.apc.org/documents/open_access_EN.pdf (English)

rights.apc.org/documents/open_access_FR.pdf (French)

Banks, K., Currie, W. and Esterhuysen, A. (July 2006) *The World Summit on the Information Society: An overview of follow-up* Montevideo: APC

rights.apc.org/documents/wsis_followup_0506_EN.pdf (English)

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APC (Feb 2006) *Pushing and prodding, goading and hand-holding: Reflection from APC at the conclusion of the World Summit on the Information Society* Montevideo: APC

rights.apc.org/documents/apc_wsis_reflection_0206.pdf (English)

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rights.apc.org/documents/apc_wsis_reflection_0206_FR.pdf (French)

REPORTS

Budlender, D. (April, 2006) *Evaluation report on APC's Communications and Information Policy Programme*

rights.apc.org/documents/apc_cippevaluation_2005.pdf

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Fialova, K. (March 2006) "Associating gender with ICT policy" in *i4d*

www.i4donline.net/articles/current-article.asp?articleid=590&typ=Features

García Ramilo, C. (March 2006) "Beyond Tools: Technology as a Feminist Agenda" in *Development Journal*

www.palgrave-journals.com/development/journal/v49/n1/full/1100230a.html

Esterhuysen, A. and Greenstein, R. (June 2006) "The Right to Development in the Information Society" in Jørgensen, R. (Ed), *Human Rights in the Global Information Society* Boston: MIT Press

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Betancourt, V. (October 2006) "Citizen participation in the era of digital development" in *eGov Magazine*

www.egovonline.net/articles/article-details.asp?articleid=816&typ=Commentary

APC WNSP (July 2006) "Women's Rights and ICTs: The Know How Conference" in *Gender & Development Journal*

Sabanes Plou, D. (November 2006) "El novio de mi hermana la controlaba con el celular" Buenos Aires: Artemisa Noticias
www.artemisanoticias.com.ar/site/notas.asp?id=46

VIDEO

APC (December 2006) *Inside APC*
www.apc.org/english/video/apc.mov

Malhotra, N. (October 2006) *Do Not Look at Porn...* [Online. Commissioned by APC WNSP]
www.genderit.org/en/index.shtml?apc=r90501-e95021-1

NEWSLETTERS

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

Chakula: ICT policy news from Africa from the APC Africa ICT policy monitor.

Latin American and Caribbean Bulletin on ICT policy in the region: ICT policy news from Latin America and the Caribbean from the APC LAC ICT policy monitor.

GenderIT.org: Thematic editions on gender and ICT policy distributed by email and RSS bimonthly. Gender peripheries: GenderIT.org's events coverage.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2006

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2006		
	2006 (USD)	2005 (USD)
ASSETS	1,641,234	1,453,517
Non-current assets	2	1,203
Equipment	2	1,203
Current assets	1,641,232	1,452,314
Accounts receivable	19,477	18,603
Accrued income - consulting	1,907	-
Accrued income - grants	613,987	286,598
Cash and cash equivalents	1,005,861	1,147,113
TOTAL ASSETS	1,641,234	1,453,517
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES	1,641,234	1,453,517
Reserves and sustainability funds	644,065	378,372
Sustainability funds	602,771	313,300
Retained income	41,294	65,072
Current liabilities	997,169	1,075,145
Accounts payable	259,214	155,514
Deferred income from project implementation	-	308,495
Deferred income from grants	737,955	611,136
TOTAL RESERVES AND LIABILITIES	1,641,234	1,453,517

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006		
	2006 (USD)	2005 (USD)
INCOME	3,279,122	2,957,016
Grant and contract income	3,161,769	2,866,834
Earned Income	117,353	90,182
Administration fees	-	4,950
Consulting revenue	69,374	56,878
Interest	5,744	94
Membership fees	27,500	25,492
Sponsorship	6,013	-
Sales and sundry	8,722	2,768
EXPENDITURE	3,013,429	2,762,959
Auditors' remuneration	11,400	8,600
Meetings (staff, executive board and council)	173,035	216,359
Operational expenses	79,661	71,092
Personnel costs	399,666	255,858
Programme and project expenses	2,286,064	2,161,091
Telephone and fax	3,424	2,954
Translation	8,069	5,242
Travel, accommodation and per diems	31,688	36,591
Website (includes re-design)	20,422	5,172
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	265,693	194,057

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

Thanks to Analía Lavin for the time-consuming coordination of the member and publications sections, Estelle Baker for her help galvanising contributors and Vanessa Purper for compiling the lengthy events section.

In the past, APC has published our annual reports online in English and Spanish. For the 2005 edition we ventured into print for English. The 500 copies we printed did not meet demand. So this year, the APC Annual Report will be available in print in English, Spanish, and in preparation for our adoption of French as our third public language in 2007, French. Thanks to our favourite translators Clio Bugel and Danielle Elder, and APC's Frédéric Dubois and Analía Lavin who worked with them to ensure the translations were spot on. APC's print publications always have a distinctive look thanks to the talented Monocromo design team in Uruguay. Thanks to Lori Nordstrom for her x-ray editing eye.

Special thanks to the following people for their contributions to this report:

The APC Team all over the world	Laye Kante, Senegal
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Arnold Pietersen, South Africa	Misi Bako, Romania
Assumpció Guasch, Spain	Natasha Primo, South Africa
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Carlos Alvarez, Argentina	Olga Paz, Colombia
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Erika Smith, Mexico	Partha Pratim Sarker, South Asia
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Karen Banks, UK	Willie Currie, USA

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- **CISCO**
Capacity Building for Community Wireless Connectivity in Africa (wireless equipment for workshops)
- **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 "Building Electronic Communities and Networks"
- **Ford Foundation**
CIPP core support
- **Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries (Hivos)**
Global ICT Policy Monitor project (core support to CIPP and APC-Africa-Women); GenARDIS project
- **InfoDev**
Policy dialogue and consensus-building workshop on "Expanding Affordable Access in Africa"
- **International Development Research Centre (IDRC)**
Capacity Building for Community Wireless Connectivity in Africa; Capacity Building and Institutional Support; Gender Research in Africa into ICTs for Empowerment (GRACE); GenARDIS project; GenARDIS project evaluation; Making EASSy Easy: media and ICT policy meeting; Wireless Going Forward: meeting of all wireless partners; Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) II; GEM workshop in Asia; Harambee project
- **Open Society Institute (OSI)**
Capacity Building for Community Wireless Connectivity in Africa; Secure Online Communications; Ensuring Affordable and Open Access to EASSy: consultation for key stakeholders; Africa Wireless Capacity-Phase II planning meeting
- **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**
Gender and ICT policy advocacy; core support to APC
- **Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)**
GenARDIS project
- **UK Department for International Development (DFID)**
Building Communication Opportunities (BCO) Alliance; Catalysing Access to ICTs in Africa (CATIA) Component 1c
- **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**
Dialogue and exchange workshop on open access policy and advocacy in Eastern and Southern Africa

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ActionApps	an online content management system initially developed by APC
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
c2o	Community Communications Online, Australia*
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*
CIPP	APC Communications and Information Policy Programme
CMS	content management system
CRIS	Communication Rights in the Information Society
CSOs	civil society organisations
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
DFID	UK Department for International Development
DGIS	Directorate-General for International Cooperation of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
EASSy	East African Submarine Cable System
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EED	Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (Church Development Service), Germany
eLAC2007	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
GRACE	Gender Research in Africa into ICTs for Empowerment
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
MMTK	Multimedia Training Kit
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	non-governmental organisations
OII	Oxford Internet Institute
OKN	Open Knowledge Network
OSI	Open Society Institute
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
SU&CB	APC Strategic Use and Capacity-Building Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
VAW	violence against women
VOICE	Voices for Interactive Choice and Empowerment, Bangladesh*
VoIP	voice over internet protocol
WALC	Latin American and Caribbean internet networking workshop
WNSP	APC Women's Networking Support Programme
WSF	World Social Forum
WSIS	World Summit on the Information Society
WOUGNET	Women of Uganda Network, Uganda*

* APC member organisations

Creativity **Networking** Accountable
Participation Sustainable Development
Local Ownership Capacity Building Democratic Open Content
Open Source **Social Change** Equality Membership
Public Domain **Community** Partnerships International
Collaboration Affordable IT Peer Support Access to Knowledge
Social Justice Transparency **Communication**
Respect **Global Focus** Diversity
South



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