

APC MEMBERS IN 2009

ACTING LOCALLY, NETWORKING GLOBALLY

APC IS BOTH a network and an organisation. Our network is made up of 50 civil society organisations who use the internet to make the world a better place; 80% are from developing countries.

Our members work in conditions and face challenges that can sometimes be at the two extremes of the internet scale. Our member in South Korea, one of the most connected countries on earth, is leading national protests around state surveillance and regulation of the internet. A member in Kenya is helping connect Maasai tribespeople in what has been described as one of the “top ten most remote tech locations on Earth.” Here are some of their recent achievements.¹

ARGENTINA Nodo Tau Training women’s rights activists in how to use social networks



NODO TAU COMBINED WEB 2.0 AND POPULAR EDUCATION IN THE BUENOS AIRES WORKSHOP.
PHOTO: APC

“We are fighting because the laws that regulate prostitution in Argentina, which generate exploitation, abuse and violence against sex workers, are unconstitutional,” declared an Argentine human rights organisation on the launching of its new blog. This was one of five blogs created during a social networking workshop offered by Nodo Tau as part of the first Argentine Feminist Tech Exchange (FTX) organised in Buenos Aires in November as part of APC’s MDG3 Take Back the Tech! to end violence against women initiative.

The workshop was approached from a popular education standpoint and directly linked to the practices, needs and environments of the women participating. Nodo Tau is based in Rosario, Argentina’s third largest city.

Nodo Tau www.tau.org.ar

¹ APC members also include ARCC (Kenya), AZUR Développement (Republic of Congo), BFES (Bangladesh), CECS (South Africa), CEPES (Peru), DEF (India), Econect (Czech Republic), IGC (United States), JCAFE (Japan), JCA-NET (Japan), LaborNet (United States), May First/People Link (United States), RITS (Brazil), Wamani (Argentina), WomensHub (Philippines), WOUGNET (Uganda) and ZaMirNET (Croatia).

AUSTRALIA apc.au Sarawak Gone? An open video series



ANDREW GARTON OF APC.AU AND A VILLAGER FROM THE VILLAGE OF PENAN IN SARAWAK. PHOTO: APC.AU

In mid-2009, apc.au undertook its most ambitious project to date. Sarawak Gone¹ is a micro-documentary series raising awareness to the gradual decimation of the indigenous life and culture of Sarawak, one of two Malaysian states on the island of Borneo.

The series is licensed to enable free download for screening, copying and re-purposing at no cost. Additionally, off-cuts, raw footage, location sound, full interviews and scripts are available and will continue to be so as the project unfolds.

The project is based on twenty years of involvement in supporting community workers and activists in Sarawak through the use of email, from early store-and-forward technologies to customised content management systems for indigenous news coverage. Additionally, field trips resulted in both small- and large-scale sound and video installation works that were exhibited internationally, from Australia to Austria, raising consciousness regarding the last forest communities of Borneo and the unchallenged development denuding the world of some of the most pristine rainforests and native habitat that remain.

apc.au www.apc.org.au

BANGLADESH VOICE Internet censorship, surveillance and information control: A review of the Bangladeshi context

VOICE has been completing research on "Internet censorship, surveillance and information control mechanisms: A review of the Bangladeshi context". The research programme started in 2007 as part of the OpenNet Initiative (ONI) and involved several other APC members.

The study found that there are formal regulations for the "lawful interception" of emails and phone calls. The state agencies are mainly involved in censoring public access to information. Though internet control is a recent phenomenon, the intelligence and law enforcement agencies and the government regulatory authority are engaged in surveillance and censorship. The media, mobile phone companies and internet service providers may be required to control access to information in specific cases ordered by the government and its agencies. This includes profiling users' names and log-in passwords.

The study faced enormous challenges as since early 2007, the military-backed government has used the Emergency Powers Act to curtail citizens' basic human rights.

VOICE www.voicebd.org

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA owpsee Challenging violence and stereotypes through digital stories

In 2009, owpsee continued to support all progressive forces in their fight for equality, freedom and human rights. Carrying on from their introduction to the Digital Stories for Transformation (DST) methodology in 2008, in 2009 owpsee carried out several DST workshops.

"We are especially proud of the Queer Sarajevo Festival in a Box stories we produced working with volunteers and participants of the 1st Queer Sarajevo Festival, who were attacked and brutally beaten by local fascists, football hooligans and radical Islamists," says Valentina Pellizzer of owpsee.

The stories were published then distributed to the citizens of Sarajevo who were prevented from viewing them in proper exhibition facilities when the Queer Sarajevo Festival was cancelled following the attacks.

The second and the third sessions of digital stories – "Daughters" and "Successful Women" – were prepared with women and girls from Srebrenica and Bratunac. They are the stories of women forced to grow up, live and succeed in patriarchal and conservative communities, further burdened by the horrific war crimes of the recent past. The stories are published as a part of the DST Trainers' Manual V 2.0.²

owpsee www.oneworldsee.org



THROUGH DIGITAL STORIES PRODUCED WITH QUEER SARAJEVO FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS AND PARTICIPANTS, OWPSEE FOUGHT VIOLENCE AND STIGMA. IMAGE: QUEER SARAJEVO FESTIVAL

BULGARIA BlueLink Fighting illegal logging in Bulgaria's forests



"SAVE THE FOREST" ALERTS MAP. IMAGE: BLUELINK

In 2009, BlueLink developed a project named "Expose and Improve: The power of IT in combating illegal logging" in order to address the intensive illegal logging that is accelerating the extinction of forests in Bulgaria. The project combines digital tools and green activism in an online system for filing whistleblower alerts on illegal logging. The online platform mobilised citizens to raise the alarm and ensured follow-up by BlueLink's active partnership with expert NGOs and the State Forestry Agency (SFA).

The online platform, developed, hosted and maintained by BlueLink, started receiving signals on 17 July through the "Save the Forest" website.³ Alerts can be received as texts or graphics via email, web interface or SMS, and each case is displayed on a digital geographic map using a GPS.

Training was held in July and October for 105 volunteers on submitting and checking alerts using the platform. "We consider the platform on illegal tree felling to be an important case study of an IT utility that brings together the efforts of individual active citizens, expert green NGOs and the responsible state authorities for starting positive changes in human behaviour and in our environment," said BlueLink.

BlueLink www.bluelink.net

1 sarawakgone.cc

2 dst.oneworldsee.org

3 www.spasigorata.net

CAMBODIA Open Institute

Exploring the use of ICTs to end violence against women



THE OPEN INSTITUTE WOMEN'S TEAM DURING THE WOMEN'S FORUMS. PHOTO: OPEN INSTITUTE

Reports indicate that one out of three women worldwide suffers from some form of gender-based violence. As part of the global campaign "Say NO to Violence Against Women", the Open Institute conducted three forums on "Reclaiming ICT to end violence against women" in late 2008. Through these forums, they uncovered key challenges in the use of ICTs to end violence against women, and put forth a series of pertinent recommendations to be implemented in Cambodia as part of the country's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The forums brought to light the fact that culture, tradition, poor education and poverty are the main causes of violence against women in the country. Violence against women is prevalent in Cambodia, but is not widely reported

A report on the forums, which became available for download in 2009, summarises the findings and recommendations.⁴ The forums are part of APC's Take Back the Tech! to end violence against women initiative, in which the Open Institute is the Cambodian partner.

Open Institute www.open.org.kh/en

4 www.apc.org/en/node/7703

CAMEROON PROTEGE QV

Taking technology to primary schools

The Cameroon government is implementing an ICT policy in the school system, but the pace of adoption is slow. Having established that at the current rate, primary schools would lag behind on ICTs, and given their sustained work since 2005 in education and capacity building of students at a local public school, PROTEGE QV decided to incorporate a programme for primary school ICT appropriation into its action plan.

In 2009, they began setting up two computer rooms. Seven interns from Canadian partner and fellow APC member Alternatives will participate in the project by leading the IT club in the school. The project aims to expose students and teachers to ICTs in order to increase learning and complements the government programme's goals.

PROTEGE QV www.protegeqv.org



STUDENTS AT THE LYCÉE IN YAOUNDÉ LEARN COMPUTER SKILLS. PHOTO: PROTEGE QV

CANADA Alternatives

Radio shows for citizen ICT policy advocacy

Government decisions on ICT policies can seem very technical and complex to the average citizen. In Mali and Niger, less than 1% of the population has access to the internet – indeed only one in five is literate. For our partners Alternative Espace Citoyen in Niger and the radio network Kayira in Mali, it is important that decision making regarding ICT policies includes both civil society participation and responses to citizen concerns. Following the creation of the West African GOREeTIC⁵ ICT policy network and backed up by research,⁶ together the three organisations have been training radio hosts and others in the basic concepts of ICT policy, which will then become part of radio programming throughout 2010. By broadcasting a series of educational radio shows and arranging follow-up trainings on different topics related to ICT policy in Niger and Mali, the project, named RadioTIC, aims to raise public awareness on the national and regional issues regarding development and access to ICTs. RadioTIC will also build on Alternatives' previous experience facilitating multi-stakeholder coalitions to develop proposals for national ICT policies promoting universal, and notably, women's access.

Alternatives www.alternatives.ca

5 www.goreetic.org

6 Both outcomes of APC's CICEWA project (see page 11 of the APC Annual Report 2009).

CANADA Web Networks

Indian children play computer games to learn how to read and write



AFTER BEING SUCCESSFULLY TESTED IN LATIN AMERICA, THE LITERACY COMPUTER GAME YODIGO IS WIDELY ACCEPTED BY INDIAN CHILDREN. PHOTO: WEB NETWORKS

Yodigo is a multimedia computer game delivered over the internet or on a local area network that teaches first and second language literacy to children and adults. Yodigo's compelling moral stories propel students through lessons, and the rewards they gain for typing each correct sentence or word drive student success. From January to September Web Networks Executive Director Oliver Zielke conducted field testing of Yodigo in rural India, near Madurai, in association with Susila Dharma Canada and local NGO Centre for Culture and Development, to understand if Yodigo had potential as a learning resource.

"The response from children and educators was enthusiastic and unanimously positive," said Zielke. "During the project we also tested the delivery of Yodigo using an offline local area network of netbooks, a web server on a laptop running Linux, and a Wi-Fi modem. The offline wireless netbook LAN proved to be portable and functional, accessible even to children who had never used a computer."

Web Networks www.web.net

COLOMBIA Colnodo Telecentres, broadband, e-government and more



KIDS BETWEEN THE AGES OF TWELVE AND EIGHTEEN PARTICIPATING IN GENDER WORKSHOPS IN THE BOYACÁ TELECENTRE, IN EAST COLOMBIA. PHOTO: COLNODO

In 2009 Colnodo's Strengthening Telecentres initiative went from strength to strength. More than 5,200 people were trained in how to use ICTs. Five regional telecentre encounters were held for over 400 participants. Three virtual training semesters were run at the National Telecentre Academy and the year ended with fifteen online courses written and over 540 people certified.

Colnodo produced four multimedia packages for telecentre administration and ICT training and distributed them from the national telecentres portal.⁷ Colnodo continued to map the over 1,000 telecentres⁸ and produced an online user registration service⁹ used by hundreds of telecentres in Colombia. Twenty-four telecentres also used an adaptation of APC's Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM), which Colnodo was adapting specifically for telecentres on the basis of their vast experience.

The project was supported by the Colombian Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies, international partners such as Telecentre.org Foundation and APC, and national organisations engaged in ICT and development.

Colnodo www.colnodo.apc.org

7 www.telecentros.org.co

8 www.telecentros.org.co/mapeo

9 registro.telecentros.org.co

COSTA RICA Sulá Batsú Digital community history: Recovering communal identities

The strategic use of ICTs can contribute significantly to reclaiming local knowledge and strengthening communal identity.

In 2009 Sulá Batsú trained rural school children in the town of Quebradas de Pérez Zeledón in social research techniques (interviews, observation and collective community map creation) and how to use digital cameras in order to recount what the people, the history and the customs of their community are like, from their own perspective.

The images and stories compiled by the children were turned into three board games – bingo, a memory game and charade cards – used in the local schools to strengthen communal identity through the use of images and local references.¹⁰

The project was aimed at children from excluded groups, for whom these processes provided tools and spaces to empower their voices, strengthen their sense of identity, and put a spotlight on their community's situation.

Sulá Batsú www.sulabatsu.com



THE BOARD GAMES WITH PHOTOS GATHERED BY PÉREZ ZELEDÓN SCHOOL CHILDREN WERE TRIED OUT BY BOYS AND GIRLS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS. PHOTO: SULÁ BATSÚ

10 historiascomunitarias.wordpress.com

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FUNREDES Linguistic diversity: Research and action

2009 saw FUNREDES continuing to pursue its goal of transforming into a think tank, especially on linguistic diversity on the internet.

Together with Union Latine, FUNREDES has been creating indicators for linguistic diversity on the internet. "UNESCO published a report called 'Twelve years of measuring linguistic diversity in the Internet: balance and perspectives',¹¹ which FUNREDES, as a member of the executive committee of MAAYA, the world network for linguistic diversity,¹² considers as an acknowledgement of our pioneer involvement in a theme which is finally emerging as a priority for inclusive information societies," said FUNREDES' Daniel Pimienta. "It's a motivation to intensify our commitment to research-action in this area."

One direct consequence is that FUNREDES, in cooperation with APC member Colnodo, began adapting the automatic translation service embedded in its popular discussion lists – so that readers can share and comprehend messages posted in English, French, Spanish or Portuguese – to create LISTO, a stand-alone free software programme.

FUNREDES also contributed to the ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Development Report (WTDR 2010),¹³ which tracks the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) targets, for Target 9 (content and languages).

FUNREDES www.funredes.org

11 portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=29594&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

12 www.maaya.org

13 www.itu.int/publ/D-IND-WTDR-2010/en

EGYPT ArabDev Exploring the gaps in IT waste management

Though Egypt is involved in a couple of regional initiatives raising the issue of IT-related hazardous waste, as yet there is no national policy for IT waste recycling and management.

ArabDev has been exploring the existing gaps in IT waste management and produced a short study covering a number of regulations adopted by the government and initiatives undertaken by the private and public sector in Egypt to promote IT waste recycling. The organisation will be pursuing this area further in the future.

ArabDev www.arabdev.org

HUNGARY Green Spider Revolutionary blogfarm for activists and NGOs



STICKER PROMOTING GREEN SPIDER'S LMV, A SOCIAL NETWORKING TOOL FOR HUNGARIAN ACTIVISTS. PHOTO: GREEN SPIDER

Following a pattern amongst East European APC members, from 2008 to 2010 Green Spider gradually restructured its activities to focus on more policy and content-based cooperation with their users rather than providing hosting and access services. The motivation was to seek more active engagement and to react appropriately to the changing landscape of ICTs, now that internet connectivity is widely available.

Green Spider's activities were once pioneering efforts on the technological front, empowering activists with mission-driven tools that rivalled corporate alternatives, but they felt that their hosting options had become scarcely distinguishable from commercial offers.

So they returned to the vanguard, using Drupal to build a blogfarm¹⁴ to enable effective networked movement building. "In the face of the overwhelming monoculture of corporate social networking tools that nourish narcissistic individualism, the service took off amongst grassroots activists, community organisers and charities in the Hungarian social and environmental movement," says Green Spider.

Green Spider is now focusing on connecting their digital community with live events and working with video production and distribution. "As a side benefit we have become more closely involved with the Hungarian free software movement," they report.

Green Spider www.zpok.hu

KENYA ALIN

In one of the world's most remote internet hotspots, Maasai community goes online

In the heart of an arid area, miles away from electricity and tarmac roads, the Maasai community is reaching out to the world at the click of a button. The Nguruman Maarifa (Knowledge) Centre has been transforming lives for the pastoral communities, quenching their thirst for knowledge. The centre, located 170 kilometres south-west of the Kenyan capital city, is an ALIN initiative.

It acts as a one-stop hub for information: community members walk long distances to access the internet and learn how to use computer packages and Web 2.0 tools that the ALIN field officer, Stephen Mwangi, facilitates. The introduction of social networking tools as a means of information sharing and



INSIDE THE MAARIFA (KNOWLEDGE) CENTRE, WOMEN RECEIVE TRAINING. PHOTO: ALIN

documentation has been a great achievement for ALIN in enhancing free access to information, and the telecentre has its own blog.¹⁵ says Green Spider.

The centre has been called one of the "top ten most remote tech locations on Earth" by CNET UK.¹⁶ ALIN has eight other centres in Kenya, one in Shinyanga, Tanzania and another in Lukwanga, Uganda.

ALIN www.alin.net

KENYA KICTANet Second East Africa Internet Governance Forum focuses on broadband

In September 2009, an East African broadband policy framework was the topic of discussion at the second East Africa Internet Governance Forum (EA-IGF), held in Nairobi, in which KICTANet played a leading role supported by APC. Over 200 participants and observers from fifteen countries, including representatives of the international IGF, the private sector, civil society, media, regulators, consumer networks and academia, came together to discuss local internet governance issues: cyber crime, policy regulation, consumer issues, critical internet resources and access to broadband. Leading up to the meeting, KICTANet coordinated an advocacy project that helped lead into the EA-IGF discussions, by hosting national online discussions and debates and national internet governance forums.

¹⁵ ngurumanmaarifa.blogspot.com

¹⁶ crave.cnet.co.uk/gadgets/0,39029552,49303909,00.htm

Participants recommended the development of a regional broadband policy framework to enhance affordable universal access and acknowledged the need to follow up on the issues in a sustainable way, using various activities: encouraging further discussions, advocacy efforts, as well as developing necessary policy frameworks at national and regional levels. Participants also agreed that the issues needed to be presented at the global IGF and proposed exploring ways in which they could be included and integrated within the IGF.

KICTANet www.kictanet.or.ke

MACEDONIA Metamorphosis Foundation



A FORMER DRUG ADDICT PRODUCED A DIGITAL STORY ON HIS EXPERIENCE WITH DRUGS, ADVOCATING AGAINST LABELLING PEOPLE. VIDEO: LAKI

We all have a past

"We All Have a Past" is the name of a digital storytelling workshop with former drug addicts organised by Metamorphosis Foundation in March 2009. Through creative expression and human rights promotion, participants decided to tell their stories and publicly share them with everyone in the form of a digital video product.¹⁷ Using the digital storytelling methodology that Metamorphosis had learnt through an APC member exchange organised with owpsee, each participant told his or her story in a free and relaxed atmosphere. They were trained in audio and video tools, and used open source software when possible.

Metamorphosis www.metamorphosis.org.mk

¹⁷ metamorphosis.org.mk/activities/digital-storytelling-workshop-we-all-have-a-past.html

MEXICO LaNeta

Learning to use technology to combat violence against women



THESE INDEPENDENT FARMERS FROM THE MAZAHUA COMMUNITY REQUESTED TRAINING IN ADVANCE OF A DONATION OF COMPUTERS THEIR COOPERATIVE IS EXPECTING. "EACH YEAR THEY GET MORE EXCITED AND INTERESTED IN ICT TRAINING," SAYS LANETA'S SANDRA ARRELOLA. PHOTO: LANETA

As part of LaNeta's Women Empowered by ICT (known by the Spanish acronym MUJEMTIC) initiative, which has been running since 2007, women's encounters were held in several Mexican states to reflect on violence against women and how it intersects with information and communication technologies.

The training sessions were focused on the technological tools at the women's disposal when they want to combat or denounce violence. There were workshops on Web 2.0 technology, specifically blogs and wikis, and editing, image and video production programmes. Research was done to monitor the new online materials on this problem in Mexico and other countries, and on the social use of ICTs in this context.

The "Everyone Against Violence" social network¹⁸ was launched as a space for reflection, analysis, prevention and filing reports. This social network offers services for those who have experienced situations of violence, as well as providing a platform for action by activists.

LaNeta www.laneta.apc.org

¹⁸ todasvsviolencia.laneta.org

¹⁴ lmv.hu

NIGERIA Fantsuam Foundation

The connectivity is there, but where's the demand?



FANTSUAM STAFF WITH DONATED BROCHURES FOR THE NEW CENTRE. PHOTO: FANTSUAM FOUNDATION

"The most important ICT event at Fantsuam in 2009," says director John Dada, "is our nomination by the Nigerian regulator, the Nigerian Communications Commission, to set up a rural Community Communication Centre (CCC). Bringing ICT skills and access to rural areas is seen as a critical building block to economic development, enabling those communities to harness both the information available on the world wide web and the communications technology which will mine the value of that information."

John says that the existence of satellite access and radio transmission means connectivity in rural Kafanchan is no longer about infrastructure issues, "but about the demand for those services. A CCC cannot cover its own costs until a market for those services is established through training and product development."

This has been recognised in the CCC project funded by the Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC). Key to this project is not just the establishment of the centres but the need to train the communities in the use of the services on offer, both computer use (through certificate and diploma courses) and also internet browsing.

Fantsuam Foundation www.fantsuam.org

PHILIPPINES FMA

Promoting freedom of expression and privacy rights in Asia

2009 saw the Foundation for Media Alternatives (FMA) doing ever more research and advocacy for internet rights of citizens and communities, and promoting a free and open internet.

The Foundation participated in the global OpenNet Initiative (ONI),¹⁹ producing the research report "Internet and Mobile Telephony Filtering and Surveillance in the Philippines" as well as a five-country exploratory study on mobile phone censorship and surveillance. FMA also acted as regional coordinator of ONI Asia, an emerging network present in more than ten Asian countries.

So freedom of expression and privacy rights were at the forefront of FMA's work, especially when it began working as APC's Philippine counterpart in Take Back the Tech! to end violence against women, which grapples with these rights in the context of violence against women.

FMA continues to embed these concerns via its national advocacy for a data privacy law, a Freedom of Information Act and human rights auditing of proposed cyber crime legislation.

FMA www.fma.ph



AL ALEGRE OF FMA PRESENTS INITIAL ISSUES ON THE INTERSECTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND ICTS IN A FOCUS GROUP. PHOTO: FMA

¹⁹ www.opennet.net

ROMANIA StrawberryNet

Opening up government in Romania



ACTIVISTS ADVOCATE FOR "THE REAL DEAL" IN CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY DURING THE 2009 UN COPENHAGEN CONFERENCE USING A SITE DEVELOPED BY STRAWBERRYNET. PHOTO: GREENDEX

StrawberryNet wrote the Romanian report²⁰ for APC's Global Information Society Watch 2009, which focused on advancing democracy through access to online information. There they analysed how the country responded to its incorporation to the European Union and gave an overview of ICT policy. They pointed out that access to online information followed a top-down dissemination model, and that few grassroots ICT initiatives have attracted public attention and support. The report recommended that bottom-up initiatives be encouraged through funding, and skills transfer and networking supported in order to enable citizen participation in shaping and developing local content.

"We are now advocating for open e-government," said Rozi Bako of StrawberryNet. The report concluded that technologies are far more advanced than information dissemination practices in the country, and that in order to develop a transparent, participatory society, government initiatives and a business community drive have to be backed up by increased civic involvement of opinion leaders, action groups and civil society organisations.

²⁰ www.giswatch.org/gisw2009/country/Romania.html

As a result of the report, StrawberryNet has been invited to become a partner to the European Dialogue on Internet Governance.

In addition, StrawberryNet carried out research on ICT policy and environment – their traditional area of focus – taking the issues to events such as eLiberatica, the largest independent free and open source software conference in Romania.

StrawberryNet www.sbnnet.ro

SOUTH AFRICA SANGONeT

Debating ICT-for-development opportunities and challenges in southern Africa

In 2003 the Southern African NGO Network (SANGONeT) introduced Theta: The SANGONeT ICT Discussion Forum to help civil society organisations from the southern African region respond to the challenges and opportunities they face day to day working with ICTs. Theta – a Nguni word for debate – brings together a wide range of national, regional and international stakeholders.

In 2009 SANGONeT implemented the second phase of the Theta including a number of new features which will result in tangible outcomes and inform the regional ICT-for-development process in the next ten years. The five countries covered were Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

SANGONeT www.sangonet.org.za

SOUTH AFRICA Ungana-Afrika Community-centric broadband for under-served communities

Ungana-Afrika worked with the Meraka Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) on Broadband for All, which aims to provide broadband connectivity to South Africa's under-served areas through a community-centric model rather than a telco-driven model.

It is building an alternative ecosystem, which emphasises local value and keeping revenues in the community where possible. The model leverages internally developed wireless-mesh technologies to link priority government sites and high bandwidth users such as schools, municipalities and government offices, who in turn provide a link to smaller customers such as businesses, NGOs and individuals. The model relies on local entrepreneurs to operate, maintain and expand the network, tailoring their services to meet local needs. By aggregating the latent demand for internet in under-served areas and using low-cost technologies, the model promises to provide affordable internet connectivity in areas that larger service providers do not see as economically viable.

To benefit from economies of scale, numerous implementation sites are needed, which must be evaluated efficiently to test their viability. To assist with this task, Ungana-Afrika developed a site feasibility assessment methodology for the project.

Ungana-Afrika www.ungana-afrika.org

SOUTH AFRICA Women'sNet Making space for the female voice in national elections



WOMEN'SNET TOOK TO THE STREETS OF SOWETO DURING THE SIXTEEN DAYS OF ACTIVISM TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN. "WE TALKED TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND TAXI DRIVERS AND PAINTED A MURAL WITH THE TAKE BACK THE TECH! LOGO," SAID WOMEN'SNET. PHOTO: WOMEN'SNET

Women'sNet focused on upscaling their efforts to provide a platform for marginalised women and girls in South Africa in the year of national elections. They launched a video campaign where women and girls recorded voice messages which were later taken to political parties for discussion. In the same year, they also worked with sex workers to create digital stories. The workshops took place in Cape Town and Johannesburg. These stories were developed in partnership with the Sex Worker Education and Advocacy Taskforce (SWEAT) and they will be used as advocacy tools.

To raise and amplify girls' voices, Women'sNet launched a mobisite which is aimed at parents, teachers and the youth. The mobisite educates about digital dangers while it provides a space for girls to publish their content via blogs and forums. This platform is accessible via tools that are accessible to young people – mobile phones.

Women'sNet is also the South African counterpart of APC's Take Back the Tech! to end violence against women project, aimed at raising awareness about ICTs and violence against women.

Women'sNet www.womensnet.org.za

SOUTH ASIA Bytes for All Fighting internet censorship and surveillance in Pakistan

Because of its front-line role in the "War on Terror", Pakistan is subject to an extremely fragile law and order situation. The country is literally fighting a bloody war at its northern borders – suicide bombings, shooting and the killing of innocent citizens are rampant. While the war takes its toll on people's lives, the government's highly questionable performance on various socio-economic issues is another dilemma. In previous regimes, citizens' basic human rights were compromised by the dictator; but in the current democratic regime, the situation has remained the same, in the name of "national security", creating a rapid decline of law and order in the country.



Internet in Pakistan is subject to heavy censorship, blocking, filtering and surveillance. Such practices are commonly justified in the name of religion, combating terrorism and safeguarding culture, but by prohibiting all anti-state sentiments, they obviously prevent discourse on pressing socio-economic development issues.

It is clear that people's freedom and liberties online have been either compromised

or denied for political reasons, despite such measures being ostensibly undertaken to counter "blasphemous material" online.

The Pakistan ICT Policy Monitors Network, a joint initiative between APC and Bytes for All, collaborates with the OpenNet Initiative to continue the fight against this situation, in order to uphold basic human rights for the people of Pakistan.

Bytes for All www.bytesforall.org

SOUTH KOREA Jinbonet Campaign against the three cyber evils

Since 2008, when the current conservative president was sworn in, administrative control on internet content has been getting progressively tighter and tighter. In 2009, Jinbonet led a campaign against the "three cyber evils": the cyber insult law, the internet "real name" system and deep packet inspection to monitor and control internet communication.

The governing party proposed the cyber insult law, which could potentially be misused to suppress speech critical of the government or powerful individuals. They also proposed a bill to expand the scope of internet sites that require a person's real name, which forced major portal sites to adopt an online identity verification system for those wanting to post articles on bulletin boards in those sites. A revision of the Communications Secrecy Protection Act was also proposed, which sought to legally oblige telecommunications companies and internet service providers to retain communications data for at least three months to one year, and would require mobile phone service providers to redesign their networks to facilitate wiretapping. In addition, it turns out that investigative agencies including the national security and prosecution agencies and police had carried out deep packet inspection.

Jinbonet www.jinbo.net

SPAIN Pangea Young people, surveillance and the internet: Avoiding "collateral damage"



THE DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES OF A "SAFETY FIRST" POLICY ON THE NET ARE ILLUSTRATED BY A CARTOON PRODUCED BY PANGEA AND OTHER EUROPEAN HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS. IMAGE: EUROPEAN HUMAN RIGHTS LEAGUE, EDRI, IURIDICUM REMEDIUM (CZ), PANGEA

Daniel is a photographer who lives in Europe. He works for a magazine and has recently travelled to Pakistan and the United States to illustrate an article about the architecture of mosques. When he gets home he is arrested as his internet profile (emails, chats, blogs, social networks) matches that of a cyber terrorist. Luckily he is eventually released.

This is the plot of a cartoon²¹ that shows the risks of surveillance and data retention on the internet – the "collateral damage" from the safety-first principle that the United States is enforcing. Produced by Pangea and other

21 wiki.pangea.org/pdr:start

European organisations and available in Catalan, English, French and Czech, it is part of a broader campaign on privacy issues in the European Union that also looks at regulation at regional and national levels, aimed specifically at young people.

Pangea www.pangea.org

UGANDA CIPESA Ugandan cyber bills now include privacy measures thanks to CIPESA

In 2009, Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA) coordinated the Uganda National Internet Governance Forum to review the country's position on internet governance in light of new developments at the regional and global level.

During the forum, participants discovered that the proposed Uganda cyber bills do not address issues of privacy and security on the internet. So CIPESA lobbied the ICT parliamentary committee to review the said bills by submitting revised clauses of these bills. The proposed amendments have been taken on by the committee and will be considered in the new cyber bills once they are passed into policies.

CIPESA also partnered with the APC-supported East African CICEWA network to organise the second East Africa Internet Governance Forum (EA-IGF) in Nairobi, Kenya, as well as representing the Uganda delegation at the fourth global IGF meeting in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. CIPESA was also involved in research on telecoms liberalisation in Uganda under APC's Communication for Influence in Central, East and West Africa (CICEWA) project and took part in ICT consumer research. CIPESA continues to lobby for inclusive e-government policy and practice.

CIPESA www.cipesa.org

UNITED KINGDOM Computer Aid International Refurbished computers strengthen fair trade in Ecuador

Computer Aid has provided over 500 computers to support APPBG, an Ecuadorian fair trade association of banana growers. The association's members grow and export bananas, including organic bananas, to the highest environmental and social standards. APPBG provides its members with a more favourable position from which to participate in international markets.

Based in El Guabo, APPBG is one of Ecuador's largest fair trade associations. With a membership of over 450 small- to medium-sized banana producers, it exports 50,000 boxes of bananas a week. Producers who sell through APPBG are guaranteed a stable price which covers the cost of production when market prices go down.

In addition to guaranteed prices for their produce, members also benefit from the association's social projects. Computer Aid's donated PCs are being used to strengthen trade union activity in a country with limited enforcement of workers' rights. The computers are also being used to improve day-to-day operations within this fast-growing enterprise.

Close to Ecuador's southern boarder, APPBG has established a network of seventeen primary schools for the families of its producers. Indigenous children in these schools are now using PCs donated by Computer Aid, providing them with the opportunity to become ICT literate.

Computer Aid www.computeraid.org



FAIR TRADE GUARANTEES A FAIR DEAL FOR ALL. PHOTO: COMPUTER AID

UNITED KINGDOM GreenNet NGOs influence the history of the internet



ACTIVISTS LIKE MITRA ARDRON ENSURED THAT THE WORLD HAS AN INTERNET RADICALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE THAT GOVERNMENT OR BUSINESS WOULD HAVE CREATED. PHOTO: MITRA ARDRON (1987)

The 40th anniversary of the origin of the internet gave GreenNet an unexpected opportunity to take a retrospective view – to make sense of their present in terms of history. As the UK's first non-profit internet service provider, founded in 1987, they were invited to attend a lecture and discussion of the work of Professor Peter Willetts (City University, London) on "Who really created the internet?"²²

Willetts argued that the pioneering work of NGOs in the mid-1980s was instrumental in establishing the internet as a public and open platform for global communications. APC co-founders Mark Graham and Scott Weikart at Peacenet in the USA and Mitra Ardron at GreenNet created an open network, long before the first web page was written. Until then there was no more than a disconnected set of separate government and commercial networks. This intervention by NGOs has ensured that the world has an internet that is radically different from the one that governments or transnational companies would have created.

"With our days full of work to provide reliable online services and develop innovative websites to non-profits and charities, it was a powerful reminder of the valuable legacy that we have been entrusted with," said GreenNet's Liz Probert.

GreenNet www.gn.apc.org

22 www.city.ac.uk/whatson/2009/10_oct/291009_Peter_Willetts.html

URUGUAY ITeM

Web 2.0 confronts the global economic crisis

In June 2009 Social Watch,²³ an ITeM initiative, joined with a broad coalition of grassroots organisations to hold People's Voices on the Crisis, a public forum that provided an opportunity for civil society to discuss the impacts of the world financial and economic crisis and possible ways to overcome it. The event took place in New York just days before the United Nations was to discuss the issue in a special summit. Speakers at the event included activists from social and environmental movements in countries as diverse as Benin, Nepal and Uruguay.

Social Watch is an international network with a presence in more than 70 countries across the globe and on the internet. Web 2.0 tools are crucial to reaching each node of the network in a rapid, effective and very low-cost manner. To broadcast People's Voices on the Crisis, ITeM used tools such as the Social Watch blog²⁴ where the most exciting news was published, a Flickr account²⁵ where photos of the event were shared, and a channel on YouTube²⁶ where several presentations were aired. This way they were able to reach the entire network as well as the general public with photos, videos and texts in a very short time.

ITeM www.item.org.uy

23 www.socialwatch.org

24 blog.socialwatch.org

25 www.flickr.com/photos/socialwatch

26 www.youtube.com/user/SocWatch

VENEZUELA EsLaRed

ICTs and linguistic minorities: Deaf trainers for deaf students



TRAINING FOR DEAF PEOPLE WAS DONE WITH THE HELP OF INTERPRETERS. THE NEXT STEP IS TO HAVE DEAF INSTRUCTORS. PHOTO: ESLaRED

EsLaRed organised a Cisco Academy course on IT basics for a group of students including six deaf participants. The contents were presented in Spanish and Venezuelan Sign Language using interpreters so that the deaf students were able to participate regardless of the magnitude of their hearing loss or whether or not they use cochlear implants or other high-cost devices commonly out of the reach of the poorest members of the community.

Following this experience where four deaf people – three men and a woman – were certified by Cisco, other trainings have taken place: a course on the use of text-to-voice software with applications for mobile phones, and a special training for the group of deaf students certified by Cisco after which they will be able to teach the IT course to deaf participants. The initial IT basics course was supported by the Internet Society (ISOC).

EsLaRed www.eslared.org.ve