

Annual Report 2003
The Association for Progressive Communications (APC)

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Introduction to the APC Annual Report 2003



Anriette Esterhuysen, APC Executive Director

It is a pleasure to invite you to read the APC annual report for 2003. It is filled with learning and stories from across the growing APC network.

In spite of the wide range of activities that took place during the year, 2003 is memorable for one particular process that galvanised the efforts of APC staff, many APC members, and several of our partner organisations - the World Summit on the Information Society and the parallel ICT4D¹ platform that took place in Geneva in December 2003.

For most people working with ICT for sustainable development and social justice WSIS seemed like a very expensive way to bring together lots of not particularly well-informed people to state the obvious i.e. "ICTs are tools, and not an end in themselves", and to pass the buck on who is responsible for footing the bill for 'bridging the digital divide'.

In striving for a 'global consensus', governments opted for generalities. Broad principles regarding the potential of ICTs for development characterise the Summit Declaration, while the Action Plan focuses on connectivity and infrastructure.²

Discussions tended to gloss over crucial questions and failed to even establish common understandings of key terms such as 'information society' and ICTs.

Many have pointed out the flaws of the WSIS. Civil society participants created their own declaration and on several occasions challenged the process which was far from being as consistently inclusive as it claimed to be (although it must be acknowledged that the organisers did make a serious attempt to facilitated broad-based participation).

Perhaps the very fact that the limitations of the WSIS attracted so much criticism and debate demonstrates the real value of the event. It was the first global and relatively inclusive process that addressed issues of ICTs and social and economic development in a format that covered the multiple issues of governance, policy and practice.

¹ ICT4D = information and communications technology for development

²Subsequent sections includes extracts from my article 'Whose information society?', March 2004.
<http://www.apc.org/english/about/history/english.shtml?cmd%5B384%5D=x-575-17983>

I would argue that while the official documentation that emerged from the Summit might not have moved beyond generalisations, at the informal level the outcomes are very significant.

A watershed in public participation

I believe that the WSIS has been a watershed in the process of public participation in the ICT4D debate, and in ICT policies more generally. Even if WSIS did not provide clear answers, it has come closer than any previous multilateral process dealing with ICTs to achieving participation from the public, private and civil society sectors.

It has facilitated a shift from the world of obscure ICT policy jargon, engaged by a select group of NGOs, consultants, donor agencies, and governments, to a new context in which ICT policy has become firmly located in broader debates on development and society.

From APC's perspective as a network focusing on civil society and ICTs this was a positive outcome.

Many more CSOs have entered the debate, lobbying for important and specific interests ranging from the impact of current regulation of copyright, patents and trademarks on developing countries, to the right to freedom of expression and the importance of a free and diverse media. Through WSIS new voices such as those of people living with disabilities and indigenous people's organisations, sounded in ICT policy discourse.

Diverse interest groups were thrown together. The male-dominated free software movement had to come to terms with women's rights advocates. Governments from poor countries facing the allure of free licencing offers from Microsoft found themselves side-by-side with governments who have self-confidently chosen the path of free and open source software.

Prior to WSIS those involved in ICT policy tended to focus narrowly on specific areas of regulation. They rarely engaged ICT policies in a holistic way, or dealt with issues of global ICT governance beyond the relatively narrow terrain of ICANN.

Terms of endearment – governments never got to the heart of the information society debate

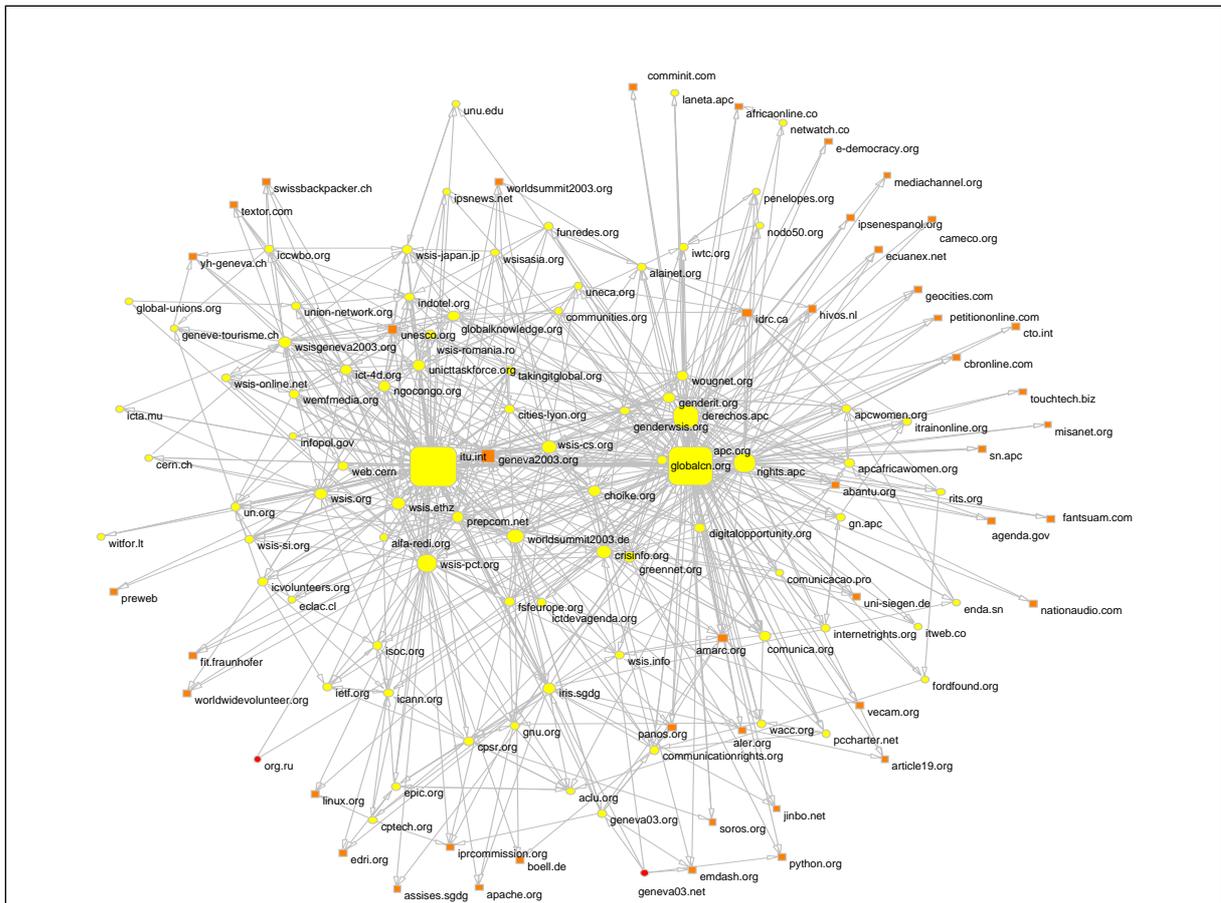
David Souter in a recent discussion paper produced for APC outlined various questions that have been left unanswered by WSIS.

What is or would be an information society?

Does the term 'ICTs' apply to all information and communications technologies (including, for example, print media and broadcast radio) or to telecommunications-based products and services or to new digital technologies or to computing/IT activities?

Do ICTs have as great a potential to transform society as the Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions of the past? And, if this is the case, how can we ensure that this transformation is more egalitarian?

Do citizens or communities have rights to information and to communication, and how might these be defined in an 'information society' age? (Souter, 2004, p. 6)



Map: Civil Society Networks and the World Summit on the Information Society, 30 October 2003

The APC site is represented by the largest square on the right. Its size compares well with that of the official WSIS site at itu.int which indicates that a similar number of civil society and related entities linked to the APC as did to the ITU site.

What has changed during WSIS?

So, since WSIS, a much broader range of CSOs are tackling ICT policy issues and importantly, experience, confidence and knowledge built during the relatively 'safe' spaces of the civil society plenary and caucuses are feeding directly into national advocacy campaigns.

The multi-stakeholder nature of the WSIS, flawed as it was in practice, established an important principle and created a space for networking and collaboration between very diverse individuals and institutions from government, civil society and business at national level.

For APC this means that we have a strong basis from which to ensure that in our ICT policy work the value of global networking and the inclusion of civil society contributes to empowerment and positive change where it can really make a difference - at local level.

The APC network and WSIS

By November 2003, when APC members came together in Colombia for our biennial face-to-face membership meeting, the impact of the WSIS process was evident. Several new

members were present that had joined APC because of our involvement in the WSIS, and the ICT policy capacity-developing workshop preceding the meeting was attended by more than twenty partner organisations from Latin America and the Caribbean with whom we worked closely in the regional WSIS process.

Members attending a parallel network-mapping workshop, used the mapping tools to analyse the civil society knowledge-sharing and advocacy networks that had emerged around the WSIS. The result was astounding. Two years of hard work stood out in bold yellow on the computer-generated maps and APC was plotted as **the** central civil society knowledge-sharing hub in a vast web of WSIS-related websites (see map).

In Colombia, our members endorsed and reaffirmed the value of APC's leveraging of the WSIS to build greater civil society capacity and interest in ICT policy, planning, and implementation in the strategic priorities they set for APC for the next three years.

The coming years for the network

In addition to policy questions, APC members at the biennial meeting grappled with another area of challenge and opportunity confronting civil society organisations using ICTs as an essential part of their work. How can CSOs can make use of ICTs in ways that integrate with their goals and utilise the transformative potential of working in a networked way across geographical, institutional and other boundaries?

The outcome of the intense discussions was the crafting of strategic priorities for the APC network for 2004-7:

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

This is a challenging mandate, made even more challenging by the fact that the context of digital exclusion does not remain static. "Approaches aimed at 'bridging the digital divide' often assume that it is static and can be bridged by rapid advances among the disadvantaged. In practice, the relatively advantaged continue to gain access to new resources at an accelerated rate during such interventions" (Souter 2004). While access to ICTs in the south is increasing in general terms, the gap between the 'haves' and the 'haves not' continues to grow.

APC network members are very aware of this reality. At the same time they constantly manage to demonstrate the positive differences that capacity building, networking, information gathering and dissemination, protest and advocacy can make.

We hope that this report on our work during 2003 serves to document some of this success. The report is also an opportunity for critical reflection on our work. Please share in this process by sending us your comments and requests for further information.

-- Anriette Esterhuysen, APC Executive Director (Anriette@apc.org).

Message from the Chair of the APC Executive Board



Julián Casasbuenas, APC Chair

Only a few years ago, the work of APC members was focused on providing connectivity to those organisations and people working for peace, human rights, development and the environment. But the rapid changes that have occurred as a result of the increasing development of information and communication technologies (ICTs), in particular internet, have meant that now the focus has shifted towards the creation of a network where the main themes are digital inclusion, free and open source software, privacy and security, communication rights, internet governance, gender and the empowering of women.

This does not mean we are ignoring the importance of connectivity for part of the community, especially in developing countries, where less than 10 per cent of the population has access to the internet. While most organisations still do not have access to these new technologies, initiatives such as telecentres (or infocentres) for community connectivity and use are part of a strategy for community access to information. Many of our members work actively in this field, finding new strategies for increasing access. Similarly, new technologies, such as wireless, are also a good opportunity to guarantee this access in areas where before it was very difficult to provide connectivity, thus helping to reduce the digital divide.

One of the things that make APC members' work special is that they set concrete, tangible, achievable goals. They work with grassroots organisations, strengthening them via the use of ICTs, thus improving the way these organisations work on the basis of their own local knowledge, encouraging them to share their knowledge and so contributing to local development.

APC is a network of organisations and persons working on social issues where the challenges today have changed. The potential of the network is infinite, and the members of APC are actively working to allow it to continue to grow freely, showing governments how important it is, in order to guarantee that communication rights are one of the main concerns of the information societies.

For this reason, in 2003, APC put a lot of effort into encouraging the participation of civil society organisations (CSOs) in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), with the aim of ensuring that communication rights are respected, of facilitating democratisation and access to information, of maintaining the right to privacy in communication, and of facilitating the use of these technologies through the use of free software.

As part of this process, APC produced several important publications and materials during 2003, sometimes in partnership with others, including position papers on civil society perspectives, practical guides for organising nationally, and a seminal handbook on ICT policy 'for beginners'.

In November 2003, my organisation had the pleasure to play host to APC members as they came together in Cartagena, Colombia, to discuss how we could best direct our energies towards achieving our mission of strengthening and helping groups that work for sustainable development and social justice through the strategic use of ICTs.

The membership appraised the current situation worldwide and established APC's strategic priorities for the period 2004–07, which must include the promotion and facilitation of the strategic use of ICTs by civil society organisations, the continued strengthening of APC's and CSO's role and engagement in ICT policy processes, and the fortification of the network of CSOs promoting the use of ICTs for social justice and development.

As ever, our strategic priorities and actions are crosscut by our commitments to sustainable development and to gender equality and the empowerment of women.

There is no doubt that this real work of members with grassroots organisations is contributing to the building of a better world for all, showing CSOs and people how new ICT tools can strengthen their networks.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new members of the APC family that joined our network in 2003: Alternatives, Action and Communication Network for International Development, from Canada; WomensHub and Foundation for Media Alternatives, from the Philippines; Women'sNet, from South Africa; ZaMirNET, from Croatia; CEPES, from Peru; Unimondo, from Italy; ArabDev, from Egypt; and Open Forum of Cambodia, who all do us the honour of participating in APC and extending our work towards a better world for all. I would also like to thank the staff of APC for their dedication to APC's work, all our members and collaborators for their active participation in the projects and programmes, and the funders who have supported our projects.

—Julián Casasbuenas, Chair of the APC Executive Board

About the APC

In APC's fourteen years of existence, we have progressively broadened our focus from primarily facilitating technical interconnection of services for NGOs in the pre-internet era, to a holistic engagement with ICTs for social justice and sustainable development, which ranges from policy advocacy to training.

APC's strategic priorities are determined by our members, and guide project development and implementation in the programmes.

APC's vision

"A world in which all people have easy, equal and affordable access to the creative potential of ICTs to improve their lives and create more democratic and egalitarian societies."

APC works consciously to integrate practice and policy in every activity we undertake, including: working for internet rights and enabling policy environments; free and open source software development; empowering CSOs with easy-to-use web publishing tools; delivering training and developing support materials; facilitating learning; and developing gender evaluation methodologies for ICT initiatives.

We believe that this broad approach is essential if civil society is to fully benefit from the strategic potential of ICTs in meaningful ways.

APC has to continuously reposition itself strategically to remain relevant and effective. We do this primarily by 'listening' to our members and the civil society communities they work with. In November 2003, we brought our members together face-to-face to set APC strategic priorities for 2004–07.

Our Members

APC is an international network of CSOs dedicated to empowering and supporting groups and individuals working for peace, human rights, development and protection of the environment through the strategic use of ICTs.

APC's value and uniqueness comes from the local perspectives and contact with grassroots organisations that we gain through interactions with and amongst our members. In 2003, our network of members included 35 organisations in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Romania, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, UK, Uruguay, and the USA.

Membership Growth in 2003

APC membership increased dramatically in 2003. Nine new members joined APC, taking the total up to 35 by December 2003.

For the first time, APC has representation in Peru, French-speaking Canada and an Arab State. Notably two-thirds of the new members are from Africa and Asia – continents where previously APC's presence was extremely limited.



APC members and some partners met in Cartagena, Colombia in 2003. Photo: APC

APC members are ICT providers, but they are also, uniquely, sustainable development and social justice activists in their own right. They are the 'social tech' organisations highlighted in a recent landmark report commissioned by the Social Science Research Council on appropriating the internet for social change.³

Our Partners

APC works in collaboration and partnership with numerous organisations beyond our own membership. Our partners are diverse, ranging from other international NGOs, funders, and UN agencies to national and local grass-root initiatives. They include telecentre, training, community-building, radio, information dissemination, education, feminist networking, rural access, software and teleworking initiatives in fifteen different countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Some focus their work at national level, such as the Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET), InfoCon Distance Education of Mongolia, the Colinas del Norte telecentre in Quito, Ecuador, and the Fifth Woman Initiative in Slovakia. Others work internationally, like AMARC (World Association of Community Radio). We work closely with many UN agencies, particularly the Economic Commission for Africa, FAO, UNESCO, UNIFEM and UNDP.

We are also part of major international partnerships such as the BCO (Building Communications Opportunities) alliance, where our partners include other international NGOs Bellanet, IICD, Panos, and OneWorld International and bi-lateral donors – CIDA, the Dutch Foreign Ministry, DFID, SDC, and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

We also work in regional networks, for example, in Southern Africa, we are part of a coalition called the 'Media Partnership', comprising the APC, Article 19, Southern Africa Communications for Development (SACOD), the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA),

³ "Appropriating the Internet for Social Change: Towards the strategic use of networked technologies by transnational civil society organisations", Mark Surman and Katherine Reilly/SSRC, November 2003. <http://www.ssrc.org/programs/itic/>



and the African office of the World Association for Community Radio (AMARC). The Africa Media Village at WSIS 2003 (see photo left) was a product of the partnership. A list of our donor partners is included later in this report.

Often people leave one NGO, but continue to make important contributions in others. So, while APC is governed by our organisational members, many of our

workspaces are open to individuals who have been part of the APC community in the past, but who have since moved on. This is particularly valuable in our technical workspaces, in that we have been able to retain the expertise and voluntary efforts of some of the best ICT technicians in the world.

In all our work, we strive to work with, and strengthen, local partners. APC is different from many other international networks, in that we do not emphasise 'branding' or official affiliation with the APC. We believe that the people we work with have the right to choose whether to publicly associate themselves with us or not.

Who benefits from APC's work?

As stated in our mission, we work to "empower and support organisations, social movements and individuals in and through the use of information and communication technologies to build strategic communities and initiatives for the purpose of making meaningful contributions to equitable human development, social justice, participatory political processes and environmental sustainability"⁴.

APC's programmes and projects facilitate the participation and involvement of civil society organisations in ICT policy and practice. Many organisations and individuals benefit from our work. For instance, our ICT policy materials have been requested and used as far afield as Fiji, India, Uganda and Argentina.

Some of the people, communities and organisations benefiting from APC's work at different levels include:

- *people in local communities who our members support in their advocacy for social and political justice, e.g. citizens in small towns in Colombia who are supported by our*

"I am writing on behalf of an international NGO working in northern Uganda to build healthy communities. In each of our projects, we are using community radio to educate and in some cases carry on a larger dialogue on gender-based violence, reproductive health, landmine awareness and issues pertaining to the reintegration of child soldiers. I came upon your website as I was looking for tools to help our team plan our radio shows better and am very pleased with the resources you've made available. THANK YOU!"—
Michelle Ell, Programme Officer, CPAR Uganda

⁴ Adopted by the APC council in February 1997, Itala, South Africa.

member Colnodo in initiatives to increase transparency in local government; and farmers in the dry lands of East Africa who access useful information through satellite radio from our member Arid Lands Information Network.

www.apc.org

- *national and local NGOs who receive ICT support, training and affordable internet services from APC members, e.g. the NGO community in Brazil, which relies heavily on the services of our member RITS, and small community-based organisations in Egypt, who are trained and supported to use ICTs by our member ArabDev.*

APC's website regularly gets more than a million hits a month.

But, of course, what's really important is the number of visitors. By the end of 2003, the APC site was receiving 2,000 individual visitors every day.

And visitors regularly come from more than 100 different countries!
- *international agencies, NGOs, consultants, and also governments who are trying to understand how ICTs can make a difference in efforts to achieve sustainable development through APC sharing our experience, gender and ICT expertise, stories and critical analysis with donors, at international conferences and in bodies such as the UN ICT Task Force and the DOT Force.*
- *people who come across us on the web and use our open-content material. We share as much of our work as we can freely online. The heavy use made of our resources is indicative of the large number of people with whom we don't have a direct relationship, but who nevertheless benefit in some way from our work.⁵*
- *people who are not connected to ICTs in any direct way and who are unlikely to be for a long time, e.g. women in Africa living in situations of conflict who have had their stories collected on video and audio in an initiative which was trained by APC to repackage information and has since been recognised by an international award given by APC in partnership with the Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP).*

⁵ For example, our 2003 publication, 'Involving Civil Society in ICT Policy', was made available online in English, French and Spanish, and more than 14,000 copies were downloaded between October 2003 and February 2004.

Achievements in 2003

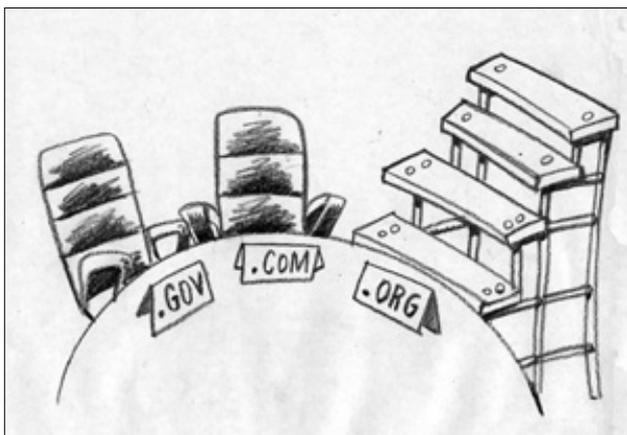
APC achieves our goals through the combined efforts of our international community of members and strategic allies, and a small staff team. Together, we face the challenges of constant change and development in ICTs on the one hand and increasing social inequality on the other.

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.

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION POLICY PROGRAMME

Programme Goal: Build more inclusive ICT decision-making processes by facilitating civil society engagement through building their capacity and supporting advocacy, at national and international levels. Civil society inclusion in policy-making will lead to their involvement in implementing and monitoring policies, and ultimately to societies in which there is greater citizen participation.

Citizens and organisations that want to ensure that the internet remains a tool and a venue for promoting social, gender and environmental justice, development and democracy are struggling to navigate the terrain of global, regional, and national internet governance, policy and regulation. They frequently do not know which issues are on the agenda, who is debating and deciding them, how their work could be affected, and how to get involved.



Our global and regional ICT policy projects raise awareness, build capacity, and provide tools and information resources to strengthen civil society participation in decision-making processes. In 2003, we took advantage of global processes such as the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) to galvanise civil society awareness of ICT policy issues, with an ultimate objective of building

civil society's participation in ICT policy processes at national level.

Strategic partnerships, and networking and advocacy

An essential part of APC's internet rights and ICT policy activities involves being visible, vocal and accessible at key events, where we adopt a dual strategy. We *advocate policy positions*

from a civil society and Southern perspective in international and global forums where ICT policy discussions and debate take place, such as the WSIS, the UN ICT Task Force,⁶ and the DOT Force. And we raise the profile and awareness of internet rights and ICT policy issues directly with civil society organisations and social movements through networking and face-to-face at major civil society events.

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)



The rapid spread of ICTs and the convergence of different media have led to the emergence of new policies and regulation. Policy decisions being made today will impact on the peoples of the world's ability and potential to use ICTs as tools in their work tomorrow. At the first phase of the United Nations' World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva in December 2003, governments signed a declaration that could have had the potential to enhance or hinder access to ICTs for the vast majority of the world's population.

The general verdict on the WSIS was a thumbs-down. The Summit outcomes were limited and it was an arduous and expensive process. However, APC has concluded that, from the perspective of many civil society organisations that participated actively, the WSIS has created a new opportunity for solidarity across ideological, sectoral and geographical divides.

Due to the commitment, solidarity and hard work of many civil society participants, and possibly because of the degree of deadlock among governments, a fair number of the proposals put forward by civil society made it into the final text of the official Summit Declaration and Action Plan.⁷

However, at the *informal level*, the outcomes were more significant, and WSIS became effectively a watershed in the process of public participation in ICT policies. Thanks to the WSIS, ICT policy has become firmly located in broader debates on development and society. New voices – of people living with disabilities, the education and research sectors, the free software movement, campaigners for the global information commons and so on – have appeared in the ICT policy arena. Now a much broader range of CSOs are tackling ICT policy issues.

Most encouragingly, the experience, confidence and knowledge built during the relatively 'safe' spaces of the civil society plenary and caucuses in WSIS is feeding directly into *national* advocacy campaigns.

⁶ APC's Executive Director Anriette Esterhuysen is a member of the UN ICT Task Force

⁷ Notable examples are the references to the universal declaration of human rights, equality between men and women, and free and open source software.

APC played a central role in the first phase of WSIS, which culminated in the first Summit.

Our involvement in WSIS included:

- Participating in all official WSIS preparatory meetings and the Summit⁸
- Participating in regional preparatory meetings in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe
- Convening the Civil Society Content and Themes group at the Paris Intersessional Meeting, in July 2003, and the PrepCom IIIA, Geneva, in November 2003
- Producing key publications, including an ICT policy curriculum, books and a national campaigning guide, plus a thematic position paper on gender and ICTs for the Global Knowledge Partnership⁹
- Convening civil society regional caucuses in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean
- Playing a leading role in several thematic working groups, including the NGO Gender Strategies Working Group, the WSIS Gender Caucus, the patents copyright and trademarks working group, the privacy and security working group, the human rights caucus, and the community media caucus.
- Making submissions on draft documentation that fed into the official process¹⁰
- Representation in national delegations in several countries
- Facilitating financial support for the attendance of APC members and partners at preparatory meetings and the summit
- Hosting and facilitation of all websites and mailing lists at the WSIS civil society domain, www.wsis-cs.org
- Hosting key civil society websites and developing regional WSIS reports for Latin America and the Caribbean¹¹ and Africa¹²

APC co-facilitated the first 'World Forum on Communications Rights,'¹³ held parallel to WSIS in Geneva on 11 December 2003.

ICT policy training, publications, guides and other practical resources¹⁴

Replicable training pack helps civil society organisations understand how ICT policy decisions affect their work

In late 2002, APC piloted a training pack, including an interchangeable workshop curriculum¹⁵ and accompanying materials, to build the capacity of civil society organisations to understand and engage ICT policy and regulation, and how it affects their work. Initially, there was not a great deal of interest in our ICT policy offering; however, the impetus provided by the WSIS helped raise awareness on the part of civil society organisations, and

⁸ www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=15946

⁹ http://www.globalknowledge.org/gkps_portal/thematic.cfm?&menuid=229&requesttimeput=500&action=ThSubMain&thematicid=5

¹⁰ For example <http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=12235> (June 2003)

¹¹ lac.derechos.apc.org/wsis

¹² africa.rights.apc.org/wsis

¹³ <http://www.communicationrights.org/>

¹⁴ All publications mentioned are collected here: <http://rights.apc.org/resources.shtml>

¹⁵ www.apc.org/english/capacity/policy/curriculum.shtml

by 2003, training, particularly to train trainers who would replicate the course in their own countries, was taking place in Eastern and Southern Africa, and Latin America.

Leopold Rwevemamu, from Tanzania, took the 'ICT policy for civil society' training course because, as the coordinator of DigIT Africa, a non-profit promoting the use of ICTs for development, he wanted to ensure that Tanzania's nascent ICT policy "doesn't just gather dust like other policies". He found the module on 'How laws and policy are made' particularly useful. "The whole process was clearly mapped out as to where to lobby to change and or make policy. I feel confident to do lobbying at any level now."

The APC curriculum continues to grow and develop, with the addition of case studies, new modules and customisations for specific audiences and production in Latin-American Spanish. It is freely available online. The curriculum was developed through the Building Digital Opportunities initiative, and with support from the British Department for International Development (DFID) and the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO).

It's not just the skills that come out of the policy workshops that are important, but the networking. The Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa (FOSSFA) came into being after activists met in a 2002 APC ICT policy

workshop. The workshop working group unanimously resolved to capitalise on the synergies they had discovered at the workshop to form an interim civil society task force to champion free and open source software. FOSSFA was founded shortly after. In 2003, FOSSFA completed an action plan for 2003–05 and a briefing on the state of FOSS in Africa, with the help of APC.

Unique beginner's guide to ICT policy

In December, APC published a first-of-its-kind handbook for "people who feel that ICT policy is important but don't know much about it".

The motivation behind *ICT policy: A Beginner's Handbook* was to encourage people to speak out and ask questions about ICT policies because greater public participation in policy processes not only leads to better policy, but also involves citizens in the implementation and monitoring of those policies.

The handbook has been read by specialists and novices alike. Universities have requested to include it on their reading lists. APC has made it available in print and put it online¹⁶ as open content for others to use and adapt. The handbook was supported by CTO.

ICT policy: A Beginner's Handbook is intended for non-specialists ... a government official worried about a gap in her technical knowledge of how the internet works... a human-rights worker concerned that his need to send secure email is being challenged by national government policy... a citizen fed up with paying exorbitant rates for dial-up internet access.... a journalist looking for background material... an activist who is unable to perceive the real consequences of possible changes in government policy on her online campaigning work...

¹⁶ rights.apc.org/handbook



Collecting civil society demands –
 “Involving Civil Society in ICT Policy:
 The World Summit on the Information
 Society”

As part of our support of regional advocacy networks around the world during the first phase of the WSIS process, APC and CRIS¹⁷ produced a handy 50-page booklet in English,¹⁸ French¹⁹ and Spanish²⁰, collecting the ICT policy demands identified by civil society networks from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and highlighting key issues. Published in time for the third Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) of the WSIS, in September 2003, and supported by Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (EED), thousands of copies were downloaded online within the first six months of publication.

“But How Do We Start Working At National Level?” – APC Guide to Running a National ICT Policy Consultation for WSIS

APC developed a step-by-step practical guide to how civil society can participate in the WSIS – or any other national ICT-related policy process. It was produced in English, French and Spanish in mid-2003, at the time when CSOs not working directly in democratising communications issues were starting to become aware of WSIS and its possible significance in their countries.

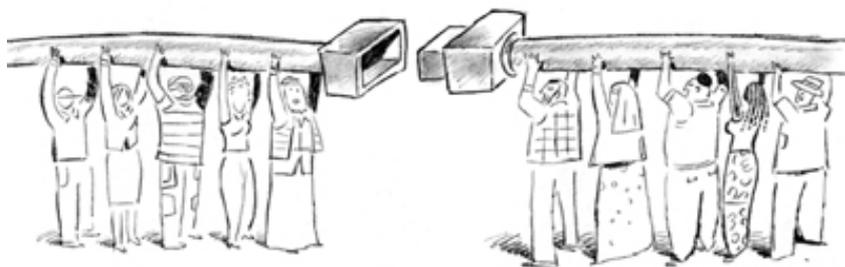
The ‘question & answer’ format homed in on some of the key questions we had heard people ask about how to organise. The primary target audience is comprised of people who are active in using or promoting the use of ICTs in their work, but who have not necessarily been involved in national-level policy processes previously. “Working at the policy level can be quite intimidating,” said APC Executive Director, Anriette Esterhuysen, one of the principal authors. “Our goal is to provide encouragement and support so that ICT civil society organisations can build the confidence to raise their voices in policy discussions.” The guide was so well-received that we included it as a 12-page booklet with the previous publication.

¹⁷ Communications Rights in the Information Society (CRIS) is a campaign to ensure that communication rights are central to the information society and in the WSIS. APC is a founding member and on the CRIS steering committee.

¹⁸ http://www.apc.org/books/policy_wsis_EN.pdf

¹⁹ http://www.apc.org/books/policy_wsis_FR.pdf

²⁰ http://www.apc.org/books/policy_wsis_ES.pdf



Monitoring ICT policy and raising civil society awareness in Africa and Latin America

APC's regional ICT policy monitors in Africa²¹ and Latin America and the Caribbean²² assess relevant policy developments at national and regional levels. We do research, build banks of online content (through the monitor websites and e-newsletters), support networks, and build the capacity of civil society organisations to tackle ICT policy issues.

The monitor websites are online ICT policy information centres, which are the result of years of researching, classifying, analysing and monitoring policies that affect nations in each region and the ability of civil society and excluded communities to take advantage of the information revolution. The centres are updated weekly. The Latin American monitor contains a complete regional ICT legislation database.²³ Information is accessible and searchable by country and themes, including gender, universal access, infrastructure, freedom of expression, privacy, censorship, and intellectual property.

We support and strengthen existing local initiatives by working with researchers and networks from within the regions. Research reports on the participation of civil society in national ICT policy-making in Egypt, Benin and Cameroon were commissioned in Africa by APC to explore the role of local civil society organisations in developing and strengthening ICT policy-making at a national level. "Egypt's CSO sector is active and far-reaching," wrote Leila Hassanin of non-profit ArabDev, "however despite the increase in the number of users, and the fact that internet policy and regulation is becoming an issue, only a tiny minority of activists work in this area." She noted that lobbying in 2003 on a new communication bill was "an encouraging sign that representatives of civil society are waking up to the fact that civil society must stake a claim in ICT policy formulation processes".

On the Latin American site, a series of national and regional reports fed the discussion on WSIS in 2003. The reports and other related resources were collected on a dedicated Spanish-language WSIS site,²⁴ which became a point of reference for the Latin American and

²¹ Africa: <http://africa.rights.apc.org> and Africa newsletter: Chakula <http://africa.rights.apc.org/newsletter.shtml>

²² Latin America & Caribbean: <http://lac.derechos.apc.org> and Latin America & Caribbean newsletter: <http://lac.derechos.apc.org/boletin.shtml>

²³ lac.derechos.apc.org/legislacion.shtml?

²⁴ lac.derechos.apc.org/wsis

Caribbean Caucus at WSIS.

APC's policy monitors are supported by IDRC, HIVOS and Open Society Institute Southern Africa (OSISA).



Catalysing access to ICTs in Africa (CATIA): Policy advocacy

APC is the lead implementer of the CATIA project's component on African-led advocacy for ICT policy reform.²⁵ The overall developmental objective of the component is to achieve increased access to affordable ICTs in Africa, particularly for the poor and those in rural under-served areas, by stimulating and supporting accelerated ICT policy and regulatory reform in six African countries. The component supports existing initiatives and develops the capacity of informed advocacy groups (and individuals) from the private sector, consumer groups and civil society, and the media. During the latter part of 2003, APC worked intensively with the entire CATIA team on planning for implementation, which is scheduled to start early in 2004. CATIA is a DFID-funded initiative.

The War in Iraq: APC statement opposed attacks on website of the Al-Jazeera news network

APC was concerned that the Al-Jazeera website – a prominent Middle Eastern news and information source – rapidly became the target of hacker attacks, domain name hijacking and the withdrawal of hosting services, all within the first few weeks of the war on Iraq led by the United States. "The internet must be allowed to freely perform its unique and vital role as a promoter of "freedom of expression" and content diversity, especially in times of conflict," said the APC statement,²⁶ which was circulated in seven languages.

The statement struck a chord. "Congratulations on the outstanding APC statement highlighting the importance of freedom of expression and online content diversity. I'm sure this sentiment would be echoed by all those whose voices are not heard in the mainstream media," wrote Frances Kinghorn, of Johannesburg, South Africa.

The statement was quoted as far afield as the Ukraine, Stockholm and South Africa, and became the subject of an article by the BBC Online.²⁷

²⁵ <http://www.catia.ws/content/components.htm#ICTpolicy>

²⁶ <http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=10848>

²⁷ "US turns to net for war updates", April 8 2003, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/2925289.stm>

STRATEGIC USES AND CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMME

Programme Goal: Enable CSOs to make use of ICTs in ways that integrate well with their goals and needs, and harness the potential for collaboration and change that can come from working in a networked environment. APC believes CSOs can become more than consumers of ICTs – they can shape technologies, applications and solutions, and facilitate ICT developments that respond to needs of people who are not considered part of a significant market.

APC believes that CSOs should be more than unquestioning consumers of ICTs. The SU&CB programme aims to support CSOs in harnessing ICTs to address social change and development priorities. We want to make CSOs aware of the ICT choices they have, to build their capacity to make informed decisions, use ICTs in ways that integrate well with their goals and needs, and to support them in harnessing the potential for collaboration and change that can come from working in a networked environment.

Increasing civil society impact through high-quality training materials – ItrainOnline enters third year

Although the World Wide Web offers many internet and ICTs-related training materials, it is often difficult to find relevant, high-quality resources targeted at non-profits, development organisations, and others. ItrainOnline offers materials and annotated links to high-quality resources on topics ranging from computer and internet basics to highly technical areas, and the ways that CSOs can increase their impact using these tools.

ItrainOnline²⁸ was established in 2001, as a joint initiative of six organisations, with an exceptional collection of resources and expertise in computer and internet training for development and CSO-related needs. The ItrainOnline portal is currently in English, French, and Spanish.

In 2003, UNESCO joined the ItrainOnline partnership, bringing the Multimedia Training Kit (MMTK) materials development initiative – driven by UNESCO and coordinated by APC – under the ItrainOnline umbrella. Current ItrainOnline partners are APC, OneWorld International, Bellanet, INASP, IICD, UNESCO, and FAO.

“Congratulations on ItrainOnline – I’ve been browsing it avidly for months. I love your courses about Open Office, and your evaluation forms for courses.” — Associazione di Diritto Informatico della Svizzera italiana Formazione, Promozione e Divulgazione, Italy

“I really commend your work. I coordinate the Information and Communication Technologies Education and Research Center <http://www.senacyt.gob.pa/ciet> and the Institute for Research and Technology Transfer <http://www.senacyt.gob.pa/iitt> in Panama, and one of our main goals is to train teachers in the use of ICTs for education. Most of our ICTs are open source-based.” — Azael Barrera, Director, Transferencia de Tecnologías de Información y Comunicación, Panama

²⁸ <http://www.itrainonline.org>

ItrainOnline continued to grow in 2003, largely thanks to the commitment of the partners themselves. APC has played a leading role in developing and maintaining the ItrainOnline site, which runs on APC's open source software.

Linking the internet to more traditional ICTs – the ItrainOnline Multimedia Training Kit

More and more people are seeing the potential of linking the internet to more traditional ICTs. The ItrainOnline Multimedia Training Kit (MMTK),²⁹ led by UNESCO and coordinated by APC, provides trainers in telecentres, community media organisations, and the development sector with a structured set of materials to help make that jump between new and traditional media or train in a new skill area.

The materials – on a range of multimedia areas like 'presenting on radio' and 'writing for the web', as well as topics such as 'cooperative problem solving' – all follow a standard format and so can be used as interchangeable building blocks from which trainers can build up face-to-face training appropriate for their different contexts.

"The farmers' cooperative that uses our telecentre can never find the information they want online. I want to offer them basic internet training but I don't have materials."

"A women's group I have trained has been offered a regular 15-minute spot on a local radio show. They've asked me for a workshop on scriptwriting but my experience is in writing for web, not radio."

"We're running an environmental campaign in our city. How can we make a CD-ROM for journalists of the material we've collected?"

The answers to these questions are in the MMTK

Can I equip my non-profit with computers without breaking the bank?

APC, in collaboration with Bridges.org and the Commons Group, developed a series of MMTK units on technology planning for low-cost computing, including Introduction to free and open source software, Choosing open source software, and Older and refurbished computers

So, CSOs can understand the range of options available and make informed choices about the pros and cons of adopting lower-cost technologies.

So, a trainer running a workshop on information skills for a women's organisation could choose components from the "Searching the internet" unit and the "Violence Against Women" module, and combine them into a single workshop kit.

UNESCO and the Rockefeller Foundation jointly funded the first phase of this project, which ended in December 2003.

Expertise on building electronic communities and networks - FAO IMARK Initiative

FAO (Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations³⁰) is developing a self-instructional Information Management Resource Kit (IMARK) on CD-ROM, and APC was

²⁹ <http://www.itrainonline.org>

³⁰ <http://www.fao.org>

contracted to develop part of the IMARK module on "Building Electronic Communities and Networks", and to act as an expert reviewer on the same module. The materials will be developed in both the IMARK self-instructional format, and in the MMTK format for inclusion in ItrainOnline.

Using the free and open source software movement to raise the visibility of civil society websites – APC ActionApps

Environmental journalists use the Romanian version of ActionApps to easily update news

Photo: Aurel Duta

APC ActionApps³¹ is a free software content-management system, initially developed by APC to offer a low-cost solution for content-sharing that increases the functionality of civil society websites and makes the creation of portal sites that pool information easy. It was released to the public domain in 2001.



By 2003, most APC members and dozens of other 'social tech support' groups and individual technicians were offering APC ActionApps to their communities, so the software is available in English, Spanish, Czech, Slovak, Hungarian, Romanian, Japanese and German. Croatian was added in 2003, thanks to APC members ZaMirNET.

APC ActionApps 'reseller' training workshops were offered in Africa, aimed at building the capacity of small to medium African internet service providers and web service providers to generate revenue through reselling an open source content management system – and at the same time contributing to the development of African content on the web. Reseller workshops were partially funded, thanks to support from our member organisation in Germany and GTZ.

APC ActionApps was named one of the "Top 10 Open Source Tools for eActivism" in an article for the Democracies Online Newswire.³²

³¹ www.apc.org/actionapps

³² <http://www.openconcept.ca/index.php/Top10>

Recognising outstanding technology initiatives in Latin American and the Caribbean – the APC Betinho Communications Prize 2003

APC offers biennial prizes to recognise innovative and outstanding use of ICTs for social justice and development, at the same time as building awareness of ICT best-practice initiatives from the South. In 2003, the APC Betinho Prize was offered in recognition of ICT efforts that are improving the lives of people and communities in Latin America and the Caribbean. This was the first time that the prize was offered exclusively in Latin America and the Caribbean, and more than 140 projects applied.

Given the new regional focus of the prize, the Prize website and all publicity was conducted in *three* languages – English, Spanish, and for the first time, Portuguese. The stories of the twelve finalists were also translated into all three languages. We believe that we offer one of the only international prizes that accepts applications in languages other than English.

APC does not fly prizewinners to a glossy awards ceremony – we'd rather that they get all the prizemoney to use in their projects. Even a small amount of money can have a profound impact where there have previously been very few or no financial resources.



Cotahuasi (telecentre winners from Peru) used their prizemoney for building human capacity. They recounted their previous experiences of missing out on essential training because, despite having obtained a scholarship for the course fees, they were not able to afford to travel to the training venue.

Photo: Indigenous Information Network, Mexico

The Betinho Prize winners in 2003

ICTs as Tools of Sustainable Development in the Cotahuasi Basin, Peru

Indigenous Information Network, Mexico
Tiflolibros – First Electronic Library for the Visually Impaired Spanish Speakers, Argentina

Two Brazilian networks received honourable mentions:

– Cyberela Network – Digital Inclusion of Women

– Young Citizenship Network (Rede Jovem de Cidadania)

What others say about our training materials promoting strategic use of ICTs

“We are a group of developers on GNU/Linux toolchain involved in creating a localised operating system. A major driving force for this effort is the usage of such localised OS to provide low-cost computing. As such, we feel that the toolkit will benefit us immensely.” – The Ankur Bangla Project, “Bringing Bangla to the GNU/Linux desktop”
<http://www.bengalinux.org/>

“Women Empowerment, Literacy and Development Organization (WELDO) is a non-profit progressive NGO working on various developmental projects in Pakistan. WELDO intends to launch a computer-training program for women in 2004. Your CD will go a long way in making our venture a success.” – Sijal Aziz, President, WELDO www.weldo.org/



Argentine winners Tiflolibros (an e-library for the visually impaired) commented that the prizemoney allowed them to plan ahead for the first time. They were able to hire two people on a fixed schedule with defined tasks, instead of relying solely on volunteers. Results included a new service – the possibility of

consulting staff via instant messenger from Monday to Friday from 4–8pm – and an increase in the number of books put online – half as many in two weeks by the paid staff than in the whole of 2003 by volunteers.

The Betinho Prize was made possible thanks to support from IDRC and the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA).

Online Learning Events – “Understanding civil society portals, models for civil society”

APC offers specialist periodic online learning events for our community, such as a seminar on online content management using portals, held in July 2003. For many CSOs worldwide, key factors for success are how effectively they make their voices heard, distribute their information, find up-to-date information in their fields, as well as the efficiency with which they communicate with their partners. Internet portals have the potential to make an effective contribution to all these areas. What is needed to realise this potential? This is the question that was asked by the online learning event on portals, which took place in July 2003 on the “APC Content” online list, supported by OSI funding.

More than 200 participants signed for the participation, coming both from small and newly emerging CSO activities as well as large, established organisations with a lot of experience with internet portal management. Case studies covered ItrainOnline, a progressive South American search engine, a South African women’s portal, and alternative news services from Slovakia and Canada. The outcomes of this learning event can be downloaded in booklet form.³³

³³ http://www.itrainonline.org/itrainonline/english/cs_portals.pdf

WOMEN'S NETWORKING SUPPORT PROGRAMME (WNSP)

Programme Goal: To support women's networking for social change through training, participatory research, evaluation, policy and advocacy in gender and information technology, information facilitation, and regional networking support. WNSP strives to challenge the inequities faced by women, especially in the South.

In 2003, the APC WNSP celebrated ten remarkable years of working to make ICTs accessible to women in a celebration at the World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva. The APC women's programme has more than 100 members in more than 50 countries.

Are ICTs really improving women's lives? – The Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM)



The WNSP's principal work since 2001 has been GEM – and 2003 saw the work of GEM drawing to completion and the production of a sophisticated multilingual tool after two years of field-testing.

GEM is a methodology for integrating a gender analysis into planning, implementation and evaluation of initiatives that use ICTs for social change. It provides a means for determining whether ICTs are really improving women's lives and gender relations, as well as promoting positive change at the individual, institutional, community and broader social levels. We believe that GEM is the first and only gender evaluation tool available specifically for the evaluation and planning of ICT initiatives.

Since 2002, progressive iterations of the GEM tool were made available online for anyone to download. It generated ground-breaking and innovative material and learning through regional testing and evaluation.

Testers, who worked intensively in 2003 to present findings to be incorporated into the tool, represented a broad range of ICT initiatives in advocacy, training and education, women's communication and information networks, employment, urban and rural telecentres, and networking and community-building. The 27 ICT projects were spread over 19 countries in Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, and Latin America. While the majority work locally or nationally, five initiatives worked regionally. Projects range from a Mongolian distance education initiative to an urban telecentre in Bogotá.



GEM testers in Ecuador

Photo: Intercom

Initial findings were presented in December 2003, and a final report released in June 2004. By 2003, GEM was available in Brazilian Portuguese, Spanish and English.

In addition to production of the tool, almost 200 women and men from more than 50 organisations in 36 countries were trained in how to use GEM.³⁴

For instance, in Andean Latin America, in Colombia in May, two training workshops were held for 62 women from neighbourhood women's groups,

several of which already manage community-based telecentres and ICT projects. In August, training in how to become sensitive to gender issues and how these issues apply in ICT projects was carried out in Riobamba, Ecuador, and in the community of Colinas del Norte, Quito.

Gender and ICT policy advocacy



Advocacy network builds women's visibility at the World Summit on the Information Society

The WNSP has been active in the gender and ICT advocacy movement since 1993. The WSIS process added momentum to the gender and ICT advocacy network that had emerged in the late 1990s, and a broad range of organisations came together in 2002–03 to create an embryonic gender and ICT advocacy

network on the information society, called the NGO Gender Strategies Working Group³⁵ to advocate for gender equality in the WSIS. Together with ISIS International Manila, the International Women's Tribune Centre, FEMNET Africa and the Latin American Information Agency (ALAI), the APC WNSP played a leading role in this network, in particular by providing expertise and advice to intergovernmental and UN agencies including UNDAW, UNIFEM, UNESCO, UNESCAP and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) working group on gender issues.

³⁴ <http://www.apcwomen.org/gem/news>

³⁵ www.genderit.org



"WSIS has a missing paragraph" – the T-shirt campaign

Photo: APC WNSP

The WNSP was active together with APC in critiquing the language and content proposed by governments for the official WSIS declaration and action plan. For example, in an official submission in May,³⁶ WNSP critiqued the draft WSIS declaration of principles because it "does not explicitly confront the fact that fundamental political, social and economic inequalities shape our world" and does not "adequately recognise the centrality of gender inequality to broader social inequality".

"At WSIS, gender advocates succeeded in pushing governments to adopt the basic principles of gender equality and women's empowerment in the Summit Declaration and while the Action Plan leaves much to be desired, specific provisions did address some of our concerns," concluded Chat Garcia Ramilo of the WNSP.

Essential gender and ICT policy archive

The APC WNSP has created a gender and ICT policy archive,³⁸ which contains an extensive collection of policy documents developed by the APC WNSP and many of our strategic partners. It included the "Gender and ICT policy guide,"³⁹ which outlines 10 fundamental principles in ICT policy in order to incorporate a gender perspective developed by the APC WNSP in 2003, based on our experience of the WSIS process and our work in general.

T-shirt campaign grabs attention of governments where documents have failed³⁷

The NGO Gender Strategies Working Group launched a WSIS T-shirt campaign in September, which had government delegates craning their necks to read a message that had previously fallen upon deaf ears. The T-shirts, which contained the message "WSIS has a missing paragraph" (on the front) and the text of gender-focused paragraph 11A (on the back) were worn by a number of non-governmental delegates. Supportive government representatives approached the delegates to buy their own T-shirts to wear during the PrepCom.

Inspiring women to use ICTs strategically – the Gender and ICT Awards

The inaugural Gender and ICT (GICT) Awards⁴⁰ honoured innovative and effective projects that encourage the strategic use of ICTs by women for the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment from Uganda, Romania, and India. The main objective of the awards is to recognise and promote ICT for development initiatives in order to inspire others to do

³⁶ <http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=12233>

³⁷ <http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=14125>

³⁸ <http://www.apcwomen.org/policy/index.html>

³⁹ English: http://www.apcwomen.org/policy/resources/wnsip_policyguide.htm

⁴⁰ <http://www.genderawards.net>

similar work. The WNSP co-organised the GICT Awards with the Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP).

The GICT Awards had four categories and winners:

- Outstanding Multi-stakeholder Initiative (Global or Regional): Women Mayors Link Project of the Equal Opportunities for Women in Romania
<http://wml.sef.ro>
- Outstanding Multi-stakeholder Initiative (National/ Local): Documenting Experiences of Women in Situations of Armed Conflict in Uganda of the Isis Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange in Uganda (Isis-WICCE)
<http://www.isis.or.ug>
- Outstanding Community or Individual Initiative (Capacity Building): eSeva of the West Godavari District, Government of Andhra Pradesh in India
<http://www.westgodavari.org>
- Outstanding Community or Individual Initiative (Advocacy/Networking): Nabanna of Change Initiatives in India
<http://www.genderawards.net/winners/nabanna.shtml>

Supporting regional women's networks

Regional APC WNSP networks form the central membership of the global APC WNSP and respond to the needs of their local communities. The APC WNSP global programme provides a point of reference for consultation, programme development, outreach to all network members, a support base for regional coordinators and the technical base for all of the WNSP online tools and spaces. In 2003, all regions participated in the development and refining of GEM, and focused on the WSIS process, participating actively in regional forums and online networks. Additional regional activities included regional and national training for women and a new newsletter for African women using ICTs for social justice.

Women's Electronic Networking Training (WENT)

WENT aims to build the capacities of women in the field of ICTs, and to strengthen women's organisations and networks. Since the first WENT in South Korea in 1999, WENT has trained 221 women from close to 200 women's organisations from 24 countries in Asia and the Pacific in numerous ICT skills, such as web and database management, online content development, local area networking, and electronic commerce. WENT's participatory approach and focus on ICT training by women, for women has inspired similar training initiatives in other regions, including a global WENT training for the Beijing +5 review global communications initiative, and national WENT workshops in Korea, Philippines, India, Malaysia and Africa.

In India, nineteen women representing twelve organisations from the cities of Mumbai, New Delhi, Bhopal and Goa; and from the states of South-Hyderabad, Kerala, Gujarat and

Maharashtra participated in WENT-IN,⁴¹ which was held over a week in November. The graduates of WENT-IN are promoting the use of ICT to enhance women's role and capacity in social and policy advocacy.

APC-Africa-Women: Information facilitation, training and capacity-building

The first WENT Africa 2003 was organised and hosted by APC-Africa-Women and held in Cape Town, South Africa. Twenty-four women were involved as participants and trainers. The training workshop built the capacities of women and their organisations to utilise ICTs in social development work and policy advocacy. Participants were women whose organisations play or will play a significant role in promoting the use of ICTs to enhance women's roles and capacity in social and policy advocacy, as well as to strengthen women's organisations and networks in Africa.⁴²

In 2003, WNSP's Africa regional network, began publishing *Pula*,⁴³ an e-newsletter on women and ICTs in Africa. *Pula* is the Tswana word for rain, and APC-Africa-Women chose this name for their newsletter because they believe that the information shared will encourage the growth of ICTs for women's empowerment, development, and social justice in Africa. *Pula* promotes and profiles the work of women's initiatives in Africa and links women to each other and to opportunities.

Are ICTs improving gender equality? – Regional research in ex-Soviet states and Latin America

Are ICTs contributing to women's empowerment in Central and Eastern Europe?

This was an underlying question addressed in the evaluations of six ICT initiatives from Bulgaria, Croatia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia – participants in the field-testing of the Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM). Projects varied from employment training in Croatia, to a network of women mayors in Romania, to media campaigns around violence against women in Slovakia and Bulgaria.

In 2003, participatory research initiatives that explored the terrain of women and ICTs were led by APC WNSP regional networks in partnership with other women's networks in Central and Eastern Europe⁴⁴ and Latin America and the Caribbean.⁴⁵

⁴¹ <http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=16344>

⁴² http://www.apcafricawomen.org/went_rep.shtml

⁴³ www.apcafricawomen.org/pula.htm

⁴⁴ Published in 2004, <http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=25036>

⁴⁵ http://web.undp.sk/index.cfm?menu=p_search\p_result\p_documents&DocumentID=5225

APC Members in 2003

North America and the Caribbean

Alternatives, Canada
www.alternatives.ca

Institute for Global
Communications, USA
www.igc.org

LaborNet, USA
www.labornet.org

Web Networks, Canada
www.web.net

Latin America

Colnodo, Colombia
www.colnodo.apc.org

CEPES, Peru
www.cepes.org.pe

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

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

LaNeta, Mexico
www.laneta.apc.org

RITS – Rede de Informacoes para
o Terceiro Setor, Brazil
www.rits.org.br

TAU, Argentina
www.tau.org.ar

Wamani, Argentina
www.wamani.apc.org

Europe

BlueLink Information Network,
Bulgaria
www.bluelink.net

ChangeNet, Slovakia
www.changenet.sk

ComLink, Germany
www.comlink.org

Econnect, Czech Republic
www.ecn.cz

GreenNet, United Kingdom
www.gn.apc.org

Green Spider, Hungary
www.zpok.hu

Pangea, Spain
www.pangea.org

StrawberryNet, Romania
www.sbn.ro

Unimondo, Italy
www.unimondo.org

ZaMirNET, Croatia
www.zamirnet.hr

Africa

ArabDev, Egypt
www.arabdev.org

Arid Lands Information Network
(ALIN) – East Africa, Kenya
www.alin.or.ke

CECS, South Africa
—

Enda-Tiers Monde, Senegal
www.enda.sn

Fantsuam Foundation, Nigeria
www.fantsuam.org

SANGONeT, South Africa
www.sangonet.org.za

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

Asia-Pacific

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

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

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

Jinbonet, South Korea
www.jinbo.net

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

WomensHub, Philippines
www.womenshub.net

New Members in 2003

In brackets, you will find the month this organisation became part of APC.

ARABDEV, EGYPT

ArabDev is a non-profit based in Cairo, Egypt, dedicated to spreading ICT knowledge and skills among poor communities in Egypt, particularly women and youth. ArabDev aims to help these communities find better livelihood opportunities, through improved access to information and its use in skill development, as well as small and micro-enterprises. ArabDev is APC's first member from both North Africa and an Arab state. ArabDev: www.arabdev.org (APC member since September 2003)

CEPES, PERU

CEPES (which stands for the Peruvian Social Studies Centre) is a registered non-profit, based in Lima, which serves the economic and social development needs of campesinos and small farmers. CEPES' ICT for Development programme – with which APC works most closely – aims to strengthen the capacity of the rural population to influence rural and agrarian policies through access to different media and communication services. CEPES has broad experience in the use of information and communication technologies for development. They develop websites focused on agrarian and rural issues, including the first Quechua language website –'TINKUY' – on the World Wide Web. CEPES: www.cepes.org.pe (Since November 2003)

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMPUTER SOCIETY (CECS), SOUTH AFRICA

CECS is an NGO established in 1985, during the years of apartheid, "for the technological empowerment of the historically disadvantaged". CECS organised the first major conference on ICT and political struggle in South Africa. Today, their work is principally focused on training, especially in general computer skills. CECS' goal still remains to make their training services accessible to communities and especially young people. Traditionally, CECS has worked principally in South Africa. However, since 2002, CECS has been implementing a regional ICT literacy project in seven southern African countries, working with local ICT organisations. CECS joined APC in February 2003.

FOUNDATION FOR MEDIA ALTERNATIVES (FMA), PHILIPPINES

FMA is a non-profit service provider in the Philippines, whose mission is to help civil society organisations and other development-oriented organisations in their strategic and appropriate use of information and communications media for democratisation and people's empowerment. Since its foundation in 1987, FMA has sought to enhance the popularisation and social marketing of development issues and campaigns through media-related

interventions, social communication projects, and cultural work. In 1996, FMA began to focus on ICTs, and now works in four program areas, including promoting equitable partnerships for innovative connectivity and community access alternatives, capability-building for CSOs in the area of ICT literacy, information/communications management, and knowledge-sharing, helping CSOs manage development content through appropriate tools and technologies, and multi-stakeholder policy advocacy. FMA: www.fma.ph (Since June 2003)

OPEN FORUM OF CAMBODIA, CAMBODIA

The Open Forum of Cambodia established the first connection to the internet from Cambodia in 1994, and has played a pioneering role in ICT in Cambodia ever since. They have developed tools to allow Cambodians to use their native Khmer script – which is unique in Asia – in e-mail and mailing lists, and to read Khmer-language web pages, which automatically download the Khmer font for Cambodian readers. The Open Forum was formed to provide, as the name suggests, an unrestricted space for communication amongst people of different backgrounds and opinions – not an easy task in a complex war-torn society. OFC: www.forum.org.kh (Since November 2003)

UNIMONDO, ITALY

Photo: Unimondo

Unimondo is an independent non-profit media network based in Padua, Northern Italy, and was founded in 1998. In 2003, Unimondo had more than 300 partners, most of which are small to medium non-profit organisations from the centre-north of Italy. Unimondo actively promotes campaigns with its partners and promotes awareness of global issues in their own content work. They are a



leader of the Italian CRIS campaign, and reach a broad audience by working with the national RAI television channel to popularise social issues. In addition to their expertise in communication and e-campaigns, Unimondo also offers technical ICT services and free web hosting to Italian social organisations. Unimondo: www.unimondo.org (Since November 2003)

WOMENSHUB INC., PHILIPPINES

WomensHub is a fairly new organisation, but most of its staff have been connecting and collaborating with APC and APC members since 1995. In 2003, WomensHub projects included “Promoting Gender Equality Through ICT”, which allowed WomensHub to develop a policy framework for integrating gender equality into Philippine national ICT policies, and

which was presented to legislators and public officials through a series of policy workshops and ICT literacy trainings. A baseline study of the status of women in the ICT sector in the Philippines was also carried out. WomensHub: www.womenshub.net (Since January 2003)

WOMEN'SNET, SOUTH AFRICA



Photo: Women'sNet

Women'sNet is a non-profit organisation, founded in 1997 by APC member SANGONeT and the South African Gender Commission. Women'sNet was set up to produce information and provide training to women and girls, with a view to advancing gender transformation in South Africa. Services include training in

basic technical ICT skills, content development, ICT policy analysis and advocacy around gender and ICTs, training in digital audio production, especially gender content for broadcasting, designing databases for other women's organisations and human rights organisations that service women and girls' needs, and training and advising women's organisations on using ICTs to achieve their goals and contribute to the struggle for gender justice. Women'sNet: www.womensnet.org.za (Since July 2003)

ZAMIRNET, CROATIA

ZaMirNet is an NGO that facilitates the use of ICT to create and disseminate information needed for the development of the civil society in Croatia and its surroundings. The basic principles of their work are "empowerment, non-discrimination, solidarity and collaboration with groups and individuals devoted to the culture of peace and non-violence". ZaMirNet services include web development and hosting, technical support, an online newsletter, campaign advice and logistics, training and multimedia production. ZaMirNet: www.zamirnet.hr (Since June 2003)

Highlights from APC Members in 2003

APC members are ICT providers but they are also – uniquely – sustainable development and social justice activists in their own right. We call them ‘social techies’.⁴⁶

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.⁴⁷ What follows are some of the outstanding stories from APC members around the world in 2003.

ARID LANDS INFORMATION NETWORK – EASTERN AFRICA (ALIN-EA), KENYA: Local content, local people, local languages – ICTs used to promote exchange of indigenous knowledge

In July, ALIN-EA became part of the Open Knowledge Network (OKN), a global initiative linking thousands of marginalised and poor people through information-sharing. The project as implemented by ALIN-EA provides a forum for rural people to network and share ideas on practices in agriculture, health, nutrition and general development-related information.

ALIN worked with existing partners, including a Masai rural training centre in Kenya and a national forestry resource centre in Tanzania, to set up community access points for the network. The partners host a local reporter who writes stories and collects information relevant to the locality. The reporter then sends the articles to ALIN, where they are uploaded to a satellite system for broadcast. The information is pulled down to the different rural communities through a special radio receiver connected to a computer. Reporters at the access points print out the downloaded information for dissemination, completing the cycle of information-sharing. ALIN: www.alin.or.ke

ALTERNATIVES, CANADA:
300-strong partnership
strengthens civil society
voice in the Congo

Photo: Alternatives

Part of Alternatives’ work is to develop civil society portals in areas of conflict, with the aim of giving a voice to local



⁴⁶ “Appropriating the Internet for Social Change: Towards the strategic use of networked technologies by transnational civil society organisations”, Mark Surman and Katherine Reilly/SSRC, November 2003. <http://www.ssrc.org/programs/itic/>

⁴⁷ Other organisations that were members of APC in 2003 include ChangeNet, ComLink, IGC, Green Spider, JCA-Net and Pangea.

organisations. In 2003, together with more than 300 local partners, Alternatives launched a portal in the Democratic Republic of Congo⁴⁸. The project empowers local civil society groups to present and promote their activities and perspectives, which is particularly important in the current period, where civil society is taking an ever-increasing role in defending the principles that can support long-term peace in the region. The strength of partnership, its credibility at a local level, and its capacity to intervene quickly within the population makes the portal initiative a significant factor in the rehabilitation and rebuilding of the Congo. Alternative's strategy involves connectivity facilitation, training of trainers, and organisational capacity development in computers and communications strategies for NGOs, so that the portal partners are equipped to technically and politically manage the portal after Alternatives' handover. A similar program is currently being developed in Afghanistan. Alternatives: www.alternatives.ca

ARABDEV, Egypt: Children hungry for computer training held back by lack of PCs in Upper Egypt



Photo: ArabDev

"Learning and working on the computer makes me feel that I am no less than anyone else in the world."
"Everyone should learn how to use a computer, especially the poor." This is how the children of 4th grade elementary in Abou Korkas, Menia governorate feel about their computer classes. ArabDev, in

cooperation with the Association of Upper Egypt for Education and Development (AUED), trained 20 teachers in eight schools in the governorate to become IT trainers. These teachers in turn trained 600 pupils in 18 months. The schools involved cater to poor communities cut off from IT services, as well as many other services. "Most of the children were never exposed before the project to computers," said ArabDev director, Leila Hassanin. "Now the children are proficient computer users." The IT classes were intertwined with academic topics and activity groups at the schools. Topics ranged from the environment, journalism, creative writing, and children's rights. Since this training, other schools in the governorate have been planning to replicate the model in high school and junior high. ArabDev: www.arabdev.org

BlueLink, Bulgaria: Environmental portal improves regional collaboration in the Balkans

During the last few years of transition in the countries from the South East European (SEE) region, several new e-networks have emerged to facilitate the work of civil society and NGOs. In 2003, the SEE Regional Environmental Content Sharing Platform⁴⁹ was born as a shared virtual space, where green NGOs from the Balkan region could learn about each

⁴⁸ www.societecivile.cd

⁴⁹ www.see-environment.info

other's activities and national environmental challenges being faced, with a view to exchanging experiences and embarking on mutual problem-solving, providing campaign assistance and more. "The project's efficiency led to improved access to environmental information, as well as e-networking partnership development and empowerment of



the democratic practices in the SEE civil sector", said Milena Georgieva of BlueLink. At the end of 2003, the portal became one of nine finalists in the environmental category of the prestigious Stockholm Challenge awards. BlueLink: www.bluelink.net

CECS, South Africa: ICT literacy training across southern Africa develops awareness as well as skills

"People won't benefit from improved access to digital networks, if the necessary capabilities to select, apply and interpret the available information are not better developed", says Arnold Pietersen of CECS. In 2003, with oversight from ICT NGOs from Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and Zambia, CECS designed an 'ICT Literacy' programme.

At the end of the eighty-hour programme, participants are able to use word-processing, spreadsheet and presentation software, design a basic web page using HTML, and perform basic computer troubleshooting and maintenance. Thinking ahead to outside the classroom, students ask how ICTs can be used in development, agriculture, health, and small business development. Political understanding of ICTs is an integral part of the curriculum. Students discuss the notion of local content development and develop an awareness of the free and open source software debate. By the end of the course, students should be able to describe what the digital divide is and Africa's place in the information society, as well as explain the relationship between ICTs and rights.



CEPES, Peru: Cooperation improves information-sharing in Peru's rural communities

Image, left: Organisations and cooperative located in these river valleys in Peru are sharing information online using a new website created by CEPES

Together with a collective of twenty organisations and networks working to protect Peru's wildlife and flora, CEPES developed the Peruvian Environmental Portal.⁵⁰ The portal

systematises information to really take advantage of the information available and improve dissemination. More than 200 organisations, working in eight remote valley regions, have formed an alliance to use a webspace⁵¹ to share information and resources about water and

⁵⁰ <http://www.portalambiental.org.pe/>

⁵¹ <http://www.gsaac.org.pe/>

environmental management more effectively. A third agreement, between CEPES and a trade union of Peruvian farmers, led to the set-up of another information-rich site,⁵² aimed at developing the rural and agricultural sector in Peru through information-sharing. All the sites have been developed using the APC's free content management system.⁵³

CEPES: www.cepes.org.pe

c2o, Australia: Innovative interactive software allows creation of multimedia social and cultural 'weblogs'



Photo: c2o

D3 is a public multimedia interactive – an electronic storytelling engine. It explores a sense of place by mapping trails through a village, a city or any other geographical space, allowing users to contribute and collect mementos such as images and

words as they go. The D3 prototype was developed by c2o and for four months in 2003 was installed⁵⁴ at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI), based in Melbourne, Australia, for testing and evaluation by the general public.

The D3 prototype invited participants to explore a unique map of the Melbourne central business district, a map created by people who participated in pre-prepared workshops and organised into teams. Each team was given a simple algorithm by which they navigated the city. The algorithm would have them stop at intervals from where they would photograph, video and comment on what they found there. They would then repeat the algorithm and move on. The end result of these excursions was a GPS (global positioning system) defined map, the coordinates of which were converted to a vector format, which in turn formed the basis of D3's interface. Still images, video and text also collected by the teams were used to create the main interface of the D3.

Public authoring kiosks attached to the D3 could allow the creation of “a kind of community-moderated weblog of considerable social and cultural value”, said creator, Andrew Garton. “D3 could engage the benevolent interests of telecommunications providers towards the establishment of public authoring kiosks in both urban and rural communities, its resources available across mediums, syndicated to like-initiatives world-wide.” C2o: www.c2o.org

⁵² <http://www.conveagro.org.pe/>

⁵³ APC ActionApps: <http://www.apc.org/actionapps>

⁵⁴ <http://www.acmi.net.au/d3.jsp>

COLNODO, Colombia: Internet improves local government transparency and accountability in Colombia

Software developed by Colnodo and Transparency for Colombia allows a mass take-up of an online tool to promote 'good government.'⁵⁵ The software known as "Internet for Accountability" seeks to make public that which belongs in and to the public domain by supporting local mayors' offices create websites that will expand the conditions of transparency in each municipality and introduce accountability practices into the management of municipal offices.

The tool's complete package includes a CD-ROM and three instructional booklets. The CD contains two applications: a software package based on APC's freely distributed software, the APC ActionApps, which allows each municipality to build and administer its own website; and a methodological guide to municipal government accountability vis-à-vis its citizens. The booklets are written for employees at the mayor's office, who will be responsible for putting content on the website, and the information systems technician, who will install and administer the website. Colnodo: www.colnodo.apc.org

ECONNECT: An Online Handbook to Citizens' Rights Challenges Abuses by Public Officials in the Czech Republic

Each year, Econnect selects one crucial current topic on which to create an information portal for Czech audiences. 2003 saw the launch of "Information Portal Civic Society – The Citizen's Handbook to Citizens' Rights"⁵⁶ intended to serve as a 'civic defence' guide for those who feel their rights are not being respected by government officials or big business.

Since the end of 1990s, a feeling of helplessness has pervaded many sections of Czech society, with citizens feeling that the present decision-makers are moving towards the creation of a more authoritarian society where the public's voice in has limited influence. "We decided to publish and promote very practical guidelines showing what ordinary people can do if they disagree with a public administrator's decision or if they want to take active part in decision-making themselves", said an Econnect representative. "It shows different strategies of defence such as guidelines on how to organise petitions, demonstrations, get in contact with officials, and how to participate in actual decision-making, even including how to establish a political party." Econnect: www.ecn.cz

⁵⁵ <http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=17998>

⁵⁶ <http://obcan.ecn.cz/>

ENDA, Senegal: Gender and ICT network in Senegal lays out its plan of action for 2003–05



African Women's Day workshop, "Senegalese women in the information society: Issues and perspectives". Photo courtesy of ENDA

The Gender and ICTs Network came about following a workshop on the gender dimensions of ICT policies in Senegal, held in November 2002. Regentic, as the network is also known, is working to promote gender analysis of the ICT sector in Senegal and initiate a dialogue process between the regulation

authorities, women's organisations and civil society working for gender justice in Senegal. ENDA Synfev is one of the network coordinators.

The network works in partnership with actors from the public, private, national and international sectors engaged in cooperation for development. A major achievement in 2003 was the setting out of a Plan of Action for 2003–05⁵⁷ for the network, looking ahead to the second phase of WSIS in Tunis 2005. ENDA: www.enda.sn

FANTSUAM FOUNDATION, Nigeria: Internet comes to rural Nigeria



Zitt Geeks –the Fantsuam youth corp- install the satellite internet connection. Photo: Fantsuam Foundation

APC member in rural Nigeria, Fantsuam Foundation, has recorded yet another first in rural ICT programs. Fantsuam has launched a VSAT facility. This is the first rural-based internet access in Kaduna State, if not in Nigeria, and it is already generating additional services

⁵⁷ <http://www.famafrique.org/regentic/planaction-engl.html>

⁵⁷ <http://www.martus.org>

downstream. This service is the only one of its type available to hundreds of people who would otherwise have to undertake hours-long journeys to the major cities of Jos, Abuja or Kaduna in order to access the internet or their emails.

Another major programme that is attracting students to BayanLoco is the Fantsuam Networking Academy, and the new internet facility has made it possible for the Foundation to be approved to operate a Cisco Academy at BayanLoco.

Fantsuam Foundation: www.fantsuam.org

FMA, Philippines: Human Rights Software Being Tested in the Philippines is Expected to Improve Documentation of Abuses

Human rights work is highly vulnerable to situations where crucial data is destroyed or confiscated, making it difficult and sometimes impossible for law enforcers and the courts to prosecute violators. Martus,⁵⁸ a new open source software, whose name means 'witness' in Greek, enables human rights organisations to safely store their data in a secure, remote server, without the fear of falling prey to hackers and those who might want to sabotage their work. Using Martus, just as with e-mail, information can be shared and transmitted, but with greater security.

FMA partnered, with the Asia Foundation and non-profit US technologists, the Benetech Initiative in promoting the use of Martus. The Philippines was the first country to officially adopt Martus, following initial tests in Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Thailand, Guatemala, Russia and the US. FMA: www.fma.ph

GREENNET, United Kingdom: UK Internet Rights website helps citizens get involved in forming the information society of the future

"When laws are passed that affect people's access to water or electricity, then thousands of people



march together in the streets; but when a government passes a law that enables it to read people's personal email, then there is silence", said Paul Mobbs, UK activist and writer of many of the materials on the new site launched in June by GreenNet. He attributed the silence to the complexity and technicality of the issues and the lack of easy-to-understand information that explains to people how legislation governing the internet has profound effects on our daily lives.

The primary goal of the UK Internet Rights website⁵⁹ is to provide knowledge, resources and

⁵⁹ www.internetrights.org.uk

tools for civil society organisations to safely and productively use the internet as a means of increasing democracy and to campaign on social justice issues. The website contains detailed briefings as well as concise fact sheets outlining some of the major issues in internet rights, including data retention, software patents, online privacy and anti-terrorism legislation.

GreenNet: www.gn.apc.org

INTERCOM, Ecuador: ICT4D newsletter from Ecuador gets facelift



Since 1997, Intercom – EcuaneX, has published *Conexión* a newsletter featuring resources and news on the use of the internet for the democratisation of communication and human development. In 2003, since edition no. 58, thanks to the support of the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD), *Conexión* received a face-lift, including full-colour printing and new in-depth sections. Published three times a year and with an increased distribution, *Conexión* has allowed Intercom to broaden its ICT for development coverage. INTERCOM: www.ecuaneX.net.ec

JINBONET, South Korea: South Korea ICT activists launch online guide to human rights in the information society

The Korean Progressive Network, Jinbonet, launched an online guide to human rights in the information society⁶⁰ on 10 December 2003, the 55th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The guide has been produced in order to inform the Korean general public about rights regarding information, and how to protect and exercise those rights. The guide is divided into sections on freedom of expression, the public domain, the right to privacy, and access to information. Jinbonet: www.jinbo.net



LABORNET, USA: Labour conference on communications rights and access in the USA

More than 60 labour, community media and internet activists met in April to discuss the growing threat to democratic rights on cable, the internet and other telecom areas. The LaborTech conference began with some concrete experiences of communication rights activists. Many workshops held were very lively, from debating the use of free software to

⁶⁰ <http://rights.jinbo.net/english/intro.html>

the battle to defend community access from its corporatisation. A workshop on wireless (Wi-Fi) technology demonstrated how the technology could be used by unions to broadcast rallies and campaigns live on the internet. LaborTech supporters and others discussed how Wi-Fi is being used to get labour and anti-war issues out, not only in the US but also internationally. A Wi-Fi broadcast of the February San Francisco mass anti-war demonstration received more than 600,000 hits in one day. LaborNet: www.labor.net

LANETA, Mexico: Technical training for unemployed Mexican youth

In the face of growing youth unemployment and school desertion, in 2003, LaNeta launched a technical training course for underprivileged young people who have been unable to complete their high-school education. The programme offered by LaNeta trained eighty 17–26-year-olds over seven months in basic computer training and a specialisation such as web design. LaNeta's supporters include Mexico City's National Institute for Adult Education. LaNeta: www.laneta.apc.org

OPEN FORUM of Cambodia: Intellectual property law forces Cambodians to start developing their own Khmer-language software

"We envision, in 2007, a country where Cambodians can learn and use computers in their own language, a country that does not have to change to a new language in order to use computers!" say the activists behind the KhmerOS initiative. Computer use in Cambodia has been mostly in English, and mostly using unlicensed copies of Microsoft Windows products. However, a new Cambodian

intellectual property law means that a user will have to purchase a licence for each copy of software sold by companies such as Microsoft, and that's unaffordable for most Cambodian computer users. This portal,⁶¹ coordinated by APC member, Open Forum of Cambodia, gets together some previously isolated developers, and is starting out by providing Khmer translations of well-known free software programmes such as Mozilla (the powerful web browser and mail programme). But the eventual goal is to create a full applications package under GNU/Linux, "which has 90% of all applications which 100% of all users need", say the Open Forum. Open Forum: www.forum.org.kh

Anniversaries in 2003

COLNODO: Ten years networking Colombian civil society

APC WNSP: December 2003 saw the tenth anniversary of the APC women's programme

⁶¹ <http://khmeros.info/>

RITS, Brazil: Brazilian communities in areas of extreme poverty to get telecentres



A community telecentre in São Paulo. Photo: Silvio Viana

RITS (Information Network for the Third Sector) is the São Paulo Prefecture's partner in one of the country's largest infoinclusion projects. The São Paulo Telecentre project is a partnership between RITS, the municipality and the local communities involved. In a city of eleven million people, already more than 400,000 users have registered

to use the 128 telecentres. The centres are located in some of the city's poorest communities, many of which are characterised by high levels of violence and social exclusion. 300,000 regularly access the centres each month, using nearly 3,000 Debian Linux workstations. A support staff of 600 come from the local communities.

RITS's participation in this project is through the management of the human resources involved in this initiative, providing free software courses, and working towards the full appropriation of ICTs for furthering social development. Activities include the production of local content, in addition to informing people about, and debating wide-ranging issues, such as gender, race and ethnicity, disabilities and other elements that can lead to social exclusion – with the broader objective of promoting equality in the telecentres, enhanced by the use of ICTs. RITS: www.rits.org.br

SANGONET, South Africa: Southern African network promotes debate on the role and relevance of technology for civil society



The Limpopo Province Theta held on 25 November 2003. Photo: SANGONeT

As one of few civil society organisations in Southern Africa dedicated to providing ICT services to the local CSO sector, in March SANGONeT launched "Theta:

The SANGONeT ICT Discussion Forum”, a series of one-day discussion forums that focus on the role and relevance of ICTs to the South African civil society sector. Thetha is a Nguni verb meaning let’s talk, discuss, debate, share opinions and engage each other.

SANGONeT organised six Thethas during 2003, covering a diverse range of topics and issues such as “Cyber Law and Internet Rights”, the “World Summit on the Information Society” and “Free and Open Software: Benefits and Challenges to Civil Society”. Two-thirds of the Thethas were held in Johannesburg, with two provincial Thethas (in North-west Province and Limpopo Province). SANGONeT also assisted Bridges.org through the Thetha network and contact list to organise a consultative workshop on the South African National E-Strategy, held on 28 August 2003 in Braamfontein. SANGONeT: www.sangonet.org.za

TAU, Argentina: One year weaving webs for Argentinian communications activists

On October 19th, APC member in Rosario, Argentina, celebrated the first anniversary of the launch of their community information portal Enredando. ‘Enredando’ means “I’m part of a network” as well as “weaving a web”. An additional cause for celebration was the fact that TAU had just been honoured by their city government, and their networking and ICT activities declared ‘of municipal interest’.

“One of the lessons we have learned is that the networks are not digital but human. What e-tools do is contribute to the deepening of our relationships with one another,” said coordinator Luis ‘Pipo’ Martinez, in an interview with APCNews. The anniversary was attended by hundreds of social and human rights organisations working in Rosario – Argentina’s second city – and its hinterland. TAU: www.tau.org.ar

STRAWBERRYNET, Romania: Promoting informed alternative voices on the environment in the Romanian media

This young Romanian successfully completes the online journalism course – will she become a critical voice in the future?
Photo: Aurel Duta



In 2003, APC member the StrawberryNet Foundation and partners, the Association of Romanian Environmental Journalism and UNESCO Pro Natura Ecological Club, teamed up to offer three-day courses in online environmental journalism in three Romanian cities, including the capital, Bucharest. The courses encouraged aspiring communicators from environmental NGOs to provide an

alternative voice to the official point of view of state authorities, which tends to predominate

in the portrayal of environmental matters in the traditional media. The course curriculum covered communication skills, an introduction to journalism, and training in the use of APC's content management software (APC ActionApps) to manage an interactive online news agency. StrawberryNet: www.sbn.ro

THIRD WORLD INSTITUTE (ITeM), Uruguay: Raising the visibility of southern civil society at the World Social Forum

In January, civil society looked to southern Brazil as the Third World Social Forum, with its promise that another world is possible, took place. The primary aim of ITeM's civil society portal, Choike, is to give visibility to southern civil society, and for the five days of the forum, the Choike team covered workshops, conferences and panels direct from Porto Alegre.⁶²

Amongst the themes covered were discussions on the World Trade Organisation, free trade treaties, the Health Forum, the Peasants' World Assembly, globalisation and the social exclusion of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transsexuals, popular education, gender, the conflicts in Colombia, the Middle East and the threatened war in Iraq, the International Criminal Court, access to water, and other environmental issues. ITeM: www.item.org.uy

UNIMONDO, Italy: Building a well-informed information society in Italy

In Italy, Unimondo was particularly active in promoting the CRIS (Communication Rights in the Information Society) Campaign and in trying to get as many organisations and people as possible involved in the UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process. In May, at Civitas⁶³ – Italy's largest non-profit fair – Unimondo promoted CRIS, and held a well-attended workshop that resulted in the formation of five working groups (on issues such as the digital divide, intellectual property, and youth and ICTs) which built Italian campaign support at university and media events throughout the year.

For the first phase of WSIS in December, in Geneva, Unimondo coordinated the construction of a multi-sectoral national platform,⁶⁴ together with an NGO association and other networks. Meetings were held with the Italian government. The platform is continuing to work up until the second WSIS conference in Tunis, in November 2005, trying to enlarge participation to include as many actors and local authorities as possible. Unimondo: www.unimondo.org

⁶² Choike from the World Social Forum:

<http://www.choike.org/nuevo/informes/799.html> [Spanish]

http://www.choike.org/nuevo_eng/informes/858.html [English]

⁶³ www.worldsocialagenda.org/archivio/index.htm

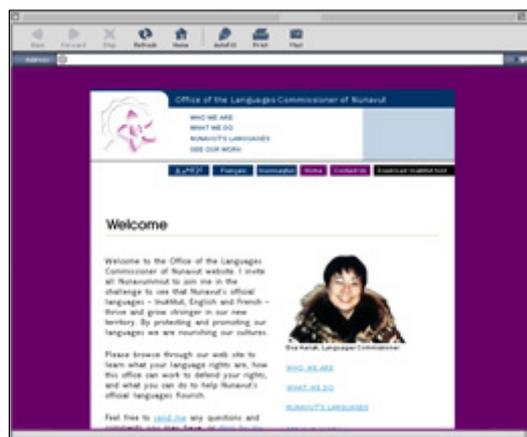
⁶⁴ www.wsisitalia.org/

WAMANI, Argentina: Report on the information society in Argentina – Lack of policy has meant “significant duplications and gaps” nationally

APC commissioned several reports on a selection of Latin American nations on the state of ICT policy and local civil society activities in relation to the information society that then formed the basis of APC’s Latin American interventions in the WSIS process. APC member Wamani concluded, in their report on the state of the information society in Argentina, that “Over the last ten years, there has been a never-ending discussion regarding which sector of the Argentine state is primarily responsible for public policy related to ICTs and the Information Society. At the present time, five different government departments work in the area. Besides, and not necessarily in these departments, 46 programmes related to the Information Society have been detected [...]. The lack of policy (or the policy of not having a policy) has meant, despite all the departments and programmes, significant duplications and gaps.” Wamani: www.wamani.apc.org

WEB NETWORKS, Canada: ‘Attavik ActionApps’ – APC’s free software used by Canadian indigenous, Inuit

Online projects that empower and give voice to aboriginal cultures are vital. In 2003, Web Networks partnered with Piruvik, an Inuit-owned centre for language, culture and wellbeing based in Nunavut, Canada to create an Inuktitut-friendly web hosting and development environment.⁶⁵ Web Networks installed APC’s content-management system, APC ActionApps, on a special server that allows accessible viewing of web pages created in the Inuit native language, Inuktitut. ‘Attavik ActionApps’ have been set up for many Inuit groups, including the Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut, Government of Nunavut – Department of Justice, the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, and the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation.



Web Networks ‘Secure Forms’ e-commerce solution was used by the New Democratic Party of Canada, prior to and during the federal election, to raise tens of thousands of dollars and process thousands of memberships. Web Networks also continued to extend the social use of APC ActionApps, including the creation of online solutions for the Ontario Nurses Association (an intranet for its 49,000 members), the Canadian Labour Congress (a resource for laid-off workers), and the Ontario Association of Social Workers (“Find a Social Worker” directory). Web Networks: www.web.ca

⁶⁵ <http://mto.web.ca/>

WOMEN'SNET, South Africa: Enabling South African women to use the internet to find the people, issues, resources and tools they need for women's social activism

Women'sNet joined APC in 2003, after gaining independence from its parent organisation, SANGONeT, at the beginning of the same year. "Women'sNet was not a newcomer to the APC though", said Sally-Jean Shackleton. "We have been involved in the APC women's programme as a project of SANGONeT since our inception in 1998. In that year, the Women'sNet's website was built with the assistance of APC's Maureen James and now APC-Africa-Women coordinator Jennifer Radloff. Anriette Esterhuysen, APC's executive director, was also instrumental in Women'sNet's inception. We have maintained these ties, and built on them, since our launch as a project in 1998. We are also an active member of the APC-Africa-Women network."

The process has been a challenge. Women'sNet moved into their own office, set up a training venue, took on more project staff, implemented new projects, and fundraised to establish themselves as an independent entity. One of the first fruits of the process is the development of Girl'sNet, a project similar to Women'sNet, with a focus on South African girls, as well as many more innovative projects. Women'sNet: www.womensnet.org.za

WOMENSHUB, Philippines: A draft policy framework on gender and ICT for the Philippines

In 2003, WomensHub developed a draft policy framework document entitled *Gender and ICT in the Philippines: A Draft Policy Framework*. The paper covers the emerging digital and gender divides, the national ICT situation in the Philippines, including the current national ICT policies, and lead agencies and current legislative initiatives in the Congress and Senate, and put forward recommendations on integrating and mainstreaming gender in legislation, in order to advance gender equality and women's empowerment.

The framework paper was presented and discussed with legislators and their staff, policymakers, government agencies, NGOs and ICT advocates during a national Policy Dialogue in June. WomensHub: www.womenshub.net

ZAMIRNET, Croatia: Peace-building in the community through ICT

As a result of access to telecentres set up by ZaMirNET in five rural towns, more than 250 people took part in and received intensive training in computer skills, and 100 plus attended online training focusing on human rights, non-violent communication, e-commerce, and career planning. Access to ICT is a way of fostering new community partnerships and enabling local inhabitants to access previously unavailable information about economic and social opportunities in Croatia and abroad. ZaMirNET: www.zamirnet.hr



Photo: ZaMirNET

At least 100 users applied their newly acquired ICT skills in their search for employment (writing job applications, web-searching for jobs), up-scaling of their private businesses (such as accounting for a shop, and database management of bee hives) or improvement of

their current job performance (e.g. statistical analysis of performance at the local police station).

For the majority of telecentre users, the centres became a significant social space for engaging in collaborative learning with their neighbours, particularly those of the other nationalities, with whom they would otherwise have had no direct contact. "During the computer course, we were socialising with other nationalities. We were all colleagues, all in the same position of learning new things and sharing what we know. We would all have coffee together," recounted a Croat woman. "Now we greet each other in the street. This is my first experience of learning together and it's great. Social events like this didn't exist before ZaMirNET."

Directory: Governance and Staff

Incoming board members in 2003 (for November 2003–04)

Julián Casasbuenas, Colombia (Chair)

Olinca Marino, Mexico (Vice Chair)

Natasha Primo, South Africa (Secretary)

Chris Nicol, Spain (Treasurer)

Danijela Babic, Croatia

Oh Byoung-il, South Korea

Danilo Lujambio, Argentina

John Dada, Nigeria

Outgoing board members in 2003 (November 2001–October 2003)

Stefan Hackenthal, Germany (Chair)
Magela Sigillito, Uruguay (Vice Chair)
Pavel Antonov, Bulgaria (Secretary)
Julián Casasbuenas, Colombia (Treasurer)
Chris Nicol, Spain
Toshimaru Ogura, Japan

Council representatives in 2003

AFRICA

ALIN, Kenya: James Nguo, Catherine Njuguna
ArabDev, Egypt: Leila Hassanin
CECS, South Africa: Arnold Pietersen
ENDA, Senegal: Youba Sokona, Marie-Helene Mottin-Sylla
Fantsuam Foundation, Nigeria: John Dada, Kazanka Comfort
SANGONeT, South Africa: David Barnard
Women'sNet, South Africa: Natasha Primo, Sally Shackleton

ASIA PACIFIC

c2o, Australia: Andrew Garton, Justina Curtis
Forum for Media Alternatives (FMA), Philippines: Alan Alegre, Jeremias Navarro
JCA-NET, Japan: Toshimaru Ogura, Tomoya Inyaku (to October 2003), Hamada Tadahisa (October onward)
Jinbonet, South Korea: Oh Byoung-il, PatchA
WomensHub, Philippines: Pi Villanueva

EUROPE

BlueLink, Bulgaria: Pavel Antonov, Nina Blagoeva
ChangeNet, Slovakia: Norbert Brazda
ComLink, Germany: Stefan Hackenthal
Econnect, Czech Republic: Vaclav Klinkera, Katerina Fialova
GreenNet, UK: Joanne Doyle, Michael Moritz
Green Spider, Hungary: Zoltan Varady, Robert Fridrich
Pangea, Spain: Chris Nicol, Leandro Navarro
StrawberryNet, Romania: Mihaly Bako
ZamirNet, Croatia: Danijela Babic, Kruno Sunjic

LATIN AMERICA

Colnodo, Colombia: Julián Casasbuenas, Ariel Barbosa
INTERCOM, Ecuador: Rodrigo Barahona, Diana Andrade
LaNeta, México: Olinca Marino, Jacques Lefevre
NODO TAU, Argentina: Danilo Lujambio, Luis Pipo Martinez (November onward)

RITS, Brazil: Graciela Baroni Selaimen, Carlos Afonso
Third World Institute (ITeM)/Chasque, Uruguay: Magela Sigillito
Wamani, Argentina: Carlos Alvarez, Rodolfo Rapetti

NORTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (not including Mexico)

IGC, USA: Mark Graham, Jillaine Smith
LaborNet, USA: Steve Zeltzer, Erika Zweig
Web Networks, Canada: Oliver Zielke, Alan Dixon

Staff and Project Team

The APC staff, led by South African-based Executive Director Anriette Esterhuysen, carries out the organisation's operational work. APC also employs project coordinators.

Posts in 2003 were:

Management Systems

Executive Director: Anriette Esterhuysen (South Africa)
Deputy Director/Programmes and Projects Manager: Sonia Jorge (USA)
Communications Manager: Karen Higgs (Uruguay)
Finance Manager: Maya Sooka (South Africa)
Logistics and Events Coordinator: Vanessa Purper (South Africa)
Technical Consultant: Josep Turró Mauri (Colombia)
Technical Information Coordinator: Fatima Bhyat (South Africa)

Communications and Information Policy Programme

Projects Coordinator: Claire Sibthorpe (South Africa) February–August
Africa ICT Policy Monitor Coordinator: Emmanuel Njenga Njuguna (Australia)
Latin America and the Caribbean ICT Policy Monitor Coordinator: Valeria Betancourt (Ecuador)
Latin America and the Caribbean ICT Policy Monitor Information Assistant: Diana Andrade (Ecuador)
Networking and Advocacy coordination including WSIS: Karen Banks (UK)

Strategic Use and Capacity Building Programme

Programme Manager: Ann Tohill (Australia)
Projects Worker: Anna Feldman (Ethiopia/UK)
Information Workers' Network Coordinator: Karel Novotny (Czech Republic)
ActionApps Service Delivery Network Coordinator: Ariel Barbosa (Colombia) May–October

Women's Networking Support Programme

Programme Coordinator: Karen Banks (UK)
APC-Africa-Women Coordinator: Jennifer Radloff (South Africa)
Gender Evaluation Methodology Project Manager: Chat Garcia Ramilo (Philippines)

Regional GEM Coordinators

Africa: Fatma Alloo (Tanzania)

Latin America and the Caribbean: Dafne Plou (Argentina)

Asia: Cheekay Cinco (Philippines)

Central and Eastern Europe: Katerina Fialova and Lenka Simerska (Czech Republic)

GEM Knowledge Site coordinators: Erika Smith and Josefina Leal (Mexico)

APC Community Face-to-face: Events that saw an APC Presence in 2003

Some of the events that saw representatives of APC giving keynote addresses, participating in workshops and roundtables, and serving on organising committees included:

- 10–12 January: Building the right to communicate: enhancing the democracy and assuring civil society participation, Quito, Ecuador
- 11–12 January: Asia Pacific Gender Forum for the WSIS, Tokyo, Japan
- 13–15 January: WSIS Asian Regional Conference, Tokyo, Japan
- 24–29 January: World Social Forum 2003, Porto Alegre, Brazil
- 27–30 January: WSIS Latin America and Caribbean Regional Conference, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
- 01–02 February: Governing Council Session of the Society for International Development (SID), Rome, Italy
- 08–15 February: GEM Europe Meeting, Prague, Czech Republic
- 17–28 February: World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) PrepCom 2, Geneva, Switzerland
- 21–22 February: Fourth meeting of the United Nations ICT Task Force, Geneva, Switzerland
- 03–14 March: Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), New York, USA
- 10–14 March: Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation ICT Policy training course, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 27 March: SANGONeT Theta on ICTs for Development in South Africa – Challenges and Opportunities, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 29 March–4 April: Women's Electronic Network Training in Africa (WENT-Africa), Cape Town, South Africa
- 09 April: First Encounter of International Organizations Active in Latin America and the Caribbean, Quito, Ecuador
- 09–11 April: Second Regional Telecentres Meeting, Quito, Ecuador
- 09–11 April: Pacific Islands Regional ICT Consultation, Suva, Fiji

- 13–16 April: Acacia/IDRC conference on Networking Africa's Future, Kwa Maritane, South Africa
- 21 May: First Seminar Technical Platforms for the State, Quito, Ecuador
- 10–17 May: Third Meeting of the Committee on Development Information, Information and Governance (UNECA), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 19–21 May: Third OURMedia Conference, Barranquilla, Colombia
- 21 May: ICT Development Forum 2003, Development Gateway Foundation, Bonn, Germany
- 21–23 May: Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) Annual Meeting, Rome, Italy
- 28–30 May: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Information Management Resource Kit (IMARK) meeting, New York, USA
- 12–17 June: Pan-African Symposium on Community Multimedia Centres (UNESCO/AMARC), Dakar, Senegal
- 16–20 June: East African ICT Policy for Civil Society Workshop, Kampala, Uganda.
- 29–30 June: IT and International Cooperation (ITIC) Committee Meeting of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), London, UK
- 07–09 July: Second Meeting of the Working Group on Gender Issues at the International Telecommunication Union, Geneva, Switzerland
- 09–11 July: Towards an Open Information Society, UNDP/IDRC Global Meeting on ICT for Development, Ottawa, Canada
- 14 July: UNESCO Expert Group Meeting on Gender Issues, Paris, France
- 15–18 July: World Summit on the Information Society Intersessional Meeting, Paris, France
- 20–21 July: High-level European Union – Latin America and Caribbean Information Society Forum, Lima, Peru
- 24 July: United Nations System ICT for Development Strategy Brainstorming Session 2003, Geneva, Switzerland
- 30 July: SANGONeT Theta on WSIS, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 07–09 August: South Africa Women @ WSIS Forum and National Women's Day Celebration, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 08–10 August: APC/ Friedrich Ebert Foundation workshop on "Thematic priorities and strategic planning for the WSIS", Quito, Ecuador
- 11–14 August: Community Information Network for Southern Africa (CINSA) Regional Conference, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 20–23 August: GKP Forum on ICTs & Gender "Optimising Opportunities", Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 01–04 September: African Conference on E-Strategies for Development Towards the World Summit on the Information Society (UNDP), Maputo, Mozambique
- 08–09 September: ItrainOnline partnership meeting, London, UK

- 08–10 September: Highway Africa 2003, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa
- 12–13 September: United Nations ICT Task Force Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland
- 15–26 September: World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) PrepCom 3, Geneva, Switzerland
- 15–18 September: IDRC Outcome Mapping Workshop, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Johannesburg, South Africa
- 23 September: Graduation Event, Community Education Computer Society (CECS), Johannesburg, South Africa
- 30 September: SANGONeT Theta on Free and Open Source Software, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 01–02 October: Communications Research Forum 2003, Canberra, Australia
- 12–20 October: Women's Electronic Network Training in Asia (WENT-Asia), Seoul, Korea
- 28 October–06 November: APC Networking and Advocacy for Communications Rights, Cartagena, Colombia
- 10–14 November 2003, PrepCom 3A, Geneva, Switzerland
- 15–22 November: Women's Electronic Network Training Workshop in India (WENT-IN), Mumbai, India
- 17–21 November: APC ActionApps Reseller workshop, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 18–19 November: Latin American dialogue around WSIS opportunities, Quito, Ecuador
- 20 November: AFREA/UNIFEM Regional Training Workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation in Africa, Pretoria, South Africa
- 25 November: National awareness-raising on ICT policies and WSIS workshop, Quito, Ecuador
- 05–06 December: PrepCom 3B, Geneva (Switzerland)
- 07–10 December: Ascillite conference, Adelaide, Australia
- 09–13 December: The Information and Communication Technology for Development Platform (ICT4D Platform), Geneva, Switzerland
- 10–12 December: World Summit on the Information Society, Geneva, Switzerland
- 12–14 December: Social Science Research Centre Conference, Geneva, Switzerland

Publications and Research from APC

ICT Policy: A Beginner's Handbook, APC/Chris Nicol, December 2003

<http://rights.apc.org/handbook>

Involving Civil Society in ICT Policy: the World Summit on the Information Society, APC/CRIS, September 2003

http://www.apc.org/books/policy_wsis_EN.pdf (English)

http://www.apc.org/books/policy_wsis_FR.pdf (French)

http://www.apc.org/books/policy_wsis_ES.pdf (Spanish)

Otro lado de la brecha – Perspectivas Latinoamericanas y del Caribe ante la CMSI (Other Side of the Divide: Latin American and Caribbean Perspectives on the WSIS), REDISTIC, September 2003

<http://www.redistic.org/index.htm?body=proyectosj> (Spanish)

<http://www.redistic.org/indexj.htm?body=proyectosjen> (English)

<http://www.redistic.org/indexj.htm?body=proyectosjfr> (French)

<http://www.redistic.org/indexj.htm?body=proyectosjpr> (Portuguese)

Practical guides including:

FAQ about Conducting a National WSIS Process: A guide to organising a national consultation on ICT policy, APC, July 2003

http://rights.apc.org/nationalfaq_wsis_v1.pdf (English)

http://derechos.apc.org/guianacional_wsis_v1_espanol.pdf (Spanish)

APC WNSP Policy Guide for Gender and ICTs, WNSP, December 2003

<http://www.apcwomen.org/summit/policy/wnsppolicyguide.html> (English)

http://www.apcwomen.org/policy/resources/policyguide_esp.htm (Spanish)

Policy analysis including:

La Cumbre Mundial sobre la Sociedad de la Información. Importancia del compromiso de sociedad civil y de los gobiernos latinoamericanos (WSIS: The importance of the involvement of Latin American civil societies and governments), Valeria Betancourt, January 2003

<http://lac.derechos.apc.org/wsis/cdocs.shtml?x=11391>

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.

Pula: The aim of Pula (a Tswana word for rain) is to promote and profile the work and activities of women and ICTs in Africa. It highlights current issues and encourages the production of new knowledge on African women's use of ICTs.

APC newsletters include **original writing** on the social use and impact of ICT, for example:

Dangers of monopolies and closed practices are key to debate on digital inclusion, APCNews, January 2003, <http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=9190> (Report from the World Social Forum, Brazil)

Can Open Source Technologies Transform African Information Infra-structures? A troupe of African techies tell it how it is, Maud Hand for APCNews, February 2003, <http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=9965> (Report from WSIS PrepCom 2, Switzerland)

Online Websites Promote Transparent Local Government in Colombia, APCNews/Colnodo, May 2003, <http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=12177> (Report produced in collaboration with APC member in Colombia)

Estudio de Gobierno Electrónico en 8 Países de América Latina y el Caribe: El espacio de los ciudadanos y las organizaciones de la sociedad civil en los procesos y proyectos de Gobierno Electrónico (E-governance study of eight countries in Latin America and the Caribbean), Katherine Reilly for the Latin American ICT Policy Bulletin, March 2003 <http://www.apc.org/espanol/rights/lac/cdocs.shtml?x=10584>

Rural Women in Africa: Ideas for Earning Money, Rita Mijumbi for Pula (Our Voices – Stories from the Field), January 2003 <http://www.apcafricawomen.org/pula1.html> (Our Voices is a regular column to profile the work and achievements of women who are using ICTs for social change)

Annual Financial Statements for 2003

Annual Financial Statements for 2003

Balance Sheet as 31 December 2003

	2003 USD	2002 USD
ASSETS	592,076	597,275
Non-current assets	2,403	2,866
Equipment	2,403	2,866
Current assets	589,673	594,409
Accounts receivable	6,182	3,770
Accrued income	287,547	183,295
Cash and cash equivalents	295,944	407,344
TOTAL ASSETS	592,076	597,275
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES	592,076	597,275
Reserves	211,692	316,773
Management systems reserve fund	93,779	202,212
Accumulated surplus	117,913	114,561
Current liabilities	380,384	280,502
Accounts payable	94,424	35,761
Deferred income	285,960	244,741
TOTAL RESERVES AND LIABILITIES	592,076	597,275

Income Statement for the year ended 31 December 2003

	2003 USD	2002 USD
Income	1,329,843	1,341,778
Grant and contract income	1,058,411	1,034,415
Administration fees	125,709	82,384
Membership fees	23,083	25,133
Consulting revenue	17,146	12,740
Project implementation	100,916	183,243
Sales and other fees	2,798	-
Interest	1,780	3,863
Expenditure	1,434,924	1,111,446
Auditors' remuneration	4,500	4,700
Operational expenses	71,369	45,812
Programme and project expenses	1,162,404	882,438
Salaries and benefits	196,651	178,496
Telephone and fax	4,087	1,073
Translation services	1,068	2,483
Travel, accommodation and per diems	10,362	4,392
Website	1,348	1,078
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	(105,081)	230,332
Transfer from/(to) the MS reserve fund	108,433	(150,000)
BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	114,561	34,229
BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	117,913	114,561

Acknowledgments

Annual Report Editor: Karen Higgs, APC Communications Manager, khiggs@apc.org

Assistant: Vanessa Purper

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

The APC Team all over the world	Jason Nardi, Italy
Ann Tohill, South Africa	Joanne Doyle, UK
Anriette Esterhuysen, South Africa	John Dada, Nigeria
Andrew Garton, Australia	Julian Casasbuenas, Colombia
Anna Feldman, UK	Karel Novotny, Czech Republic
Ariel Barbosa, Colombia	Kong Daroth, Cambodia
Arnold Pietersen, South Africa	Leila Hassanin, Egypt
Carlos Saldarriaga, Peru	Magdaline Nkando, Kenya
Cheekay Cinco, Philippines	Marie-Helene Mottin-Sylla
Danijela Babic, Croatia	Maya Sooka, South Africa
David Barnard, South Africa	Michel Lambert, Canada
Diana Andrade, Ecuador	Mihaly 'Misi' Bako, Romania
Elina Racholova, Bulgaria	Oliver Zielke, Canada
Erika Smith, Mexico	PatchA, South Korea
Fausto Rêgo, Brazil	

and to all of the other APC representatives who regularly contribute stories of their work in facilitating the use of ICTs by civil society groups around the world.

APC would also like to thank the following donor agencies and organisations for their support of our work in 2003:

- **Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA):** Knowledge and capacity for Civil Society Engagement in ICT Policies: leveraging the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)
- **Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO):** ICT Policy for Civil Society Training in Colombia; Global ICT Policies and Civil Society Project (ICT policy handbook and training curriculum)
- **Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst e.V. (EED):** Mobilising Civil Society for the Word Summit on the Information Society
- **Ford Foundation:** Global Advocacy on Communication Rights
- **Frederich Ebert Stiftung (FES):** ICT Policy for Civil Society Training in Colombia
- **GTZ:** APC ActionApps Reseller Training in Africa
- **HIVOS:** APC-Africa-Women; Global ICT Policy Monitor (Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa)
- **Institute of Connectivity in the Americas (ICA):** Betinho Prize

- **International Development Research Centre (IDRC):** Africa Hafkin Prize; Betinho Prize; LAC and Africa ICT Policy Monitor Projects; Gender and ICT Evaluation Methodology (GEM)
- **Open Society Institute Southern Africa (OSISA):** Africa ICT Policy Monitor Project
- **Open Society Institute:** ICT Policy for Civil Society Training in Colombia
- **Rockefeller Foundation:** Multimedia Toolkit Project
- **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC):** Gender and ICT Awards
- **UK Department for International Development (DFID):** Gender and ICT Evaluation Methodology (GEM)
- **UNESCO:** Multimedia Toolkit Project

Contributions towards travel expenses for the World Summit on the Information Society: IndoTel, Open Society Institute – West Africa, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), University of Maryland, and the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC)

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACE	APC Content Exchange
ALAI	Latin American Information Agency (from Ecuador)
ALIN-EA	Arid Lands Information Network – Eastern Africa
AMARC	World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters
APC	Association for Progressive Communications
APC ActionApps	an online content-management system
ARTICLE 19	Global Campaign for Free Expression (Named after Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)
AUED	Association of Upper Egypt for Educational Development
AWID	Association of Women in Development
AWRD	Association for Women’s Rights in Development
BCO	Building Communications Opportunities
CATIA	Catalysing Access to ICTs in Africa
CECS	Community Education Computer Society (South Africa)
CEE/CIS	Central and Eastern Europe region and ex-Soviet states
CEPES	Peruvian Social Studies Centre
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIDCM	Center for International Development and Conflict Management
CIPP	Communications and Information Policy Programme
CMS	content-management system
CRIS	Communications Rights in the Information Society
CRISAL	CRIS in Latin America

CSOs	civil society organisations
CTO	Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation
DFID	UK Department for International Development
DOT force	G8 Digital Opportunity Taskforce (dot force) — Canadian Civil Society Consultation
ECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
EIN	Electronic Immigration Network
ENDA Tiers Monde	Environment and Development Action in the Third World (ENDA-TM)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIAM	International Federation of Multimedia Associations
FMA	Foundation for Media Alternatives (Philippines)
FOSSFA	Free and Open-source Software Foundation for Africa
GCN	Global Community Networking
GCNP	Global Communities Networking Partnership Congress
GEM	Gender Evaluation Methodology
GKD	Global Knowledge Development email list
GKP	Global Knowledge Partnership
GTZ	Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
HIVOS	Humanist Institute for Co-operation with Developing Countries (Dutch NGO: Humanistisch Instituut voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking)
ICA	Institute for Connectivity in the Americas
ICANN	Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
ICTs	information and communications technologies
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IICD	International Institute for Communication and Development
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
IMARK	an e-learning initiative in agricultural information management developed by FAO and partner organizations
INASP	International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications
ITeM	Third World Institute
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
IWN	Information Workers' Network
L+P	Learning and Practitioners' Network
LAC	Latin American and Caribbean (<i>as in</i> WSIS LAC Caucus)
MISA	Media Institute of Southern Africa
MMTK	UNESCO Multimedia Training Kit
NGO-GSWG	NGO Gender Strategies Working Group [part of the WSIS Civil Society Plenary]
NGOs	non-governmental organisations
OKN	Open Knowledge Network
OSI	Open Society Institute
OSISA	Open Society Institute of Southern Africa
OSIWA	Open Society Institute of West Africa

RIP Act (UK)	<i>Regulation of Investigative Powers Act</i> (United Kingdom) [anti-privacy legislation]
RITS	Third Sector Information Network (Brazil)
SACOD	Southern Africa Communications for Development
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SEE	South East European region
SOC	Secure Online Communications
SSRC	Social Science Research Council
SU&BC	Strategic Uses and Capacity-Building Programme
UNDAW	United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
WELDO	Women Empowerment Literacy and Development Organisation
WENT	Women's Electronic Network Training
WNSP	Women's Networking Support Programme
WORC	Women's Online Resource Centre
WOUGNET	Women of Uganda Network
WSF	World Social Forum
WSIS	World Summit on the Information Society
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development [2002]
ZaMirNET	Croatian APC member