



Annual Report 2004

Association for
Progressive Communications
(APC)



Dedication

This annual report is dedicated to Chris Nicol, APC council and board member, whose death in August 2005 came as a great shock and loss to all his friends in the APC community. We will always miss Chris. He made a difference in APC and in the other places and communities where he put his beliefs into practice with the commitment and integrity which will always remain an example for those that knew him.

APC extends our support and love to his family, friends and colleagues.

APC Annual Report 2004

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Introduction to the APC Annual Report 2004



Anriette Esterhuysen, APC Executive Director

For APC, 2004 was in several ways a year of transition: we were 'in-between' strategic plans; we shifted from a period of

serious financial difficulty (mid 2003) and being totally dependent on project funding to finally securing some core funding; and it was the year between the two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). We hoped for a period of calm after the intense activity of the previous year, which ended with a face-to-face APC council meeting in Colombia in November and the WSIS summit in December (not to mention the more than fifteen events we organised in 2003).

In the end 2004 was not a quieter year, either for members or programmes, but it was certainly a productive year, filled with challenges, learning and achievements.

The WSIS: From focusing on participation to producing proposals

When we first engaged the World Summit on the Information Society process in 2001-3, our key goal was to *facilitate civil society involvement* in an arena which had previously been dominated by technicians, telecomms policy experts and business.

As work started towards the second phase of the summit, which would culminate in Tunis in November 2005, our *initial intention* was to step back from global policy processes and instead focus on regional and national level policy development and advocacy - the spaces where policy change has most impact.

Things turned out a bit differently. Three people from APC staff and members were asked to join working groups convened by the UN Secretary General to focus on the two controversial issues that were not resolved during phase 1: financing ICT in developing countries; and internet governance.

To make an impact we had to rapidly increase our understanding of the issues. The Task Force on Financing commenced work late in 2004 while the Working Group on Internet Governance only started in early 2005 and is therefore not covered in APC's 2004 annual report.

Working on the Task Force on Financing Mechanisms was complex, challenging, and compressed. The Task Force met only twice and had to complete its work within two and a half months.

Fortunately APC had already identified financing as a key issue and had commissioned our member the Third World Institute (ITeM) to write a paper on financing early in 2004. As a consequence, we based much of our positions on financing ICTs on an understanding of the internet as a global public good. Promoting the concept of the internet as a public good locates ICT policy as 'public policy', which should be based on public interest principles.

To promote this approach we needed to find a constructive way of challenging the dominant view in the Task Force that all that is needed to 'bridge the digital divide' is to create an easier environment for private sector investment in developing countries.

Finding a way of affirming the importance of competition and removing cumbersome regulatory barriers (for example, to entry into the market for local ICT businesses, and powerful technologies such as Voice over Internet Protocol and wireless networking), while at the same time emphasising the fundamentally important role of government and the public sector, is easier said than done. Particularly in a climate so dominated by fairly one-dimensional views: market fundamentalism from private sector and many government actors; and anti-business, anti-liberalisation positions from many civil society voices.

The outcome of this challenge was that we became more focused on producing policy content - commentaries, proposals and positions. It allowed us to form strategic alliances with like-minded civil society organisations and governments and intergovernmental organisations, while at the same time maintaining an independent and critical perspective.

WSIS civil society spaces: Consensus and conflict

From the outset of the WSIS it was not clear what the second 'Tunis' phase would be about. Stated goals included 'implementation', 'monitoring', and of course the two open issues - financing and internet governance.

Uncertainty of what to prioritise contributed to the losing of coherence in general civil society spaces at global and regional levels during 2004. It also placed the 'goodwill' that sustained a mainly consensus-based approach during the first phase, and which resulted in the Civil Society Declaration on the WSIS¹, under severe strain.

The impact of this tension came to a head during the first global preparatory meeting for phase two, held in June 2004 in Hammamet, Tunisia. The civil society caucus was invaded by large numbers of participants, mostly from Tunisia, who were not involved in the early

¹ Shaping information societies for human needs www.itu.int/ws/ docs/geneva/civil-society-declaration.pdf

stages of the first phase when civil society established its working procedures. They also appeared to have an agenda that was peripheral to the actual theme of the Summit.

In what could possibly be interpreted as a case of displacement, the issue NOT being talked about by most governments² –freedom of expression and association in Tunisia– came to dominate civil society discussion to a point where any serious engagement with summit issues became extremely difficult. APC’s WSIS coordinator Karen Banks wrote a powerful personal account of the Hammamet PrepCom³. Her predictions on the future of WSIS civil society during the rest of the second phase unfortunately proved to be accurate.

APC held back from attempting to play a facilitating role and working to develop ‘consensus’ civil society positions, but continued to provide voluntary hosting of the primary online WSIS civil society discussion spaces. We increased our activity in thematic caucuses, working with members and partners: organisations interested in the substantive issues under discussion (financing, privacy, internet governance, human rights, access to infrastructure).

APC financial resource mobilisation during 2004

By mid 2003, APC had very little funding with which to operate. Emergency fundraising allowed us to go ahead with the 2003 council meeting, which in turn enabled us to get a new strategic mandate from our members.

2004 was a turning point for APC in terms of financial resources. We continued to get project support from several of our longstanding donor partners and managed to secure project commissions from some new partners.

But the real difference was made through three grants that provide us with support for programmes and core operations. The first of these, a contribution to core operations and the women’s programme (APC WNSP) from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (\$300,000 over two years) took effect from January 2004, and made the difference between pursuing our strategic goals or making dramatic cuts in work and staff. This gave us the energy and confidence to apply for theme-based co-financing from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS). The huge effort involved in putting together this application in a very short space of time was rewarded when APC heard, late in 2004, that we had succeeded in securing around \$1.5 million for the period 2005-8.

The third significant grant secured in 2004 was linked to the honour of APC being invited to join the Building Communications Opportunities (BCO) alliance, an informal network of donors and implementing agencies who have a common agenda to use ICTs in ways that addresses poverty. The UK government’s development ministry (DFID), one of the BCO

² There have been exceptions, for example Norway and Canada, whose representatives consistently maintained the importance of fundamental freedoms to a democratic information society.

³ http://rights.apc.org/documents/report_prepcom1_0604.pdf

donor partners, entered into an agreement with APC to extend the work we started in Africa through the CATIA programme (Catalysing Access to ICTs in Africa) to more countries in Africa and in South Asia. In recognition of the standing and impact of APC WNSP this 4-year grant included a contribution to using ICTs for gender equality work. And, perhaps most significantly, DFID agreed to support our Strategic Use and Capacity Building Programme for the development of tools and resources to support effective use of ICTs by civil society in Africa and South Asia in ways that can contribute to 'raising the voices' of people that are socially, politically and economically excluded. And we started negotiations with another BCO partner, HIVOS, which was one of the first supporters of APC's ICT policy work, to shift from project funding to four-year long programme support from the beginning of 2005.

So after what had seemed like desperate financial straits, in 2004, APC secured enough resources to be able to tackle our ambitious 2004-8 strategic plan. But at the same time we were aware that our financial, project and management information systems were severely lacking. In December 2004 we managed to secure a further long-term grant aimed at building our capacity in these areas, this time from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), a Canadian institution which has been supporting APC's work since the early 1990s. Among donor agencies working in ICT for social, economic and political development, IDRC was one of the first to recognise the value of information and communications. Much of APC's most innovative work over the years started in partnership with the IDRC (e.g. the store and forward email systems of the early 1990s, the Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) and the ItrainOnline initiative). IDRC's confidence in APC is a significant indicator of their commitment to building the capacity of institutions and networks that are 'on the ground' and that become spaces where individuals can learn and inject new ideas into development and social change work. And it is an indicator of the respect they have for the APC network and our members.

APC's history given a high-profile hearing

This change in financial fortune can be attributed to many things, particularly to a lot of hard work. But the ongoing work and strengthened profile of APC's programmes and members is the primary factor. APC has not just survived... we take on new challenges and try to think ahead while not letting go of our roots as a network of activists driven by the belief that technology should be used to support social justice.

The members of the UN ICT Task Force received a unexpected lesson in APC's history at its November 2004 "Global Forum on Promoting an Enabling Environment for Digital Development"⁴ when ITeM's Roberto Bissio spoke on 'financing the information society'. He opened his address passionately reminding the audience how a small group of dedicated organisations and individuals, using low-cost technology, revolutionised development communications by introducing the UN system to the power of online networking at the Earth

⁴ <http://www.unicttaskforce.org/seventhmeeting/>

Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992⁵. It was a reminder that extending the power of the internet to places where it currently does not reach is achievable, and the fact that it has not yet happened does not reflect too well on the world's governments, or on the many large companies that have made their fortunes from the ICT 'revolution'.

A special note of thanks to the APC staff team and executive board



APC is full of remarkable people. To end this report I want to recognise the exceptional dedication and hard work of the APC staff team during 2004 and the commitment of the 2003-5 executive board.

The APC executive board (pictured left meeting with the APC

staff in March 2004) made an exceptional contribution in 2004: working with staff to develop a new strategic plan for the network that reflects its values and priorities; and a new remuneration system that accommodates the geographically-distributed nature of the team and the fact that so many people are on part-time and short-term contracts.

Many staff members worked full-time on part-time salaries, some even worked without being paid during periods when project funding had ended and contracts were not renewed. APC staff live all over the world, travel far too much, spend too little time with their friends and families and give heart and soul to their work but they bring so much energy, humour, passion, skill, and a wide range of personal, political and professional experience to the team that it more than compensates for APC's lack of a bricks-and-mortar office.

-- Anriette Esterhuysen, APC executive director

⁵ [http://www.apc.org/english/about/history/english.shtml?cmd\[384\]=x-575-5320](http://www.apc.org/english/about/history/english.shtml?cmd[384]=x-575-5320) or [http://www.apc.org/english/about/history/english.shtml?cmd\[384\]=x-575-5348](http://www.apc.org/english/about/history/english.shtml?cmd[384]=x-575-5348)

Message from the Chair of the APC Executive Board



Julián Casasbuenas, APC Chair

During 2004, APC put the strategic priorities established at the APC council meeting in Cartagena in November 2003 into practice. This strategic plan (2004-2008) aims at:

- Promoting and facilitating the strategic use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) by civil society organisations (CSOs)
- Strengthening the role of APC and CSOs and their commitment to ICT policy processes
- Strengthening and broadening the CSO network promoting the use ICTs for social justice and development.

Two crosscutting axes accompany this strategy:

- Our commitment to sustainable development
- Our commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women

APC's programmes have been working closely with our members to implement this plan. This has led to important advances, which include the strengthening of members especially in themes related to ICT policy and internet rights. This process has facilitated the involvement of both APC members as well as the civil society organisations with which they work at the local level, into the space provided by the preparatory meetings for the second phase of the WSIS held in Tunisia in November 2005. Participation in these meetings has allowed the positions of these civil society organisations to be considered in the documents the governments signed at WSIS.

Ten national ICT policy portal monitors were set up through an APC project to facilitate the dissemination of information on the WSIS process, ICT policy at the local and regional level, legislation and ICT and gender. These local portals allow the exchange of information among civil society groups actively involved in ICT policy. In Colombia, the national portal has acted as a facilitation and documentation point for discussion on three issues including ICT policy and community media. The result has been the generation of three concrete public policy proposals to be presented to the government by Colombian civil society.

In 2004, APC and our members have ventured into new territory including training in the use ICTs that offer new forms of connectivity (such as low-cost wireless networks) and supported marginalised communities in the reclaiming of knowledge and information – including putting indigenous languages online for the first time. This provides substantive support towards improving quality of life, promoting digital inclusion and fomenting the creation of local content.

APC has also invested a special effort into training processes that guarantee civil society secure communications and their privacy on the internet. This is particularly crucial to groups working on human rights.

We made significant strides in the use and promotion of free software. In November 2004 more than 40 open source programmers from around the world who have been working on different aspects of the content management system, ActionApps, met in Cape Town, South Africa. As a result of this meeting, the steps to follow in their development were defined with the objective of making significant improvements to this software that is specifically designed to support online content publishing by communities. APC also moved forward on the definition of strategies to support social organisations which want to migrate from proprietary to free software.

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome the new members who joined APC in 2004 – Computer Aid International (United Kingdom) and Bytes for All (South Asia) who have broadened our membership network and made very important contributions to our mission.

To conclude I would like to express my gratitude to APC staff for their dedication to the association and to all APC members and partners for their active participation, as well as the donors that have supported our projects.

-- Julian Casasbuenas, APC chair (2003-5)

APC Programme Achievements in 2004

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 the improvement of its participants' 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.

APC's ICT policy engagement takes place at four levels: nationally, through our work with local policy advocates in countries like Kenya, Ecuador, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda among others; regionally, through our regional ICT policy monitors in Africa and Latin America; thematically, e.g. through our engagement in internet governance; and globally, through our work in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the UN ICT Task Force.



A bridgehead in global public policy for ICT

APC's activities in global ICT policy and governance since 2001 have been aimed at using the WSIS, the UN ICT Task Force and the CRIS (Communication Rights in the Information Society) Campaign to open a space for more concerted civil society engagement with global public ICT policy-making.

What we have achieved is a bridgehead that needs to be opened further, working in alliance with our civil society partners, particularly at regional and national levels.

From 2002-3 we focused on raising awareness of how ICT policies impact on the work of social movements and civil society organisations. We aimed to involve civil society in regional and global processes in order to strengthen its impact at national levels. To do this, we concentrated on capacity building to deepen civil society organisations' understanding of the range of ICT policy issues and how the issues connect with other areas of public policy.

During 2004 we focused our international engagement in ICT policy on four areas - internet governance, financing information and communications technologies for development (ICTD), the UN ICT Task Force's Working Group on ICT policy and governance, and the CRIS Campaign's Global Governance Project (GGP).

Financing of ICTD

Internet as a global public good

The value of a global network like the internet is increased for everyone as more individual users and countries come online. This 'network effect' benefits all players, including the private sector, who could contribute through a global tax to this expansion from which they are among the primary beneficiaries.

With respect to financial mechanisms for information and communications for development, we were invited to participate in the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms⁶ convened by the UNDP. The task force had limited civil society participation and had to complete its work in two months because the chairperson of the WSIS process wanted the financial mechanisms issue dealt with at PrepCom 2⁷ in February 2005. Here APC tried to keep a space open for an approach to financing premised on the notion of information and communication networks (including the internet) as a *global public good*.

APC argued for a combined policy and financial mechanism that would address the financial mechanism knowledge gaps, the ICT policy information gaps as well as create a space for a new form of fund to mobilise additional resources. We pointed out that many developing countries had experienced mixed results -from the telecom reform policy process, as well as from national ICT strategies- which had become so broad and complex as to be unimplementable. We proposed that what is required is *a new mechanism that can provide disinterested policy advice and information to developing countries on the financial mechanisms that are available to support ICT development work*.⁸

Our positions were not supported in general. However, on the issue of global financing of ICTD, we were able to impact on two dimensions. We contributed to breaking a deadlock pitting developed countries and donor agencies versus African governments at the Africa Preparatory Conference in Accra. This led to the Digital Solidarity Fund being welcomed in

⁶ <http://www.itu.int/wsis/tffm/>

⁷ 'PrepCom 2' stands for the second preparatory meeting in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process.

⁸ <http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=30736>

the Geneva PrepCom 2 in February 2005.⁹ Secondly, we were successfully able to advocate positions supporting the use of public finance for ICTs in rural and under-served areas as well as the participation of community organisations in ICTD in Chapter 2 (the section on financing) of the Operational Document at WSIS PrepCom 2.

Internet governance

With respect to internet governance, we worked together with civil society allies to convert the relatively closed space for civil society participation in the first phase of WSIS into the relatively open space of the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG)¹⁰. During the first phase of WSIS, participants from civil society organisations and the academic community had demonstrated that they have the policy and technical expertise to contribute to breaking the stalemate that emerged around internet governance, and civil society institutions gained significant representation on the WGIG through a transparent nomination process¹¹.

The WGIG was convened in late 2004. APC was represented through staff member Karen Banks and council member Carlos Afonso from RITS, APC's member in Brazil.

The process by which the WGIG was formed is a good indicator of the role civil society can play in shaping global policy environments. Civil society was instrumental in influencing the criteria setting and nomination process for the working group. The Civil Society Internet Governance Caucus developed general criteria –including the need for geographic and gender balance and a mix of skills (technical, academic, networking and facilitation)- and formed a nomination slate of some fifteen candidates, ten of which were finally selected by



So at the end of the day, what do the declarations mean to people back home?

"The outcomes of the UN summit on the information society (WSIS) Phase Two are captured in a document that will be agreed to by the governments in Tunis in November 2005. Governments agree to the issues in the document. However, like most UN documents this does not mean that they will actually do the things they have agreed to, but it *does* provide a set of policy directions which are useful for policy processes at global, regional and national levels *because they have the authority of having been discussed and agreed upon by the world's governments under the auspices of the UN.*

So for example, people lobbying for public financing for ICTs in rural and under-served areas in their country will be able to point to the chapter on financing and say 'Our country has signed a UN declaration which supports the use of public finance for ICT and so that fact should be recognised in our national legislation and policy'."

– Willie Currie, APC policy manager

9 <http://www.itu.int/wsis/docs2/pc2/off11ann1rev1.html>

10 <http://www.wgig.org>

11 The full impact of this achievement was seen when the recommendations of WGIG made to the WSIS included a multistakeholder forum for internet governance, a proposal unlikely to have been made if CSOs had not been present and vocal in the WGIG.

the UN Secretary General. The final composition of the 40-member WGIG was government (18), private sector (6) and civil society (15), including 31 men and nine women.

UN ICT Task Force

With regard to the UN ICT Task Force¹² -the body set up by Kofi Annan in 2001 to address the digital divide- APC took over the chair of the Working Group on ICT Policy from the Markle Foundation in September 2003 and maintained a focus on the issue of meaningful participation of the developing world in global ICT policy forums such as WSIS. We provided input on the three task force debates on internet governance, financial mechanisms and ICTs in education held in 2004-5 and worked actively with the Task Force Secretariat in convening a task force meeting on internet governance held in New York in March 2004.

A new body will replace the UN ICT Task Force when its mandate ends in November 2005. A debate has begun about forming a Global Alliance for ICT Policy and Development and how it should be constituted. APC has proposed that the open process that led to the setting-up of the WGIG may be a good model of multi-stakeholder participation to follow.

A similar issue of multi-stakeholder participation has arisen in relation to the post-WSIS "Implementation Mechanism" that will carry forward the WSIS Plan of Action. APC is keen to ensure that civil society develops its role within global public policy forums and consolidates a high level of participation in the post-UN ICT Task Force and post-WSIS period¹³.

CRIS Campaign's Global Governance Project



Communications Rights in the Information Society (CRIS) is a campaign to ensure that communication rights are central to the information society. APC worked on a CRIS research project: 'Communication Rights and Global Governance'. The project aims to mobilise civil society groups to identify, prioritise and model a campaign around critical communication rights issues in five countries -

Bolivia, Brazil, Kenya, the Philippines and the EU (as a region).

¹² <http://www.unicttaskforce.org>

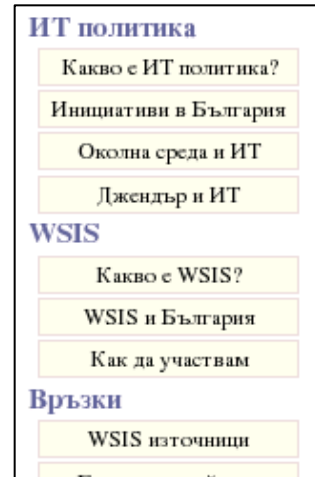
¹³ Multi-stakeholder participation and ICT policy processes:
<http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=31497>

Activities include desk-based research using a communication rights 'indicator' framework, research validation workshops through national consultation, and development of a "Communication Rights Campaigning" toolkit¹⁴. The communication rights generic framework is a very useful tool for helping to understand what communication rights are, in reality, and to assess the extent to which they are being protected, defended or abused, at country level.

APC members in Brazil, Colombia and the Philippines and staff in Kenya were directly involved in the GGP research.

Linking global policy to regional and national policy spaces

In 2004-5 we deepened the linkages between the global policy issues coming out of the WSIS Plan of Action adopted in Geneva in December 2003 and regional policy spaces in Africa and Latin American and the Caribbean countries (LAC) as well as national policy spaces. At national level we worked primarily in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Senegal in Africa, Ecuador and Bolivia in Latin America, and through the building of national ICT policy portals in a joint process¹⁵ with locally-based APC members in Australia, the Philippines, the UK, Spain, Bulgaria, Italy, Colombia, Mexico and Argentina.



The APC Communications and Information Policy Programme (CIPP) team played a key role in preparing Africa CSOs for the Accra WSIS PrepCom in February 2005 through the facilitation of a preparatory online discussion.

APC developed three discussion papers to frame the discussion that took place in the African WSIS civil society online workspace. The background papers and the online discussion focused on three main thematic issues: identifying priorities for Africa; financing ICT for development; and internet governance.

In both Africa and LAC, we worked with our partners on building awareness of the main issues on the agenda of the second phase of the WSIS and assisted in the development of a civil society strategy through our work with Africa Civil Society for the Information Society (ACSIS) as well as forging alliances with communications networks in LAC on a range of fronts. One of these was the organisation of a regional ICT policy strategy workshop in Argentina in December 2004.

At national level, we began the process of building regional policy advocacy in East and West Africa through two workshops, one in English and one in French. Together, both workshops involved participants drawn from civil society, media, and private sector organisations.

In Latin America, the APC LAC Monitor collaborated with the International Institute on Communication and Development (IICD) to organise an ICT policy training workshop in Quito

¹⁴ <http://www.crisinfo.org/craft>
¹⁵ http://rights.apc.org/policy_sites.shtml

in November 2004. Coordinators of IICD's national initiatives in Bolivia, Ecuador and Jamaica participated along with national Ecuadorian stakeholders. The workshop brought together participants from national and local governments, the private sector, academia and civil society organisations. The workshop used the APC's ICT Policy Training Curriculum¹⁶ and was run with the collaboration of ITDG-LAC, FLACSO and Nuevared.org as partner organisations.

Regional ICT Policy Advocacy Workshop, Nairobi, Kenya: July 19 - 23 2004

Supported by CATIA and the IDRC, this event was a huge success. It brought together 40 individuals from civil society, the media and the private sector from more than 10 countries. APC was able to secure the Kenyan Minister of Communications, Raphael Tuju, as a keynote speaker for the workshop's closing event. The workshop received extensive media coverage in East Africa and we were overwhelmed with positive feedback from participants.

Several of the participants initiated national advocacy activity once back at home. In Zimbabwe, Margaret Zunguze from EKOWISA networked with fellow Zimbabwean NGOs and raised funding for a national ICT policy capacity building workshop. These NGOs requested APC's support in the form of materials and trainers. A similar initiative came from Uganda.

Catalysing Access to ICTs in Africa (CATIA)



APC is the lead implementer of the UK's Department for International Development's (DFID) CATIA programme's component (1c) on African-led advocacy for ICT policy reform. The overall objective is to achieve increased access to affordable ICTs in Africa, particularly for the poor and those in rural and under-serviced areas. It aims to stimulate and support accelerated ICT policy and regulatory reform in six countries: Nigeria, Senegal, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya and Mozambique. This work, started in March 2004, is performed through supporting existing initiatives and developing the capacity of informed advocacy groups and individuals from the private sector, civil society, and the media.

Good progress has been made in this challenging project. APC's methodology has a two-pronged approach: regional policy advocacy capacity building; followed by identifying national policy animators for each of the six countries who can then lead advocacy from a national base by building new or connecting to existing national networks.

We trained national ICT policy animators in the six countries and are working with them to develop national advocacy plans to implement in their countries over the period of 2005-6.

The policy issues they are taking up include universal internet access (Kenya), community radio (Nigeria), the national backbone network (DRC), training ICT media journalists and reducing the cost of ICT (Senegal), free and open source software (Ethiopia), and gender and ICTs (Mozambique).

¹⁶ <http://www.apc.org/english/capacity/policy/curriculum.shtml>

The animators are taking up the issues within the policy window created by many African governments working on national e-strategies. It is in these national processes that the animators will advocate on their specific issues.

MEDIA: On a matter of critical significance the African continent is being short-changed

A media analysis was completed for the six 'CATIA' countries in early October 2004. The study evaluates the extent and nature of media coverage on ICT issues in target countries. <http://rights.apc.org/documents/absentvoices.pdf>

ICT policy monitoring and analysis

Issue papers

Through the work of our network of global, regional, gender and national policy monitors, websites and portals, we are building an important information and awareness-raising resource that is expanding its reach globally. There is a dynamic relationship between the rapid monitoring of ICT policy issues as they arise with the capacity to reflect on the immediate implications for the various policy spaces or environments where they play out.

The production and dissemination of discussion papers¹⁷ on the core WSIS issues of internet governance, financial mechanisms for ICTD and e-strategies¹⁸ has had significant impact on the understanding of these issues in the policy environment. The issue papers have helped shape some of the debates on these issues within civil society as well as multi-stakeholder forums like the UN ICT Task Force and at government level.¹⁹

APC was the first civil society organisation to produce an informal position paper on internet governance in 2004. The paper was discussed at a WSIS meeting and indirectly contributed to the formation of the WGIG.

¹⁷ All these papers are available from <http://rights.apc.org/papers.shtml>.

¹⁸ An e-strategy is shorthand for policies and strategies intended to exploit information and communication technologies to promote national development. (Kate Wild: 'A Global Overview of E-Strategies', UN ICT Task Force, 2003 www.unicttaskforce.org/perl/documents.pl?id=1192)

¹⁹ The APC e-strategies paper was extensively quoted in a draft national e-strategy document from the Indonesian government: <http://www.depkominfo.go.id>

APC commissioned a number of papers in 2004 on critical emerging areas of debate

- *African Participation in WSIS: Review and discussion* by David Souter
- *Internet Governance and the WSIS* by Adam Peake
- *The Centrality of E-strategies in the WSIS Plan of Action* by Willie Currie
- *Financing the Information Society in the South: A global public goods perspective* by Pablo Accuosto (ITeM) and Niki Johnson

APC received informal reports of government officials from a number of nations scurrying off with the papers as soon as they were distributed at WSIS meetings.

Policy manual and curriculum

The APC manual "ICT Policy: A Beginner's Handbook"²⁰ produced in December 2003 and our ever-evolving ICT policy curriculum and training materials have helped broaden understanding of the web of ICT policy issues and their significance. The curriculum has inspired the ongoing development of modules (such as campaigning and advocacy for the CRIS GGP project and regionally-specific modules for Central and Eastern Europe) responding to emerging demands. They have been used in APC training workshops and are freely available on our websites in English, French and Spanish²¹. The handbook was translated into Spanish in 2004 and put online in a browse-able web version as well as in PDF. This widens its reach and use further.

A French resource on ICT policy for women was developed by an APC women's network member in Senegal, ENDA Synfev, drawing heavily on the APC ICT Policy Handbook published in December 2003. It is a tool for public, private and civil society stakeholders and decision makers, for integrating a gender dimension into ICT policies.

<http://www.famafrique.org/regentic/e-citoyennes.pdf>



Monitoring ICT policy in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean

APC's two ICT policy monitor projects track relevant policy developments at national and regional levels. This involves research, building online content (through websites and e-

²⁰ <http://www.apc.org/english/rights/handbook/>

²¹ <http://www.apc.org/espanol/rights/handbook/>

newsletters) and networks, and implementing capacity-building workshops with civil society organisations. We support and strengthen existing local initiatives by working with researchers and networks from within these regions.

The monitor websites provide a wealth of information and analysis, including legislation, statistics, research documents and reports (commissioned by the projects and others), news and listings of ICT projects and organisations among the regions. They categorise the information by themes including universal access, infrastructure, freedom of expression, privacy, censorship and intellectual property.



Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) ICT policy monitor

Usage of ICTs and the internet have increased significantly in the LAC region since the project's launch in early 2001. However, in most countries, ICTs are tools for the elite and their potential to improve the living conditions of the majority of people in the region is under-utilised.

When the project started in LAC there was little focus on ICT policies, much less from a civil society perspective as there was almost no CSO involvement. Since then there has been a massive increase in civil society engagement in ICT policy, particularly because of WSIS. Processes such as the WSIS have facilitated greater awareness of ICT policy in the region. Yet the key role that ICT policy can play to benefit sustainable development has not been adequately explored or promoted.

Additionally, the inputs, experience and expertise that civil society could bring to ICT policy processes, are not well understood, particularly by governments. In part this is due to a lack of transparency and inclusiveness in legislative and regulatory processes. It is also due to the fact that governments are not integrating ICTs into strategic development areas such as health, education, public infrastructure, agriculture, and the environment.

In spite of these constraints, new opportunities to mobilise active and effective civil society participation in ICT policy processes are emerging both at national and regional levels.



Several APC members in the LAC region are focusing on monitoring ICT policy developments as well as disseminating and producing relevant content. NGOs need to collaborate for greater impact, especially those working on internet and ICT issues and those whose focus is on community media.

The LAC monitor website is one of the most comprehensive sources of ICT policy information in the LAC region and is probably the most

comprehensive Spanish language resource on ICT policy in the world. It includes resources on the WSIS.

LAC ICT Policy Monitor Achievements in 2004

'News' section, updated every day (734 new items were posted in 2004). New sections include:

'Events' section: <http://lac.derechos.apc.org/eventos.shtml>

Directory of ICT professionals: <http://lac.derechos.apc.org/colaboradores.shtml>

Catalogue of regional ICT policy discussion lists: <http://lac.derechos.apc.org/listas.shtml>

Catalogue of ICT projects and initiatives: <http://lac.derechos.apc.org/proyectos.shtml>

Telecoms and ICT policy legislation from more than 20 countries: <http://lac.derechos.apc.org/legislacion.shtml>

Web statistics: APC Latin American and Caribbean ICT Policy Monitor

<http://lac.derechos.apc.org>

LAC Monitor: Statistics by month	Average no. of visitors per day	Average number of pages viewed per day	Individual visits per month	Pages viewed per month
Dec 2004	263	1,592	8,177	49,357
Nov 2004	153	2,299	4,599	68,993
Oct 2004	238	5,573	7,405	172,767
Sep 2004	213	5,690	6,403	170,723
Aug 2004	213	4,967	6,633	154,005
Jul 2004	165	1,213	5,123	37,603
Jun 2004	167	1,379	5,023	41,379
May 2004	165	1,972	5,140	61,143
Apr 2004	267	1,964	7,749	56,970
Mar 2004	366	1,882	11,006	56,467
Feb 2004	314	1,604	9,133	46,541
Jan 2004	280	3,013	8,691	93,429
TOTALS FOR 2004			85,082	1,009,377

Web statistics: Africa ICT Policy Monitor

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

Started in 2001, the Africa policy monitor remains a central point for accessing information and news on ICT policy in Africa. CSOs have found the site a useful resource and the content has been widely used to support advocacy and campaigning activities. The site received a major 'revamp' during 2004 and following the launch of the 'new look, new content' Africa ICT Policy Monitor site in October 2004, the number of visitors has increased dramatically.

Africa Monitor: Statistics by month	Average number of visitors per day	Average of number of pages viewed per day	Individual visits per month	Pages viewed per month
Jan 2005	²² 530	²³ 5,059	16,432	²⁴ 156,839
Dec 2004	522	3,108	16,191	96,374
Nov 2004	244	2,643	7,323	79,311
Oct 2004 ²⁵	285	1,170	8,862	36,292
Sep 2004	203	713	6,112	21,391
Aug 2004	218	796	6,784	24,693
Jul 2004	179	489	5,577	15,162
Jun 2004 ²⁶	157	576	4,737	17,280
May 2004	216	698	6,709	21,662
Apr 2004	179	854	5,196	24,768
Mar 2004	189	731	5,676	21,951
Feb 2004	131	825	3,815	23,931
Jan 2004	175	819	5,440	25,396
			98,854	565,050

APC's engagement in global ICT public policy-making spaces such as WSIS has positioned the APC network to engage effectively in the global policy environment. We have also been able to link global with regional and national policy spaces and plan to consolidate these linkages during 2005-6. This has been possible by working together with our civil society partners and expanding civil society participation in ICT policy. The web-based information and training resources we have been able to deploy simultaneously have complemented the role that the APC Communications and Information Policy Programme has undertaken to influence the shape of ICT public policy globally.

²² Since the new English monitor was launched at the end of October the number of visitors per month has almost doubled. The increase is from just over 200 per day in September to 530 per day in January 2005.

²³ Most significantly visitors are staying in the site for longer. In August they viewed an average of just fewer than 4 pages per visit. By January they viewed just fewer than 10 pages per visit.

²⁴ In 2004, we experienced the highest monthly number of pages viewed since the Africa Monitor first came into existence.

²⁵ October 28 2004, English site is relaunched

²⁶ The French monitor site was introduced in May 2004. In June, 292 visitors entered the site through the French language homepage. By October they were 1,109.

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 Strategic Uses and Capacity-Building Programme (SU&CB) 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, in building their capacity and make informed decisions, in using ICTs in ways that integrate well with their goals and needs. The idea is also to support them in harnessing the potential for collaboration and change that can come from working in a networked environment.

Activity in this programme involves developing and aggregating tools and resources to support and promote the strategic use of ICTs, thereby creating opportunities for the development and exchange of skills, methodologies and tools. We aim to build communities of practice that can promote the strategic use of ICTs by civil society. We are also testing a model of service delivery that will generate income both for APC and the community of ICT practitioners that we work with.

Raise awareness of strategic use of ICTs

SU&CB has focused on decision support ('what technology will best meet our needs?'), network analysis (understanding how networks work and how working in a networked way changes relationships between organisations, sectors and individuals) and the appropriation and mobilisation of technology by civil society in specific areas such as collaboration, advocacy, campaigns, knowledge-sharing and organisational development.

ItrainOnline and Multimedia Training Kit²⁷

ItrainOnline is a partnership of seven organisations²⁸ with extensive experience relating to capacity development around the use of ICTs for development and social justice. Current activities are the ItrainOnline portal²⁹, an information gateway of training and learning resources in English, French and Spanish, and the Multimedia Training Kit (MMTK), a collection of flexible workshop kits for trainers available on the ItrainOnline site. APC coordinates the portal and produces a monthly newsletter that collects the most recent updates.

²⁷ <http://www.itrainonline.org/itrainonline/mmtk>

²⁸ APC, Bellanet, FAO, INASP, IICD, OneWorld International and UNESCO.

²⁹ <http://www.itrainonline.org>

APC coordinated the development of twelve new MMTK training units in English and French, on topics ranging from technology planning for open source software to basic research methods, and the translation of eleven existing units into French. Topics currently offered in French include "[Migrer de Microsoft Word vers OpenOffice.org Writer](#)", "[Animation et facilitation de listes de discussion](#)" and "[Présentation radiophonique](#)".

FAO IMARK initiative

The goal of the IMARK initiative is to mobilise and build upon existing resources to create a comprehensive suite of distance-learning resources for information management and exchange. IMARK learning materials are being developed as a series of modules on CD-ROM, supplemented by an internet-based online community, providing a virtual discussion forum for contributors and learners to exchange views, share information and request help from each other.³⁰

SU&CB was responsible for the development of a series of lessons on "Building Electronic Communities and Networks".³¹

Promoting and supporting the use of free and open source software (FOSS) by CSOs

FOSS can be cost-effective, secure, and adaptable. FOSS can be a means for developing appropriate software in local languages. It is also a means of establishing greater choice in a sector of the IT industry that is monopolised by one company, Microsoft. Many APC members around the world provide FOSS services to the CSOs they support.



Since 2001, APC has been involved in the development of ActionApps - a FOSS content management system developed to meet the unique needs of individuals and organisations in the social sector by making it easier and more affordable to disseminate and publish information and news and work together via the internet. ActionApps is now used inside and outside the APC.³²

³⁰ <http://www.fao.org/imark/>

³¹ http://www.fao.org/imark/modCintro_en.htm

³² Many of the sites using ActionApps are listed here:
<http://www.apc.org/actionapps/english/general/slices.shtml>

An "ActionApps Camp" in South Africa in October 2004 brought together advanced ActionApps users, ActionApps developers and partners from the FOSS development community for training and strategising around future development.

At the camp, developers told us³³ about their favourite ActionApps-based site and the benefits for them of using ActionApps

Sites included the "European Social Forum" website developed by GreenNet, London, AttavikApps, a derivation of ActionApps which allows the Canadian Inuit to publish online in their own language, SIA -an agrarian system for Peruvian farmers- developed by CEPES in Lima, and the site for "Voting Campaign for the Presidential Elections Centre for Migrant Advocacy" developed by WomensHub, the Philippines.

Campers also planned a new FOSS project, the ActionKit. The ActionKit will be a toolset for civil society campaigning, integrated with ActionApps, which will combine the development of new tools and materials with the integration of existing tools into a single, easy-to-use package with multi-language support.

Promote secure online communications among CSOs

Online security and privacy should be of concern to anyone who uses the internet. But for journalists and human rights organisations operating under repressive political conditions or in situations of conflict, online security can become a matter of life or death. The challenge is to gather, protect and disseminate information in a way that minimises risk to activists.

Secure online communications include secure data storage, virus protection and dealing with interception, monitoring and suppression of free speech. In 2004, we started to build a pool of skilled trainers that can support human rights, journalists in repressive states and other workers who have a particular need to communicate in complete privacy online. We will continue to develop training materials to support these trainers and facilitate training provision, as well as raising awareness of secure communications in all APC training.

In August, we trained journalists at Highway Africa, the world's largest conference for African journalists.³⁴

Wireless networking

The high cost of conventional "wired" infrastructure is an obstacle to those looking to harness the potential of ICTs for development and social change. Wireless technologies offer tested, low-cost options to complement conventional infrastructure, but capacity development is required if this promise is to be met.

³³ Audio stories: <http://apc.org/actionapps/english/general/uses.shtml>

³⁴ <http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=26309>

In 2004 APC received funding for a partnership project combining training, materials development and knowledge sharing to address this need in selected regions in Africa. The overall goal of the initiative is to empower communities and individuals in Africa to harness the potential of information and communications technologies for development, and social change through the use of wireless technologies. The project covers the development of training materials in English, French and Arabic and workshops that will be adapted to different environmental, regulatory and climatic conditions. With four regional workshops in Africa in 2005, APC began planning to train up to 100 future trainers and network implementers. The



foundation for similar initiatives in Latin America and Asia-Pacific are being laid.

WOMEN'S NETWORKING SUPPORT PROGRAMME (APC WNSP)

Programme Goal: To promote gender equality and women's empowerment through gender and ICT advocacy at all levels and the strategic use of applications and tools by women's movements to strengthen their networking.

In the past ten years, the gender and ICT advocacy movement has slowly grown internationally and regionally. Punctuated by a series of regional and international events from the first UN Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995 to the most recent WSIS Summit in 2003, a rights-based gender and ICT agenda, has steadily gained legitimacy.

However, the gender and ICT movement is still young and its application and implementation is still ad-hoc and fragmented between and amongst networks and agencies. Generally, gender and ICT advocacy networks are still small and lack capacity, particularly at national level, and the gender and ICT advocacy movement remains on the fringes of the women's movement. In wanting to change this condition, the APC Women's Networking Support Programme (APC WNSP) focused on a number of activities that aimed at raising awareness,

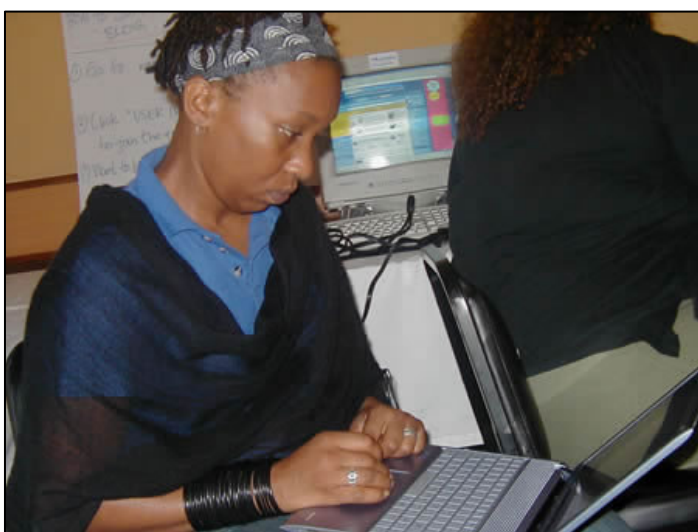
mobilising support and strengthening advocacy for women's rights and gender justice in the ICT arena.

The Networking for Change and Empowerment Forum



The key activity for the APC WNSP during 2004 was the Networking for Change and Empowerment Forum that took place from June 1-7 2004 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.³⁵ The Forum combined analysis, discussion and debate, training, capacity building, and access to new tools in a series of five events that included:

- *Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) Practitioners Exchange Workshop (June 1-3 2004):* After two years of development and testing of the Gender and ICT Evaluation Methodology by a variety of organisations in four regions of the world, the GEM project concluded in this learning workshop. The workshop gathered selected GEM testing partners, APC WNSP members and partners who shared lessons learned from the testing process, discussed evaluation results, methodologies, and theoretical as well as practical experience from their evaluation experience.



- *Gender and ICT Policy Forum (June 4 2004):* This Forum was the main venue for discussion and debate of critical issues and strategies in the gender and ICT advocacy agenda among women's associations and CSOs, international bodies, donor agencies and academic institutions.

³⁵There were 43 (41 women and 2 men) participants from 23 countries.

- *National Gender and ICT Policy Advocacy Capacity Building (June 5 2004)*: The national policy advocacy capacity-building workshop offered plenary “how-to” experiences and an opportunity for regional strategising on issues and pressure points. Participants focused on the issues of mapping, learning from other people’s experiences of ICT advocacy work, and grappling with them further in specific regional contexts.
- *Animating the APC WNSP Action Plan through Capacity and Skills Building Workshops (June 6 2004)*. Two parallel workshops were held where the creation of a gender and ICT policy website was planned and the network’s training needs were addressed.
- *APC WNSP Biennial Meeting (June 7 2004)*: The APC WNSP meeting included representatives from Asia, Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin American and the Caribbean. Regions were given the space and the time to meet and focus on, discuss and refine regional priorities in relation to the APC and the APC WNSP 2004-2008 Strategic Priorities and Action Plan.³⁶



For all participants generally, the forum provided a space for gender and ICT advocates, feminists, ICT for development workers, donors and researchers to engage openly on issues relevant to them and their work and to share experiences and perspectives in

gender issues in ICT initiatives and policies. The participants gained insights into the challenges facing the women’s movement in order to encourage and galvanise women to engage with ICT policy. They also received an overview of key gender and ICT issues globally and regionally and an opportunity to network.

For the APC WNSP, the forum was a venue where the strategies and plans of the network for the next two years were clarified, verified and improved upon to reflect regional priorities and realities. As a result of the numerous discussions during the forum, the APC WNSP was better prepared to implement and carry out its strategic priorities through the following main insights gained from the forum.

³⁶ The Networking for Change and Empowerment Forum agenda, presentations, papers, session notes, and photos are all available on-line at <http://www.apcwomen.org/policy/activities>.

The key strategy “Making the case for gender and ICTs” was adopted and will guide future APC WNSP gender and ICT advocacy work. A broad range of priority issues for women's movements and ICTs are quite low on that list, although ICTs are now a key tool in women's activism. Women's movements and gender advocates do not see why they should be concerned about ICT policy. “Making the case for gender and ICTs” for women's organisations and movements, from their experience and in their terms, must be taken up as a priority for future actions.

Findings of the Rio forum

- Clear evidence of gender invisibility in macro level policy (be that policy at the global, regional or national levels) and resulting need for gender policy when examining local ICT realities
 - Increased emphasis on poverty reduction strategies in general in development work, resulting in a push in ICTs for e-commerce and tele-working solutions, among others
 - Government connectivity agendas around the world - be it Kenya, Jordan, or Ecuador - are focused on private sector growth in the ICT arena and frequently subject to the whims of political leaders
 - Though ICTs are now a key tool, most women's organisations and movements simply do not prioritise ICT advocacy
-

Concrete plans were made to develop the Gender and ICT Policy Portal.

The forum provided unique space to assess gender and ICT advocacy landscape, and to consult members and partners on both the technical and content issues related to the building of this portal. The participants specified the technical infrastructure and content needs, outlined resource and capacity requirements, and set up a working group to build the portal. The portal became GenderIT.org, launched in 2005.

Challenges were identified and priorities set for regions.

For many present it was the first time that activists had the space and time to carry out serious regional reflection. Gender

and ICT issues in the different regions were analysed and prioritised, as activists began to map out strategies for action at the regional and national level. Based on the conclusions from regional reflections, the APC WNSP regional networks in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America identified their priorities and plans for activities for 2005-6, including new commitment to addressing national gender and ICT policy work.

Gender and ICT policy portal

Dearth of information on gender and ICT policy in Central and Eastern Europe

A literature review carried out for the portal highlighted the lack of information in some regions on gender and ICT policy. In Central and Eastern Europe, very few resources analyse gender and ICT issues regionally. Most documentation focuses on access to ICTs. There is little or zero content exploring the gender aspects of such ICT issues as privacy and security, e-government, intellectual property, the application of ICTs in war conflicts and health services.

The policy portal planning process brought new insights into strategies to engage the women movement with ICT policy. Discussion about structure and classification helped the APC WNSP to unpack gender and ICT issues and ICT policy terminology. The process of content development also proved to be a useful exercise in analysing various ICT policy issues from a gender perspective, and in sharpening the network's advocacy language.

Through the portal development the APC WNSP identified key actors, issues and available content in the regions. This provided a basic picture of thematic gaps and regional disparities for the portal to address. The research helped APC WNSP map local actors, and to identify potential partners on regional and national level.

Gender and ICT policy issue papers

Following its strategic plan for 2004-2006 and recommendations from the Rio Forum, APC WNSP started working on two issue papers on trafficking in women and its intersections with ICTs and another exploring the connections between ICTs and violence against women.

Issue paper: Trafficking in women and its intersections with ICTs

The aim of the paper is to provide an overview and to outline analyses of the intersections of trafficking in women with ICTs. The paper will focus on the following themes:

- Women's organisations and their work to combat trafficking internationally as well as locally in communities
- Emerging practices of the use of ICTs to traffic women and facilitate sex services
- Technology solutions at governmental level
- International policies addressing trafficking on the internet
- Solutions

Involving regional women's organisations more substantively in the gender and ICT agendas

There are not many organisations in the CEE and Asia-Pacific regions involved in gender and ICT. APC WNSP's involvement in regional and global forums is critical in raising awareness on ICT issues.

The Beijing Platform for Action has been one of the most effective tools for women's advocacy worldwide in the past ten years and the preparatory process of the Beijing+10 review was one of the major events for the women's movement globally as well as in various world regions. The goal of APC WNSP's participation in the Beijing +10 events was to raise awareness about gender and ICT issues, advocate around Section J (or the "Women and Media" section of the platform) and make the link between the Platform for Action and the processes related to ICT policies, especially WSIS.



Active participation in the regional reviews of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action made it possible for APC WNSP to advocate for the inclusion of ICT policy issues within the critical issues of concern in the review process. Through regional networks, APC WNSP was represented in the coordinating and planning committee meetings for regional and global Beijing +10 fora.

The Central and Eastern European APC WNSP network took part in the Beijing +10 PrepCom³⁷ in Geneva, December 2004. Members attended the NGO Forum and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Ten Year Review and Appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action. Through their participation, a member of the team presented a gender and ICT agenda on behalf of NGOs in a plenary at the intergovernmental meeting. They worked closely in the NGO advocacy caucus to ensure that the gender aspects of ICT policies and strategic use of ICTs were taken up in lobbying positions with governments. As a result of this engagement, ICTs were taken up as an "emerging issue"³⁸ for women in the region at the conference.

In the Asia-Pacific region, the APC WNSP carried out the usual mix that APC WNSP is known for. A mix of practical hands-on technical support plus awareness raising around policy issues for women and technology.

A larger team attended the Asia-Pacific NGO Forum on Beijing +10 in Bangkok mid-year to manage the forum's Internet Access Centre –they ran technical tutorials on everything from troubleshooting personal computers, web publishing, to basic internet security- and run a gender and ICT policy workshop which looked at the implications of international, regional and national ICT policies and policy arena.³⁹

APC WNSP also provided onsite reports of the forum through the APC WNSP website and distributed in various mailing lists and participated in drafting Section J of the Purple Book, the forum's main output for the Beijing +10 Process. The Purple Book highlighted women's

³⁷ <http://www.unece.org/oes/gender/beijing10.htm>

³⁸ The UNECE Prep Com defined four thematic areas for the Beijing +10 review: Institutional mechanisms; Women and economy; Trafficking in the context of migratory processes; Emerging issues.

³⁹ <http://www.apcwomen.org/policy/news/index.shtml?x=69956>

issues in Asia-Pacific based on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action Critical Areas of Concern.⁴⁰

APC WNSP joined a women and media lobbying team during the "High Level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and its Regional and Global Outcomes" in September 2004 in Bangkok. The APC WNSP delegate was a resource person for a panel on "gender-responsive information society".

The Anita Borg Award

On October 7 2004 the then coordinator of the APC WNSP, Karen Banks received the prestigious Anita Borg award⁴¹ at the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing conference in Chicago, USA.

This award recognised the work of the APC WNSP in bringing about positive change in women's lives through the use of technology since the programme's launch in 1993. It created an important space for the APC WNSP to reflect on its work and to acknowledge Karen's immense contribution at the same time as Chat Garcia Ramilo took over the role of programme coordinator.



Winner of the Anita Borg Award for Social Impact Karen Banks and the APC WNSP

Karen Banks and the APC WNSP have worked around the globe to bring the use of ICTs for the empowerment of women for over fifteen years.

"Our strategy is to get women central, active and visible in all walks of technology," said Karen. "We don't want it to be a surprise to see a woman running a wireless shop, fixing a pc, or leading a campaign to break with the telecom monopoly in her country."

"Karen is a techie at heart but she also truly understands how policy affects not only technological developments but people. She has served as a mentor to hundreds of women and men around the world," said APC WNSP colleague, Erika Smith.

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION

Active networking among members in the growing APC network is not easy to measure or to maintain. Networking is uneven, not always predictable and often not visible. Yet the overall level of engagement of members in the APC network remains high and takes various forms, from participation in projects, governance and decision-making, ICT policy processes and content-sharing to critical and constructive feedback on APC programmes.

⁴⁰ The Purple Book can be found at: http://www.siyanda.org/newadditions/2005-02-28-1597-Asia_Pacific_NGO_Forum_on_Beij.htm

⁴¹ <http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=26581>

In 2004, APC planned a member learning and exchange fund. This initiative, which uses APC's membership fees to build a fund to which members can apply to cover travel and other expenditure related to member collaboration, was planned at a regional member meeting and launched early in 2005.

Information-sharing and regular face-to-face meetings remains an essential basis for networking in APC

Kenya: Financial sustainability started at APC meeting

In 2004, ALIN-EA director James Nguo finally completed work developing a business model for ALIN that he expects will make ALIN financially self-sustainable. When James was looking at the document trail of the whole business planning process, he was hit by the realisation that it all started at an APC workshop in South Africa in March 2002. "It was networking with APC members that started me thinking about this income generation track," James told APC.

Peru: Article in APCNews leads to economic benefits

A story on APC member CEPES' wireless networking in the agricultural zone of Huaral featured in APCNews was read by a journalist from the BBC World Service. He contacted CEPES and wrote a news article⁴² in December which led to lots of publicity. Maicu Alvarado told APC that commercial contacts with Canada have opened up for one of the farmers' associations mentioned in the article thanks to the coverage.

The fund has allowed members in Australia and South Korea, in collaboration with other partners, to develop a bi-lingual independent and activist open source multi-media server, whilst members in Colombia, Peru and Ecuador met in Lima for joint technological collaboration - a representative of the APC member group in Colombia, Colnodo, trained his counterparts for use in GIS software based on ActionApps in farming communities.

Two regional member meetings took place in 2004, in the Philippines and in Latin America.

The Asia regional members meeting was made possible by our Philippine member, the Foundation for Media Alternatives (FMA), which secured funding for the meeting as part of a CRIS project and hosted the meeting alongside an Asia communication rights workshop.

A Latin American member meeting was hosted and organised by our member in

Rosario, Argentina, Tau. It was an intense three-day meeting and consolidated APC as a strong regional network in LAC. Closer collaboration has already emerged through, for example, the planning for a LAC community wireless networking project that draws on the experience of the project that APC's Strategic Uses programme is currently implementing with partners in Africa.

APC supports our vibrant network through internal communications, exchange, newsletters and the intranet.

In response to member requests, InsideAPC an internal newsletter for APC members and staff, focused on building collaboration across the network ran more frequently and staff has started to communicate more efficiently with the membership.

⁴² <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/4071645.stm>

The APC intranet is essential in keeping the APC community informed and maintaining transparency within our entirely virtual network. The intranet is updated at least weekly and all staff members have a responsibility to log their project progress there, as well as through dedicated mailing lists.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA

Visits to our websites have increased dramatically over recent years, more than doubling since January 2003. In December 2004 over 100,000 visitors were registered compared to 44,000 in January 2003. This totalled 3,300 individual website visits every day compared to an average of 2,000 in 2003. Visitors are frequently registered coming from over 150 country domains each month and viewed an average of 8 pages each.

Monthly statistics for the APC websites	Average no. of visitors per day	Average of number of pages viewed per day	Individual visits per month	Pages viewed per month
Dec 2004	3,300	27,627	102,313	856,456
Nov 2004	2,909	23,895	87,293	716,857
Oct 2004	3,069	25,023	95,142	775,735
Sep 2004	2,793	22,983	83,807	689,491
Aug 2004	2,495	21,120	77,351	654,726
Jul 2004	2,192	12,612	67,957	390,996
Jun 2004	2,095	14,368	62,852	431,051
May 2004	2,275	14,117	70,537	437,655
Apr 2004	2,557	14,164	74,154	410,775
Mar 2004	2,830	14,303	87,745	443,411
Feb 2004	2,390	13,571	69,329	393,580
Jan 2004	2,069	15,882	64,161	492,362
TOTALS FOR 2004			942,641	6,693,095

News agencies around the world are sourcing stories from APC newsletters and sites. The APC press lists circulated a release for our Canadian member Web Networks that resulted in the raising of a profile worldwide for their AttavikApps project. "The response to this story has been incredible! About one e-mail every 20 minutes for the last 24 hours from serious folks from academia, the W3, other aboriginal groups," Web's director wrote. The project became the focus of an article by BBC Online⁴³ amongst other publications.

We have been active in responding to changing events that affect our area of work and make our position known. APC's opinions and work around WSIS –for example, "Whose information society?"⁴⁴, a critique of WSIS phase I by executive director Anriette Esterhuysen- were picked up and quoted around the world as were APC press releases condemning the arbitrary seizure of Indymedia servers by US and EU law enforcers⁴⁵ in October.

⁴³ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/3975645.stm>

⁴⁴ <http://www.apc.org/english/about/history/english.shtml?cmd%5B384%5D=x-575-17983> (March 2004)

⁴⁵ <http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=26809> (October 2004)

While we work primarily in English and Spanish, APC continues to strive to make our outreach as accessible as possible to an international community using English as a foreign language. Our team adheres to strict 'international English' guidelines and APC's language policy was used as a case study for an MMTK/FAO unit on "multilingual computing". In 2006 we plan to introduce a new French-language website and newsletter, APCNouvelles.

APC presents, runs workshops and provides training at relevant events. By 2004 the APC calendar of events included conferences, workshops and others totalling more than 40 in locations ranging from Syria to Argentina.

We grow APC website and publications, including newsletters, as vibrant, current and informative communications and information exchange tools. The Africa ICT policy monitor was re-launched in late October. It had a new design and structure including powerful cross-referencing, which allows visitors to search by theme, country *and* material type at the same time. Monthly site visitors leapt over 300% from 4,700 in June to 16,200 in December.

On the APC site we refer to our annual reports as a good "introduction to APC" and they continue to be downloaded frequently even years later. For example, in February 2005, the 2003 Report in English and Spanish were downloaded around 400 times each.

Through APCNews and our websites, APC promotes the work of all members including those too busy or without the capacity to produce news themselves and which members often repackage to promote themselves back home and abroad. APC produced interviews with Fantsuam Foundation on the work they are doing in remote, rural communities in Nigeria. Fantsuam circulated the articles to their regional NGO network and to a local ICT newsletter.

APCNews and its Spanish version, APCNoticias, were produced monthly throughout 2004. We started to offer RSS feeds from APC and members in October.

A major goal for 2004 across the APC team was improved integration between programmes. APC communications assists by advising and sometimes coordinating media and communications planning and implementation for projects. It plays a key role in facilitating the integration of all project communications planning into the bigger communications picture.

A good example of this role is the production of the Africa ICT policy monitor. APC communications worked with one of our members that specialises in the ActionApps software to produce this complex new site in English following a needs analysis carried out with the entire Communications and Information Policy programme. The site produced uses one sole file (thanks to a feature in ActionApps known as 'site module'). The same file was duplicated and then translated to create the French site within just a week.

In 2005, the Africa site will act as a basis to produce a virtually identical version of the site for Latin America fairly quickly and taking advantage of the development already carried out. The APC WNSP GenderIT.org portal also based its technical development directly on the Africa model. This approach saves time and money, it also allows us to improve progressively on each site we build and makes it easier to integrate those improvements back into the sites already developed but using identical foundations.

APC Members in 2004

AFRICA

ArabDev, Egypt www.arabdev.org

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

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

Enda-Tiers Monde, Senegal www.enda.sn

Fantsuam Foundation, Nigeria www.kabissa.org/fantsuam

South African NGO Network (SANGONeT), South Africa sn.apc.org

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

ASIA-PACIFIC

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

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

Japan Computer Access Network (JCA-NET), Japan www.jca.apc.org

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

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

WomensHub, Philippines www.womenshub.net

CENTRAL EAST AND SOUTHERN EUROPE

BlueLink Information Network, Bulgaria www.bluelink.net

ChangeNet, Slovak Republic www.changenet.sk

Econnect, Czech Republic www.ecn.cz

Green Spider, Hungary www.zpok.hu

StrawberryNet, Romania www.sbnet.ro

ZaMirNET, Croatia www.zamirnet.hr

WESTERN EUROPE

ComLink, Germany www.comlink.org

Computer Aid International, UK www.computeraid.org

GreenNet, UK www.gn.apc.org

Pangea, Spain www.pangea.org

Unimondo, Italy www.unimondo.org

LATIN AMERICA

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

Colnodo, Colombia www.colnodo.apc.org

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

LaNeta, Mexico www.laneta.apc.org

Nodo Tau, Argentina www.tau.org.ar

Rede de informações para o terceiro setor (RITS), Brazil www.rits.org.br

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

Wamani, Argentina www.wamani.apc.org

NORTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (not including Mexico)

Alternatives, Canada www.alternatives.ca

Institute for Global Communications (IGC), USA www.igc.org

LaborNet, USA www.labornet.org

Web Networks, Canada www.web.net

New APC Members in 2004

BYTES FOR ALL, South Asia

Bytes for All runs discussion lists, online and offline publications, and carries out advocacy with regard to access to ICTs and the right to information and communication. Their high-quality reports are widely disseminated through republishing agreements with traditional media in Southern Asia. Bytes for All is active throughout South Asia with volunteers from numerous countries including India, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Bytes For All: www.bytesforall.org (APC member since September 2004)

COMPUTER AID INTERNATIONAL, United Kingdom

Based in the UK, Computer Aid is the world's largest and most experienced non-profit supplying professionally-refurbished computers to not-for-profit organisations in developing countries. They have provided over 25,000 quality computers to progressive organisations in the South working to bring about social and economic change. In 2004, Computer Aid focused its work on less-developed countries and on increasing provision to and via rights based organisations and women-led initiatives. It also concentrated on training and computer refurbishment as a means for self-sustainability. Computer Aid International: www.computeraid.org (APC member since January 2004)

Highlights from APC Members in 2004

APC members are information and communication technology (ICT) providers but they are also – uniquely – sustainable development and social justice activists in their own right. We call them 'social techies'.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. What follows are some of the outstanding stories from APC members around the world in 2004.

ARID LANDS INFORMATION NETWORK – EASTERN AFRICA (ALIN-EA), Kenya: ICTs used to promote exchange of indigenous knowledge

ALIN-EA successfully completed a one-year pilot phase of the Open Knowledge Network (OKN) East Africa project in March 2004. OKN is a global initiative linking marginalised communities and facilitating information sharing through ICTs. It aims at promoting the creation and exchange of local content by local people in local languages. The network encourages documentation and dissemination of local knowledge beyond community boundaries. OKN provides a forum for rural people to network and share ideas on indigenous practices in agriculture, health, nutrition and general development-related information.

The pilot project was faced with software and technical challenges, lack of e-mail and internet facilities at the access points, inadequate writing skills and the need for awareness creation and dissemination strategies. Although not all challenges have been resolved, most software problems have. The project was continued for an additional year. ALIN-EA: www.alin.or.ke

ALTERNATIVES, Canada: Building a social movements' directory



Logo: Alternatives

Throughout the world, engaged citizens are meeting and mobilising to promote human rights and social justice while reinforcing their opposition to commercialisation, social regression, and economic and military aggression. Social movements are joining international and trans-thematic coalitions for maximum impact and greater power. In 2004, Alternatives and its partners at the World Forum of Alternatives have focused on creating web-based support for these social movements. The site was called

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

the Social Movements Directory⁴⁷ and its main objective is to make these new global actors known and to improve knowledge about them. It includes social movement profiles and analysis articles. The directory is accessible in French, English and Spanish. Alternatives: www.alternatives.ca

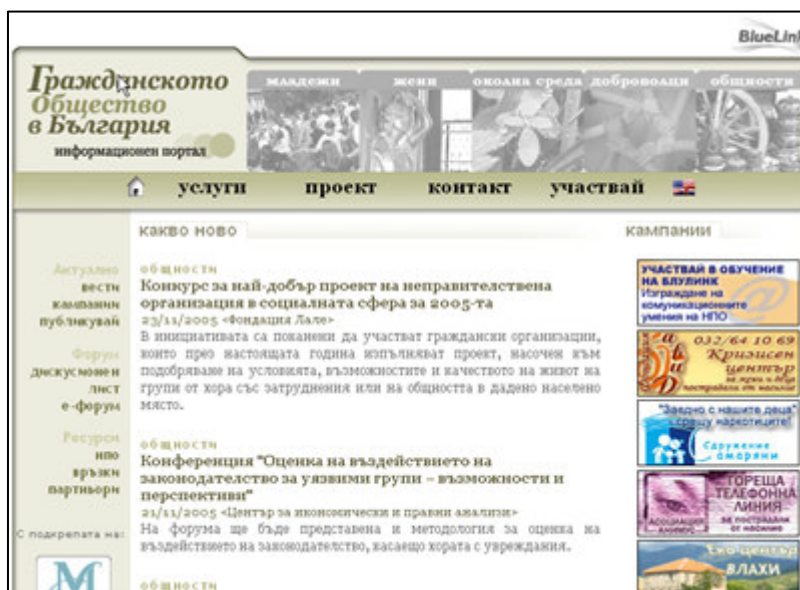
ARABDEV, Egypt: IT skills for an alternative living for Cairo's former underclass



Photo: ArabDev

Living on the fringes of society, the Zabaleen (rubbish collectors) have been making a living from recycling what Cairo's more affluent throw away for generations. However, the government decided that the Zabaleen's method of collecting waste was neither hygienic nor efficient. Foreign companies specialised in waste-disposal were contracted to clean up Cairo's refuse, cutting off the livelihood of the Zabaleen who until recently had had no other income-generating skills.

ArabDev has been working with the Association for the Protection of the Environment (APE) in the Mensheyat Nasser area of Greater Cairo for over three years to provide employment alternatives for the Zabaleen. After having assessed the community, ArabDev started training young women and men in office-related IT skills. ArabDev provided the trainer and APE provided a computer lab with six personal computers. An unexpected result of the training has been the high demand from young women. These women have often defied patriarchal restrictions that would have prevented them from attending the training due to it being in a public place. ArabDev: www.arabdev.org



BLUELINK, Bulgaria: BlueLink starts a civil society information portal in Bulgaria

Image: BlueLink

In December 2004 BlueLink launched the Bulgarian Civil Society Information Portal bluelink.info. The portal is a virtual community

⁴⁷ <http://www.social-movements.org>

for discussions, support and common initiatives among Bulgarian civil society organisations. The idea is to facilitate the exchange of information, collaboration and on-line campaigning. The site offers free electronic services to CSOs working with youth, volunteers, women and for community development.

At the launch event, BlueLink also presented a manual on "Strategic use of internet for CSOs". The manual follows the curriculum developed by BlueLink's team for its trainings with CSOs. It aims to fill in the gaps in knowledge that CSOs may have with regards to the opportunities that electronic communication offers via internet, and to explore the options of their effective use in organisations' work. The guide includes tips on how to communicate in mailing lists, how to build functional and representative websites, how to perform online activism and how to work effectively with electronic networks. BlueLink: www.bluelink.net

BYTES FOR ALL, India: A Readers' Forum goes mainstream

In 2004, Bytes for All became an APC member and experienced a major reshuffle of its structure and activities. It redeveloped its website bytesforall.org using an open source content management system to make it automated and entirely run by the community. If the site, which receives more than 100,000 hits per month, is widely referred to in the ICTD area, the Bytes for All Readers Forum⁴⁸ continued to grow its subscription and flow of debate and discussion. It has become one of South Asia's most active and popular discussion forums on ICTD issues. Going one step further, Bytes for All has negotiated a content-sharing arrangement with a number of information technology-based mainstream print magazines. The monthly I4D Magazine⁴⁹ has recently joined Express Computer⁵⁰ of India and SPIDER magazine⁵¹ of Pakistan, who republish the content of the discussion forum on a regular basis. Bytes For All: www.bytesforall.org

C2O, Australia: Local communities in Australia relive history and organise online



Illustrations: RLHP website

c2o and Toy Satellite rebuilt the Rowville-Lysterfield History Project (RLHP). RLHP is an archive of photos and stories told by the eldest members of the Rowville-Lysterfield community (Victoria, Australia). It is a rich telling of anecdotal histories that would otherwise be lost; of Aboriginal mounted police, the Bunerong and the Wawoorung clans of the Kulin nation, the little-known prisoner of war camp, the stories of both women and men.

⁴⁸ http://www.yahoogle.com/groups/bytesforall_readers

⁴⁹ <http://www.i4donline.net>

⁵⁰ <http://www.expresscomputeronline.com/20030106/indcomp3.shtml>

⁵¹ <http://www.spider.tm>



Originally produced in 2000 and utilising one of c2o's first custom-built content management systems (CMS), the site is now in line with current CMS and web design technologies. c2o and Toy Satellite have also collaborated with another Melbourne-based community action group on the design and production of a new website for a diverse neighbourhood undergoing development. The Smith Street site functions as an archive of historical records and research and, a campaign tool for the Collingwood Action Group - a media watchdog monitoring matters related to Smith Street and the emergent cultural content area. c2o: www.c2o.org

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

Photo: CECS

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 were 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 asked how ICTs can be used in development, agriculture, health and small business development. Students also discussed the notion of local content development and became aware of the free and open source software debate. By the end of the course, they could describe what the digital divide is, Africa's place in the information society, as well as the relationship between ICTs and rights. CECS: www.cecs.org.za

CEPES, Peru: Wireless internet improves market access conditions for farmers in Peru

CEPES, the *Centro Peruano de Estudios Sociales* (Peruvian Centre for Social Studies), has developed a wireless internet development project named "Agricultural Information Project for Farmers of the Chancay-Huaral Valley" which is improving market conditions for about 6,000 subsistence farmers in the valley, situated 80 km north of Lima. The project addresses two problems: deficient market information available to the farmers; and poor and at times flawed communication among the several organisations and entities that are active in water management, crucially important for this desert zone dependent on irrigation.



The information system gives them the possibility of making long distance calls by linking CEPES' internal VoIP system to the public telephone service. The telecentres installed in the irrigation commissions also provide some governmental

institutions and the general public with an internet connection. Thanks to a BBC News report about the CEPES project published in December 2004, a Canadian company interested in the native Lúcumá fruit has started a relationship with one of the farmers' associations of the Huaral valley. CEPES: www.cepes.org.pe (Photo: CEPES)

COLNODO, Colombia: Online websites promote transparent local government in Colombia

Colnodo and Transparencia por Colombia (Transparency for Colombia) are working with the Mayor's Offices in four cities to produce online websites that will help fight corruption and increase the use of government-generated information by the public and social organisations and facilitate their awareness of local development projects and programmes. The websites and tools created by Colnodo are used to monitor and verify public spending and to publish the information in a user-friendly format for concerned citizens to consult. The use of a 100% APC free software solution called ActionApps, permits the uncomplicated generation of web pages and makes it easier to publish public information through the internet.

The municipal governments⁵² of four medium-size cities, Pasto, Buga, Rionegro and Popayán, were selected to pilot the project in response to their receptiveness to the possibility of balancing their books publicly and administering public finances in a transparent way. A quick visit to the pilot website⁵³ in Paipa shows information about government contracts (past and proposed), plans and legislation, and local news. The general project

52 Some Transparent Municipalities:

Municipio de Rionegro: <http://www.rionegro.gov.co>

Municipio de Buga: <http://transparencia.buga.gov.co>

Municipio de Pasto: <http://transparencia.alcaldiadepasto.gov.co>

Municipio de Popayan: <http://www.popayan.gov.co/>

53 Municipio de Paipa: <http://www.paipa.gov.co> (pilot)

website "Internet for the Accountability of Municipalities"⁵⁴ keeps a record of the now more than 200 municipalities in the entire country that use the Colnodo solution. Colnodo: www.colnodo.apc.org

COMPUTER AID INTERNATIONAL, United Kingdom: Partnership with ALIN to provide computers to not-for-profit organisations

Computer Aid founder and chief executive Tony Roberts, visited Nairobi in an effort to increase the number of Kenyan beneficiaries, and formally launched a new "Baobab Communications" partnership with local NGO and APC member Arid Lands Information Network in October 2004. Computer Aid, which had already provided over 2,500 quality refurbished personal computers to non-profit organisations in Kenya, plans to provide an additional 5,000 computers over the next few years with the help of this initiative.

Computer Aid and ALIN also supply their fully refurbished computers to universities, community organisations and to any other not-for-profit organisations who do not have the financial resources necessary to purchase new PCs. Computer Aid: www.computeraid.org

ENDA, Senegal: African citizens in the information society - a new publication from ENDA

The advocacy document "African citizens in the information society" produced by ENDA-Tiers Monde, presents the major issues African countries face in relation to their inclusion in the information society from a women's perspective. It is designed as a tool for promoting the integration of a gender analysis into ICT policies. The French language publication targets public, private and civil society stakeholders and decision-makers. The goal of ENDA in making this document public, is to contribute to a fair, plural and inclusive African information society. The foreword is written by the APC. ENDA: www.enda.sn



FANTSUAM FOUNDATION, Nigeria:
The Zitt Geeks - Young Nigerians
turn to computing to improve
their job prospects

Photo: Fantsuam Foundation

A home-grown corps of ICT youth volunteers, the Zitt Geeks, are free software devotees and they are the first participants in Fantsuam's business incubator, which provides training, mentoring and funding to enable enterprising youths to become self-employed. 'Zitt' is a word common to almost ten of the tribes in the Kafanchan and means 'us', 'we' or 'ours'.

54 <http://www.municipios.colnodo.apc.org>

Within three months, the Zitt Geek network included over 20 youths with different ICT skills to offer to local communities. Six Zitt Geeks have become full-time staff running the computer centres at Fantsuam. The franchise of the Fantsuam Computer School was awarded to one of the first Geeks. Three others offer beginner and intermediate level training to the local community and beyond. In fact, Fantsuam has seen a reversal of urban drift as young people actually return to the rural areas as job training prospects in ICTs improve. Fantsuam Foundation: www.fantsuam.org

FMA, Philippines: Training on free and open source software for NGOs

The Foundation for Media Alternatives (FMA), together with key free and open source software advocates in the country organised a training-workshop for Philippine non-governmental organisations. Held in October 2004 and attended by 30 participants from 18 organisations, the learning activity sought to impart not only with the necessary skills and knowledge of FOSS but more importantly, to provide the trainees with the confidence in using FOSS-based applications.

The training-workshop consisted of three modules which included: a socio-political orientation about the "value and values proposition" of opting for FOSS; hands-on training, both on running FOSS applications in a Windows environment, and running the local Bayanihan GNU/Linux operating system; and a session on institutional and community planning, which tackled migration strategies. FMA: www.fma.ph

GREENNET, United Kingdom: APC's free software provides the basis for the new European Social Forum website, in five languages

At the end of May 2004, GreenNet secured a contract to build the European Social Forum⁵⁵ website. The event that took place in London in October 2004 was a unique opportunity where social movements, trade unions and non-profits from Europe and the world came together to discuss how to achieve global social justice for all and debate ways of making 'another world possible'.

For GreenNet the task was to create a site that could be used as the central registration system for an estimated 40,000 participants. It also needed to register users' proposals for workshops, seminars, and cultural events. Space had to be allowed for a range of information on other practicalities including accommodation, travel and venues. The web team used APC's free content management system ActionApps and configured it into a multilingual system that could handle publication of content in five languages and integrate an online registration payment system. GreenNet: www.gn.apc.org

⁵⁵ <http://www.fse-efs.org>

GREEN SPIDER, Hungary: Resistance in Hungary to EU proposals on software patenting

Photo: FSF Hungary



On August 24 2004, a crowd of about four hundred people turned out to demonstrate against proposed European software patents legislation. It was the first "geeky", free software-related demonstration⁵⁶ in Hungary. The demonstration was organised by groups not typically used to leaving their computer screens to get their voices heard. Many organisations joined to counteract the European Commission's plans, including the Hungarian Linux Users Group, the BSD User's Group, the Hungarian Free Software Foundation, Green Spider and several others.

About 300 to 400 geek boys and girls wearing yellow t-shirts took part in the march and a symbolic performance was played out on the streets of Budapest as enchained programmers let hundreds of yellow balloons fly, liberating the "source", as original computer code is called. Robert Fridrich of Green Spider gave a speech about how the proposed legislation would affect civil society organisations and campaigners, while others talked about how it would impact on smaller software firms and individual programmers. Green Spider: www.zpok.hu

INSTITUTO DEL TERCER MUNDO (ITeM), Uruguay: Briefing papers towards Tunis 2005

In January 2002 the General Assembly of the United Nations convened a World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in order to improve access by all countries to information, knowledge and communication technologies to promote development. The first stage of the summit took place in Geneva, from 10-12 December 2003, and the second will take place in Tunis from 16-18 November 2005.

⁵⁶ Hungarian anti-software patent protest : <http://swpat.sfs.hu/>

Petition for a software patent free Europe : <http://petition.eurolinux.org/>

ITeM believes it is essential that the civil society organisations are able to have an active role in these discussions to express the views and interests of minority groups, women, young people and, in general, all those who have limited possibilities of influencing the policies adopted at global level. It therefore launched a new project to contribute to the second phase of the WSIS decision-making process by researching key issues of interest to developing countries and has published briefing papers analysing the impacts of ICTs on all sectors involved in economic and social development. The project seeks to involve Southern civil society in debates about the issues on the agenda of the summit. ITeM: www.item.org.uy

INTERCOM, Ecuador: Steps forward toward an Ecuadorian information and communication technology network for development

A workshop on the formation of an "Information and Knowledge Exchange Network on ICTD" for Ecuador was held on February 17 2004, in the city of Quito, with the support of Intercom and the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD). The objective of the meeting was to develop a participative strategy for the formation of the network.⁵⁷ The network stands for the sharing of information, knowledge, methodologies and lessons learned on the use of ICT for development and awareness-building and influencing public policy on the use of ICT in different development areas. The multi-sector event convened governmental, private sector and civil society institutions, and international organisations whose work is related to the field of ICTs. INTERCOM forms part of the coordination committee of the newly established network. INTERCOM: www.ecuanex.net.ec

JINBONET, Korea: We will not obey the Internet Real Name Law

The Internet Real Name Law⁵⁸ which was passed at the plenary session of the South Korean Parliament on March 9 2004, requires internet media and press websites to verify all names and identification numbers of authors who post messages on bulletin boards or chat rooms related to elections. If not complied with, a penalty of 10 million Won (US \$10,000) can be incurred. The Section 5, Part 8 of Election law, defines "internet press groups" as whoever reports or provides articles which are gathered, edited and written for the purpose of reporting, commenting and disseminating the public opinion regarding political, economical, social, cultural and current affairs on the internet, or whoever manages and controls websites where such articles are displayed.

"Therefore, in fact, the Internet Real Name Law can be applied to personal websites that contain materials concerning political matters as well as the websites of civil society organisations. Resistance from civil society organisations against the Internet Real Name Law was immediately mounted," reported Jinbonet representatives. A day after the law came into enforcement, media, civil society and human rights organisations including Jinbonet,

⁵⁷ Conexion: <http://conexion.ecuanex.net>

⁵⁸ <http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=2397533>

Sarangbang, the Peoples Solidarity for Participatory Democracy and the Korean Internet Journalists Association held a press conference under the banner "We will not obey the Internet Real Name Law". Jinbonet: www.jinbo.net

LANETA, Mexico: Training module for civil society organisations

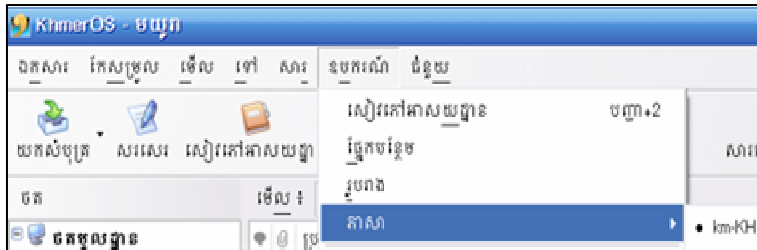
LaNeta led the ICT module of the National Mexican Social Development Institute professionalisation course for CSOs. The course features modules such as strategic planning, gender awareness, fundraising, and CSO history. Carried out in fourteen states throughout Mexico and with over 600 participants, the hands-on instruction covered basic ICT awareness and training in office productivity tools and internet use combined with debate on issues such as free and open source software and communication rights. Participants praised the course for its emphasis on collaborative work and networking, as well as for introducing them to FOSS tools. LaNeta: www.laneta.apc.org

NODO TAU, Argentina: Digital inclusion in a remote neighbourhood of Rosario

In February 2004, the sixth community telecentre of the EnREDando programme – coordinated by APC member, TAU- was inaugurated in the south-western Rosario neighbourhood of Tío Rolo. The initiative is of great importance for this part of the city, which has historically been isolated and poorly connected to the urban centre. In the new neighbourhoods that have recently been built around this area, young people and teenagers have limited possibilities of accessing ICTs.

Several local authority representatives attended the event. Members of other, soon to be inaugurated, community telecentres from the southern area, were also present. The five-person team that will carry out the initiative had received intensive training over the previous year. The trainers learnt how to manage the Argentina CDI Network's telecentre "Citizenship and Computing School", which will be a pioneer experience in digital inclusion in Latin America. Nodo Tau: www.tau.org.ar

OPEN FORUM, Cambodia: Cambodians have access to Khmer-language open source software



The Khmer Open Source Initiative –KhmerOS⁵⁹- was set up in 2004 envisioning that by 2007, Cambodia will become a country where people can learn and use

computers in their own language. The KhmerOS project brings together previously isolated developers to localise well-known open source applications such as the powerful e-mail application, Thunderbird, the Firefox web browser, and Open Office. Thunderbird was ready for use in Khmer after just two months - sixty days earlier than expected!

The Cambodian Community Information Web Portal is the biggest web portal available in Khmer with an average of fifteen articles from media and other sources published each day on a broad range of topics to share knowledge contributing to the development of Cambodian society. Those articles relate to democracy, human rights, gender, the economy, health, education, agriculture, environment, tourism, history, culture, geography, and information technology. There is also information about the government and its institutions, draft and enacted legislation, special pages on governmental and non-governmental organisations and their activities, job and scholarship announcements, river water levels, and market price information. Open Forum: www.forum.org.kh

PANGEA, Spain: Migration to FOSS for NGOs

"FOSS migration for NGOs" is a strategic project initiated in 2004 by Pangea. Co-funded by the municipality of Barcelona, the goal of this project has been to help non-governmental organisations become aware of how ICT issues and options are not neutral, and how using free and open source software can be seen as a political act, as well as a technologically-viable option. Seven organisations were selected based on interviews. A training course about technical and political implications of migrating towards free and open source software was then offered to their staff members. The organisations initiated the migration process and Pangea's technical staff provided on-site and remote support.

Overall, the migration process was successful although not 100% trouble-free. Accounting software proved to be the most difficult to migrate as it is usually based on a limited set of closed-source and Windows-specific programmes. Choosing the right timing to do the migration (eg not in the middle of a high activity period) was key to ensuring the confidence

⁵⁹ To learn more about the project please access to www.khmeros.info.

and patience of people during this process. Pangea compares the migration process to FOSS to giving up smoking: It is good for your health in the long term, but requires strong determination to cope with a reduction in productivity and increased anxiety during the transition. Pangea: www.pangea.org

SANGONET, South Africa: NGO.ZA, ICT services for civil society

The Southern African NGO Network (SANGONeT) launched a new joint venture, called ngo.za, on October 21 2004 in Johannesburg to celebrate World Development Information Day. The overall aim of ngo.za is to meet and respond to the South African NGO sector's connectivity, hardware and e-business infrastructure requirements, and as a result, transform ICT usage, capacity and infrastructure levels.

The ngo.za portal offers a range of services including connectivity - lease line, ADSL, ISDN and dial-up with free technical support, virus protection and spam filtering; a full range of computer hardware solutions; e-mail to SMS messaging enabling cost-effective communication; a comprehensive web hosting service on dedicated servers; and the sending and receiving of faxes using e-mail. Three other initiatives were launched during the event, including the Thusanang Online Donor Database,⁶⁰ the SANGONeT Development Calendar 2005 and the new SANGONeT website.⁶¹ SANGONeT: www.sangonet.org.za

STRAWBERRYNET, Romania: APC's Rapid Response Network enables StrawberryNet to support a threatened website



Photo: RosiaMontana.org

The Rosia Montana Gold Corporation is taking Alburnus Maior -a local non-profit organisation- to court to prevent it from publishing the www.rosiamontana.org website, informed APC member in Romania, StrawberryNet, via APCNews⁶².

The RMGC has high hopes of carrying out what would be Europe's largest open-cast mining development in this picturesque and historic Romanian village, 400 km north of Bucharest. However, the mining would involve the involuntary

⁶⁰ <http://www.funding.org.za>

⁶¹ <http://www.sangonet.org.za>

⁶² http://rights.apc.org/action/alert.shtml?sh_itm=07617c4edaf84b39947bf1b612ad7977

resettlement of over 2000 people as well as the destruction of unique archaeological and natural sites. The threatened website is a strategic tool to help people from the local community to make their voices heard and inform the world of their opposition to the mining project. StrawberryNet invoked the APC Charter on Internet Rights⁶³ to establish that the Canadian mining corporation was violating the right to communicate and the freedom of expression and information exchange of the population by suing the promoter of rosiamontana.org. StrawberryNet: www.sbnet.ro

UNIMONDO, Italy: OneWorld South East Europe – A multimedia and multilingual portal for civil society

Unimondo has been involved in reporting on and working in South-East Europe⁶⁴ for a couple of years through its collaboration with Osservatorio Balcani,⁶⁵ an Italian alternative media agency reporting on the Balkans. Pursuing its mission based on supporting pluralist information on sustainable development, environment, peace and human rights, Unimondo decided to engage directly in the region in 2003, which resulted in the launch of a regional edition of OneWorld.net.



The initiative consists of two interrelated and complementary components: the OneWorld Radio SEE,⁶⁶ a multi-language web-based audio exchange platform for 81 radio stations in the region; and OneWorld SEE,⁶⁷ a multi-language website aiming to provide greater access to information regarding sustainable local development, human rights, democracy and civil society across the Balkans. During 2004, the project evolved into an independent and

regionally-run foundation with seven member NGOs, headquartered in Sarajevo and called the OneWorld Platform for South East Europe. Unimondo: www.unimondo.org (Photo: Unimondo)

WAMANI, Argentina: Developing websites for Amnesty's Latin American chapters

During 2004, Wamani developed a regional information system for the Latin American chapters of Amnesty International. All of its websites use the APC-created content management system ActionApps. Many human rights NGOs such as the Madres de la Plaza de Mayo are using Wamani's service platforms and an online campus oriented towards NGOs,

⁶³ Charter on Internet Rights themes 1 and 2: <http://rights.apc.org/charter.shtml>

⁶⁴ Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia & Montenegro

⁶⁵ <http://www.osservatoriolbalcani.org>

⁶⁶ <http://www.oneworld.net/radio/see>

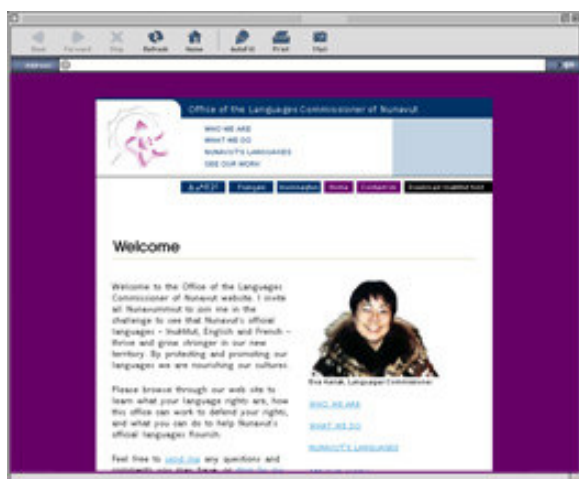
⁶⁷ <http://www.oneworld.net/see>

has been set up. By the end of the year 2004, Wamani had improved the online communications system of six different sites corresponding to Amnesty sections in six different countries. The organisation is working on completing all sections in the region. Wamani: www.wamani.apc.org

WEB NETWORKS, Canada: Canadian technology wizards adapt APC software so that Inuit can publish online

Web Networks, a leader in knowledge management tools for membership-base organisations, worked with the Piruvik Centre of Iqualuit to develop the application suite attavik.net. This software solution makes it easy to manage documents, directories, calendars, registrations, and online payment in the Inuit language. Users can now surf the web in Inuktitut on any computer, without extra software or special settings.

"The Government of Nunavut is committed to making Inuktitut its working language," says Eva Aariak, Languages Commissioner of Nunavut, an Inuit territory in Canada. "This type of



software development puts that goal within reach." Chuck Gilhuly, executive director of the Nunavut Municipal Training Organisation says, "In the big picture, maintaining the viability of a language is a matter of making things functional in the language. If we had to become website programmers and write in code, we would have never achieved the functionality that we have." The technology behind attavik.net can be used to serve websites in other syllabic languages, such as Cree, Oji-

cree, Naskapi, and Korean. Web Networks: www.web.ca

WOMENSHUB, Philippines: Supporting women struggling for self-determination in using ICTs

WomensHub celebrated its third year as a collective by joining up with the Asia-Pacific programme of APC's Women Network Support Programme to increase the visibility of gender and ICT issues during the Asia-Pacific NGO Conference for the Beijing Platform for Action held from June 30 to July 3 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand. WomensHub members were responsible for running the internet access facility in the conference site, as well as providing internet user support to conference participants.

Overall, the year 2004 saw WomensHub make significant steps towards building its capacities to support other non-government organisations and communities in the use of free software: from adopting free software for in-house use of to designing and building free software-based information systems for other organisations; and from training women in the

use free software to starting development work on a blog application and service for women. WomensHub: www.womenshub.net

WOMEN'SNET, South Africa: Conference on ICTs in the service of good governance, democratic practice and development for rural women in Africa

Held just outside Johannesburg, the Community Media for Development conference⁶⁸ brought together about fifty participants from women's organisations, government officials, gender and development practitioners and researchers involved in gender and ICT projects. They collaborated in trying to find ICT strategies to specifically benefit rural women. The Community Information Network for Southern Africa (CINSA) interviewed a selection of conference attendees. The regional workshop was organised by Women'sNet with the support of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). Women'sNet: www.womensnet.org.za

ZAMIRNET, Croatia: Media and communication technologies contribute to more effective economic and social development strategies

ZaMirNET launched the civil society e-journal ZaMirZine in 2004, as an interactive media outlet for otherwise scarce news on youth, peace-building, women's rights, gay and lesbian, environmentalist and independent cultural initiatives, combined with selected articles and columns on national, regional and international events of relevance to the promotion and protection of human rights, social and economic justice and peace. It is based on cooperation and knowledge-transfer between activists, young journalists and established, professional journalists. ZaMirZine was voted the best Croatian electronic zine of the year in 2004 by "PC Chip", a magazine specialised in ICT.



With the MEDIAnet project, also launched in 2004, ZaMirNET aims to encourage and facilitate the establishing of locally-based independent media in Croatia and neighbouring countries (Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro). Through this project NGOs are also supported in efforts to expand their outreach and communication strategies to the media, including community based,

alternative, and internet-based media outlets. ZaMirNET: www.zamirnet.hr (Photo: ZaMirNET)

⁶⁸ Community Media for Development conference: <http://www.cmfd.org/sections/ruralwomen.html>

Directory: Governance and Staff



Executive Board Members in 2004

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

Council Representatives in 2004

AFRICA

ALIN-EA, Kenya: James Nguo
ArabDev, Egypt: Leila Hassanin
CECS, South Africa: Arnold Pietersen
ENDA, Senegal: Youba Sokona
Fantsuam Foundation, Nigeria: John Dada, Kazanka Comfort
SANGONeT, South Africa: David Barnard
Ungana-Afrika, South Africa: Toni Elias, Ryan Jacobs
Women'sNet, South Africa: Natasha Primo, Sally Shackleton

ASIA-PACIFIC

c2o, Australia: Andrew Garton, Justina Curtis
Bytes for All, South Asia: Partha Pratim Sarker, Zunaira Durrani
FMA, Philippines: Alan Alegre
JCA-NET, Japan: Fujino Satoshi, Hamada Tadahisa (Taratta)
Jinbonet, South Korea: Oh Byoung-il, PatchA
Open Forum, Cambodia: Kong Sidaroth, Norbert Klein
WomensHub, Philippines: Pi Villanueva

EUROPE

BlueLink, Bulgaria: Pavel Antonov, Milena Bokova
ChangeNet, Slovakia: Norbert Brazda

ComLink, Germany: Stefan Hackenthal
Computer Aid, UK: Tony Roberts, Sonia Sinanan
Econnect, Czech Republic: Vaclav Klinkera (Vasek)
GreenNet, UK: Cedric Knight, Michael Moritz
Green Spider, Hungary: Zoltan Varady, Robert Fridrich (Fidusz)
Pangea, Spain: Chris Nicol, Leandro Navarro
StrawberryNet, Romania: Mihaly Bako (Misi)
Unimondo, Italy: Valentina Pellizzer, Denisa Gollino
ZamirNet, Croatia: Danijela Babic, Zeljko Bagaric

LATIN AMERICA

CEPES, Peru: Carlos Saldarriaga Vidalon, Maicu Alvarado V.
Colnodo, Colombia: Julián Casasbuenas, Olga Paz
INTERCOM, Ecuador Oswaldo Chiriboga
ITeM, Uruguay: Magela Sigillito, Pablo Accuosto
LaNeta, Mexico: Olinca Marino, Erika Smith
RITS, Brazil: Paulo Lima, Carlos Afonso
Tau, Argentina: Danilo Lujambio, Luis Martinez (Pipo)
Wamani, Argentina: Carlos Alvarez, Rodolfo Rapetti

NORTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (not including Mexico)

Alternatives, Canada: Michel Lambert, Daphnée Dion-Viens
IGC, USA: Mark Graham, Jillaine Smith
LaborNet, USA: Steve Zeltzer, Erika Zweig
Web Networks, Canada: Oliver Zielke, Alan Dixon

Staff and Project Team in 2004

Management Systems Staff

Executive Director – Anriette Esterhuysen – South Africa
Deputy Executive Director – Sonia Jorge – United States (until June 2004)
Networking and Advocacy Manager – Karen Banks – United Kingdom
Finance Manager – Maya Sooka – South Africa
Communications Manager – Karen Higgs - Uruguay
Logistics Coordinator – Vanessa Purper – Brazil/South Africa

Programme Managers

Women's Networking Support Programme – Chat Garcia Ramilo – Philippines
Communications and Information Policy Programme – Willie Currie – USA
Strategic Uses and Capacity Building – Ann Tohill - Australia

Programme Teams

Most of these people work part-time, and some for more than one programme.

Women's Programme (APC WNSP)

APC-Africa-Women Coordinator – Jennifer Radloff – South Africa

APC WNSP Asia Pacific Regional Coordinator – Cheekay Cinco – Philippines

APC WNSP LAC Regional Coordinator – Dafne Plou – Argentina

APC WNSP Central and East Europe Regional Coordinator – Lenka Simerska – Czech Republic

APC WNSP Gender ICT Portal Coordinator - Katerina Fialova – Czech Republic

APC WNSP/GKP Gender and ICT Awards Coordinator – Mylene Soto Sol Cruz – Philippines

APC WNSP Communications Coordinator – Erika Smith – Mexico



Communications and Information Policy Programme

Latin America ICT Policy Monitor Project Coordinator – Valeria Betancourt

Latin America ICT Policy Monitor Information Worker - Diana Andrade - Ecuador

Africa ICT Policy Monitor Project Coordinator – Njenga Njuguna – Kenya/Australia

Africa ICT Policy Monitor Project/CATIA - Alice Munyua Gitau, – Kenya

Strategic Use and Capacity Building Programme

Knowledge Sharing Projects Coordinator – Karel Novotny – Czech Republic

Wireless Connectivity Project Coordinator – Anna Feldman – United Kingdom

ItrainOnline Portal Coordinator - Erika Smith – Mexico

Technical Support Team

Technical Information Coordinator – Fatima Bhyat – South Africa

Systems Administrator – Pep Turro – Spain

APC Community Face-to-Face: Events that saw an APC presence in 2004

Events APC participated in 2004 (** indicates APC event, or APC co-hosted events):

- 16-21 January: World Social Forum, Mumbai, India
- 19-20 January: Building Communication Opportunities (BCO) partner meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 20-22 January: IDRC Strategic Planning, Dakar, Senegal
- 17-19 February: Isis WICCE, International Board Meeting, Kampala, Uganda
- 1-12 March: 48th Session of the Commission of the Status of Women (Media and ICTs, VAW), New York, USA
- 3-5 March: **CATIA 1c Advisory Group Meeting and Training Materials Planning Workshop, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 20-23 March: Kenya National ICT Forum, Nairobi, Kenya
- 24-26 March: Implementing the WSIS Action Plan, Nairobi, Kenya
- 25-26 March: 6th UNICT Task Force Meeting (internet governance), New York, USA
- 26 March: **Finding the GEM in the Haystack (with IDRC), Johannesburg, South Africa
- 19-21 April: FAO Workshop on Radio, ICTs and Rural Development, Quito, Ecuador
- 19-23 April: **UNDAW National Machineries and ICTs training workshop, Namibia
- 26-27 April: HIVOS Regional ICT workshop, Lusaka, Zambia
- 11-14 May: Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) Executive Committee and Annual General Meetings, San Jose, Costa Rica
- 1-8 June: WSIS PrepCom I, Hammamet, Tunisia
- 28-29 June: CATIA management meeting, Cape Town, South Africa
- 30 June–3 July: Asia-Pacific NGO Forum On Beijing +10, Nakornpathon, Thailand
- 19-23 July: **APC CATIA 1C Workshop: Regional Policy Advocacy, Nairobi, Kenya
- 22-25 July: OURMedia conference, Porto Alegre, Brazil
- 23 July: ICANN meeting, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 25-30 July: Social Forum of the Americas, Quito, Ecuador
- 4-7 August: **Communication Rights in the Information Society (CRIS) Asia meeting, Manila, Philippines
- 8 August: **APC Asia-Pacific Members Meeting, Manila, Philippines

- 27-29 August: Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) ExComm meeting, Geneva, Switzerland
- 30-31 August: Building Communication Opportunities (BCO) partner meeting, Geneva, Switzerland
- 1 September: OECD Development Assistance Community Meeting on Financing ICD, Geneva, Switzerland
- 3-10 September: Fresh Air, Free Networks wireless workshop, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 6-10 September: **Women'sNet/APC-Africa-Women FOSS workshop, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 7-10 September: Beijing + 10 intergovernmental meeting for the UNESCAP Region, Bangkok, Thailand
- 10-11 September: Partnership for ICTs in Africa (PICTA), Mauritius
- 16-18 September: Highway Africa, Grahamstown, South Africa
- 20-21 September: CRIS Global Governance Project Kenya validation workshop, Nairobi, Kenya
- 20-21 September: CATIA 1F International ICT Policy workshop, Dakar, Senegal
- 4 October: WSIS Task Force on Financing Mechanisms, New York, USA
- 6-9 October: Grace Hopper Conference and Anita Borg Awards, Chicago, USA
- 10-14 October: GKP South Asia Regional Meeting on Poverty Reduction, Chennai, India
- 14-17 October: **European Forum on Communication Rights, European Social Forum, London, UK
- 17-18 October: Society for International Development governing council, Rome, Italy
- 18-19 October: IDRC Outcome Mapping workshop, Lima, Peru
- 18-20 October: WSIS Gender Caucus Africa Women and ICTs conference and GenARDIS workshop, Arusha, Tanzania
- 24-28 October: **APC ActionApps Camp, Cape Town, South Africa
- 25-28 October: **CATIA National Animator's Workshop Kampala, Uganda
- 29 October: **Panos/APC Media Dialogue, Kampala, Uganda
- 29 October–1 November: **APC WNSP Gender and ICT Policy Portal workshop, Cape Town, South Africa
- 19-20 November: 7th UNICT Task Force Meeting (financing ICD), Berlin, Germany
- 21 November: **CRIS Media Advocacy workshop, Marrakech, Morocco
- 22-23 November: WSIS Western Asia regional meeting, Damascus, Syria
- 25-26 November: CATIA management meeting, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 2-4 December: ICANN meeting, Cape Town, South Africa

- 4-5 December: **APC Latin American and Caribbean Members meeting, Rosario, Argentina
- 5 December: WSIS Civil Society Bureau meeting, Cape Town, South Africa
- 6 December: Africa Electronic Privacy and Public Voice Symposium, Cape Town, South Africa
- 6-7 December: **Latin American Regional ICT Policy Strategy Meeting, Rosario, Argentina
- 8-9 December: **National Argentinan Civil Society Organisation ICT Policy Workshop, Rosario Argentina
- 12-13 December: Beijing + 10 NGO Forum Review for the UNECE region, Geneva, Switzerland
- 14-15 December: UNECE Regional Preparatory Meeting for a 10 year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action, Geneva, Switzerland

Publications and Research from APC

ISSUE PAPERS

All collected at <http://rights.apc.org/papers.shtml>

- *Internet Governance and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)*, Adam Peake, June 2004
- *World Summit on the Information Society Phase II Tunis PrepCom I Report, June 23 – 26 2004*, Karen Banks (APC), July 2004
- *African Participation in the World Summit on the Information Society: Review and discussion*, David Souter, July 2004
- *E-strategies and the World Summit on the Information Society*, Willie Currie, May 2004
- *Financing the Information Society in the South: A global public goods perspective*, Pablo Accuosto (ITeM) and Niki Johnson, June 2004

RESEARCH

- *The Role of Information and Communication Technologies in the Development of African Women*, Jennifer Radloff (APC-Africa-Women), Natasha Primo (Women'sNet), Alice Munyua (APC), August 2004, <http://www.apcafricawomen.org/paper.html> [English and French]

RESOURCES

A French resource on ICT policy for women was developed by an APC-Africa-Women network member in Senegal, ENDA Synfev, which drew heavily on APC's "ICT Policy: A Beginner's Handbook" (December 2003, <http://rights.apc.org/handbook>). It is a tool for public, private and civil society stakeholders and decision makers, for integrating a gender dimension into ICT policies. <http://www.famafrique.org/regentic/e-citoyennes.pdf>

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*: Promotes and profiles the work and activities of women and ICTs in Africa, highlights current issues and encourages the production of new knowledge on African women's use of ICTs. By APC-Africa-Women.

APC newsletters include **original writing** on the social use and impact of ICT.

Annual Financial Statements for 2004

Annual Financial Statements for 2004

Balance Sheet as 31 December 2004

	2004 USD	2003 USD
ASSETS	639,173	592,076
Non-current assets	3,157	2,403
Equipment	3,157	2,403
Current assets	636,016	589,673
Accounts receivable	25,262	6,182
Accrued income	263,181	287,547
Cash and cash equivalents	347,573	295,944
TOTAL ASSETS	639,173	592,076
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES	639,173	592,076
Reserves	184,315	211,692
Reserve fund	112,737	93,779
Accumulated surplus	71,578	117,913
Current liabilities	454,858	380,384
Accounts payable	142,519	94,424
Deferred income	312,339	285,960
TOTAL RESERVES AND LIABILITIES	639,173	592,076

Income Statement for the year ended 31 December 2004

	2004 USD	2003 USD
Income	1,481,756	1,329,843
Grant and contract income	1,179,206	1,058,411
Administration fees	87,531	125,709
Membership fees	24,900	23,083
Consulting revenue	17,066	17,146
Project implementation	167,783	100,916
Sales and other fees	497	2,798
Foreign exchange gains	4,718	
Interest	55	1,780
Expenditure	1,509,133	1,434,924
Auditors' remuneration	6,000	4,500
Operational expenses	73,586	54,504
Programme and project expenses	1,183,881	1,162,404
Salaries and benefits	220,584	196,651
Telephone and fax	4,549	4,087
Translation services	1,926	1,068
Travel, accommodation and per diems	17,455	10,362
Website	1,152	1,348
(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(27,377)	(105,081)

Acknowledgements

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

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The APC Team all over the world	Leila Hassanin, Egypt
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Ariel Barbosa, Colombia	Mihaly 'Misi' Bako, Romania
Arnold Pietersen, South Africa	Milena Bokova, Bulgaria
Carlos Alvarez, Argentina	Oliver Zielke, Canada
Carlos Saldarriaga, Peru	Pablo Accuosto, Uruguay
Danijela Babic, Croatia	PatchA, South Korea
Danilo Lujambio, Argentina	Paulo Lima, Brazil
David Barnard, South Africa	Pi Villanueva, Philippines
Erika Smith, Mexico	Toni Elias, South Africa
Julian Casasbuenas, Colombia	Valentina Pellizzer, Italy
Kong Sidaroth, Cambodia	
Leandro Navarro, Spain	

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.

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- **Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA):** Knowledge and Capacity for Civil Society Engagement in ICT Policies: Leveraging the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)
- **Communication Rights in the Information Society (CRIS):** CRIS-Kenya; Global Governance Project (GGP) toolkit
- **Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO):** ICT Policies and Civil Society project (ICT policy handbook and curriculum)
- **Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst e.V. (EED):** Mobilising Civil Society for the World Summit on the Information Society
- **Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO):** Lessons for IMARK module 'Building Electronic Communities and Networks'
- **Ford Foundation:** Global Advocacy on Communication Rights
- **Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP):** GEM consultancy; Gender and ICT Awards

- **Humanist Institute for Development Co-operation (HIVOS):** APC-Africa-Women; Global Gender and ICT Forum; Global ICT Policy Monitor
- **International Development Research Centre (IDRC):** Africa ICT Policy Monitor project; Gender and ICT Evaluation Methodology (GEM); Global Gender and ICT Forum; Africa Hafkin Prize 2004-5; Capacity Building for Wireless Connectivity in Africa
- **Open Society Institute (OSI):** Wireless project; Secure Online Communications
- **Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA):** Secure Online Communications workshop at Highway Africa; Creative Commons Southern Africa
- **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC):** Gender and ICT Policy Advocacy; core support
- **UK Department for International Development (DFID):** Building Communities Opportunities (BCO); Gender and ICT Evaluation Methodology (GEM) and Catalysing Access to ICTs in Africa (CATIA) 1c
- **UNESCO:** Multi Media Toolkit (MMTK)

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAW	APC-Africa-Women
AC SIS	Africa Civil Society for the Information Society
ActionApps	Online content management system
ADSL	Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line
ALIN-EA	Arid Lands Information Network – Eastern Africa
APC	Association for Progressive Communications
BCO	Building Communications Opportunities
BPFA	Beijing Platform for Action
CATIA	Catalysing Access to ICTs in Africa
CDI	Comitê para Democratização da Informática Committee for the Democratisation of Computing
CECS	Community Education Computer Society
CEE	Central and Eastern Europe
CEPES	Centro Peruano de Estudios Sociales Peruvian Social Studies Centre
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CINSA	Community Information Network for Southern Africa
CIPP	Communications and Information Policy Programme
CMS	Content management system
CRIS	Communications Rights in the Information Society
CSOs	Civil society organisations
CTO	Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation
DFID	UK Department for International Development
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EED	Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst e.V.

	Protestant Development Service (Germany)
EKOWISA	E-knowledge for women in southern Africa
ENDA Tiers Monde	Environment and Development Action in the Third World (ENDA-TM)
EnREDando	Popular news agency from Argentina
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FLACSO	Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales Latin American Faculty for Social Sciences
FMA	Foundation for Media Alternatives
FOSS	Free and open source software
GEM	Gender Evaluation Methodology
GenARDIS	Small grants fund to address gender in rural ICT projects
GGP	Global Governance Project
GIS	Geographical information system
GKP	Global Knowledge Partnership
HIVOS	Humanistisch Instituut voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking Humanist Institute for Co-operation with Developing Countries
ICANN	Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
ICD	Information and communications for development
ICT4D or ICTD	Information and communications technologies for development
ICTs	Information and communications technologies
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IICD	International Institute for Communication and Development
IMARK	E-learning initiative in agricultural information management developed by FAO and partner organisations
INASP	International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications
ISDN	Integrated Services Digital Network
ITeM	Instituto del Tercer Mundo Third World Institute
KhmerOS	Khmer-language Open Source Initiative
LAC	Latin American and Caribbean (<i>as in LAC monitor</i>)
MEDIAnet	Programme for the establishment of independent media (Croatia)
MMTK	Multimedia Training Kit
NGOs	Non-governmental organisations
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OKN	Open Knowledge Network
OSI	Open Society Institute
OSISA	Open Society Institute of Southern Africa
OWSEE	OneWorld South-East Europe
PDF	Portable data format
RITS	Rede de informações para o terceiro setor Third Sector Information Network (Brazil)
RLHP	Rowville-Lysterfield History Project
RMGC	Rosia Montana Gold Corporation

RSS	Really Simple Syndication
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SANGONeT	South African NGO Network
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SEE	South-East Europe
SIA	Agricultural Information System (developed by CEPES in Peru)
SMS	Short message service
SSRC	Social Science Research Council
SU&CB	Strategic Uses and Capacity Building Programme
UNDAW	United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNICT	United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force
VAW	Violence against women
WGIG	UN Working Group on Internet Governance
WICCE	Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange
WNSP	Women's Networking Support Programme (known as APC WNSP)
WSIS	World Summit on the Information Society