



Session 4a: ICT Deployment

Session chair

Alex Twinomughisa, GeSCI, Kenya

Nils Jensen, SPIDER and Founder of the ICT4D in Africa Forum, Sweden

Session rapporteur

Peter McGrath, TWAS, Italy & EuroAfrica-ICT project partner

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Panellist list

- **Marc van den Homberg, Senior business developer for ICT development, TNO, Netherlands**
- **Tag McEntegart, Executive director, INASP, Oxford, UK**
- **Patti Swarts, GeSCI, Kenya**
- **Eric Osiakwan, Director, Internet Research Ghana**
- **Margaret Ndung'u, University of Nairobi, Kenya**






Report - Slide #1

Marc van den Homburg introduced the VOICES project (www.mvoices.eu) that started in January 2011 and will run for 30 months. It aims to overcome barriers to growth by providing locally-relevant content, for example through the use of voice /translation technology. It focuses on several areas including business development, m-Health and m-Agriculture.

Tag McEntegart made a plea for efficient bandwidth management . She proposed creating management frameworks for institutions internet facilities so that universities etc in Africa and other developing countries will avoid falling into the traps that those in the North did. Web managers also need to be trained and guides such as the downloadable 'How to accelerate your internet' can help.

Patti Swarts introduced African Leadership in ICT (ALICT). The project's initial phase is investigating what kind of leadership and management capacity is needed for ICTs. Project partners will then design training courses for five country-level teams, including participants from ministries of ICT, research, education, finance, etc.

Eric Osiakwan spoke about Ghana Connect (www.ghanacconnect.org.gh) and gave an overview of the internet cable infrastructure currently installed in Africa, the links that are planned, e.g. NEPAD's vision to connect all capital cities, and gave a in-depth view of the situation in Ghana.

A decorative header featuring a world map in a dark orange color, set against a lighter orange background with a grid pattern and horizontal light streaks.

Report - Slide #2

(summary part II)

Margaret Ndung'u carried out a nationally-representative survey of 1,400 households, of which 1,200 were low-income, to try to determine the factors influencing the use of new technologies in Kenya. Results showed that skill level explains most of variation in use; income does not affect email and internet use, but increases mobile phone use; while gender affected use negatively (i.e. fewer women are connected). She concluded with the policy implication that there are challenges to usage of the new technologies apart from simple access.





Report - Summary

A number of initiatives were presented with some common themes: among them the need to work on social inclusion, to connect the 'last mile', and to train/increase the level of skill for end users, whether in agriculture, health or even university personnel who manage institutional internet networks so that they are used to the best possible efficiency.

