



Conclusions of the Day

Speakers

Barend Taute, CSIR/Meraka Institute

Neeraj Suri, TU Darmstadt

Rapporteur

Sarah Hinz, ACU

*Cape Town, South Africa - www.euroafrica-ict.org
4th Euro-Africa Cooperation Forum on ICT Research*




A large, stylized world map in shades of orange and brown, centered on the Atlantic Ocean, with a grid overlay. The map is set against a background of horizontal light streaks and a grid pattern.

Report - Slide #1

***Neeraj Suri* observed the following issues throughout the first day of the Cooperation Forum. ICT offers location-agnostic perspectives on the collection, dissemination and usage of data although it is data that drives ICT. Whereas the discussed ICT issues and challenges are global, experiences and applications are unique and local. Yet, the landscape is common – the 'Digital Agenda' that promotes digital services, digital inter-operability and digital responsibilities. ICTs play a role in networks/broadband, PPP, infrastructures/applications, telemedicine, covering issues from telemedicine, on-line banking, geo-referencing, energy/transport, cybercrime, to policy & regulatory challenges. He summarised that there are challenges but also many opportunities and a stronger focus on technology rather than applications eases collaborations. Moreover, he suggested to think of testbeds as African experiences offer a unique diversity of technology usage and applications (e.g. mobile) and open living labs have a great potential in Africa. He concluded that the EU viewpoint well matches the African point of view as merely different words and scenarios are used which actually offers a rich diversity of newer scenarios. There are many more reasons to develop mutually beneficial collaborative solutions at the technology level that can be customised to local needs.**





Report - Slide #2

(summary part II)

Barend Taute concluded that it is a given that ICT enables socio-economic growth and participation in the “knowledge economy”. There are strong emotional and historical bonds between Europe and Africa that motivates us to seek collaboration also in this domain.

EU and Africa are already engaged in various initiatives such as EC, AUC, NEPAD and JEG8 with an output based vision for inclusion, connecting all, broadband for all, enhancing trade, etc.

Moreover, there is a need to solve African problems through collaborative, action based research and to come up with innovations relevant to the continent as well as the rest of the world. While a lot can be done via internet, it is essential to have forums such as the 4th EuroAfrica-ICT Cooperation Forum in order to network, debate and connect people face-to-face.

There are issues with funding. Although there are actually a lot of funds available, there are either challenges related to using mechanisms such as FP7 or people just don't respond. In case of the latter, researchers are **URGED** to engage and apply as a prerequisite for reaping the benefits.

PPPs are useful vehicles for implementation with regard to research, service delivery and business since those, if used effectively, align academia, government and industry towards a common objective.

Finally – Living Labs provide win-win and learn-learn opportunities for co-creating and innovating products, services and processes where the people benefit within their own context.

