The NEPAD e-Schools Initiative: Public-Private Partnership Model

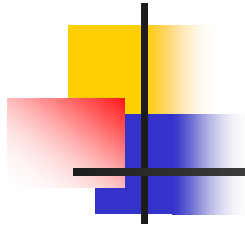

by

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Contents

I.   What is NEPAD

n   NEPAD is a pledge by the African Heads of State and Government to eradicate poverty and to put their countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development;

n   NEPAD is a vision and a programme of the African union, for Africa's development;

n   NEPAD recognizes the pivotal role of ICT in accelerating economic growth and development.

II.   The NEPAD e-Africa Commission:

The NEPAD's Task Team for ICT

Purpose:	Mandate:
ø Accelerate development of ICT infrastructure; ø Accelerate use of this infrastructure for ICT services and applications; ø Bridge the digital divide within Africa and between Africa and the rest of the world.	To oversee the structured development and execution of this programme across the African continent.

Governance:

ø The Executive Committee;

q Honorary Chair: H.E. President Abdoulaye Wade

q Chairperson :   H.E. President Alpha Oumar Konaré;

q Executive Deputy Chairperson :   Dr. Henry Chasia

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The NEPAD e-Africa Commission

FOCUS AREAS :

1. e-policies and e-Strategies;
2. ICT Infrastructure;
3. Human Development;
4. Business Development and Entrepreneurship;
5. Special Programme (LDC's, Youth, Women e.t.c);
6. Local Content
7. Internet & Software Development;
8. e-Applications;
9. R & D and Space applications;
10. Public e-awareness.

PRIORITY PROJECTS

qNEPAD ICT Infrastructure Programme;

qNEPAD e-Schools Initiative.
(*HSGIC, Abuja, 9 March 2003*)

UPCOMING PROJECTS

ve-Applications;
vNEPAD e-Africa Youth Programme.

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III. A.- NEPAD ICT Infrastructure Programme

n **Objective**:

To ensure that all African countries are connected to a broadband fibre-optic cable network that is , in turn, be linked to the rest of the world.

n **Components of the programme** :

ø Close the submarine optical fibre loop around the African continent; i.e. build the Eastern Africa Submarine Cable System (EASSy);

ø Connect all land-locked countries to submarine cable heads;

ø Establish an integrated, robust, continent-wide network of broadband systems.

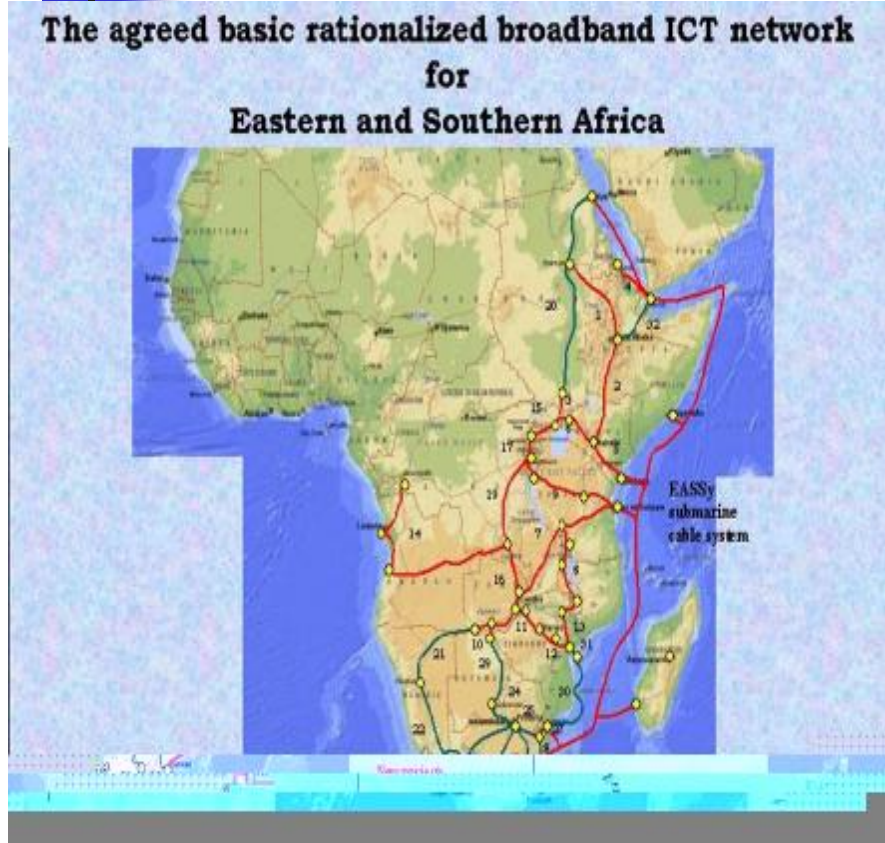n **When :** Project completion by 2010.

NEPAD ICT Infrastructure Programme

- **Advantages and Benefits of the Broadband Connectivity:**
  - High speed, high bandwidth connectivity to Africa;
  - Enable high bandwidth products and services;
  - Improve high capacity optic connectivity within Africa and the rest of the world;
  - Reduce unit costs for international connectivity with lower end-user charges;
  - Reduce payments to foreign satellite telecommunications providers;
  - Contribute towards the socio-economic development of the region;
  - Meet growing telecommunication needs of high bandwidth users such as Internet Service Providers and mobile operators.

Rationalization and Development of Broadband ICT Connectivity
-Basic Networks-

Johannesburg
July/August, 2004
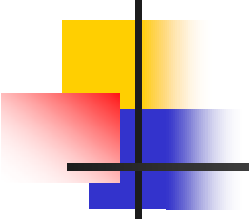
Dakar, July 2005

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Developing a Broadband ICT Infrastructure Network for Eastern and Southern Africa, including the EASSy cable
-The Journey So Far-

ø EASSy MoU between parties: 30 signatories by end of April 2006;

ø Detailed Feasibility Study on financial viability of EASSy project;

ø MoU Parties pledged $205m;

ø Broadband ICT Infrastructure Network for Eastern and Southern Africa, including the EASSy cable, was agreed by stakeholders (July/August 2004);

ø Agreed Network- adopted by HSGIC as a NEPAD flagship project (November 2004);

ø Commission & Group of Experts - developing conducive policy principles for the development of the Broadband ICT Infrastructure;

ø SADC Ministers of ICT called for the urgent formulation of a Policy Framework for the rapid development of the broadband ICT network for Eastern and Southern Africa, including the EASSy cable (October 2005).

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Developing a Broadband ICT Infrastructure Network for Eastern and Southern Africa, including the EASSy cable
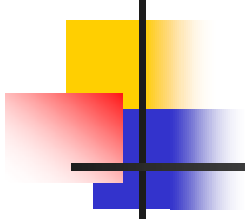## -The Journey Ahead-

n Work is underway for the development and structuring of Special Purpose Vehicles that will own, operate and manage the Network;

n A report and recommendations on these activities will be submitted for approval to Ministers in charge of ICT of the 22 countries of the region by June 2006;

Developing a Broadband ICT Infrastructure Network for Central, West and North Africa - The Journey Ahead-

- The Network for Central, West and North Africa was agreed at the Dakar workshop held in June 2005;

- Funds have been obtained for project preparation activities including the development of a policy & regulatory framework;

III.B.-NEPAD e-Schools Initiative

- **Objectives**
  - To provide ICT skills and knowledge to learners that will enable them to function in the emerging Information Society and Knowledge Economy;

  - To provide teachers with ICT skills to enable them to use ICT as tools to enhance teaching and learning;

  - To provide school managers with ICT skills so as to facilitate the efficient management and administration in the schools;

  - To make every learner health literate.

NEPAD e-Schools Initiative

- **A Phased Approach**
  - Estimated 600, 000 schools in Africa (10% are secondary or equivalent);

  - Implementation will take place in 3 phases (each phase will consist of 15-20 countries);

  - Phase 1 countries *(first 20 APRM signatories)*

    Algeria, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Gabon, Nigeria, Rwanda, Congo, Mozambique, South Africa, Mauritius, Ghana, Uganda, Mali, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Egypt, Lesotho, Angola, Benin.

WHAT IS A NEPAD e-SCHOOL?

- A NEPAD e-School is one which:
  - Will produce young Africans with skills to participate in the knowledge economy;

  - Is equipped with apparatus of the knowledge economy;

  - Is connected to the Internet;

  - Has teachers trained to teach ICT skills;

  - Allows teachers to use ICT to deliver their lessons;

  - Uses ICT for administration of the school;

  - Has a "health point".

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Tasks ahead
Completed

NEPAD e-Schools Demonstration Project

Buy-in from country govts. › Private sector discussions › Agree-ments › **Imple-ment** › **M&E**

NEPAD e-Schools Business Plan

fundraising for BP dev. › Appoint firm to dev. BP › **BP Dev** › **fundraising for implementation** (various funding sources)

NEPAD e-Schools Satellite Network

Issue RFI to Satellite industry › Appoint firm to analyse info › **firm up NEPAD e-Schools requirements** › **prep. RFP**

National Implementing Agencies

Concept definition › **Concept Agreement** › Fundraising › **Country Negotiations and Establishment**
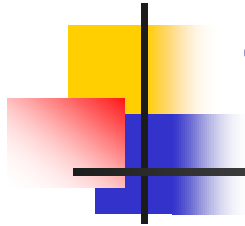
Coordination

Teacher Training › **Content development** › **Standarsation** › **Overall coordination**

Rollout

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The NEPAD e-Schools on the ground

- **NEPAD e-Schools Demo Launches:**
  - Uganda and Ghana - July 2005;
  - Lesotho – August 2005;
  - Kenya – September 2005.
- **NEPAD e-Schools Demo MoUs signed awaiting Launch:**
  - Rwanda, South Africa, Egypt, Mauritius, Nigeria, Mali, Mozambique and Senegal.

IV. Information Society Partnership for Africa's Development (ISPAD)
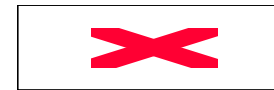
q OBJECTIVE

To create a government, corporate, intergovernmental organisation and civil society partnership that will bring to bear skills, resources and technology to implement NEPAD ICT projects.

q PROGRESS THUS FAR

- Developed and documented policies, procedures and modalities for the creation and operation of ISPAD;
- Local and overseas companies have joined the partnership and contributed funding for operation of the e-Africa Commission;
- One development partner has contributed funding to establish the core staffing of the Commission;
- Corporate partners have committed to develop the NEPAD e-schools demo.

ISPAD Corporate Partners

ISPAD Development Partners (to update)

- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa (CSIR),
- Development Bank of Southern Africa,
- World Bank Group, InfoDev
- Department for International Development (DFID),
- African Development Bank (AfDB),
- Groupe Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation,
- Department of Communications, Government of South Africa,
- Commonwealth of Learning, Vancouver, Canada,
- Commonwealth,
- Medical Research Council, South Africa
- State Information and Technology Agency, South Africa,
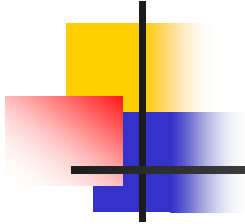- UNESCO

ISPAD

q Next ACTIONS :

- § Forge more partnerships; Encourage additional corporate partners to participate;
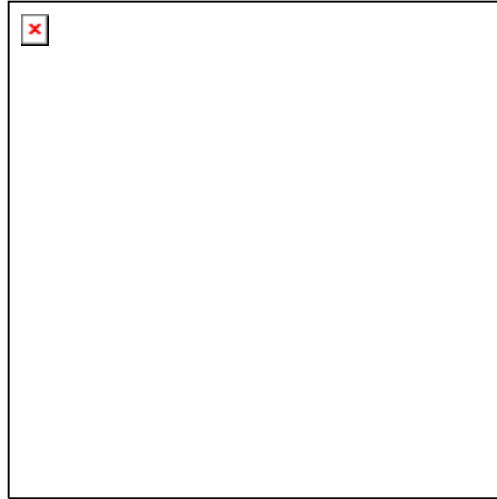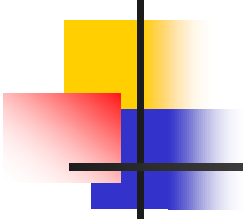- n Recruit partners from civil society and development partners.

q CHALLENGES

- n Create opportunities for regular interaction between corporate and government partners.

V.   The way forward

q Take advantage of economies of scale and scope

q Forge *appropriate partnerships* for competitive edge, market penetration, sustainable projects

q The *outputs* of NEPAD e-Africa Commission Projects will have *positive impact* on
  n Inter-regional trade;
  n Continental integration;
  n Enhance Africa's global competitiveness;
  n Poverty reduction;
  n Efficiency and effectiveness of government, private sector and civil society;
  n Mutual accountability;

Thank You

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