Informal summary
Second meeting of the Strategy Council of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development
Intel Headquarters, Santa Clara, 27 February 2007

The Second meeting of the Strategy Council of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) was held on 27 February 2007 at Intel Headquarters in Santa Clara, California. Approximately 130 members of the Strategy Council and the Panel of High-level Advisers attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the GAID Flagship Partnership Initiatives, Advocacy Partnerships and Communities of Expertise were presented and discussed. Feedback from Strategy Council members and High-level Advisers was welcomed. It was also concluded that the work of the Alliance at this stage should focus on the overarching issues of connectivity and access with special attention to Africa.

The agenda consisted of: (I) an opening session, (II) presentations of the GAID Flagship Partnership Initiatives (FPIs), (III) a discussion on the implementation of the GAID business plan, (IV) presentations of the GAID Communities of Expertise (CoEs), and (V) a closing session.

I. OPENING SESSION

Mr. Craig Barrett, Chairman of the Board of Intel and Chairman of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development, welcomed participants to the Second meeting of the GAID Strategy Council and to the Silicon Valley. Noting the potential of GAID to impact billions of people's lives through its work, Mr. Barrett invoked the culture of Silicon Valley -- more action and less talk. The Chairman remarked that the Alliance has made good progress since its launch, with a business plan that defines four targeted action areas (education, health, entrepreneurship and governance) consistent with its goals and flagship initiatives with specific focuses. He urged participants to specifically discuss how to move faster and utilize the capabilities of the various stakeholders for collective action. He urged the members of the Council to provide financial contributions to the core budget of GAID to ensure the daily operations and financing of the secretariat, in accordance with the decisions of the 27 September 2006 meeting of the Steering Committee.

United Nations Secretary-General **Mr. Ban Ki-Moon** addressed the Council in a pre-recorded video. In his message, the Secretary-General recalled the consensus that information and communications technologies (ICT) have a central role to play in the quest for development, dignity and peace. The Secretary-General stated that, with the launch of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development last March, the international community has taken that consensus *a crucial step further*. He believes that the Global Alliance is well-placed to promote the use of ICT in fighting poverty, illiteracy and disease; in protecting the environment; and empowering women

and girls. The Secretary-General urged the members of the Council to work in a true partnership of all essential stakeholders to turn the digital divide into a digital opportunity and assured the audience that the United Nations is a willing and able partner in this mission.

Dr. Hamadoun Touré, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), next recalled the historical facts leading to WSIS. He said that WSIS showed the virtues of an inclusive, multi-stakeholder approach to development. He highlighted the growing recognition by developing countries that a sound ICT policy combined with an action-oriented implementation plan that takes into account infrastructure deployment and capacity-building leads to more development. Consequently, the developing world is more committed than ever before to providing a sound and attractive regulatory environment, making now a good time to seize opportunities to invest in developing countries. He noted a number of ITU projects underway and stressed the need to avoid duplication of efforts.

Dr. Touré reaffirmed ITU's commitment to contribute to and collaborate with the Alliance, as it is an important multi-stakeholder platform and network to help meet the MDGs and WSIS goals by 2015. Acknowledging that no development can take place in cyberspace without proper security, Dr. Touré informed the Strategy Council that he would make cybersecurity a key area of focus for ITU, and he invited members of the Council to work together to tackle the issue at a global level. He concluded by congratulating Mr. Barrett for his leadership of the Global Alliance, an important example of the contribution that the private sector can bring to the WSIS follow-up process.

In his address, **H.E. Minister Dato' Sri Dr. Jamaludin Jarjis**, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia, reiterated the support of his government to GAID in helping to achieve the MDGs through ICT, recalling that his Government had hosted the GAID inaugural meeting in Kuala Lumpur. Minister Jarjis stated that information technology had become a very important tool in the Malaysian economy, enabling his country to move to the next level of development. He introduced the Cyber Development Corps as an initiative from the Malaysian Government to help reduce poverty in the world by building the capacity of young people to use information technology (see Section II below).

Mr. Guy Sebban, Secretary-General of the International Chamber of Commerce, remarked that the world economy has been transformed by ICT, leading ICC to launch a new initiative, Business Action to Support the Information Society (BASIS), to convey a consensus message and facilitate knowledge flows between governments, business, media and other stakeholders. Mr. Sebban sees opportunities for business to contribute primarily through research and development and investment in infrastructure. In this regard, he noted that the business community sees greater incentives in environments that provide legal certainty and a favorable intellectual property regime. Under such conditions, the private sector is better able to develop innovative solutions. Mr. Sebban indicated that the role of governments and inter-governmental organizations is to ensure an appropriate legal framework and avoid over-regulation in order to foster a stable and competitive environment that would attract investors and benefit users. Mr. Sebban urged GAID to avoid duplicating efforts and launching new initiatives, but rather to serve as a catalyst for coordinating and scaling up existing initiatives, exchanging best practices and bringing stakeholders together.

In his address, **Ambassador Walter Fust**, Director-General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), presented the Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP), whose two strategic pillars are sharing knowledge and building partnerships. Ambassador Fust presented several of GKP's activities, including the upcoming Third Global Kowledge

Conference (GK3, 11-13 December 2007, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) on the theme "Emerging People, Emerging Markets, Emerging Technologies". He announced that a memorandum of understanding with the Global Alliance was being signed, and he invited Council members to collaborate with GKP.

Reporting on the progress of the Global Alliance, **Mr. Sarbuland Khan**, Executive Coordinator, thanked Chairman Craig Barrett for his leadership of the Alliance and expressed gratitude to Intel Corporation for hosting the meeting. Mr. Khan reported that, since its founding, the Alliance had established its governing bodies; identified four key policy areas (education, entrepreneurship, governance and health); catalyzed partnerships around three Flagship Partnership Initiatives (FPIs) and two advocacy themes; established several Communities of Expertise (CoEs) in the four areas of focus as well as in several cross-cutting areas (youth, content, rural development and gender); and launched regional networks in Asia, Europe and Eastern Europe. Additional regional networks and stakeholder networks are in the process of being formed. Hence, the basic infrastructure and organizational capacity to move forward will soon be completely in place. Mr. Khan noted the historic nature of this event, stating that this was the first time that a UN entity is meeting in the Silicon Valley, hosted by a private company. He appealed to other partners, especially those from the private sector, to show commitment similar to Intel's.

II. PRESENTATIONS OF, AND DISCUSSION ON, FLAGSHIP PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR ADVOCACY THEMES

This session introduced the members of the Strategy Council to the GAID Flagship Partnership Initiatives (FPIs) and Partnerships for Advocacy with the goals of discussing how the partnerships will contribute to GAID's overall objectives and identifying ways in which members' organizations may support the initiatives. Please see the GAID website at http://www.un-gaid.org/en/node/214 to view the powerpoint presentations and other background documentation, where available.

(1) Better Connectivity with Broadband to Africa

Mr. Mark Williams, Economist, Policy Division, Global Information and Communication Technologies, the World Bank, noted that over the long run, countries that invest more in information and communication technologies grow faster and governments can increase their productivity and cut their costs. He observed that there has been a huge expansion in availability of ICT services in recent years due to investments from the private sector, particularly in mobile technology. Broadband services, on the other hand, are rare, lacking in many parts of the world, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

Mr. Williams provided an overview of two of the World Bank projects that fall under this Flagship Partnership Initiative: the Regional Communications Infrastructure Project (RCIP) and East African Submarine Cable System (EASSy). Mr. Williams described how these would provide backbone capacity and domestic and international connectivity in East Africa. He informed the Strategy Council that the World Bank is conducting policy analysis on backbone networks on constraints to network development and policy options based on private-sector led and pro-competitive solutions. The activities of the FPI will consist of further analysis, consensus-building and information dissemination through seminars, conferences and public forums. The initiative will also encourage investments in backbone projects under development in East and Central Africa. Activities have been coordinated by the World Bank with the support of

the International Finance Corporation and infoDev Program, but it will develop partnerships with governments, the European Commission, the African Development Bank, the International Telecommunication Union, the e-Africa Commission/NEPAD, donor organizations, telecom operator associations and civil society.

In the discussion that followed, **Mr. Hamadoun Touré** (ITU) expressed his appreciation of the initiative and stressed the need to focus on the African continent. He mentioned that ITU also undertakes policy analysis and had conducted a number of studies on backbone capacity and connectivity in the African region, and he proposed that the World Bank and ITU, with its experience, expertise and knowledge of the region, collaborate further in this area and that the Union can be an implementing agency. **Ms. Astrid Dufborg** (GeSCI) underscored the value of collaborating with other partners at all levels of connectivity, including the last mile. To this end, she stressed the need to have national governments involved in the process. **Mr. Peter Bruck** (World Summit Award) asked Mr. Williams to expound upon how participants in the meeting could support the project. **Mr. Willie Curie** (APC) noted that civil society is actively involved in the issue of broadband for Africa, but had experienced some difficulties in engaging in the process, which had been led by development financial institutions.

Mr. Williams underscored that Broadband to Africa is an initiative of a group of diverse institutions, including World Bank institutions, that have come together to solve a problem. ITU and the World Bank have been collaborating on policy and regulations, and further dialogue and collaboration between them, and with other partners, are welcome.

Mr. Anton Mangstl (FAO), **Mr. Peter Hellmonds** (Siemens Networks) and **Mr. Mokwining Inock Nhlapo** (South Africa) expressed their appreciation and support for the Broadband to Africa initiative. Mr. Mangstl recognized that connectivity is a major problem in the African region, especially in rural areas. Mr. Hellmonds commended the open-market and competitive approach of the project. **Mr. Khaled Ismail** (Egypt) stressed the importance of having specific quantitative targets and to bring down the cost of connectivity.

Mr. Richard Simpson (Canada) observed that there are many sides to the issue of connectivity, and GAID's role and contribution to the Broadband for Africa initiative would be to bring partners together. **Mr. Art Reilly** (CISCO) identified a need for providing a mechanism, in the form of a website or online platform, which would gather and compile all projects and initiatives underway in the region, in order to identify gaps and opportunities, and to provide relevant information to interested stakeholders.

Mr. Williams concluded the session by saying that collaboration is very much welcome, stating that the World Bank's approach in the initiative has always been open. He also expressed support for GAID's role in the area of policy regulation and investments arising from policy dialogue.

Suggested Follow-up

- World Bank encouraged to engage all relevant parties, in particular, ITU, the European Commission, and the E-Africa Commission/NEPAD
- FPI to identify gaps and opportunities in Africa and make information available to stakeholders

(2) Telecentre.org

With a world-wide total of more than 100,000 telecentres – defined as any shared access computer facility with a social purpose – the telecentre.org initiative, presented by **Mr. Mark Surman**, Managing Director, sees these as powerful platforms for economic and social development. In order to increase the impact and sustainability of telecentres, telecentre.org is investing in developing skills and services that are of value to telecentre managers and customers. Initial telecentre.org partners were the IDRC, Microsoft and SDC, but partnership has expanded dramatically. The telecentre.org strategy is to create a partnership platform, establish a social investment pool, build up telecentre networks, invest in value-added services, and connect and collaborate with the 'doers' who are scaling. It is hoped that the initiative will deepen and grow through its affiliation with the Global Alliance. Milestones are to: (1) establish a value-added services fund (starting with $1 million in 2007), (2) create a World Telecentre Academy network in 2008 and (3) hold high-profile telecentre leaders events every year (the December 2007 event will be held in Malaysia). In particular, development of innovative value-added services that will help make telecentres sustainable is a potentially very fruitful area for collaboration between the initiative and GAID's members and partners.

During the discussion, the need to demonstrate the expected results of the telecentres – not just the size of the investment fund – was emphasized. **Mr. Bruck** announced the World Summit Award's interest in partnering with the telecentre.org initiative, supporting the development of content of value to telecentres. Mr. Surman welcomed the positive responses and reiterated that telecentre.org aims to catalyze an explosion of content and applications useful to customers and connect the centres in order to facilitate the sharing of useful ideas. The fund will specifically look to finance social enterprise business models. He reinforced the fact that telecentre.org operates in the background, relying on local telecentre managers to take lead roles in building their communities.

Suggested Follow-up

- Telecentre.org and World Summit Award to discuss collaboration

(3) Cyber Development Corps

Mr. Abdul Wahab Abdullah, Chief Executive Officer, MIMOS, Malaysia, provided an overview of the Cyber Development Corps initiative aimed at establishing a global outreach programme, based on volunteerism, which would help developing nations and communities benefit from information and communication technologies, infrastructure and resources. It will focus on capacity-building and will create a voluntary corps of young people who are professionally qualified to train others in developing ICT skills. Mr. Adbullah stressed the critical role of human capital development in addressing the digital divide for developing nations, and he invited Strategy Council members to become partners and collaborators in the initiative.

Specifically, the initiative will mobilize a global cadre of volunteers serving underserved communities in developing countries and will strengthen regional relationships through information and knowledge sharing on ICT-for-development (ICTD). Deliverables include an "Opportunity Gateway" Portal; a pool of volunteers, social entrepreneurs and subject matter experts; common ICTD knowledge management tools, infrastructure and support services; and a knowledge sharing data bank for ICTD best practices. The initiative is being led by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Malaysia with the support of partners including the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), the Islamic Development Bank, UNDP Egypt, Digital Opportunity Trust and Microsoft Malaysia.

Mr. Avri Gupta (India) suggested a more focused approach and cited the wealth of collaboration opportunities available. He said that many innovations in India can be shared with other countries. **Minister Jarjis** agreed that developing nations can draw lessons from India, specifically Bangalore, where innovative ICT services have flourished. **Mr. Juan Fernandez** (Cuba) cited the abundance of youth skilled in ICT in Cuba that could be tapped as resource pool. **Ms. Ann-Kristin Håkansson** (Indigenous ICT) asserted that the needs of indigenous persons should also be considered. **Mr. Anton Mangstl** (FAO) emphasized the opportunity for collaboration among research institutions and ICT-related centers, with a view to setting up a network of partners in the area of rural development and agriculture.

Mr. Abdullah expressed his appreciation for the comments and suggestions from the participants. He stated that Malaysia is, indeed, already collaborating with India, and he welcomed Cuba's offer to explore how they might collaborate with the initiative.

Suggested Follow-up

- India to share experience and innovative policies with Malaysia
- Malaysia to confer with Cuba about possible collaboration
- Malaysia and FAO to discuss setting up rural development and agriculture network that contributes to the FPI

(4) Global Initiative for Inclusive ICT (G3ICT)

Leading into the presentation on the Global Initiative for Inclusive ICT (G3ICT), **Ms. Frances West** (IBM) provided an overview of IBM's work in providing accessibility solutions for traditional and non-traditional forms of disabilities. Addressing the meeting by teleconference, she underscored the role of global legislation affecting both public and private sectors in the area of inclusive technologies and the need for "equal access" in devices, applications and infrastructure. Because policy and standards need to be coordinated, Ms. West emphasized a need for a new business model that brings together all stakeholders to produce relevant software and hardware, and in this regard saw a valuable role for GAID.

Mr. Axel Leblois, President, World Times, Inc. and co-founder of the Wireless Internet Institute (W2i), presented the Global Initiative for Inclusive ICT (G3ICT), which seeks to promote ICT solutions for people with disabilities, as well as related best policy practices among governments in the context of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and expanded Member States' legislations and regulations. It also aims to accelerate the development by industry and civil society of the scientific, industrial, standardization and economic conditions to make such solutions for people with disabilities affordable worldwide. Mr. Leblois reported that 18% of the world population, two-thirds of which are in developing countries, lives with some form of disability. He observed that there has now been a convergence of goals among global organizations, including international development agencies, ICT vendors, and national organizations, to address ICT and disability issues.

Mr. Leblois emphasized the need for harmonized policies and open standards in promoting accessibility solutions, which has been the driving principle behind G3ICT. He also stressed the multi-stakeholder process of the G3ICT initiative via the establishment of multi-stakeholder working groups and global and regional forums that would encourage global dialogue among all stakeholders. An awareness-raising global meeting at United Nations Headquarters will be held on 26 March 2007 involving representatives from the public sector, industry, civil society

and local authorities with a view to creating a compendium of best practices. Two annual follow-up meetings at the United Nations Headquarters in New York or in Geneva will be held in February 2008 and February 2009. Regional Forums will also be organized to help raise awareness among governments around the world. Other deliverables include research programmes, development of a Digital Inclusion Index and organizing Global Awards for Inclusive Technology.

(5) Free Access for all Schools to the Internet

Mr. Walter Fust, Director-General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), presented the GAID advocacy initiative on "Free Access for All Schools to the Internet". The initiative envisions a global knowledge society where every school would have free access to the Internet, and would serve as fertile grounds to foster the development of a new generation of skilled citizens able to engage actively in a knowledge society. It advocates for the implementation and delivery of government programmes through a multi-stakeholder approach, bringing down connectivity costs and leveraging innovative financing.

Mr. Fust observed that challenges to the initiative include: limited access to the Internet in remote areas, high connectivity cost for schools, monopoly of services and the regulatory framework. These challenges, however, can be overcome. He cited the example of Swisscom, a multi-stakeholder partnership providing all schools in Switzerland with access to the Internet. Technical and political challenges sparked creative problem-solving. An innovative solution involving cross-subsidizing connectivity costs through mobile phone companies and users was employed to finance connectivity for schools. Mr. Fust stated that GAID should provide the strategic umbrella to support finding innovative financial solutions in other countries and leading global advocacy campaigns to mobilize support. GAID could launch the initiative and perform the advocacy work, whereas the implementation would need to be at the country-level through partners.

Suggested Follow-up

- Members of the Strategy Council and the GAID secretariat to encourage additional parties to engage in the advocacy partnership to begin campaigns around the world

III. INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BUSINESS PLAN

Adding to his presentation made in the opening session, the GAID Executive Coordinator called attention to the revitalized GAID website. He also thanked those organizations that had generously contributed financial and in-kind resources to support the Global Alliance, and reminded those who had made pledges to fulfill them, underscoring that all participants have a collective responsibility to implement the business plan. Mr. Khan announced that Syracuse University would lead the external assessment and evaluation process, scheduled to take place in 2008.

Mr. Peter Hellmonds (Siemens Networks) reported on the 16 January 2007 meeting of the GAID European Regional Network, held in Dresden, Germany, and attended by more than 30 participants. The aim of the network is to reach out to stakeholders in the region to raise awareness and develop concrete steps toward implementing the outcomes of the WSIS and meeting the MDGs. A second meeting is planned for the second half of 2007. **Mr. Philippe Dam**

(Conference of NGOs) informed the Strategy Council that the launch of the GAID Civil Society Stakeholder Network, which will bring together ICT communities with traditional development communities, is planned to take place in May 2007 under the leadership of CONGO.

Mr. Derrick Cogburn (Syracuse University) described efforts being undertaken by several experts from different institutions to implement collaborative and conferencing technologies for GAID in order to facilitate better virtual interactivity. Mr. Cogburn announced that the tools would be rolled out in stages. **Mr. Michael Nelson** (IBM) added that this group is also exploring affordable social networking technologies that can connect experts and facilitate knowledge sharing.

Minister Ali Abbasov (Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies, Azerbaijan) announced that the government of Azerbaijan will contribute $100,000 to the GAID budget as well as host the secretariat of GAID's regional network for countries in transition. He also indicated Azerbaijan's wish to support the GAID advocacy campaign on Free Access for all Schools to the Internet. **Minister Jamaludin Dato' Mohd Jarjis** (Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Malaysia) expressed Malaysia's interest in supporting the telecentre.org initiative and Free Access for all Schools to the Internet. The Minister also offered to host a meeting of the Global Alliance in Malaysia in May 2008 in connection with the World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT). **Dr. Hamadoun Touré** (ITU) reiterated ITU's intention to contribute to the implementation of GAID's business plan.

Mr. Peter Froehler (SITE, UNCTAD) suggested that GAID become a partner in the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development. Mr. Khan welcomed the suggestion and requested that the organizations develop an arrangement for collaboration.

Ms. Astrid Dufborg (Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative) stated that the business plan could be improved by being more focused and explicit about how GAID can add value to the implementation of the WSIS. She suggested that GAID should aim to increase not free, but underline affordable access to schools. She also emphasized that teachers – not just technology -- are critical to education. Ms. Dufborg also noted that the several Communities of Expertise in education could more clearly identify how they contribute toward GAID's objectives. **Ambassador Yrjo Lansipuro** (Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland) supported Ms. Dufborg's observation that the Alliance should focus where it can add value. He noted that GAID faces a challenge to achieve genuine output in its role as catalyzer or coordinator. The Ambassador reminded the Council of GAID's role in providing input to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the follow-up to the WSIS. Mr. Khan announced that the GAID secretariat will be working with the CSTD Secretariat in UNCTAD to organize a joint multi-stakeholder event on 22 May 2007.

Mr. Juan Fernandez (Ministry of Informatics and Communication, Cuba) underscored the need for the Global Alliance to learn from the experiences of the UN ICT Task Force and encouraged the Strategy Council to put its experiences in writing. He emphasized the importance of the Alliance being result-oriented and recalled GAID's role as a think-tank in the field of ICTD. **Mr. Armen Orujyan** (ATHGO Corporation) asked for clarification on how willing organizations could get further involved in the activities of the Global Alliance. **Mr. Bruck** requested clarity in what was expected of NGOs in terms of funding the Global Alliance. He also underscored the objective of the World Summit Award to help focus on best practice, and its potential to contribute to each of the FPIs and partnerships for advocacy.

Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura (DAISY Consortium) emphasized the importance of the participation of people with disabilities in GAID's activities, particularly in the G3ICT initiative, and suggested that allowing people to indicate that they require special accommodation for a disability on meeting registration forms would send a strong signal to the community that their participation is welcome. **Ms. Claudia Morrell** (Center for Women and IT) reminded Members of the importance of disaggregating data by age, gender, disability as GAID and its partners undertake research, data collection and evaluation.

Suggested Follow-up

- Strategy Council members encouraged to contribute actively to the implementation of the business plan and provide financial support to the core budget and for the elements of the business plan
- GAID to join the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development
- GAI D secretariat to publicize procedures for interested parties to contribute to GAID's FPIs, CoEs, and regional and stakeholder networks
- GAID secretariat to explore making the Alliance's activities more accommodating to individuals with disabilities

IV. COMMUNITIES OF EXPERTISE PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

During four parallel sessions, Strategy Council Members heard and discussed the GAID Communities of Expertise. They were clustered around the GAID focus areas: (1) education, (2) entrepreneurship, (3) governance and (4) health with cross-cutting themes, gender, rural development and content. The purpose of the session was to inform the GAID Strategy Council members and high-level advisers of the nature, strategies and activities of the various CoEs; to gather inputs and feedback from members and advisers; and to generate interest in the CoEs from potential partners. Please see the GAID website at http://www.un-gaid.org/en/node/214 to view the powerpoint presentations and other background documentation, where available.

(1) Education Cluster

The session on education was moderated by **Professor Wolfgang Kleinwächter** from the Institute of Information and Media Studies, Aarhus University. Four CoE leaders were present to discuss their initiatives: **Professor Liu Chuang, Professor Dipak Khakhar**, **Ms. Astrid Dufborg** and **Professor Gilly Salmon.** Professor Kleinwächter divided the session in two parts, the first of which had a number of presentations with discussion, and the second part was split in five sub-themes.

Professor Liu Chuang, Leading Professor of Global Change Information and Research Center, Chinese Academy of Sciences, presented the CoE on **Enhancing Access to and Application of Scientific Data in Developing Countries (*e*-SDDC)**. The objective of the CoE is to (1) identify and evaluate different mechanisms and policies for promoting greater access to and use of digital science and technology resources for meeting the needs of developing countries in policy reform in scientific data management and applications; and (2) help build a distributed and decentralized network of networks in scientific data and information resources for innovative research, sustainable development and better life in the developing world. Professor Chuang underscored the need to have access to scientific data, particularly from developing countries. These data are resources that are valuable for policy makers to plan for their own economic

development and social progress. The data would also serve as a platform for sharing of information amongst the developing countries.

The implementation strategy for the *e*-SDDC activity may be summarized as: Networking – OpenAccess – Innovation – Development. The *e*-SDDC will seek to integrate five specific types of networks, which are focused on providing open access to and application of scientific data for capacity-building and development in developing countries. These five kinds of networks are: Think-Tank Network; Scientific Data Sharing Network; Technology Transfer and Assistance Network; On-line Teaching and Training Network; and Network on Scientific Data Dimensions of Disaster Mitigation, Poverty Reduction and Public Health. Twenty-nine organizations from 17 countries have already been invited to participate in the *e*-SDDC program.

Professor Dipak Khakhar, Department of Informatics, Lund University, Sweden, presented the CoE on **ICT Integration and Pedagogical Engineering**. The CoE aims to focus on education for sustainability and collaborative e-learning to empower citizens with knowledge and skills. The target for the CoE is thinking and acting globally and the mission is to reinvent or re-engineer education for sustainability. Professor Khakhar stated that there is a need for "life-wide", "life-long" and "life-deep" learning. The roles of teachers also need to be changed so that they can be more like coaches -- inspiring the community. When teachers have "creativity", then sustainability of the education can be achieved.

Ms. Astrid Dufborg, Executive Director of Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative (GESCI), presented the CoE on **ICTs in Education** and the paper "GAID Community of Experts on ICT for education – thoughts for discussion" (GAID/STRATC/II/13), underscoring the importance of working directly with the Ministries of Education from the developing countries.. The greatest barrier to the effective integration of ICTs in education can be attributed to a basic lack of available knowledge and skills. To meet these challenges it is necessary to explore methods that facilitate seamless integration of ICTs into education-for-all and universal primary education, both affordably and non-disruptively. With regard to teaching and learning, Ms. Dufborg reiterated that if teachers, in their capacity as agents of change, are not brought on board, little change in teaching methods can be realised. From a learning point of view, she also mentioned that young people, including those from the developing countries, effortlessly pick up new technologies as soon as they are granted access to them. Therefore, Ms. Dufborg said that the shift towards student-oriented learning practices is most critical, but warned that, if the teachers have not been equipped with the required skills, teaching will remain instructional rather than interactive. With these background insights, and in support of the promising training of teachers, provided by governments and partners, and aside from the more strategic improvement of teachers' in-service and pre-service training, Ms. Dufborg reiterated the need for the community of experts to add value for the global learning activities.

Professor Gilly Salmon, Professor of E-Learning and Learning Technologies at University of Leicester, presented the CoE, **Beyond Distance Research Alliance**. Professor Salmon reiterated that that the teacher is crucial and e-learning is not purely technology-led. With personal experience of moving from e-learning environment to a real university, Professor Salmon is able to maximize her experience of both situations and bring this expertise to the CoE. The need to look at education and business in a global context was emphasized. The University of New South Wales, Australia is presently developing a suite of tools for distance learning in collaboration with the CoE. Professor Salmon welcomed any interest from the private sector to participate in the CoE and to contribute to the tools being developed. Professor Kleinwächter praised the innovative network model, which asks all who join to "pay" for their association with the network with an idea, by delivering knowledge and bringing innovative vision.

During the discussion, Mr. Abdul Waheed Khan (UNESCO) stated that education plays a critical role in building all societies that is based on the premise of converting information to knowledge. In addition to education, accessibility is also important for the success of a knowledge-based society. Today's curriculum is 25 to 30 years old. Mr. Khan agreed that universities need to have alternative methods of teaching such as the "dual-mode" teaching, whereby not only the teacher teaches. He suggested that the communities can also learn from private sector corporations such as Intel, Microsoft and Cisco as to how they have produced knowledge workers within their organizations. ICT competencies for teachers are relevant for sustainability as well. Professor Clement Dzidonu (International Institute for Information Technology, Ghana) commented that universities need to provide online modules that can be accessible to all. Also needed is a "culture of excellence" amongst teachers. He supported the reality that without ICT skills for teachers, change will not happen.

At the end of the session, it was agreed that the following were each needed: (1) physical infrastructure, (2) private sector involvement, with appropriate solutions defined, (3) bridging the gap between the desired outcome and the technology available, (4) determining what kind of "innovation" is really needed, (5) facilitating optimization of policy, pricing, innovation and knowledge for capacity-building, (6) having proper co-ordination and getting one real application running in a village.

In the report to the plenary, Professor Kleinwächter shared that participants had discussed education at both the global and local levels. They had agreed that knowledge is a universal concept but that the local component plays a very important role. Participants felt there was a need for change in the architecture of the whole education system, and he added that the panel focused on the important concept that we are moving from an "educational system" to a "learning system". He reiterated that the change in the educational process begins with teachers, but only if they understand the role of ICT in the education process will they be able to discharge their responsibilities. Professor Kleinwächter invited **Mr. Tim Unwin**, Director of ICT4D at the University of London, to share the educational model that had been further developed since the meeting on education in Kuala Lumpur in June 2006, in particular looking at where GAID could take action in the sector. Among the areas identified were addressing illiteracy, ICT competencies for teachers, e-learning, GIS support for data handling and contributing to the MDGs.

Suggested Follow-up

- CoEs to approach private sector to study their methods for producing knowledge workers
- CoEs to consider including work on illiteracy, ICT competencies for teachers, e-learning, GIS support for data handling and contributing to the MDGs
- CoEs to collaborate and develop synergies for better results

(2) Entrepreneurship Cluster

The session on entrepreneurship was moderated by **Mr. Michael Nelson**, Director, Internet Technology and Strategy, IBM. Four short presentations were followed by interactive discussion.

Mr. Robert Sagun, Board Chairperson, Philippine Resources for Sustainable Development, Inc. (PRSD), presented the CoE on **Youth Social Technopreneurship**. The objective of the CoE is to build young people's capacities as social technopreneurs, supported by an interactive platform (both a website and capacity-building events), a roster of mentors/coaches

and a financial facility. PRSD is working with a number of partners, many in Africa and Asia. The deliverables are: (a) an annual regional capacity-building workshop on social technopreneurship, (b) an interactive portal matching enterprising youth with experienced social technopreneurs and sources of business support services, (c) an annual "ICTs for the MDGs" business plan competition, and (d) a Social Technopreneurship Fund (STEP Fund). Among the milestones outlined, seed capital is proposed to be raised by April 2007; the formal launch of the Community is planned for May 2007 during the GAID Global Forum on Youth; the STEP Fund and initial roster of business mentors/coaches will be set up by August 2007; and the first capacity-building workshop in Africa and announcement of the business plan competition winners is scheduled for November 2007. The estimated funding requirement for 2007-2008 is $500,000.

During the discussion, it was clarified that the community would serve entrepreneurs using ICT to facilitate social change, not necessarily those starting up technology businesses. Mr. Sagun emphasized the need to work with university student organizations, especially those engaged in business and economics, as "teachers" to their peers to nurture a culture of entrepreneurship among young people. Mr. Hellmonds emphasized the need for the ventures created by the CoE to be self-sustaining and to be measured by their productivity and output in terms of their contribution to society. Mr. Hellmonds also underscored that investment in each project should be more substantial than $20,000, and that the CoE must clearly show the value it will create in order to attract funds. He specifically warned that the CoE may not have allocated sufficient time for planning and execution of the business plan competition and offered to share his experience in this area.

Mr. Willie Currie, Communications and Information Policy Manager, Association for Progressive Communications (APC), presented the CoE on **ICT Policy and Finance for Social, Community and Public Entrepreneurship**. The CoE aims to enable SMEs, community enterprises and local authorities to utilize technology -- particularly broadband Internet -- effectively. The APC network (with 45 members, worldwide) is joined by partners IT for Change, UNDP, AMARC, the LINK Centre, CIPESA and Nexus Research. The CoE hopes to increase last-mile connectivity by focusing on relevant policy and financing, particularly in VOIP. Deliverables are: (a) a platform for dialogue, (b) a process of analysis and identification of barriers to ICT-enabled development and entrepreneurship, (c) an implementation plan, (d) resource mobilization, and (e) implementation of the plan. Major milestones are: web platform for dialogue by March 2007, analysis and identification of barriers and opportunities, and production of Implementation Plan from April to June 2007, resource mobilization in quarters 3 and 4 of 2007, and implementation of the plan in late 2007/early 2008. An estimated $5 million is required to fund the CoE.

Mr. Jeffery Galinovsky, GAID Programme Manager, Intel, presented the CoE on **Expanding Financial Services to the Un-/Under-banked**. The CoE goal is to make people's lives better by improving the delivery and availability of financial services to the poor through the use of ICT. Founding partners in this CoE are Intel, the Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest (CGAP), Grameen Foundation, Mercy Corps, Microsoft, Visa, and the World Resources Institute. Mr. Galinovsky foresees linking this CoE with the telecentre.org FPI as a vehicle by which to bring financial services to the poor in developing countries. "Discovery" and "Action" phases are planned. The Phase I work plan has been completed and approved by the team, and sub-working groups have been formed. First cuts of successful model research and the value chain model are scheduled to be ready in June 2007, and the Phase II work plan is due in October 2007. Funding is envisioned to be required for research on technology and financial models, for value chain

mapping and for administrative costs. Intel, Microsoft, CGAP and Visa have agreed to source funding for first year through their own resources.

During the discussion, it was observed that in some countries, laws may need to be changed in order to make these ICT-enabled financial services legal. To this end, Mr. Galinovsky indicated that GAID's help in promoting an enabling policy environment for ICT-based financial services would be welcome. Making financial services available through telecentres was seen as an effective means of reaching potential customers in developing countries. The Committee for Democracy in Information Technology (CDI) offered its 900 technology networks as an additional distribution channel for the CoE's financial services. Some participants felt that banks and microcredit institutions should also make the CoE's financial services available. Mobile phones and credit cards are instruments which should also be taken into consideration when considering the nature and delivery of the financial services.

Mr. Roberto Zachmann, ICT Focal Point, International Labour Organization (ILO), presented the CoE on **Enterprises' Competitiveness through the use of ICTs.** The premise on which the CoE is based is that poverty will only decrease with decent jobs, which requires enterprise development -- information technology is only a tool. The CoE plans to set up a distinct page entitled "ICTs, innovation and entrepreneurship" under the Technology and Development section of the Development Gateway's virtual communities section, including information on the following key issues: productivity, supply chains, (business) software, business development services and national policies. The ILO and its partners, ICC and UNCTAD, chose to do so to exploit and strengthen existing knowledge platforms while taking into consideration limited financial resources. The audience for this site is SMEs, also to be reached by targeting intermediate organisations such as development ministries, employers' organisations, international chambers of commerce, training and educational institutions, and NGOs. After two years of operation, the CoE will assess audience statistics and the nature of content to determine future actions.

The presentations concluded, Mr. Nelson led further discussion among the presenters and participants. Each CoE indicated that they were taking local approaches to rolling out their activities. One participant observed that the programmes would all be complemented by promoting entrepreneurial activity and skills within national education systems as well as disseminating success stories within Africa to provide inspiration and encourage replication.

Mr. Nelson asked the presenters to identify barriers to the propagation of ICT among entrepreneurs that GAID should focus on overcoming. Policies, cultural challenges, lack of skills (both ICT and entrepreneurial) and money, poor connectivity and aid programmes that reinforce the power of governments were all cited. Mr. Zachmann called for more social dialogue and transparency in policy.

Dan Khoo (WCIT 2008) noted that market access issues like trade barriers, tariffs and non tariffs barriers were not addressed by any of the CoEs. Presenters agreed that effort was needed to create a marketplace for these entrepreneurs, and telecentre.org was again identified as a potential platform or hub for activity in this area. Increasing the numbers of entrepreneurs utilizing online software was also noted as a goal which should be pursued within this cluster. It was further suggested that governments should set aside a certain amount of their procurement budgets for budding entrepreneurs. The critical role of universities and colleges in helping individuals and communities organize themselves and adapt to effectively participate in a competitive marketplace was highlighted. One consensus point was that current government-to-government aid system is fundamentally broken, and some provocative ideas were presented to

make aid go further. For instance, it was suggested that, rather than being distributed as aid, money might be given directly to banks to fund loans to entrepreneurs.

Suggested Follow-up

- Financial Services CoE to consider integrating work on forming enabling policy environment for financial services
- Financial Services CoE to discuss collaboration with CDI
- Mr. Khoo to consider forming CoE on ICT and market access, including collaboration with telecentre.org
- CoEs to explore taking action to promote use of online software among entrepreneurs

(3) Governance Cluster

The session on CoEs in the area of Governance was moderated by **Ambassador Yrjo Lansipuro**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland. **Ambassador Daniel Stauffacher**, Chairman, ICT4Peace Foundation; **Ms. Haiyan Qian**, Director, DPADM, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs; and **Mr. Pierpaolo Saporito** President, The Observatory for Cultural and Audiovisual Communication (OCCAM), each presented their respective CoE.

Mr. Stauffacher provided an overview of the CoE on **Information and Communication Technologies for Peace**, which focuses on research, advocacy, and networking about how ICT can be used to prevent, respond to, and recover from conflict. The CoE's activities include targeted networking (through regular meetings and workshops with other stakeholders); original research (and liaising with academic and policy institutions); policy development (to contribute to development of policy framework currently missing in the area of ICT for peace); and advocacy on key issues.

Ms. Qian presented an overview of the CoE on **E-governance for Development**, which is led by the Division for Public Administration and Development Management at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. It addresses the challenges of improving government front-office services and government back-office management through ICT as well as encourages ICT access for all and ICT for participation. Its activities include: providing an internet-based networking platform that facilitates access to information on e-governance activities of the UN system; organizing regular forums on e-governance for the e-governance community; providing a knowledge base of innovative practices on e-governance; and providing off-line and online training.

Mr. Saporito provided an overview of the CoE on **E-services for Development**. Led by the Observatory for Cultural and Audiovisual Communication (OCCAM), the CoE aims to create an open universal platform for broadband e-services, based on new IP protocols that are reliable and interoperable. Such platform can provide concrete solutions to primary needs in health, education, governance, labor, etc. The platform will be tested on ICT villages of the InfoPoverty Programme in Madagascar and Dominican Republic.

During the discussion, Professor Dennis Anderson (Pace University) stressed that many initiatives in the area of e-governance are being carried out by the private sector, public sector, civil society and NGOs. Sharing information and experiences among them is important, and efforts should be made to achieve this. It is necessary to bring all stakeholders together to share knowledge on innovative approaches to and applications of e-governance, and to work together as

a community. The CoEs all welcomed the participation of other partners and organizations interested in this area of ICTD.

The need for a clearer understanding of what is meant by "e-governance" was also emphasized during the discussion. E-governance, for example, may refer to the improvement of government functions (service delivery) through the use of ICT; but e-governance can also be construed in a global or regional level, beyond the realm of service delivery or national level.

In order for e-governance initiatives to succeed, issues of cultural and language barriers and standardization should be addressed. Furthermore, e-governance initiatives at the local level should have local ownership to be effective.

Suggested Follow-up

- CoEs to promote sharing of information and experience of disparate actors and to try to build a more cohesive community in e-governance

(4) Health and cross-cutting themes

Moderated by **Ms. Rinalia Abdul Rahim**, Executive Director of the Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) Secretariat, the session consisted of presentations by the lead organizations of the CoEs in health, gender, local content and rural development, each followed by interactive discussion among the participants.

Ms. Joan Dzenowagis, Senior Scientist, WHO, presented the **ICT for Health** CoE in which she stated that ICT was not meeting the needs of the health sector, thus the CoE aims at implementing a collaborative process through GAID to improve ICT access in the health sector. She indicated that it was imperative to reflect the needs of the health sector in national ICT strategies. In the ensuing discussion, participants noted the disparities between developed and developing countries. It was suggested to examine how access to ICT can help communities manage their own health or seek accountability from the system. WHO was invited to do more outreach on the issue.

In her presentation of the **Gender, Development and Information Society Policies** CoE, **Ms. Anita Gurumurthy**, Executive Director, IT for Change, offered the study of the complex relationship between gender, development and information society policies as the goal of the CoE. Pondering "life after gender mainstreaming", she indicated that the question to address was how to position stakeholders' perspectives in a global, market-led environment, so there was a need to look at social models and social entrepreneurship. Noting that developing countries could not follow the same organic development paths as developed countries because of systemic institutional differences that needed to be addressed, she suggested adopting standards to allow data-sharing across communities. Remarking that a lot of work had already been done, she suggested identifying areas of concern (such as globalization, education, media, identity and digital spaces, etc.) as entry points to bring various stakeholders together.

Ms. Claudia Morrell, Executive Director, Center for Women and Information Technology, University of Baltimore, indicated that the goal of the **International Task Force on Women and ICT** was to re-energize the gender movement by creating synergies to increase women's participation, identifying critical issues to address, developing indicators and disseminating best practices. She presented the history, structure and upcoming events of the Task Force, such as a possible Summit during the third Global Knowledge Summit. She stated

that in preparation of the Summit, work was being carried out on statistics and indicators to identify gaps in currently available data, and that the results would constitute a key output of the GAID CoE. Participants offered suggestions for partnerships.

In his presentation, **Mr. Peter Bruck** emphasized that the **World Summit Award Network** (WSA-net) was not an organization, but an activity based on the idea that ICT and creativity lead to the production of local content. He stated that WSA-net would add value by making e-content issues part of the ICTD agenda, facilitating sustainable content development models, bridging the digital divide in e-content and narrowing the content gap. WSA-net would identify concrete examples of best practices by conducting a bi-annual e-content and creativity competition including national contests and showcases.

Mr. Anton Mangstl, Director, Library and Documentation Systems Division, FAO, presented the process leading to the creation of the **E-agriculture** CoE. He indicated that e-agriculture had been identified as an overarching theme by the WSIS, and FAO had received positive feedback from various regions.

Following the presentations, participants engaged in a free-flowing discussion in which they welcomed the opportunity to identify and work together on common challenges and suggested that GAID serve as a repository of existing initiatives and projects to facilitate contact among stakeholders sharing similar interests. In that regard, it was suggested that it promote the use of open source software to address development issues, and that the GAID website include a search engine for ICTD projects.

In her report to the plenary, Ms. Abdul Rahim indicated that all participants welcomed the meeting on cross-cutting themes. She observed that putting several different issues into the same session presented a chance to share challenges across sectors and to identify common challenges and potential solutions. Ms. Abdul Rahim also noted the consensus of the group on the importance of multi-stakeholder participation because its potential for impact and large-scale change. Yet the group recognized that it is extremely challenging to engage multi-stakeholder groups, particularly at global levels, and that people and organizations are still trying to figure out effective ways of doing so. Ms. Abdul Rahim also noted the importance of reaching out beyond the communities of experts in order to have real impact. The panel recognized that the methodologies of impact measurements are extremely important because in many of these initiatives research and policy implications are still at an early stage.

Suggested Follow-up

- GAID to explore establishing a resource Bank, a mapping of who's who, and who is doing what, made available through its web portal as a service for the global community
- GAID secretariat to continue to provide the cross cutting discussions among the communities of experts
- GAID to consider establishing a repository of open source software for the global community
- GAID secretariat to expand its outreach programs in order to create greater awareness about its programs and activities

V. CLOSING SESSION

Mr. Sarbuland Khan asked four moderators of the break-out sessions, Professor Wolfgang Kleinwächter, Mr. Michael Nelson, Ambassador Yrjo Lansipuro, and Ms. Rinalia Abdul Rahim, to present overviews and outcomes of the discussions. When they had concluded, he expressed gratitude to all moderators for the excellent summaries and to all participants for their contributions to the discussions.

Mr. Khan stated that this meeting of the Strategy Council was permeated by the spirit of Silicon Valley -- down-to-earth, business-like, action-oriented and very intense. It was, at the same time, infused with the spirit of the United Nations sharing a common platform and a shared vision. He observed that the meeting had managed to bring disparate perspectives together, creating a spirit of community under the umbrella of GAID. The Alliance's having achieved its initial objectives, Mr. Khan reiterated that it is now imperative for the GAID community to build on the momentum created by this meeting and move forward with the various FPI and CoE projects with focus, commitment and dynamism in order to produce durable results. He also underscored that the linkages, particularly with the core issues of connectivity and access, are now clear, and it is imperative to strengthen and reinforce them. CoEs will be critical to GAID's fulfilling its role as think-tank.

Mr. Craig Barrett brought the meeting to a close, stressing that the success of the Global Alliance hinges on its addressing the three main issues of (1) connectivity, (2) accessibility to technologies and (3) content. Mr. Barrett also added that education is an important element in the equation, and it is necessary to properly equip teachers and trainers to guide young people in using technology intelligently. He stated that the work of the Alliance should address these main issues and focus on the two overarching issues of connectivity and accessibility, highlighting that all of the initiatives that the Global Alliance has launched are relevant.

The Chairman expressed gratitude for the many presentations and requested that each of the initiatives provide clear, concise and specific two-page summaries of the projects. Mr. Barrett spoke of his own vision of how to build on and propagate these initiatives. He reiterated the call to keep GAID's work focused and to achieve results through multi-stakeholder partnerships with the participation of a large set of players that could contribute innovative perspectives and ideas. He expressed his enthusiasm in engaging Silicon Valley firms in supporting the work of the Global Alliance.