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ASIAN AND PACIFIC TRAINING CENTRE FOR INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (APCICT)

Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders
South Asia Sub Regional Workshop
14 - 19 April 2008 (Hyderabad, India)

BACKGROUND NOTE

Organized by

UN Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication

Technology for Development (APCICT) in collaboration with

Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI)

BACKGROUND NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

I. Introduction

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) emphasized the importance of the effective use of information and communication technology (ICT) in developing countries. ICT can be used to enhance aid efforts to reduce poverty, increase educational opportunities at all levels, provide empowerment to traditionally disadvantaged groups, and promote global collaborative partnerships that fuel sustainable socio-economic development.

In an increasingly digital and inter-connected global environment, policy makers and many other government officials are indispensable in creating and sustaining the type of environment that promotes the use of ICT for development (ICT4D) as conceptualized by the WSIS. Policy makers set priorities, procure and allocate funds, facilitate alliance partnerships, and enact policies that promote the ICT industry sector and other important uses of ICT4D. Similarly, government officials can utilize ICTs to create and maintain ICT-based systems that enhance government efficiency, promote access by diverse ICT users, and deliver important services to the country's populace. Therefore, it is imperative that initiatives and ICT policies are structured and implemented strategically within a broader perspective on how ICT can best address the MDGs while being pegged against specific national development needs and strategies.

The importance of this agenda was reinforced by the participants of the Regional Forum on ICT Capacity Building held in Incheon, Republic of Korea in March 2007 organized by APCICT. The participants identified APCICT as a strategic entity that is well placed to deliver training to policy makers and other government officials in the Asia Pacific region on the use of ICT for development. At the Regional Forum over 200 delegates from 49 countries in the region, as well as ICT experts from around the world, emphasized that the role of APCICT is to provide training that will help reduce the digital divide and promote socio-economic development in developing nations. At the same time, delegates from developing countries at the Forum clarified their need to receive more formal training and regular updates on ICT4D and noted that APCICT was well-positioned to provide such training.

To address this issue, the APCICT embarked on a formal curriculum development process in order to construct the proposed curriculum. APCICT experts, in collaboration with leading academics in the ICT field, drafted modules for an ICT essentials programme including module names, course descriptions, and a list of specific topics to be covered in each module. Using this draft, comments and suggestions were solicited from local and regional experts, government officials, members of the international development community, and other ICT academics and educators.

With the proposed modules, APCICT conducted a needs assessment survey with policy makers and government officials from 21 countries in the developing countries of the Asia Pacific region to solicit additional feedback and suggestions. The findings of the needs assessment survey were incorporated to further refine the 8 modules of Academy.

II. What is the *Academy* of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders (Academy)?

The *Academy* consists of a core ICT4D curriculum with eight modules ranging from basic to more advanced topics of ICT4D that can be delivered face-to-face or as online self-study courses. These are stand-alone modules that will be released as open educational resources (OER) [1] when it is launched on 16 June 2008 on the second anniversary of APCICT at the OECD Ministerial Meeting on the Future of the Internet Economy.

Tentative titles of the eight modules are:

1 - The Linkage between ICT Applications and Development
2 - ICT for Development Policy, Process and Governance
3 - e-Government Applications
4 - ICT Trends for Government Leaders
5 - Internet Governance
6 - Network and Information Security and Privacy
7 - ICT Project Management in Theory and Practice
8 - Public-Private Partnerships in ICT for Development

Additional modules may be added after the release of the initial eight titles. Supporting the *Academy* will be an online distance learning platform (APCICT Virtual Academy or AVA) where all course materials will be posted for free download and re-use, and for customization and localization if necessary. For those with no or limited Internet access, a CD-ROM version of AVA will be produced. In addition, there will be an online collaboration workspace in which participants can share and discuss ICT4D topics, and even work together to customize an existing module or develop a new one.

III. Who is it for?

The *Academy* is targeted at policy makers and government officials developing and implementing ICT-based applications. As a result, the content of the eight modules is mostly non-technical in nature. The extensible modular design aims to maximize flexibility and minimize job disruptions for learners. This means, the modules can be picked and chosen for delivery depending on the needs and skills of the learners. Those with little or no background in ICT4D can choose the pre-determined sequence of comprehensive training that begins with the basics and move on to more advanced topics. Those with some knowledge of ICT4D can select specific modules they would benefit most from.

The *Academy* is also aimed at trainers and educators in training institutions, colleges and universities. They can use some or all of the modules as is, add them to their existing training programme, and/or modify them to fit learners' needs.

To increase access to these modules, APCICT plans to engage with national training institutions to translate the eight modules into at least three different languages.

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[1] Open educational resources are educational materials and resources offered freely and openly for anyone to use, and under some licenses to re-mix, improve and redistribute.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_educational_resources

IV. Who are the people behind the modules?

Eight individual ICT4D and pedagogical experts from five different countries, and one agency (the Korea Information Security Agency) have been engaged by APCICT to develop these modules.

The experts are from diverse background and bring to the *Academy* their rich knowledge. Dr. Usha Rani Vyasulu Reddi, author of the module on *The Linkage between ICT Applications and Development*, is currently a Professor in Education and Director of the Centre for Human Development at the Administrative Staff College of India. Previously, she was Director at the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia.

Also from academia is Ang Peng Hwa, author of the module on *Internet Governance*, who heads the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. A lawyer by training, his teaching and research interests are in Internet law and policy.

Former Commissioner of ICT in the Philippines, Emmanuel C. Lallana is the author of the module on *ICT for Development Policy, Process and Governance*. He is currently Chief Executive of Ideacorp – an independent non-profit organization – and working on a series of ICT4D training and education projects.

From the private sector is Nag Yeon Lee, author of the module on *e-Government Applications*. He is an Executive Business Advisor at Hyundai Information Technology. He was previously an instructor for the Korea IT Learning Program where he developed modules in the areas of e-government, information strategy planning, business process re-engineering and change management.

Rajnesh Singh, author of the module *on ICT Trends for Government Leaders*, is an engineer and entrepreneur combining a strong technical background with extensive management and leadership roles in the commercial and non-profit sectors. He is currently Chief Operating Officer for PATARA, a technology vendor based in the Pacific Islands, and Senior Vice-President of Operations and Strategy at AvonSys, an Internet start-up serving the Silicon Valley.

The module on *ICT Project Management in Theory and Practice* is co-authored by Maria Juanita R. Macapagal and John J. Macasio. Both experts are extensively involved in development management encompassing project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and capacity building in various development fields.

Richard Labelle, author of the module on *Public-Private Partnerships in ICT for Development,* has over 26 years experience in using appropriate ICTs and management practices for meeting national development goals. He has undertaken missions to over 57 developing countries on behalf of the United Nations and various other agencies working in international development.

The Korea Information Security Agency (KISA) is authoring the module on *Network and Information Security and Privacy.* KISA is a centre of excellence responsible for the computer network security of commercial information technology infrastructure that covers nearly 90 percent of the entire infrastructure of information technology in the Republic of Korea. KISA is also involved in the development and support of information security related technology, as well as in-depth policy research on enhancing information security.

IV. Academy Regional Training of Trainers and Sub-Regional Workshops

The *APCICT Academy Regional Training of Trainers (TOT) for National Training Institutes* is scheduled to be held in Republic of Korea on 16 June – 4 July 2008. Prior to this TOT, APCICT is organizing three sub-regional *Academy* workshops (South Asia, Western and Central Asia and South East Asia) with national training institutions and policy-makers in the month of April and May 2008.

Each of the sub-regional workshops are designed to maximize feedback from participants on the usefulness and relevance of the thematic content material and appropriate training methodology.

The Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders – South Asia Sub Regional Workshop is jointly co-organized with the Administrative Staff College of India.

V. Objective of the South Asia Sub-Regional Workshop

The workshop is aimed at equipping the participants from the South Asia sub-region with the essential knowledge and skills needed to fully leverage upon opportunities presented by ICTs to achieve national development goals and the MDGs, ICT for Development policy planning process and specific e-Government applications. The training consists of three modules:

Module 1: The Linkage Between ICT Applications and Meaningful Development
Module 2: ICT For Development - Policy, Process, and Governance
Module 3: e-Government Applications

The workshop is designed to be delivered over six days. At the end of each module there will be a review of the knowledge acquired, through evaluation exercises (individual or in group). The workshop is designed to encourage discussions and opportunities for interactions between participants, who will be expected to contribute actively.

VI. Participation

The training course is designed for the participation of up to 24 participants representing policymakers involved in the ICT policy planning and/or ICT implementation representatives from a national training institute responsible for the training of government officers on ICT.

VII. Training material

The training facilitators will deliver the course with the support of presentation slides and participants will receive various additional training materials to follow the course and carry out the relevant group exercises.

VIII. Certificates

A joint APCICT and ASCI Certificate of Participation will be provided to all participants. Participants are expected to attend all the sessions of the course in order to obtain the workshop certificate.