



ICT for Rural Economic Development

Berlin, Germany

November 18 – 19, 2010

Working Group 1: ICT Policy and Regulation

Thursday 18, 2 pm – 4.45 pm

Issue to be addressed: **How can ICT policy and regulation support rural development?**

Moderator: **Helani Galpaya (LIRNEasia)**

Background

In the last decade, triggered by reforms (privatisation and liberalisation) and continuous technical innovation the telecommunication sector and especially the mobile sector have been experiencing a tremendous growth in developing countries. However, rural areas have only to a limited extent been benefiting from this trend. With higher cost of provision and lower income per capita they cannot for instance benefit from adequate and affordable access to the Internet. There is however a solution. To overcome the *access gap*, policy and regulation interventions can design incentives for operators to provide access to ICT in rural areas.

Guiding Questions

Against this background the workshop aims at addressing the following questions:

- What are the challenges and critical success factors for policy and regulatory measures that foster ICT access in rural areas?
- How could governments, the private sectors and development cooperation organisations best work together?
- How to ensure the transfer of policy and regulatory best practices?

Structure of the Working Group

The working group is structured as follows:

- In the first part international experiences will be presented.
- In the second part moderated discussion will address the guiding questions.

Working Group Schedule:

02:00 pm

First Session: Welcome by Thorsten Scherf (GTZ)

Presentation I

Status and State of the Art in Universal Access Policy and Regulation / Best Practices

Nancy Sundberg (ITU), Sonja Oestmann (Intelecon)

Questions and Discussion

Presentation II

Policy and Regulations for Providing Access to ICTs Via Community Access Points

Ekwow Spio-Gabrah (CTO)

Questions and Discussion

Presentation III

Regulatory and Policy Challenges and Opportunities Due to Technical Innovations and New Trends

Olaf Nielinger (Detecon)

Questions and Discussion

03:30 pm

Coffee and tea break

03:40 pm

Second session

Work on guiding questions

04:45 pm

End of Working Group