



**NEPAD e-SCHOOLS DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT
REPORT OF THE COUNTRY LIAISON PERSON WORKSHOP**

**Held on
29 June – 1 July 2005
In
Johannesburg, South Africa**

1. Introduction and Purpose of the CLP Workshop

The NEPAD e-Africa Commission convened the first workshop of the Country Liaison Persons in Johannesburg from 29 June – 1 July 2005. The purpose of the workshop was to:

- outline in details the responsibilities of the CLP,
- discuss the Monitoring and Evaluation process during the implementation;
- outline the details with regard to the launch of the NEPAD e-Schools Initiative in each country; and
- facilitate the meetings between the CLPs and the consortia.

The delegates adopted the programme at the workshop (see **Appendix A**). All the presentations made at the workshop are hereby attached (see **Appendix B**).

2. Workshop Participants

Ms Lyndall Shope-Mafole, Director-General, Department of Communications and Dr Henry Chasia, the Executive Deputy Chairperson of NEPAD e-Africa Commission were present to officially open the workshop.

Delegates from 13 phase-one countries attended namely, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda. Apologies for absence were received from Nigeria, Rwanda and Algeria (See attendance Register: **Appendix C**)

Representatives from the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), the InfoDev Programme and the Information Society Partnership for Africa's Development (ISPAD) corporate partners which included Oracle Corporation, Microsoft, Cisco Systems and Hewlett-Packard also attended.

3. Summary of Workshop Proceedings

SESSION 1: OPENING

3.1 Welcoming Remarks – Mr. Ali Hoballah, Microsoft

Mr. Ali Hoballah, the Regional Director of Microsoft, welcomed all the delegates to the workshop at the Microsoft premises. He indicated that Microsoft is committed to the partnership and will ensure the successful implementation of the NEPAD programme in general, and the NEPAD e-Schools Demo Project in particular.

3.2 Welcoming Remarks – Ms. Ramita Sharma, ITU

Ms Ramita Sharma welcomed the delegates on behalf of the International Telecommunications Union to this workshop. She stated that ITU is proud to be involved in such educational initiative in the African continent and reiterated the ITU's commitment to support the NEPAD e-Africa Commission in carrying out the NEPAD e-Schools Project.

3.3 Opening Address – Ms. Lyndall Shope-Mafole, Director-General: Department of Communications, South Africa

Ms. Lyndall Shope-Mafole welcomed the delegates on behalf of South African Government and thanked them for making time to attend the workshop. She also gave a special word of thanks to the ISPAD members and the corporate sector for their continuing support and commitment to the project.

She indicated that this workshop is taking place at the time that South Africa is celebrating 50 years of the Freedom Charter. The Freedom Charter outlines a broad vision of living peacefully and equally sharing the country wealth. In her view, the NEPAD e-Schools Initiative is premised on the principle of sharing vision, commitment and resources for the broader renewal of Africa.

She indicated that South Africa is also celebrating the month of June as “Youth Month”. This celebration culminated on June 16, which is termed the “Youth Day”. She had just attended the NEPAD Youth Conference which discussed issues related to the development of our continent. This conference was held in preparation of the Information Society World Summit to be held this year in Tunisia. She noted that the invited youth were proud that their countries have signed African Peer Review Mechanism agreement (APRM) committing their countries in this regard. There was a longing from the youth to

take leadership in the implementation of information and communication technology in their countries.

She indicated that the NEPAD e-Schools Initiative has the potential to touch the lives of ordinary youth. This project will be another platform that could provide a framework for young people to participate in the development of their countries. The uniqueness of this project is the fact that the project goes beyond the normal objectives of equipping the youth with ICT skills. NEPAD e-Schools Initiative also incorporates the health component.

There was skepticism about the potential when the project was initiated. But the commitment and partnership demonstrated has silenced those negative voices. She called for more commitment in order to demonstrate the potential of partnership in building the Information Society in Africa.

She concluded that the South African Government is committed to see the successful implementation of this flagship project. She thanked the contribution and commitment of the other major partners including the CSIR, ITU, COL, Medical Research Council of South Africa and other partners involved on the project.

3.4 Acknowledgement of the “Visionary of the Year Award”

Prof. Peter Kinyanjui read the statement on the award that was won by the NEPAD e-Schools Initiative at the Intelligent Community Forum, which was held in New York on 14 June 2005. The delegates applauded and commended the e-Africa Commission for this recognition and achievement (www.eafricacommission.org/News).

3.5 Opening Address – Dr. Henry Chasia, Executive Deputy Chairperson, e-Africa Commission

Dr Chasia welcomed the delegates and the ISPAD members. He thanked Microsoft for making the premises available to host the workshop. He thanked the ITU for covering the air fares for delegates and thanked other partners for supporting the project in various ways. He indicated that this Initiative will equip and enable the African population to participate in the knowledge-based economy.

He thanked Ms Lyndall Shope-Mafole, Director-General of the Department of Communications for providing assistance in many ways to the work of the Commission, and to this Initiative in particular.

Given the fact that this was the first workshop of the CLPs and some of the CLPs might not have been briefed on the objectives of the project, Dr Chasia outlined the objectives of the Initiative. He proceeded to give an overview of the NEPAD e-Schools Initiative, pointing out that the purpose of the initiative is to impart ICT skills to young Africans in primary and secondary schools and to use ICT to improve the administration and management of schools. The initiative also aims to use ICT to improve the health of young Africans by equipping these schools with “Health Points”. The “Health Point” will provide important health information as well as assist in the control of epidemics.

Dr. Chasia explained that the rationale for undertaking the Demo Project is to get an understanding of the challenges of introducing ICT in schools in different countries and to learn what lies ahead when the project will be implemented. With various partnerships established the Commission will have a sense on issues such as cost, organizations, role and responsibilities of governments, engagement of the private sector and international organizations, role of the civil society, models and all other factors relating to a project in the African continent.

More importantly, the NEPAD e-Schools Demo is geared towards improving the quality of teaching and learning in schools.

He further emphasized the role of the CLPs in ensuring the successful implementation of this project. The CLPs should mobilise other stakeholders to ensure a broad support for this Initiative in their countries. The CLPs should also work with the school principals and teachers who are also critical for the successful implementation of this Initiative.

The CLPs should also ensure that there is an adherence to the schedule of the project in their countries. It would be critical for the communities to get involved and share in the resources provided by this Initiative, the CLPs should ensure that this happens efficiently.

He wished the delegates well in their deliberations and expressed hope that the objectives of the workshop will be made.

SESSION 2: BACKGROUND

3.6 African Union and NEPAD

Ms. Litha Musyimi-Ogana and Mr. Mohammed Sadeek Boulahya made a presentation of the commencement, goals, structure of the African Union and its programme NEPAD. They outlined when and how the African Union was formed. They further gave the details on the development of the NEPAD programme, as well as governing bodies and their functions.

NEPAD is a vision and a programme of the African Union. They indicated that the NEPAD e-Schools Initiative is the flagship of the African Union.

3.7 Presentation of the Information Society Partnership for Africa's Development (ISPAD)

Ms. Pam Mallela, Manager of Information Society Partnership for Africa's Development (ISPAD), presented the rationale for the NEPAD e-Africa Commission to establish partnerships with the private sector. The four categories of membership are Diamond, Platinum, Gold and Silver.

Ms. Mallela mentioned that ISPAD has to date fourteen local and international corporate partners. She mentioned the five lead companies that are leading the consortia, namely; HP, Microsoft, INMARSART, Oracle and Cisco Systems.

She encouraged the delegates to invite companies in their countries to consider joining ISPAD.

3.8 NEPAD e-Schools Initiative

Professor Kinyanjui gave a presentation on the overall and long-term vision of the NEPAD e-Schools Initiative. The main purpose of the e-Schools Initiative is to equip the youth with the ICT skills. He informed the delegates that the Initiative aims to use ICT to improve the health of young Africans. The schools will be developed to incorporate a "Health Point" which will provide necessary health information on the HIV/Aids, Hygiene, TB, Malaria and Nutrition.

It is the intention of the Initiative to develop all schools on the continent to become "NEPAD e-Schools", which represent the best utilisation of ICT to enhance quality of

teaching and learning. The goal is to achieve this for all secondary schools within five years and for primary schools in ten years.

This Initiative has four strands; namely, the NEPAD e-Schools Demo Project, the development of the NEPAD e-Schools Business Plan, the NEPAD e-Schools Satellite Network and establishment of the National Implementing Agencies.

The NEPAD e- Schools Initiative targets approximately 600 000 schools and thousands of teachers and learners to be beneficiaries of this project. This Initiative will ensure that schools are provided with the best ICT equipment, relevant content, appropriate teacher training programmes and technological and pedagogical support for its success on the long term basis.

SESSION 3: NEPAD e-Schools Demonstration Project

3.9 NEPAD e-Schools ‘Health Point’

Dr. Moretlo Molefi presented the concepts and objectives of the “Health Point” within the NEPAD e-Schools project. She outlined the functions and purposes of the Health Point as a way of disseminating information. The following five areas were agreed upon as the priority areas of the Health Point: Hygiene, TB, HIV/Aids, Malaria and Nutrition. She indicated that it is envisaged that the community members as well as the health workers will access the information.

The consortia have undertaken to provide the necessary content to meet this objective.

3.10 NEPAD e-Schools Demo Overview

Mr. Matthew Chetty, Manager of NEPAD e-Schools Demo, gave a presentation outlining salient features of the Demo.

He indicated that sixteen countries (Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda) have already selected six secondary schools for participation in the Demo according to a set of criteria supplied by the e-Africa Commission.

There are therefore 96 participating schools across the continent.

He further indicated that the January 2005 workshop of the NEPAD e-Schools Coordinating Body had adopted a framework for implementation of the Demo, consisting of the following components:

NEPAD objectives, Outcome Statements, Impact Indicators

Nature of interventions

Partnership Model

Organisation / Structure

M & E Plan

Schedule

The Implementation Framework document was distributed to all delegates.

Matthew spent some time discussing the partnership model. He indicated that 5 ISPAD members had undertaken to provide an “end-to-end” technology solution for approximately 20 schools each, at its own cost. He also indicated that the key implementation partners are NEPAD e-Africa Commission, the Country Governments and the ISPAD-lead Consortia. He further stressed the roles and responsibilities of each partner.

In addition, Matthew echoed previous speakers, by emphasizing the key role of the CLP with regards to implementation, and launch of the Demo.

The detailed terms of reference for the CPLs is attached. **(See Appendix D)**

Matthew communicated the agreement of the NEPAD Steering Committee that one school per participating country be launched by the respective Head of State. The first launches were planned for the month of July in Uganda and Ghana.

3.11 Monitoring and Evaluation

Dr. Glen Farrell, M & E team Leader, described the objectives and goals of the monitoring and evaluation. He emphasized that the Commission values the feedback on this project and hence has undertaken to incorporate the evaluation process in parallel with the implementation of the project.

The CLPs will be required to facilitate and coordinate the distribution of the questionnaires to and from participants. The Commission together with COL will administer and record the information from the questionnaires.

He encouraged all stakeholders to work tirelessly for the successful implementation of the project because the “eyes of the world are on this project to see if and how it will be implemented”.

It was agreed that:

1. The CLPs would submit their first report to Dr. Farrell by 31 July 2005.
2. The Consortia would submit their first report to Dr. Farrell by end September 2005.
3. Dr. Farrell would distribute a template for these reports as soon as possible, so as to facilitate common formatting and content of reports.

SESSION 4: BREAKAWAY DISCUSSIONS

3.12 Consortia Breakaway Sessions

In order for the CLPs to have detailed and comprehensive conversations with the consortia allocated to their countries, breakaway sessions were arranged. At these breakaway sessions, each consortium presented their broad implementation solution to meet the outcomes and impact statement as outlined in the Monitoring and Evaluation. At these breakaway sessions CLPs also gave a presentation on the conditions of the selected schools in their countries. Discussions were largely focused on implementation and how the CLPs and consortia should be prepared in this regard. The lead companies in the consortium used the opportunity to introduce other partners working with them in the project. Issues with regard to the approval of content and teacher training were discussed.

Breakaway sessions were allocated according to the lead companies in the four consortia. Microsoft, HP, Oracle and Cisco Systems were leading the breakaway sessions and gave a summary of discussions they had with CLPs to the Assembly. Unfortunately, INMARSAT could not attend the workshop. CLPs from countries allocated to INMARSAT attended the sessions of other consortia.

SESSION 5: CLOSING

3.13 Closing Remarks – Mr. Matthew Chetty

Mr. Chetty thanked the delegates for their commitment and deliberations during the workshop.

He made a point that this Initiative gives the stakeholders an opportunity to innovatively learn how to manage partnerships from various, often competing companies. In his view, the foundation for successful implementation has been built and what remains now is to commence the actual construction of the visible building.

Mr. Chetty emphasized the point that all stakeholders should never lose the focus on the beneficiaries of this Initiative, the learners and teachers, who would benefit immensely in the long run.

He appealed to all delegates to take this initiative as their personal mission. He encouraged them to take this initiative as another building block in bridging the digital divide on the African Continent.

3.14 CLP Remarks - Reverend Emmanuel Dadebo

Reverend Dadebo was nominated by the CLPs to make concluding remarks on their behalf. He expressed the gratitude for the outcomes of the workshop and how well the participants had been treated by both the Commission and the Consortia.

He commended the Commission for their wisdom in organising the workshop and consolidating the issues around implementation. He also thanked the consortia for their presentations and preparations for implementation of the project in countries. He indicated that the workshop had given the overall objectives of the project and their implications to the roles and responsibilities of the CLPs.

He expressed disappointment on the absence of INMARSAT at the workshop. He however indicated that CLPs hope that this matter will be attended to speedily to ensure that countries allocated to INMARSAT are not delayed in the implementation.

3.15 Concluding Remarks - Dr. Chasia

In his closing remarks, Dr Chasia thanked the delegates for their deliberations and apologized for his absence due to the other pressing tasks. He went on to thank the officials from the Commission for their commitment and dedication to the implementation of the NEPAD e-Schools Initiative.

He expressed his appreciation to the consortia for their continued support and pointed that the workshop brought to the fore matters on implementation that the Commission had not been aware of, and would have to be addressed.

He indicated that this project aims to bring about unity on the continent. Africa is moving from the history of division, war and poverty towards integration, unity and prosperity.

The workshop adjourned at 11:30

4. Summary of Workshop Discussions

4.1 Organisation of the Country Launches

The launch schedule and organization of the project in participating countries will be finalised by the Commission in consultation with country governments as well as the consortia.

Parallel planning with regard to the launch is undertaken jointly by the country governments and consortia members. The Commission will facilitate communication between the consortia on the launch of schools in the countries allocated to them. Telephone meetings between the CLPs and Commission will further assist in discussing and updating CLPs on the progress with regard to the launch in their countries.

The Commission is developing a launch strategy that will outline how the launches will be undertaken. The strategy will be developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders. The strategy will outline issues such as the organization, media coverage, communication, public relations, branding and programme. The launch will be staggered to allow for time to arrange launches in different countries.

It was suggested that the Commission assist with facilitation the invitation of the Heads of State to the launch in the various countries.

4.2 Resources for the CLPs

Some CLPs raised a concern that they are not equipped with the necessary resources to effectively carry out their responsibilities. Indeed there are some CLPs without access to basic office facilities and equipment.

The Commission expressed an appreciation for this situation, and agreed with the CLPs that the responsibilities of CLPs are substantial, and do require resources, both financial and human.

The Commission encouraged the CLPs to prepare a budget, and to seek funding from relevant structures within the country Government as well as other potential partners. The Commission agreed to assist the CLPs with fund raising activities.

The CLPs were encouraged to ensure that the National Implementation Teams were well established, as this would help in sourcing support of funding.

4.3 Health Point

The Commission was commended for including the health component in the project. The workshop discussed and agreed that it will be acceptable if the health facilitator in a school is a learner. The CLPs were advised to ensure that they work with the Country Implementing Teams which should include officials from the Department of Health, who could assist in managing the health components.

4.4 Logistics regarding Work Permits and Visas

A request was made by the consortia for assistance in facilitating long-term Visas or work permits. The CLPs were requested to investigate this matter and advise the consortium on how to address this request.

4.5 Educational Content

Discussions were held with regard to the process of approving and possibly adapting the educational and health content. The Commission made it clear that content should be approved by country governments before being deployed to schools in participating countries. The logistics and details regarding the process of the content evaluation and approval should be finalized between the CLPs and consortia.

The South African delegate invited consortia in South Africa to consider utilizing their educational portal that is freely available at the Internet. The website address is: www.thutong.co.za.

4.6 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Each country has received two copies of the MOUs from two different consortia participating in that country. The MOUs should be scrutinised by the legal sections within governments. The CLPs should establish the senior official who would sign on behalf of their governments.

The Commission undertook to try to coordinate the approval of signing of MOUs, in order to minimize duplicate processes for signing of the two MOUs.

4.7 Teacher Training

Teacher training programmes will be discussed and finalised between the CLPs and consortia. The details with regard to the implementation of teacher training will differ from country to country.

4.8 Success factor and post - Demo phase

The workshop discussed the preparations for post-Demo phase. Countries were advised to consider crafting sustainable plans for the post-Demo phase and all CLPs were encouraged to mobilise support within their countries for the post-Demo phase. CLPs pledged to work with their National Implementation Teams to commence budgeting process for this phase.

4.9 National Implementation Teams

The Co-ordinating Body has approved the establishment of the National Implementation Team. The team should include members of the Co-ordinating Body, the CLP and officials from the relevant ministries and other government structures that will be necessary for the successful implementation in participating countries.

The National Implementation Team is responsible for the overall planning and management of the NEPAD e-Schools Demo Project in their country.

4.10 Customs Duties

The consortia should write a letter requesting the participating governments to waive customs duties for the entry of equipment in their countries. The CLPs should assist the consortium in this regard.

4.11 The absence of INMARSAT at the workshop

The CLPs expressed their disappointment for the absence of INMARSAT at the workshop. The delegates requested that a formal letter be written by the Commission to INMARSAT expressing the disappointment of their absence and inquiring the reasons why there has no attendance.

4.12 Update on the Business Plan

The Commission has appointed a consulting firm to develop the NEPAD e-Schools Business Plan. Upon completion, the draft Business Plan will be discussed by all the stakeholders, namely, the participating Governments, the Private Sector, Development Agencies and the Civil Society Organisation. Following the acceptance of the Business Plan, an Implementation Plan will be developed for each participating Country.

4.13 Other General Comments

The workshop discussed the relationship between SchoolNet Africa and the Commission. According to the Commission, SchoolNet Africa and country SchoolNets are important partners in the implementation of ICT in education. Should countries be in a position to work with such organizations, they were encouraged to do so.

The delegates were reminded that there are resources and reports around the world on the implementation of ICT in education. Conscious efforts should be made to link the NEPAD e-Schools Initiative with what is happening in ICT in education internationally.

4.13 Official Apology

An official apology was given by the Commission for the absence of the Egyptian flag at the meeting.

4.14 NEPAD e-Schools Demo Video

A short video giving a summary of the project was shown. A request for copy of the video to be given to the CLPs was made. In response to the request, the Commission indicated that copies have been sent to the education ministers of the participating countries.