

**THE NEPAD e-SCHOOLS
DEMONSTRATOR PROJECT
BRIEFING DOCUMENT**



**AS AGREED TO BY PARTICIPANTS AT THE
WORKSHOP OF THE NEPAD e-SCHOOLS
PHASE ONE COUNTRIES
13-15 MAY 2004
JOHANNESBURG**



1. INTRODUCTION

The NEPAD e-Schools demonstrator (e-Schools demo) project has been identified as a critical initial step for the implementation of the e-Schools Initiative. The e-Schools demo is intended to accrue a body of knowledge, based on real-life experiences of the implementation of information and communication technology (ICT) in schools across the African continent that will serve to inform the rollout of the broader e-Schools Initiative. To this end, the e-Schools demo will establish and monitor a total of one-hundred secondary e-Schools and one-thousand primary e-Schools across the continent by end 2006.

This document presents an overview of the NEPAD e-Schools demo project.

2. RATIONALE BEHIND THE e-SCHOOLS DEMO

The NEPAD e-Schools Initiative is one of the most exciting ICT for development undertakings the African continent has ever witnessed. Given the importance of this venture, and the fact that the NEPAD approach of continental

coordination and national implementation is unprecedented, there is general agreement that an e-Schools demo aimed at recommending working models for implementation, based on real-life experience, is necessary.

The e-Schools demo will provide a platform for, amongst other things,

- determining typical e-Schools scenarios and requirements in various circumstances in Africa;
- highlighting the challenges inherent in the large-scale implementation of e-schools programmes;
- monitoring the effectiveness of multi-country, multi-stakeholder partnerships;
- determining 'best practice' and working models for the large-scale implementation of the e-Schools Initiative;
- demonstrating the benefits of the envisaged satellite-based network;
- demonstrating the benefits of ICT in African schools;

3. SCOPE OF THE e-SCHOOLS DEMO

The e-Schools demo will take place in two parts:

3.1. e-Schools Part 1:

- Part 1 will focus on the first phase countries , i.e. sixteen African countries;

- A total of one-hundred e-schools will be established in these countries;
- All one-hundred schools will be secondary schools;
- Research, monitoring, evaluation and recommendations will place greater emphasis on technology and infrastructural considerations;
- The implementation of phase 1 of the e-Schools demo will commence in the second quarter of 2004 and be completed by end 2005.

3.2. e-Schools Part 2:

- Part 2 of the e-Schools demo will be deployed in as many African countries as possible;
- A total of one-thousand e-Schools will be established;
- All schools in part 2 will be primary schools;
- Research, monitoring, evaluation and recommendations will place greater emphasis on social and pedagogical considerations;
- The implementation of part 2 of the e-Schools demo will commence in the first quarter of 2005 and be completed by end 2006.

Given that the e-Schools demo project is to serve as mechanism for learning, in order to develop models for the effective rollout of the e-Schools Initiative, it is imperative

that the schools chosen to be included in the e-Schools demo provide a reasonable reflection of the spectrum of African school environments. The e-Schools demo will therefore comprise a mixture of schooling conditions with regard to geography, demography, level of infrastructure, etc.

4. CONCLUSION

It is true that the e-Schools demo project, in itself, is an ambitious undertaking. It is however also true that the resources required to achieve the goals that have been set, including capital, technology and human skills, exist in abundance and are within reach. This undertaking therefore represents an exciting opportunity for partnerships based on shared responsibility and mutual interest in order to bring ICT into the service of African development.

5. AGREEMENT

The Participants in the workshop agree to the NEPAD e-Schools Demonstrator Project described in this document.

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