SPECIAL EVENT

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR KNOWLEDGE SHARING

26 APRIL 2012, 9 a.m. – 12 noon

BACKGROUND

Knowledge plays a key role in today's globalized world. It enables firms and organizations to increase their competitiveness through a better understanding of the most important issues of economic development. As Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) support, accelerate and improve the sharing of information among firms and individuals, they change the way people learn and network.

With the expansion of 3G/4G coverage, cell phones, smartphones and tablets have made access to information much easier. The development of the Web 3.0, of cloud learning and M-learning provide efficient solutions for the storage, dissemination, and acquisition of information It becomes now possible to access the right knowledge at the right time. And along with promoting interactive and collaborative learning, the evolution of ICTs has also begun to facilitate the adaptation of training programmes to specific country needs and local context.

As developing countries, including Least Developed Countries (LDCs) have evolved from the status of passive consumers of ICT goods and services toward the role of active users; they are now more than ever in a position to benefit from these tools.

PURPOSE

The event will provide the opportunity for an interactive discussion regarding the potential of information communication technologies in the areas of knowledge sharing, training and capacity development in developing countries, particularly Least Developed Countries. The objectives are as follows:

(a) Identify technologies available in developing countries and that can be used to enhance capacity-building training and knowledge sharing;

(b) Stimulate dialogue and cross-fertilization of ideas amongst different organizations and development professionals with regard to information communication technologies' role in knowledge sharing and training;

(c) Promote innovative projects that use information communication technologies to foster knowledge sharing, training and capacity development;

(d) Explore the tools that are already available (e.g.: M-learning, technology incubator, Web 2.0, Web 3.0) and discuss their use in multilateral organizations.

OUTCOME

(a) The identification of innovative electronic approaches that can be adopted for distance-learning programs within UNCTAD for capacity building and knowledge sharing in trade related issues.

(b) Engaging dialogue for partnerships with private companies that take advantage of ICTs within beneficiary countries, to enhance distance-learning capacity-building programs within UNCTAD.

MAIN QUESTIONS

In this respect, some of the following questions will be covered during the discussions:

- (c) What is the state-of-the-art technology available in member states countries?
- (d) Which technology can be used to train people and share knowledge in developing and transition economies countries?
- (e) What are the examples of recent best practices?
- (f) What are the M-learning and E-learning complementarities?
- (g) Which cloud learning and Web 3.0 solutions to use? For who? And where?
- (h) What model of public private partnership (PPP) to sustain knowledge sharing?

ORGANIZATION

The event will be divided into four sessions. The first session will consist of an introductory remark, followed by an outline of the meeting. The second session will include brief presentations by eminent panellists on technological solutions for e-learning followed by discussions/comments from the floor. The third session will focus on innovative Information and communication Technology such as mobile learning, cloud learning and technology Incubators with brief presentations from representative from reputable network operators. The last session will focus on formulating recommendations from the discussions.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Web 3.0: Considers the Semantic Web, where the "Internet" is able to generate content.

Web2.0: a loosely defined intersection of web application features that facilitate participatory information sharing, interoperability, user-centred design, and collaboration on the World Wide Web.

M-learning: learning element available on mobile devices such as phone and tablet.

3G coverage: the third generation of cellular mobile communication standards. It includes application services with a wide-area of wireless voice telephone, mobile Internet access, video calls and mobile TV, all in a mobile environment.

4G coverage: the fourth generation of cellular mobile communications standards. This technology provides mobile ultra-broadband Internet access.

eSkills: skills council for the IT industry technically described as Business and Information Technology.

Cloud learning: the delivery of online courses as a service rather than a product, whereby shared resources, software, and information are provided to computers and other devices as a utility (like the electricity grid) over a network (typically the Internet).

DOCUMENTS

- (a) *Report of the UNCTAD Advisory Group Meeting on the Strengthening of Training Capacities and Human Resources Development*. 6 October 2011 (English Only) (UNCTAD/DTL/KSTCD/MISC/2011/3)
- (b) *Strategy for implementing a Distance Learning (DL) process in UNCTAD for strengthening training capacities in international trade in developing countries.* (Revised January 2004)
- (c) Case study on Nokia tutoring for mathematics:
  http://www.nokia.com/global/about-nokia/people-and-planet/impact/social/education/
- (d) Case study on Orange *Emerginov* concept: http://www.emerginov.org/
- (e) Case study on "Legal Aspect for E-commerce" in Latin America and Caribbean

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