

CONGO Youth Committee

"Empowering Youth to Bridge the Digital Divide. Voices from young people world wide"

September 25, 2007 - 9.00-10.30hrs

Preliminary Report

Priority recommendations of the Workshop participants:

- It is necessary to bridge the gap between the excluded and the policy makers. The basic responsibility of governments has to be affirmed. (cf. Millennium Development Goal 8)
- Contextualize the understanding of technology and make it usable in the community.
- Achieve universal primary education and broaden the accessibility of secondary and tertiary education to enable young people to make full use of ICTs. (cf. Millennium Development Goal 2).

Speakers	Mr. Josephat SUWEH , Kenya, Youth Leader in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya, University student Ms. Julia FAUTH , Consultant for the Foreign Ministry, volunteer with the Lutheran World Federation, Germany, Mr. Jeruel BASALONG , Phillipines, Young Entrepreneur in ICT, Lutheran Church in the Phillipines Ms. Sarah DAVIES , YWCA young professional, New Zealand Ms. Sophia GHERGIS , World Alliance of YMCAs intern, Egypt
Facilitator	Ms. Jenny FRETHEIM , World Alliance of YMCAs
Rapporteur	Mr. Roger SCHMIDT , The Lutheran World Federation

In small and interactive groups, the speakers presented how young people in their respective region are excluded from ICTs. They discussed in small groups basic strategies how do bridge the digital divide.

[Information on the regions will follow.]

In the concluding workshop plenary, participants exchanged their views and recommendations.

How to ensure access to ICTs for all young people?

- Engage policy and decision makers.
- Provide the right education (eg. language)
- Expand / contextualize understanding of ICT.
- Involve non-users.
- Environment / context important eg. in rural areas

- Work against abuse
- Governments must be held responsible.
- Transfer of knowledge from urban to rural.
- How to make this attractive to big business? (However, some profit from those who lack knowledge)
- Communities to be better informed.
- Make technology cheaper eg. mobiles.
- ICTs often a secondary consideration. Survival is key.
- ICTs must be secure.
- Young people have to be introduced to a culture of ICTs in order to actually use it.
- Involve non-users.