ICT4D as a development concept

ICT4D policy development workshop

CIVIC 2.0

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Prepared by Elaine Wallace PhD,
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ICT4D as development concept

Overview

- The ICT4D platform
- Development/development issues
- The policy environment

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ICT4D as development concept

- ICT for Development Platform (ICT4D Platform) WSIS December 2003
- Multi-stakeholder consultation/commitment
- Pre-2003
  - World Bank (e.g. 1996 *InfoDev* programme)
  - Unesco
  - ITU development programmes

ICT4D as development concept

- ☐ Essentials of new paradigm
  - ■ Application of information on technology
    - ☐ Qualitatively new approaches to knowledge generation, processing and devices.
    - ☐ Intensification of power of technology
    - ☐ Users and uses of technology redefined
    - ☐ Technology as processes
  - ■ "For the first time in history, the human mind is a direct productive force, not just a decisive element of the production system.

ICT4D as development concept

☐ Knowledge and information (re/source),

■ equivalent or greater importance in classical mix of factors – (land), labour, capital and information in production and creation of wealth.

ICT4D as development concept

Implications

- Policies and Regulatory arrangements
- Organisations
- Market structures
  - Value chain
- Industry configuration
- Stakeholders interests
- Governance

ICT4D as development concept

- ICT4D Platform …
  - Focus - development dimension of Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
  - Importance of ICT for development.
  - Mobilisation of ICT specialists, best/good practice, innovations, experience
  - Raising awareness re information & communication technologies for development.
  - Promoting effective use of ICT's

ICT4D as development concept

- ☐ Economic and non-economic elements
- ☐ Human rights
- ☐ Empowerment
- ☐ Sustainability
  - ▪ balance between economic, social, environmental and governance components
  - ▪ "meeting needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"
- ☐ Equality/ equity
- ☐ Justice

Reference: Amartya Sen, Michael Todaro – definitions of development

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Considering definition of development …

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Themes

- Equitable and affordable **Access**
- Enhancing Human **Capacity & Empowerment**
- **Communications** for Development
- Creative **Content** and **Knowledge**
- Fostering **Policy** and **Implementation**
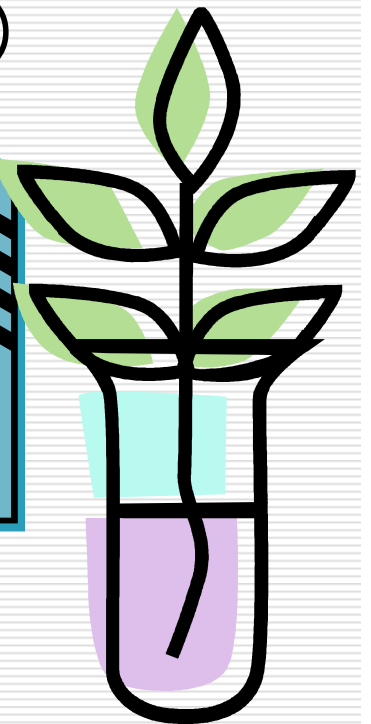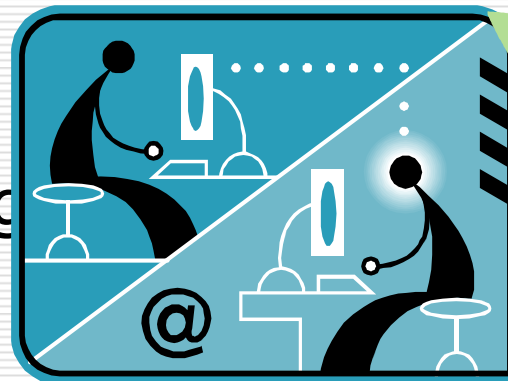
ICT4D as development concept

☐ Equitable Access

   - connectivity/universal service

   - financing ICT4D (financial mechanisms)
   - affordable solutions

☐ Human Capacity

   - educational skills

     esp. science & technolog

   - e-learning
   - youth
   - addressing gender disparities
   - indigenous communities/people
   - health

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☐ Strengthening Communications

- communication

  through media

- intercultural

  communication

- disaster information systems

- conflict prevention and resolution

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- ☐ Promoting Local Content
  - local culture,
  - knowledge and conten[t] indigenous knowledge
  - local media

ICT4D as development concept

☐ Policy

   - e-strategies and policies
   - e-governance (including security)
   - e-commerce/e-business

   ■ Convergence maximisation [liberalisation, infrastructure/capacity (bandwidth) expansion; increased /affordable services]

ICT4D as development concept

Development	ICT4D	Network Society
Socioeconomic Development (individual resources)	INFRASTRUCTURES	Matter (nature)
	ICT SECTOR	Production
Subjective Orientation Towards Choice (emancipative values)	(DIGITAL) LITERACY	Experience
Freedom Rights (democratization)	LEGAL FRAMEWORK	Power
	USES (CONTENT & SERVICES)	Culture

Source: **Fostering the Information Society for Development in the Web 2.0 framework: from push to pull strategies — the case of Spain**
By Ismael Peña-López accessed at http://ictlogy.net/ January 19, 2008

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ICT4D as development concept

The need for development

- ☐ Caribbean region continues to sustain economic relations and market structures that have essentially defined the region's development history.
- ☐ high levels of poverty;
- ☐ social and economic vulnerability persists
  - ■ HIV/AIDS,
  - ■ crime
  - ■ collapse of banana and sugar trade arrangements → EPA's ,
  - ■ unemployment and social stability
- ☐ high cost of energy
- ☐ vulnerability to natural disasters

ICT4D as development concept

Challenges to the concept

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ICT4D as development concept

ICT4D success factors

☐ For success effective partnership between key stakeholders:

  ■ Public sector

  ■ Private sector

  ■ Informal sector

  ■ NGOs, CBOs, international organization; civil society organisations

  ■ Representation from the target groups

☐ Financial sustainability

source: *info*Dev. (2003). *ICT for Developing Contributing to Millennium Goals: Lessons learned from Seventeen infoDev projects.* Washington, World Bank]

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Critique

- ☐ whether costly projects designed to be scalable, or make enough of an impact/produce noticeable change.
- ☐ pilot projects weak on generalisability, scalability and sustainability
- ☐ Impact limited external funding always required

ALSO: ICT projects not integrated with national policy and project development

ICT4D impact on policy environment

- ☐ ICT4D impact at two levels as …

  - ■ Approach in policy development/policy making
  - ■ Implementation/application for developmental objectives

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ICT4D impact on policy environment
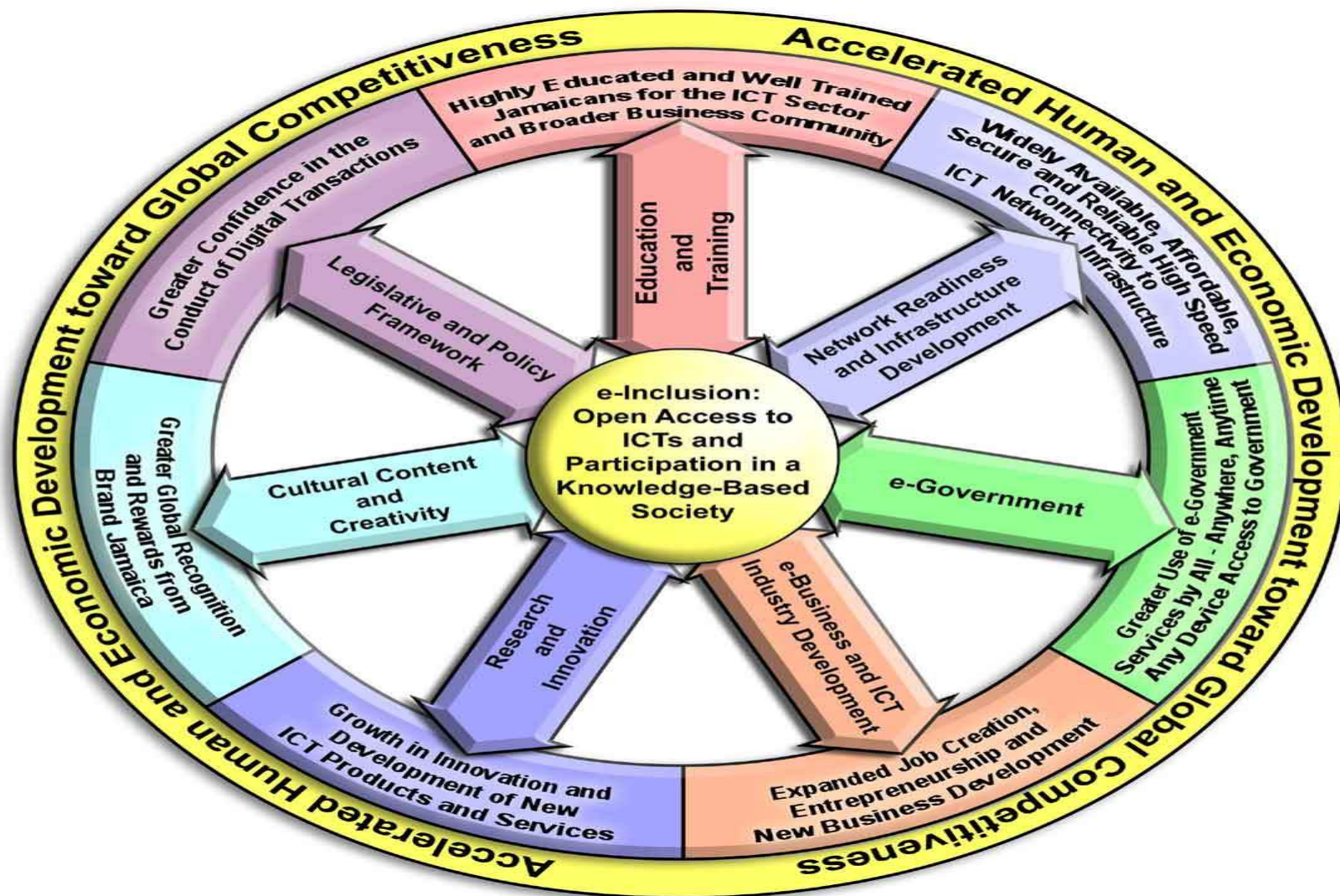
- ☐ ICT development
  - ■ Information/ ICT services
  - ■ Telecommunications
  - ■ Electronic communication services
    - ☐ Including content industries
- ☐ Areas for development *(World Bank 2006)*
  - ■ financing infrastructure
  - ■ public-private partnerships
  - ■ effective competition
  - ■ extending access
  - ■ ICT for doing business
  - ■ national e-strategies

ICT4D impact on policy environment

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ICT4D impact on policy environment

- ☐ Next

  - ■ Looking at the Jamaican plan development process …..