

# Capacity Building for ICTs in the Asia Pacific: Looking Back and Looking Forward

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# APC ICT INFORMATION VIDEO



# Introduction

- Based on experience as academic, researcher, practitioner and trainer over two decades
- Definition of ICT human capacity building:
  - creation of a cadre of professional and administrative capacity at key levels of policy, decision making, planning, management and implementation

# Some Assumptions

- Debate not about sustainable development of ICTs
- Use of ICTs for development is not new.
- The interconnections between development and ICTs are still not well understood
- The past decades have witnessed an explosion in projects that have applied ICTs to support socio-economic development.
- The introduction of new technologies means new ways of thinking, planning, management and styles of work.

# Capacity Building, but for Whom?

- Capacity development is the
  - “process by which individuals, groups, organisations, institutions and societies develop abilities (individually and collectively) to perform functions, solve problems and set and achieve objectives.”
- For international donor and technical assistance agencies, a capacity building responsibility is part ‘strengthening the national systems

# Capacity Building, but for Whom?

- Any number of capacity building programmes conducted by multiple agencies in this field.
- Many have been one-off;
- Few have been sustained efforts at institution building.
- It is more necessary to bring about transformations in organization climates and ways of functioning in order to ensure greater efficiency, effectiveness, and impact in programme delivery.

# Looking Back

- Roadmap followed by APCICT
  - The creation of top quality learning resources and materials, written by Asia Pacific experts in simple, jargon free language for use by all in the Asia Pacific region.
  - The conduct of regional and national capacity building Trainer of Trainer programmes.
  - The translation and localization of the materials thus enabling wide context based use for training.

# Looking Back

- Roadmap followed by APCICT
  - The building of networks at a national level and partnerships at an international level to provide a cascading model of training.
  - Creation of materials and advocacy to academia to incorporate these materials into higher education.
  - The building of South-South partnerships which allowed Asia Pacific nations to learn from each others' experiences, successes and failures



# Examples of Success

- Philippines
- Indonesia
- Myanmar

# Looking Forward

- Effect of technological innovation
  - Disruptive effect on social at large and individual behaviour in particular, changing the nature of human relations
  - The economic consequences that machine to machine communications (i.e. IoT) will have on unemployment
  - Vulnerability that an ICT-dependent economy is to network failures than a pre-ICT economy;
  - Issues relating to data privacy and security, not as technical problems, but as social problems affecting each and every citizen.
  - Issues relating to how ICTs cause isolation and alienation while at the same time extending social networks.
  - Growing digital divide in many of Asia Pacific countries.

# What We Need to Do

- Identify what we know
- Find the gaps
- Carry out research to fill the gaps
- Match our knowledge with the needs of administrators
- Use our training skills to provide capacity building initiatives
- We, as academics, need to proactively engage with policy and decision makers and programme implementation personnel

# Conclusion

- Sticking to our domains no longer enough
- Building partnerships amongst academia and government
  - Nationally
  - Across the Asia Pacific Region
- If we do not, we will become irrelevant.