

Equity and Empowerment Leveraging ICTs to achieve MDGs

**Thematic Session II
OneWorld South Asia ARM
2007**

Re-cap of issues

- Lives and livelihoods of marginalized and poor people are at stake
- Lack of access to:
 - Autonomy and self determination – cannot define development for themselves, use their own land water forest and other natural resources for their own development
 - Access to the benefits of development
 - Access to knowledge and skills.
- Compromised negotiation and bargaining power
- Voicelessness
- Prohibitive costs; solutions are not affordable
- Lack of infrastructure like energy

Recap of Issues - 2

- Weak CBO networking working for social justice – due to lack of access to information, technology and know how
- Policies and projects:
 - Lack of information about them
 - Lack of proper implementation
 - In some case, no policy or project in place.

ICT based solutions - 1

- Awareness raising
- Information and knowledge sharing
- Advocate for:
 - People-friendly individual/integrated ICT policy
 - Networking with INGOS, local NGOs, CBOs, local schools, youth clubs, women's groups, local government and other bodies and institutions
- Convergence of technologies
 - Explore combinations of technologies
 - Explore new technology options like mobile radio, mobile computer, mobile telecentre eg. e-tuk tuk

ICT based solutions - 2

- Support/advocate local production of affordable technologies for the marginalised
- Organise more skills building and training activities in all fields of ICT use
- Promote the use of alternative sources of energy and making this available...
- Train in business planning for long term sustainability; livelihood and market linkages
- Prepare pilots
- Promote local, participatory ownership of ICT solutions
- Create opportunities for youth

ICT based solutions - 3

- Assist in setting up help-lines; emails; blogs, digital stories on websites in local languages
- Develop appropriate and affordable software, and language technologies in local languages

Thank you