

WSIS Youth Kenya E-conference Summary

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wsisyouthkenya>

E-conference held between 2nd and 10th August 2005

THEME: ICT: Creating Opportunities for young people in Kenya

ISSUE	E-CONFERENCE COMMENT	YOUR COMMENT
Youth Issues	How should we define 'youth' issues? Aren't all the issues that affect youth also wider issues affecting the country? Unemployment? Isn't that a general problem to be handled by the labour authorities? AIDS? A health problem to be handled by the Health honchos? What makes youth an interest group that should be catered for in the bureaucracy?	
	All the "youth" issues are national issues but some of the issues affect young people more than the rest of the others....for instance, HIV/AIDS needs a focus on young people because the statistics show they are being wiped away faster than the other age-groups....they also make up the majority of the unemployed...	
Employment	How could we exploit ICTs to create employment for the ever increasing army of unemployed youths in Kenya?	
	for as long as ICTs cannot bring food to the table, then it ceases to have impact and relevance to the youth	
Agriculture	Kenya is essentially an Agricultural country yet we seem to be less interested in what goes on in that sector as youths	
	ICTs present an opportunity to improve efficiency in agriculture (i.e. food security) and tourism while providing an alternative source of income for young Kenyans	
	National Vision project research established that though a majority of Kenyan jobs were to be found in agriculture a majority of Kenya's youth do not want to work in the sector.	
	Due to an colonial education system that prepared the mzungu for white collar jobs, a mhindi to be an enterprenuer and a basic education which prepared the African for the farmland, agriculture...Africans wanted an education system that will prepare them for the 'office', just like the mzungu.	
	I think that we need to strengthen our agriculture and manufacturing. ICTs can be used to do this as they provide opportunities for information and knowledge sharing for development.	
	We have to change focus from an agricultural economy to that that is also driven by ICTs. This i must say is already happening. You just need to see the number of ICT related colleges emerging in this country.	
Education / E-learning	Does the revamped education curriculum encourage knowledge of ICTs at a tender age?	
	To create opportunities for Youth in ICT, we need to invest some of our energies on education. We should popularise use and ICT opportunities to especially the youth and children.	
	Before we start reaping the benefits of ICTs, we must first acquire	

	the necessary skills.	
	Education and training in ICT had better be in the pipeline	
	Kikuyu Day Secondary versus Alliance High School (next to each other): Both schools offer the 8-4-4 curriculum. But as you and I know the chances of the fellows in Kikuyu Day ever making it to the nearby University of Nairobi (Kikuyu Campus) are so remote!	
	If we empowered the individual in Kikuyu Day on use of the Internet to get information, they could be in a position to diversify their choices in higher education, business education and opportunities	
Environment	I vote for environmental protection As a priority project for youth.	
	unless we start taking care now, we may have to pay a high price later	
Infrastructure	Our focus on ICT policy should be How to make ICT widely available and cheaper to access for everyone.	
Access	Vote for rural access and subsidising costs.	
	Young people they have access to these ICTs, in order for us to be able to rally the why of ICTs being able to create opportunities for them	
	Youth need access to relevant information, relevant content, and they should be the ones generating this demand and supply.	
Gender	We must begin with preaching an attitude change among our ladies. We must convince them that ICTs is not necessarily a men's domain. They can also make it.	
	Linux Chicks Africa is run from Kenya by IT-savvy ladies led by Dorcas Muthoni. A case of ladies rising up and helping themselves	
Political representation	We should back people who believe in and see chances for youth and ICTs in positions of public representation and leader	
	Do we need a youth representative at the Ministry of Information and Communication?	
Health	HIV/AIDS needs a focus on young people because the statistics show they are being wiped away faster than the other age-groups	
Local content	None	
E-Government	None	
Entrepreneurs hip	None	
Financing of projects?	None	
Others issues	None	

The WSISYouthKenya E-conference was an activity of the Rural Youth National Information Society Campaign 2005

<http://projects.takingitglobal.org/wsisyouthkenya>