International workshop on 'ICTs for Participatory Local Development- Exploring a Systemic Approach'
(9th and 10th December, 2008, at Bangalore, India)

IT for Change and the ICT for Poverty Reduction Programme of the Poverty Group of UNDP, New York, are organizing an international workshop on 'ICTs for Participatory Local Development- Exploring a Systemic Approach' on the 9th and 10th of December, 2008, in Bangalore, India. The workshop will bring together around 20-25 researchers, policy makers and other actors in the area of local development and of ICTs for development. The workshop participants will review and discuss the possibilities of harnessing the transformatory potential of ICTs for participatory local development.

The accent while discussing 'ICTs for transformative and inclusive local development' in the workshop will be on the following:

1. **Possibilities of systemic and integrated (across-the-sectors and in development strategies) use of ICTs**
2. **Improving participation and empowerment, as a key objective of employing ICT and ICT-based service delivery**
3. **Different types of emerging roles for state/non-state actors and implications for the citizen/state relationship**
4. **Policy and institutional context required to achieve the above.**

Five country researchers – from Brazil, India, Philippines, South Africa and Uganda – will present case studies and their initial findings on the subject from their respective countries. This will include a country overview, including respective policy and institutional frameworks. The invited experts, policy makers and practitioners will be expected to comment on these findings, and help the researchers fine-tune their outputs, and build appropriate recommendations for enabling use of ICTs in a systemic way for participatory local development. This will also help the development of a customizable roadmap and toolkit in a manner that is most useful to its potential audience – policy-makers and practitioners in the areas of local development and of ICTs for development.

Participating policy makers and practitioners, on the other hand, will benefit by learning from first hand accounts from across the developing world of use of ICTs for local development, which will be presented in a manner that highlights possibilities of systemic use of ICTs for local development, and the policy and institutional contexts of doing so. The workshop will be an intense knowledge sharing and learning exercise, and not so much presentations based.

It is to reiterate that this is *not* a workshop on ICTs, or even ICT applications. It is a workshop on 'participatory local development', and the new possibilities that may have come up to achieve such local development.

IT for Change
IT for Change is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with
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Tentative design of the workshops (Inputs from participants being taken)

Day one (9ᵗʰ December)
Morning Session – Presentation of case studies and research outputs by the five country researchers

Afternoon session – Participants look at the key cross-cutting techno-social issues and areas of ICTs for local development and local governance – like, community telecentres, GIS based micro-planning, mobile-based platforms, local digital information systems, horizontal networking, role of different stakeholders etc, and also look sectorally, at areas like ICTs for education, livelihood support, health etc.

Day two (10ᵗʰ December)
Morning Session – Policy makers discuss the practical problems faced in adopting and mainstreaming ICT based local development processes. This will help researchers develop their recommendations, and also shape the toolkit in a manner that keeps these practical issues foremost.

Afternoon session – A discussion on how the requirements of using ICTs for local development and local governance can and should determine ICT policies. An exploration of what could be the shape/ nature of such ICT policies, and expected tensions, if any are anticipated, vis-à-vis existing top down models of ICT policy making.