Information Society Division
Communication and Information Sector

Indrajit Banerjee, Director

Information Meeting for Permanent Delegations
UNESCO Headquarters, 13 January 2011
“Information and knowledge are expanding in quantity and accessibility.

In many fields future decision-makers will be presented with unprecedented new tools for development.

In such fields as agriculture, health, education, human resources and environmental management, or transport and business development, the consequences really could be revolutionary.”

(Kofi Annan, 1997: 1)
Memory of the World and the WDL

Memory of the World

- **Jikji Prize** call for new nominations; deadline 31 January 2011
- **Culture-Memory-Identities**: 4th International MoW Conference, 18 to 21 May 2011, Warsaw, Poland
- **Museums and Memory**: International Museums Day, 18 May 2011
- **10th Intl Advisory Council** meeting, 22 to 25 May 2011, Manchester, UK

Specific achievements

- New national committees launched (Jamaica, Mongolia, Peru, Tunisia...)
- 84 new nominations assessed and preliminary advice communicated to nominators;
- Series of monthly articles produced highlighting items on MoW Register and linked to a selected International Day

World Digital Library

- **1st Executive Council meeting**, 21 January 2011, UNESCO HQ
At the 5th meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), 14-18 September 2010 in Vilnius, Lithuania, UNESCO organized workshops, set-up a UNESCO stand, participated in panels and held an Open Forum.

Online Platform: Over 700 people have now joined the WSIS Community. UNESCO’s online collaborative platform has provided great interaction opportunity between lead WSIS Action Line facilitator agencies - UNESCO, ITU, UNDP and UNCTAD- and WSIS stakeholders through a series of WSIS Forum open consultations.

As current chair of the UN Group on the Information Society (UNGIS), UNESCO is leading the preparatory work of a joint UNGIS event on “ICTs in LDCs: Opportunities and Challenges – the WSIS outcomes implementation in LDCs”, at the 4th UN Conference on LDCs (Istanbul, 9-13 May 2011).
ICT in Education

- **An intersectoral ICT in Education Working Group** was created in August 2010 by DG and is led jointly by ADG/CI and ADG/ED. The Working Group is charged with coordinating ICT in Education activities implemented by UNESCO HQ. A first initiative of this intersectoral group is the ICT Competency Framework for Teachers, in partnership with Microsoft, Intel, Cisco and others.

- **ICT in Education statistical indicators for Arab States.** CI is preparing in cooperation with UIS a pilot seminar on collection and use of national statistical indicators on ICT in Education. ED is providing input to ensure that the activity develops capacity of educational policy makers to exploit ICT in Education statistics in improving national education systems.
Open Educational Resources

- Open Educational Resources (OER) – teaching/learning materials that are in the public domain or released with an intellectual property license that allows for free use, adaptation, and distribution - provide a strategic opportunity to improve the quality of education.

- UNESCO is developing a new, innovative OER Platform which will offer selected UNESCO publications as OERs, planned to be launched at the 36th Session of the UNESCO General Conference in November 2011.

- UNESCO is a member of the EU-sponsored Open Educational Quality (OPAL) and is responsible for coordinating the development of the online OPAL Clearinghouse of peer-reviewed best OER practices.
Open Access

(free, global online access to peer-reviewed scientific publications)

- Flagship project: **The Global Open Access Portal** - Web-based, collaborative project designed to present a high-level snapshot of the state of Open Access around the world (Portal Launch: November 2011)

- Awareness and capacity-building efforts: workshops to improve Member States’ abilities to develop and support Open Access repositories and Open Access journals
Free and Open Source Software and OTP

Free and Open Source Software:

- Starting an analysis of gender divide in the FOSS world with a view to formulating concrete recommendations and actions for mitigation.
- Elaborating case studies on the use of FOSS in teaching in secondary schools
- Piloting “Universal Subtitles” on the UNESCO website – this technology (by Mozilla.org) allows adding subtitles in a large number of languages to Internet videos through community participation.

Open Training Platform

- CI is developing an improved version of the UNESCO Open Training Platform which already provides access to more than 3,400 free learning and training resources. The new version allowing better communication with providers and users is due to start in February and it will be fully operational by end 2011.
Interactive tool on HIV and AIDS for youth

The CI Sector launched the first interactive multimedia tool on HIV and AIDS for youth (16 and older).

The use of ICTs is a cost-effective way to share scientifically accurate, gender-specific and culturally appropriate information for HIV and AIDS prevention.

The computer game is available in English, French and Russian.
Accessibility and Persons with Disabilities

Implemented activities:


- CI organized an internal staff training on “Creating Accessible Digital Office Documents”, 9-10 November 2010, UNESCO HQs.

Work in progress:

- UNESCO is working on the global report on good practices using ICTs in Education for Persons with Disabilities (to be published by the end of 2011).

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

3 December 2010

Special screening of the Oscar Academy Award Winner “Music by Prudence” in the exceptional presence of the director and producer of the film Roger Ross Williams
Multilingualism in Cyberspace

- UNESCO and ICANN signed a Letter of Intent (16 September 2010 at the IGF 2010). The main objective of this joint effort is for UNESCO to assist its Member States by creating IDN ccTLD Cyrillic country names/abbreviations reference table for countries whose official languages are based on Cyrillic script.

- The CI Sector thanks all Member States which provided report on the Implementation of the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace. The second consolidated report will be presented at the 186th session of the Executive Board in 2011.
Information for All Programme (IFAP)

- A financial contribution of 205,000 USD from Spain to IFAP for 2 projects and 20,000 USD from China to the IFAP Special Account

- IFAP supported the 5th Asia Pacific Information Network (APIN) Meeting and ICT Literacy Workshop, organized in collaboration with the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC) in Manila, Philippines, from 23 to 26 November 2010.

- The next 18th IFAP Bureau Meeting is scheduled for 21 and 22 February 2011
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