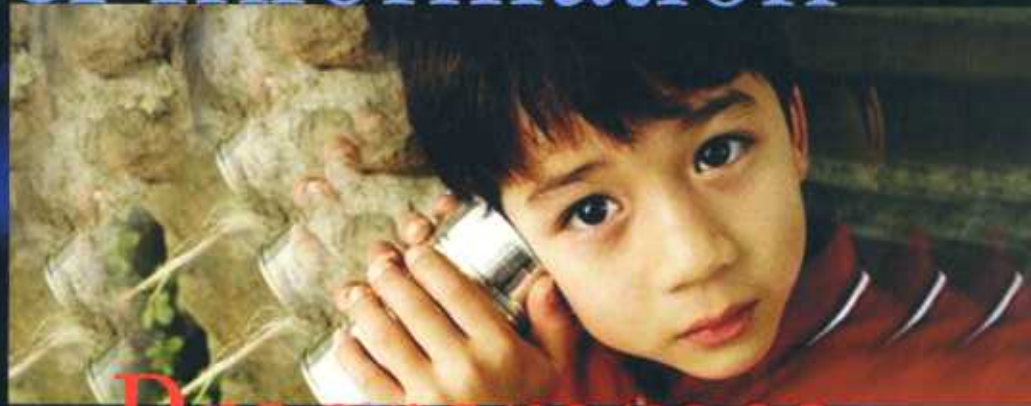




Communication & Information



Programmes

Empowering
people through
access to information
and knowledge
and freedom
of expression

Director-General's Statement

If the knowledge societies are ever to take proper root and gain global acceptance, we must look beyond the technical and gadget appeal of ICTs and home in on the human dimensions of the digital divide: cultural and



linguistic diversity of contents, empowerment of civil society, privacy and ethical issues and access, especially by safeguarding the public domain.

KOICHIRO MATSUURA,

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Freedom of expression

freedom

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
IS THE CORNERSTONE
OF HUMAN RIGHTS

This freedom and its corollary, freedom of the Press, must be respected and protected. UNESCO believes that exercise of these rights is essential for the free flow of ideas and information, the strengthening of democracy and the promotion of peace. They are a key to sustainable human development.



and of the press

PUBLIC AWARENESS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT

- World Press Freedom Day celebrated May 3, with the awarding of the World Press Freedom Prize
- Support for freedom of expression and freedom of the press at the WSIS

ADOPTION OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LEGISLATION

- Promoting normative and legislative action to establish a media environment respectful of freedom of expression
- Media legislation developed through consultancies in different countries

IMPROVED ACCOUNTABILITY, ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF MEDIA PROFESSIONALS

- Cooperation with professional press and journalism organizations to promote ethical and professional media standards
- Improving training of media professionals stressing the importance of ethics and professional standards in journalism

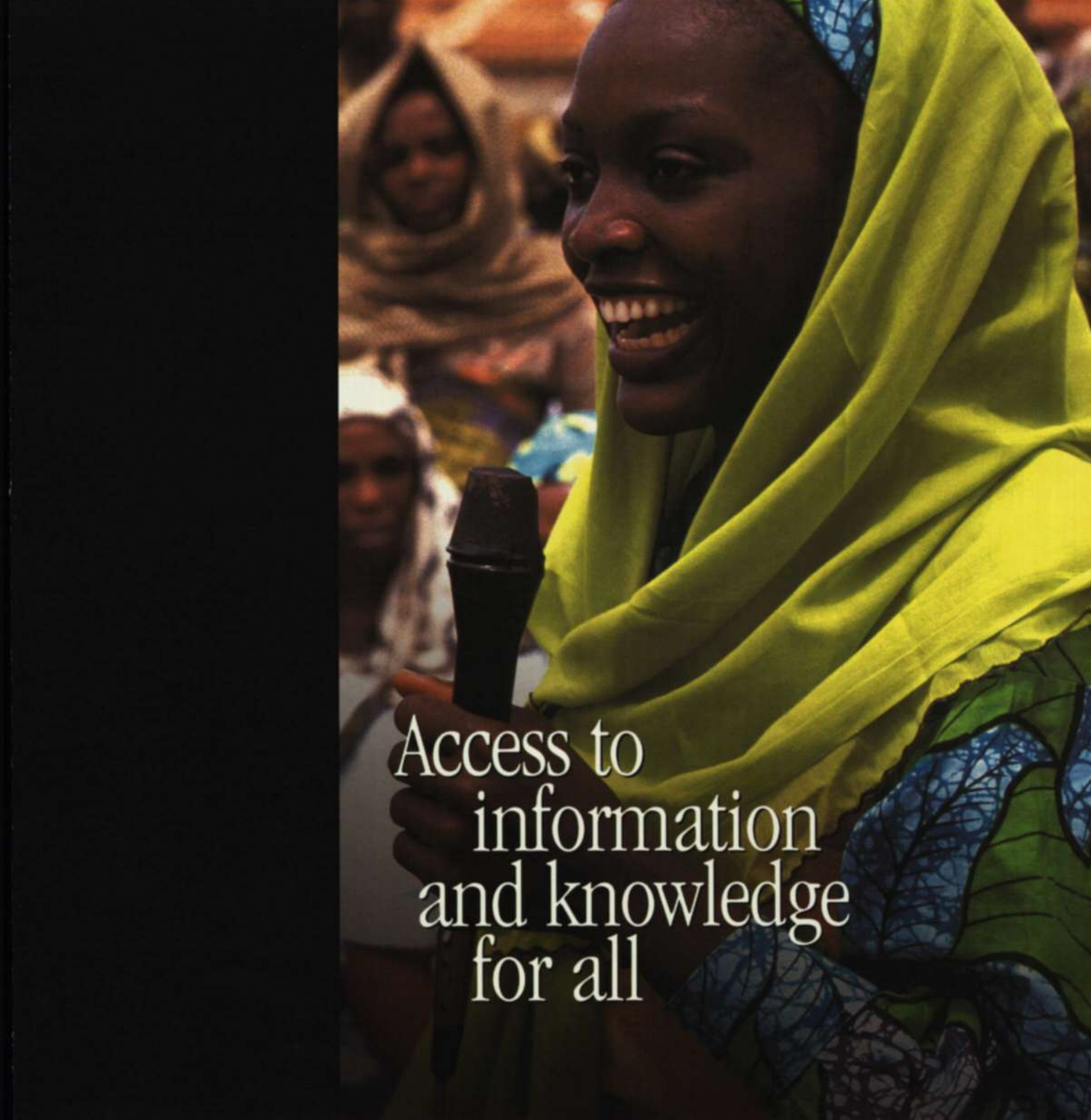


THE ROLE OF MEDIA FOR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE ENHANCED

- Support for public service broadcasting, particularly in the developing world
- Operational field projects aimed at promoting good governance and democracy through the media

ACCESS

Access to information and knowledge is still beyond the reach of most of humanity as a result of poverty, illiteracy and isolation. UNESCO is using its partnerships with professionals and institutions in order to provide access to information and communication technologies to those who are most at risk of being excluded from the knowledge society, such as women and youth, rural and marginalized urban populations, the illiterate and the poor. Access to information fosters transparency in government, builds bonds of credibility between people and their institutions and also cultivates citizen participation in the democratic process.

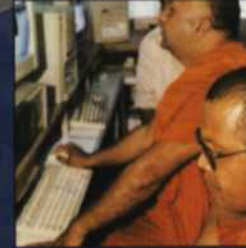
A close-up photograph of a woman with a joyful expression, wearing a bright yellow headscarf and a blue patterned garment. She is holding a black microphone. The background is slightly blurred, showing a crowd of people, suggesting a public event or gathering. The lighting is warm, highlighting her face and the vibrant colors of her clothing.

Access to
information
and knowledge
for all

Combining new and traditional technology to make information accessible to all

Promoting community Access and Participation

- Community access to information increased, especially in Africa
- Strengthening of local infrastructures
- CMCs established as gateways to information
- Information processing tools made available
- Information literacy enhanced
- Information for special needs groups provided



World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

- For the two phases of World Summits on the Information Society (WSIS), in Geneva (Switzerland), December 2003 and Tunis (Tunisia), November 2005, UNESCO has elaborated the position that the Knowledge Society must be based on freedom of expression, access to information, cultural and linguistic diversity, and educational opportunity for all with the use of ICTs. UNESCO will continue to play a leading role in following-up on these major conferences.

Providing Access to Information for Women and Youth

- Women empowered through information resources, particularly in developing countries
- Info Youth Programme activities carried-out



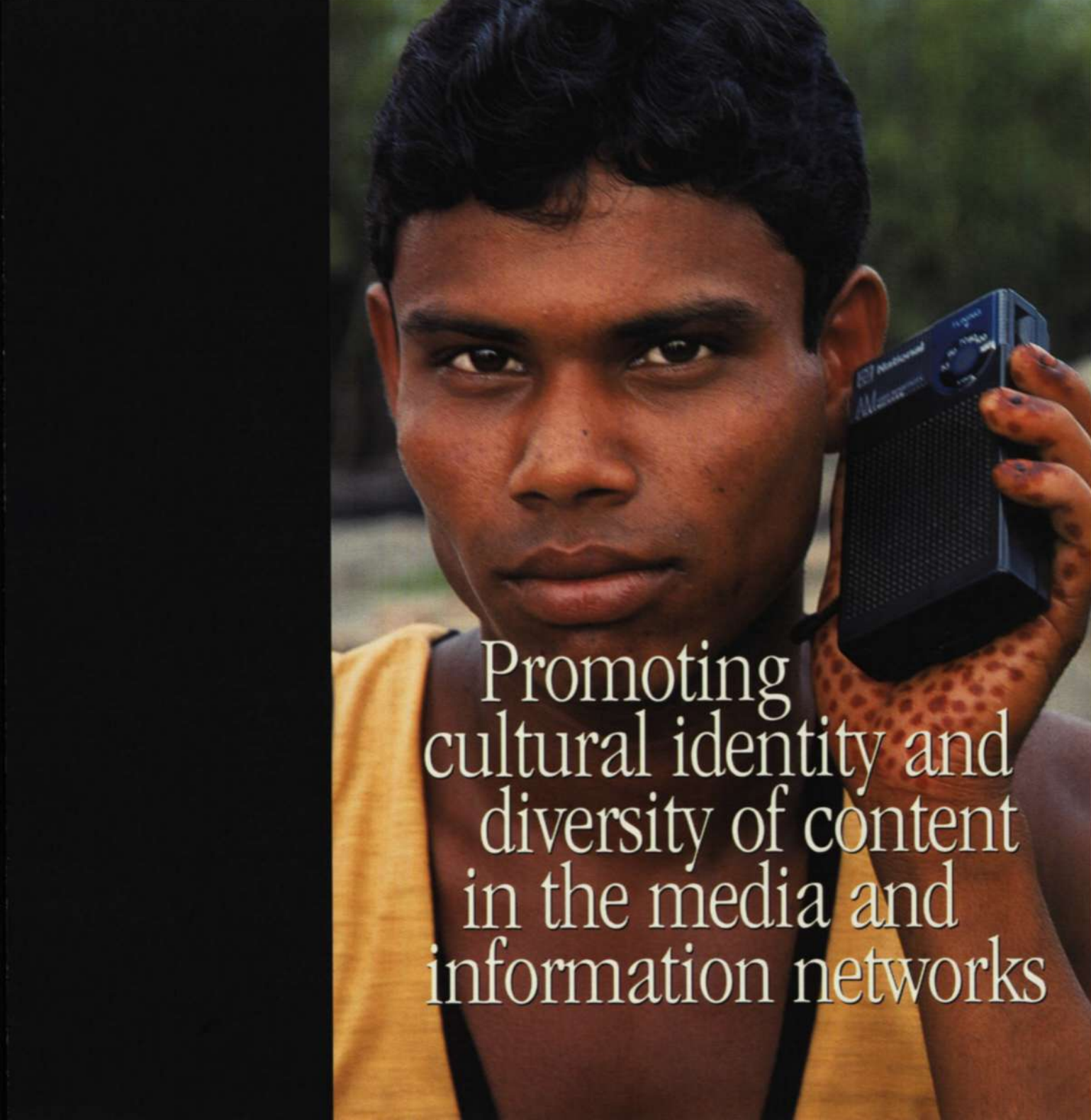
ICT's in Education

- Enhanced learning opportunities through ICT's
- Strengthened capacities for research
- Implementation of EFA Goals



content

UNESCO's mandate to promote the free exchange of knowledge and intercultural understanding among peoples worldwide has never been more relevant than in this era of globalization. The Organization fosters cultural and linguistic diversity and genuine pluralism through the production of local content, while also working to strengthen the public domain of information and facilitate access for all to the new Information and Communication Technologies.



Promoting
cultural identity and
diversity of content
in the media and
information networks

Combating cultural uniformity through content production

CULTURAL EXPRESSION AND DIVERSITY

- Promotion of a strong educational and cultural dimension within the media and the Internet
- Greater diversity of audiovisual, print, on-line and off-line products
- Support for cultural and linguistic diversity through locally generated content production
- Establishment of Community Multi-Media Centres



DIGITAL WORLD HERITAGE PORTALS AND LIBRARIES

- Preservation of digital and analogue material
- Memory of the World Programme
- Support for digital libraries and archives



capacities

Capacity building requires constant reinforcement of media, governmental and non-governmental organizations, libraries, archives, and other institutions involved with communication and information. Training and lifelong learning are as essential for media and information professionals as for the general public. UNESCO's activities for capacity building particularly in the developing countries focus on enhancing their participation in the global free flow of information. Special emphasis is also placed on training for women and youth, to empower them to make their voices heard.

A young woman wearing a white hijab and abaya is seated at a desk. She is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. In front of her is a computer keyboard and several sheets of paper, some of which appear to be documents or manuals. The background is slightly blurred, showing what might be another person or part of a classroom or office setting. The overall lighting is soft and focused on the woman.

Training
and capacity
building

Developing media infrastructure and the skills of media and information professionals

STRENGTHENING PROFESSIONAL CAPACITIES

- Quality and impact of teaching and learning processes enhanced through ICT use
- Media-based and ICT-enhanced solutions for literacy and teacher training developed

PROMOTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS WITH THE MEDIA

- Sensitization of media professionals about women's rights
- Training Projects for young women in digital production, the Internet and community radio

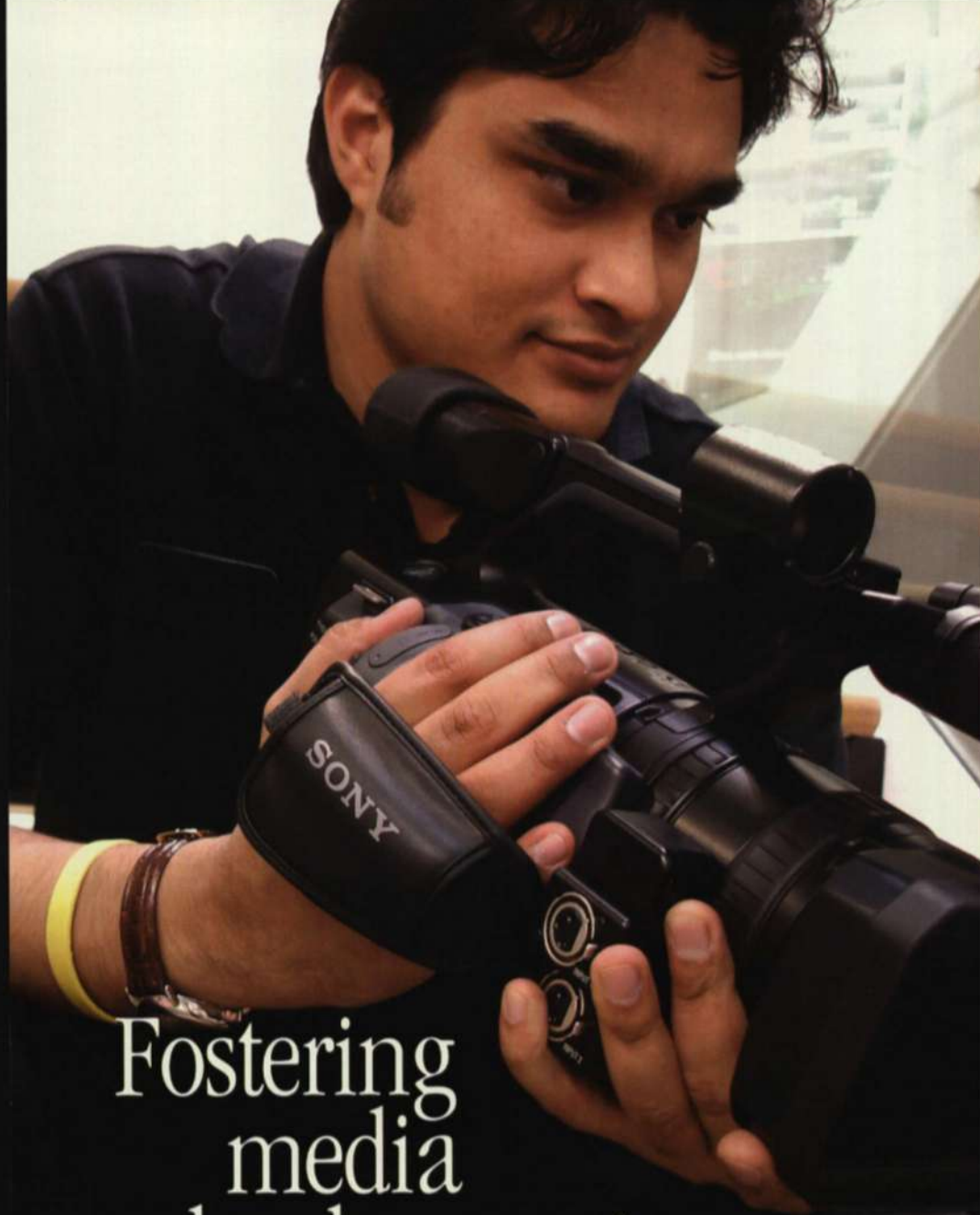


PROGRAMMES FOR YOUTH

- Establishment of Youth for Development Networks
- Training for youth in digital media technologies and the Internet

media

The development of diversified and independent media, with well-trained media professionals, particularly in developing countries, encourages transparency, good governance and human rights. UNESCO strives to enhance the impact of communication and information for capacity building through the setting up of media facilities and the exchange of ideas between peoples. This underpins the emerging knowledge society and is a driving force for sustainable human development.



Fostering
media
development

Development of pluralistic and independent media

TRAINING FOR MEDIA SPECIALISTS

- Training of women journalists
- Training of media professionals in developing countries



SUPPORT FOR FREE, PLURALISTIC AND INDEPENDENT PRESS

- Support for press agencies, public services broadcasting and community media in developing countries
- Sustainability and generational effectiveness of media institutions enhanced
- Media development, particularly in developing countries, through the IPDC Programme



SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENT MEDIA IN CONFLICT AND POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS, AS WELL AS POST-DISASTER SITUATIONS

- Projects for the development and reinforcement of independent media in Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine
- Operational field projects aimed at promoting pluralistic and independent media

MOBILIZING THE MEDIA FOR DEMOCRACY AND PEACE

- Promoting normative and legislative action to establish a media environment respectful of freedom of expression
- Promoting tolerance among media professionals operating in conflict and post-conflict situations

Projects

Two intergovernmental programmes - the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) and the Information for All Programme (IFAP) - support UNESCO's activities in these areas. IPDC assists the development of communication infrastructure and professional training in order to reduce the gap between countries in the communication field. IFAP provides a platform for international policy discussions and guidelines for action on the preservation of information and universal access to it.

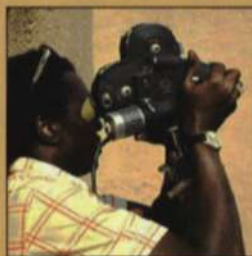
Special communication and information projects to empower people



Creating digital opportunities for youth is a priority for UNESCO and a focus on their needs is mainstreamed into projects. They are targeted for training, ICT skills development and active involvement in information and communication programmes



UNESCO's Women Speaking to Women project encourages groups to participate in women's community radio stations in Botswana, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, India, Malawi, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.



Creative audio-visual productions are supported in developing countries to promote the expression of cultural diversity. These productions are then promoted at an international level. TV producers from disadvantaged areas receive advanced training in their own regions.



UNESCO's Network of Associated Libraries (UNAL) encourages public libraries to undertake activities related to UNESCO's main goals, such as the promotion of human rights and peace, cultural dialogue, protection of the environment, the fight against illiteracy, and to establish contacts between libraries of the North and the South.



A joint project of the Government of Egypt and UNESCO, the strikingly modern Bibliotheca Alexandrina is a unique educational and cultural centre for the transfer of knowledge and skills. Ultimately it can house over eight million volumes.



The preservation and accessibility of the world's documentary heritage, including the electronic heritage, is the aim of UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme.



Two interrelated software packages for database management (CDS/SIS) and data mining/statistical analysis (IDAMS) are developed, maintained and disseminated free of charge by UNESCO.



Inaugurated in November 2005, the Tunisian InfoYouth Centre acts as a hub for community technology centres across North Africa. Involving UNESCO, Microsoft Corp, and the Tunisian Ministry of Youth, the project allows underserved and disadvantaged young people to acquire necessary information skills to enter the workforce.



United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

Communication and Information

Sitemap



WebWorld

Homepage

www.unesco.org/webworld

webworld

WebWorld: As communication, information and knowledge are a driving force for human development, UNESCO employs this useful tool to help inform people throughout the world about UNESCO's projects and programmes. The website of the Communication and Information Sector, Webworld, provides access to news and technical studies in the public domain. It also hosts websites of libraries and archives in developing countries.



Communication and Information: UNESCO-CI - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites Media

Address http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=1657&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html Go Links

Options Rechercher Anti-Spy Traduire Messenger Y! Mail Mon Yahoo! Ouvrir session

UNESCO.ORG | Education | Natural Sciences | Social & Human Sciences | Culture | Communication & Information

Communication and Information Sitemap

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

WebWorld Homepage Français

UNESCO > Communication and Information

Themes

- Access to information
- Capacity Building
- Content Development
- Freedom of Expression
- Media Development
- Preservation
- More...

Activities by region/country

North America Europe
Latin America /Caribbean Arab States Africa Asia/Pacific

- Africa
- Arab States
- Asia/Pacific
- Europe and North America
- Latin America/Caribbean

Programmes

- International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)

Empowering people through the free flow of ideas by word and image, and by access to information and knowledge.

In Focus

Public Domain and Intellectual Property
"Promotion of equitable access to information and knowledge, particularly with regard to public domain" represents one of the main axes of UNESCO's Communication and Information Sector.

[More](#)

[In Focus Archive](#) | [Themes](#)

News

IFAP funded research on information literacy in China and Indonesia
25-10-2005 - (Beijing) Research on information literacy in China and Indonesia started in September 2005, conducted by the Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of China (ISTIC) with funding from UNESCO's Information for All Programme (IFAP).

- (Paris) Director-General condemns murder of Iraqi newspaper editor Mohammad Harun Hassan
- (Paris) UNESCO Conference on public services in the media this

Advanced Search

UNESCO & Communication and Information

- About
- Strategy
- Who's Who
- Networks

See also:

- News
- In Focus
- Events
- Documentary Resources
- Portals
- Newsletter
- Discussion Forum
- Photo Bank
- E-Cards

Features

60
1945 2005

UNESCO's Sixtieth Anniversary

World Summit on the Information Society: Tunis phase

Memory of the World

Local intranet

partners

UNESCO's communication and information programmes benefit from collaboration with, and contributions from, a wide range of partners. These include other United Nations agencies, bilateral development partners, international, regional, non governmental and intergovern-mental organizations, professional associations and the private sector. UNESCO is an active partner in international initiatives such as the United Nations ICT Task Force, the World Summit on the Information Society, the Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT) Force Process and the Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP).

Looking to the future

Over the past decade, information and communication technologies (ICTs) have triggered a quiet revolution. They play an increasingly important role in economic growth, social transformation, cultural enrichment and political empowerment.

ICTs have emerged as a primary tool for shaping inclusive knowledge societies and UNESCO's communication and information programmes aim to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).



ABDUL WAHEED KHAN

Assistant Director-General

for Communication and Information



Contact

Communication & Information Sector

UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis,
75732 Paris CEDEX 15, France

www.unesco.org/webworld