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IPDC THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATION

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Agenda item for discussion

IPDC-complementary FIT Projects Update

INFORMATION NOTE

SUMMARY CONTENT OF DOCUMENT

This document gives a succinct update on current IPDC-complementary FIT projects. It is meant for the information of the IPDC Bureau members.

FIT Projects Update (March 21, 2017)

1. Background
2. Project updates
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1. BACKGROUND

This update covers projects supported by the governments of Malaysia and Sweden as well as by the European Commission in the Gambia in the field of media development.

2. PROJECT UPDATES

1. **Malaysian Fund in Trust (FIT) 594INT5000 - Post COP 21: Strengthening media capacity to monitor and report on climate change in Asia Pacific**

Taking advantage of the Paris Agreement, and especially the focus of Article 14 on a “global stocktake”, whereby the COP shall periodically take stock of the implementation of the Agreement to assess the collective progress towards achieving its purpose of reduced carbon emissions, the IPDC secretariat initiated this project to strengthen media capacity to report knowledgeably and authoritatively on climate change issues in the Asia Pacific region and Africa. This project is funded to the tune of USD145,500.

Funding for this project became available for use in September of 2016, whereupon planning for implementation started, involving the Jakarta and Bangkok UNESCO offices. Project implementation has started in earnest in 2017 with the Jakarta office, for example, collaborating with the Universiti Sains Malaysia

(University of Science Malaysia) and the University of Nottingham Malaysia to develop climate change reporting modules based on UNESCO's "Teaching Journalism for Sustainable Development" syllabi and the "Climate Change in Africa: A Guidebook for Journalists" publication. The module will be a collaborative product between UNESCO and public as well as private universities in Malaysia. The modules are designed to be part of a Master's programme in journalism at the two universities as well as short courses made available to media professionals who wish to improve their knowledge on climate change reporting in the Asia Pacific region.

A preliminary workshop is scheduled in the first half of 2017 to gauge public interest in such modules as well as to refine the content of the modules. In addition to the two journalism schools, relevant stakeholders, including the Ministry of Higher Education, the Ministry of Environment and media practitioners, are scheduled to participate in the event.

2. Swedish Fund in Trust (FIT) 503GLO5002 - Defining Internet Universality Indicators

The background to this project is the endorsement of the 29th meeting of the intergovernmental Council of the IPDC for further work by UNESCO on specialised indicators, including on Internet development. The 30th Council further heard calls from a number of Member States for IPDC to engage with Internet issues. The project also aligns with the 38th General Conference endorsing the UNESCO study "Keystones to foster inclusive knowledge societies" and the Internet Universality concept, with specific reference to promoting research into law, policy, regulatory frameworks and the use of the Internet, including relevant indicators in the key areas of the study.

With an amount of US\$ 330 979, this SIDA-supported project has now commenced with the launch of a global bidding process (19 Jan-28 Feb 2017) to seek the best expertise and research team to conduct the major expected deliverable, namely developing and finalizing a set of Internet Universality Indicators through a global multi-stakeholder consultation online and offline. An 8-page General Terms of Reference was developed to specify necessary parameters for this deliverable.

The bidding was launched through a CI news release via the web (in English) and social media (in 6 UN languages), and circulated through a number of professional and academic networks as well as among hundreds of individual experts and contacts: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/resources/news-and-in-focus-articles/all-news/news/unesco_call_for_proposals_defining_internet_universality_in/

A multi-stakeholder advisory board is envisaged to reinforce the quality, legitimacy and transparency of the project. It will consist of volunteer leading experts from various stakeholders, including governments, academia, the technical community, the private sector, journalists and media organizations, civil society, individual internet users, UN agencies and intergovernmental groups, to help guide the scientific and administrative development of the project. The IPDC Member States will be requested to contribute insight as the project unfolds, the eventual outcome may be presented to the IPDC Council for possible endorsement.

3. European Union (EU) Fund in Trust (FIT) 549RAF5001 - Journalists and Media Component - Governance in the Gambia

With an amount of US\$767,574, this project seeks to enhance freedom of expression and the press in the Gambia by upgrading the capacities of journalists to deliver journalism that is of high quality, gender-sensitive, inclusive of sustainable development issues, and is economically viable. As such, 5 activities, each with a number of sub-projects, have been selected to achieve this objective. These include:

- Strengthening institutional training centres (journalism schools).
- Capacity enhancement and public awareness around key sustainable development issues.
- Facilitating economic viability of media houses.

- Staff training and equipment to media houses.
- Community radio training.

UNESCO has been identified for the implementation of this project given its neutral mandate to support the fields of communication, media and journalism as well as longstanding experience in capacity building of media professionals to meet international standards.

Due to the ongoing political instability in the country, largely related to the presidential elections held in December 2016 and ongoing violations of freedom of expression, jailing of journalists, and forced closures by the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) of several of the beneficiaries' press and radio houses, delays in implementation have occurred. In January 2017, a six-month extension was granted by the EU to ensure delivery of expected results with maximum impact. As of end of January 2017, and following the transfer of power capacity building initiatives of media houses and the GPU will commence. The procurement of equipment in the framework of the project has neared completion, with delivery to the Islamic Republic of the Gambia expected by the end January 2017.

3. BUREAU ACTION

The Bureau, having discussed this document, may wish to:

- Take note of these updates as evidence of what the FIT financing modality can achieve in terms of complementary projects regarding IPDC's priorities and special initiatives in the field of media development.