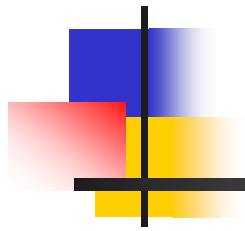


AfREN Update



Inet Day
Rabat, 6 June 2008

Boubakar Barry
Association of African Universities
Research and Education Networking Unit
barry@aau.org



Agenda

- From Abuja to Rabat
- The way forward



Community building

Planned

- Leverage on the existing community by channeling efforts to RENs
- AfREN as an united voice that will help the African ICT dialogue and link to other similar initiatives outside Africa

Achieved

- Involvement of community for actions towards establishments of RENs
- Links between initiatives at national sub-regional levels
- Support to actions aiming to link with initiatives outside Africa



Communication and experience sharing

Planned

- Enhance communication among the community
- Sharing of best practices

Achieved

- AfREN list
- Dissemination of best practices and success stories



Sensitisation and lobbying

Planned

- Joint tactics for leveraging infrastructure, funding opportunities;
- Outreach to government, industry, universities to pool resources,
- Lobbying to include enough dark fiber and to release free capacity to NRENs;
- Awareness raising of senior decision makers on the importance of NRENs;
- Lobbying ministries, telcos, regulatory agencies, AU Ministers of Education

Achieved

- Sensitisation actions at all possible occasions (meetings, workshops, conferences)
- ICT policy and NREN sessions for HEI leaders and other stakeholders (COREVIP, LEDEV)
- Publications
- Involvement of key stakeholders as strategic partners (telecommunications regulators, RECs, Civil Society, donors, etc.)
- Link to AUC



Critical resources

Planned

- Dark fibre must be identified and used to connect the NREN's ;
- Survey in order to know where we are
- Institution that get their address space from commercial ISP's should get them for their NRENs that are LIR's or from AFRINIC

Achieved

- Dark fibre study
- Positive AfriNIC's response to AAU's request for special pricing for education and research institutions: 50% discount for allocation of IP resources
- Sensitisation through joint activities with AfriNIC and AfNOG



Other issues

Planned

- More directors to be invited at AfREN meetings;
- There is a need to localize the technology transfer by taking AfNOG home;
- Action on the ground

Achieved

- Senior decision makers at THIS meeting
- Encouragement of « localization » of AfNOG workshops
- Support for actions at national level (especially for policy dialogue)



Some successes at national and regional levels

- Malawi: international gateway license
- Uganda: fibre capacity donation to NREN
- Nigeria: NgNOG + 10s of HEIs committed for ngREN
- South Africa: IRU for 10 Gbps for 20 years
- Ghana: progress on policy dialogue for the establishment of GARNET
- Senegal: take-off of policy dialogue for NREN establishment
- UbuntuNet Alliance: 4 new members raise membership to 10 NRENs (established or in formation)
- Rwanda: subsidy of bandwidth access for the NREN by national regulator through Universal Access Fund
- Many others successes



Action points for 2008/2009 - 1

■ A- External Communications

- Entrusting AfREN to draft the REN needs for the regulators --prepare a discussion paper and commit to meeting the regulatory bodies before the next AfREN meeting
- RENs should intensify lobbying Governments/ Regulators for the right for RENs to access lit/dark fiber under their control for long term use (The Fiber Imperative)
- Improve communication issuing a joint press statement AfREN and mentioning other stakeholders present at the meeting



Action points for 2008/2009 - 2

■ **B- AfREN Internal Development**

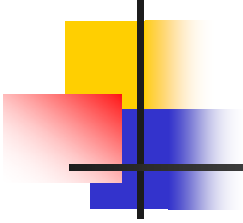
- Improve the means of communication among the AfREN Forum
- Expand representation of African REN and other stakeholders at AfREN meetings
- Identify key civil society and other stakeholders that AfREN can partner with on a continuous basis.



Action points for 2008/2009 - 3

■ **C- Advancing Infrastructure**

- Universities to be prompted and assisted for allocation IP resources
- Leveraging AfriNIC, FRENIA, and AfNOG
- Tailor specific training programs on the REN IT needs



THANK YOU

Boubakar Barry

barry@aaup.edu

<http://www.aau.edu>