



**Annual Report 2009**

# Annual Report 2009



APC Annual Report 2009  
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Graphic design: MONOCROMO  
[info@monocromo.com.uy](mailto:info@monocromo.com.uy)

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# INTRODUCTION

TEN YEARS AGO when the notion of the so-called digital divide first gained attention globally, APC frequently reminded people that the real divide we should be concerned with is social and economic, rather than digital. APC's 2009 annual report contains many reminders of this.

ICTs can be dividers – resources that increase differences in access to power, to information, to the means to speak out and be heard. This can be seen in the growing broadband divide.<sup>1</sup> It can be seen in the increasing surveillance of internet use by repressive governments and the silencing of dissent through restrictions on online freedom of expression.

But, most of all, this report contains stories of the power that ICTs have in the hands of people, organisations and social movements. From using a mix of internet, SMS and community

radio to increase learning and access to information by women farmers in Nigeria, to Jinbonet's campaign in South Korea against the "three cyber evils" – the cyber insult law, the internet "real name" system and deep packet inspection to monitor and control internet communication – people continue to claim the power of ICTs to strengthen livelihoods and increase freedom and democracy.

APC and APC members form a microcosm of the world of social justice activists that use ICTs in their work. What makes this particular microcosm so special is that its components are incredibly diverse, but also closely connected through a common thread of actions aimed at achieving basic freedom and dignity. For the APC community ICTs are a means of empowerment and challenging injustice and destruction.

## Farewell message from Danilo

*"This is the last year that I will have the chance as the APC chair to write the introduction to this report. I have been very fortunate indeed to have had the opportunity to represent and collaborate with the people and organisations of APC who are struggling and working to lift the blindness that we mention in our introduction.*

*I wish to send out a warm embrace of gratitude to everyone who makes up our membership and forms part of our staff and who are all so dedicated and committed to their work."*

Danilo (chair 2007-2010)

1 [www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/statistics/material/graphs/Fixed\\_bb\\_98-08.jpg](http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/statistics/material/graphs/Fixed_bb_98-08.jpg)



Is it not, after all, the same blindness that is responsible for chopping down the forests in Bulgaria, for silencing citizens in Korea, for discrimination and violence against women, for abandoning entire peoples to a fate without education, without freedom, without opportunities for a decent life? And that same blindness is intent on building a world that benefits only a few, which allows for only one voice, one discourse, one model.

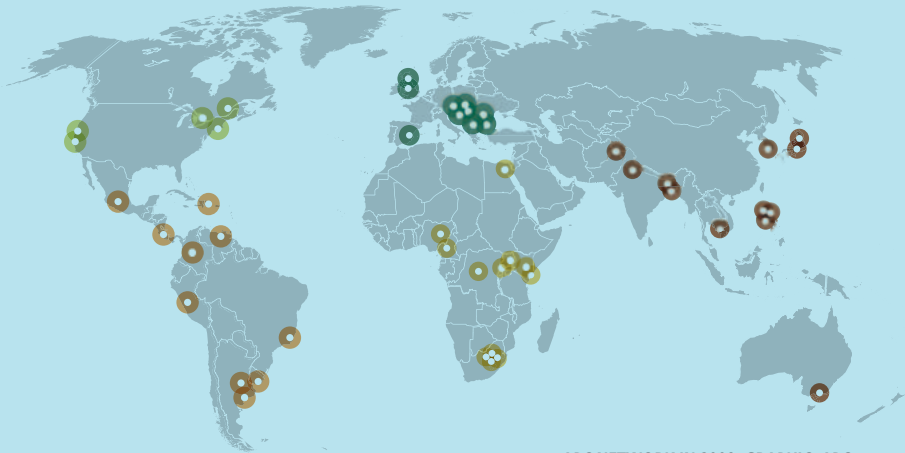
APC members act locally but network globally with one another in ways that ebb and flow, but that continue to grow stronger through shared

learning and action – applied at the local level in ways that benefit specific communities very directly, but also at the global level where we collaborate to advocate for policy and regulation that can enable people to use the internet freely and effectively to create more just societies.

We are proud to be sharing the 2009 APC annual report with you and extend our thanks to all APC's partners and supporters. Your contributions are invaluable.

*Anriette Esterhuysen,  
Executive Director  
Danilo Lujambio, Chair*

## ABOUT APC



APC NETWORK IN 2009. GRAPHIC: APC

APC'S STRENGTH LIES in the fact that we don't get excited about the internet for the internet's sake. We are committed activists who want to use it to make the world a better place.

We help people get access to the internet where there is none or it is unaffordable, we help grassroots groups use the technology to develop their communities and further their rights, and we work to make sure that government policies related to information and communication serve the best interests of the general population, especially people living in developing countries.

APC is both a **network and an organisation**. APC members are groups working in their own countries to advance the same mission as APC. In December 2009, APC had 50 members in 36 countries, the majority from developing countries. **The membership define APC's strategic priorities** every five years. APC has a small staff, each living in different countries and communicating day-to-day over the internet (we have no central headquarters). APC's value and uniqueness come from the **local perspectives** and contact with grassroots organisations that we gain from our members and the fact that we operate as a **truly virtual, international organisation**.

## Strategic priorities for 2009-2012

APC's enduring vision is that all people have easy and affordable access to a free and open internet to improve their lives and create a more just world.

The priorities our membership have established for the network until 2012 are to:

- Advocate for affordable internet access for all
- Make technology work to sustain the environment
- Use emerging technologies for social change
- Build the "information commons"
- Secure and defend internet rights
- Improve governance, especially internet governance

We organise our work in **three programme areas**:

- communications and information policy
- women's networking support
- strategic use of technology and capacity building.

Our strongest activities are often those taking place at the local or national level where the real impact can be felt, and from which the network can learn and replicate regionally or internationally. We work best when we can really work as a network – i.e., programmes and members work together to conceptualise projects and campaigns and then implement them together.

APC values working with other people beyond our own network. We are aware of our own limitations as well as the power of networking. Where we lack knowledge or expertise and need to learn in order to better engage challenges, we are eager to form partnerships. In all of APC's work **we encourage people to network as a means of making other activities more sustainable**. If people share their experiences and skills they have greater value over a longer period and often create a ripple effect.

APC was founded in 1990. We are incorporated as a non-profit under section 501(c)(3), Public Charity Status 170 (b)(1)(A)(vi) State of California, USA.

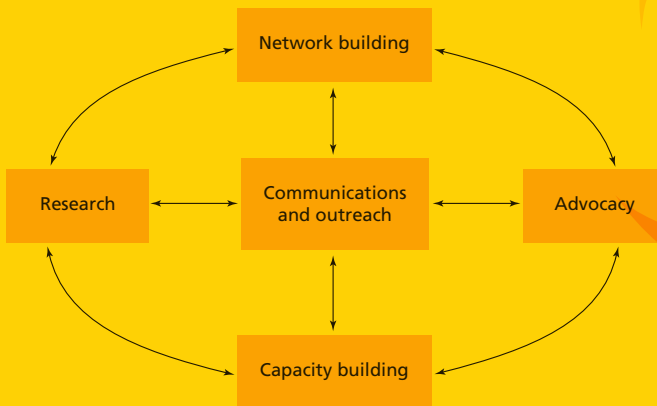


# ACHIEVEMENTS

APC WORKS TO ENSURE that all people have easy and affordable access to a free and open internet to improve their lives and create a more just world. Our principal programme areas are policy, strategic use of technology and building networks, and empowering women and the women's movement. In 2009 we also began to explore a new programme area: ICTs and sustainable development.

APC's work is complex and our impact is often seen several years down the road. Last year we provided you with a progress report for our previous planning cycle 2004-2008.<sup>2</sup> We are just beginning the new cycle and present some key projects – grouped by strategic priority (though they may respond to more than just that priority) – where we expect to have significant impact in the new planning cycle 2009-2012.

You will see that APC engages in five activity areas: research, advocacy, network building, capacity development and strategic communications and outreach (which includes communicating research results and developing information, tools and resources when needed).



The activities reinforce each other. For example, research generates information resources that are used to influence policy outcomes, or generates learning materials that are then used to build capacity.

In some projects, all these activities are pursued in parallel – as in the first two Communication for Influence projects in Africa and Latin America highlighted below, which involve network building, capacity building for research and advocacy, and the communication of research results to influence policy.

<sup>2</sup> APC Progress Report 2004-2008 in English, Spanish and French is online in our publications section.

## 1. ADVOCATING FOR AFFORDABLE INTERNET ACCESS FOR ALL



CICEWA CARRIED OUT RESEARCH ON HOW TELECOMS REFORM HAS AFFECTED EVERYDAY LIVES IN BENIN, CAMEROON, CONGO, KENYA, NIGER, RWANDA, SENEGAL, TANZANIA AND UGANDA, PICTURED HERE. PHOTO: KATHLEEN DIGA ON FLICKR

Access to the internet over broadband networks is the new iteration of the digital divide. Will developing countries be able to invest adequately in national and international fibre networks that will operate at high enough speeds and with adequate bandwidth to prevent them falling behind developed countries once again? Will developing countries be able to overcome barriers to the last mile of connectivity to their citizens, perhaps using mobile and wireless networks as a path to broadband? Will developing countries be able to see broadband holistically as an ecosystem in which capacity building and application and content development are as important as laying down fibre? Will the problems of supply of electricity be overcome in developing countries and will renewable energy sources be part of the solution? Will developing countries be able to integrate broadband into their development plans and see it as part of development more broadly? Will developing countries advance to a new generation of communication rights in which access to broadband is guaranteed in national legislation?

These are some of the questions at play in thinking and engaging around broadband in the developing world and which APC tries to help address.

## 1a. Communication for Influence in Central, East and West Africa (CICEWA)

The landing of undersea telecommunications cables on the east coast of Africa in 2009 – starting with Seacom and The East African Marine System (TEAMS) and to be followed in 2010 by the Eastern Africa Submarine Cable System (EASSy) – created an important opportunity for the countries of East Africa to develop affordable broadband access to the internet for all. However, this opportunity takes place against a backdrop of telecommunications reform policy over the last fifteen years that has shaped the environment into which the new bandwidth will arrive. It is important to understand this history and some of the problems that occurred during the reforms so as not to repeat them in the era of broadband internet access. This is the approach of CICEWA,<sup>3</sup> with its emphasis on “communications for influence”, linking advocacy, dissemination and research by building information and communications technology for development (ICTD) networks in Central, East and West Africa.

CICEWA coordinated research in nine African countries. In each case the research sought to investigate the history of communications policy and pointed to a number of problems arising in the way in which policy had developed, been implemented and was currently impacting on the goal of

### Research summaries

Short articles highlighting the different “policy knots” that came to light during the research provide insight in a much more accessible way on how policy or lack of it is felt by ordinary people.

Benin: Where mobile users carry 3, 4, even 5 SIM cards to make a call (5,972 reads in English, 2,172 in French)\*

Illegal telco operators in Cameroon: The most reasonable option (1,942 reads in English, 1,377 in French)

Congo: Internet access for a day's wage (3,017 reads in English, 2,121 in French)

Kenya: Killing two birds with one stone (2,602 reads in English, 1,562 in French)

Internet blackout in Niger: Niger's dependence on the damaged Beninese fibre optic cable (2,680 reads in English, 1,778 in French)

Rwanda's policy vacuum could mean trouble for broadband (2,531 reads in English, 1,354 in French)


Senegal: Behind the guise of competitive prices (3,132 reads in English, 1,354 in French)

It's not enough to have a pushy broadband policy in Tanzania (2,461 reads in English, 1,111 in French)

Milking a cow you don't feed: Is Uganda starving telecoms growth through high taxes? (2,697 reads in English, 1,881 in French)

\* Reader numbers from [www.apc.org](http://www.apc.org), 10 June 2010.

3 [www.apc.org/en/projects/cicewa](http://www.apc.org/en/projects/cicewa)



universal affordable broadband at the level of content and infrastructure. The researchers emphasised different dimensions of the policy outcomes, and took different approaches to their research task, given their fields of expertise and interest. As a result, the reports were different in structure and methodology – however, they all provoked the question central to the CICEWA project: What learning lessons does the policy narrative of a country hold for today?

Short articles highlighting the different “policy knots” that came to light during the research provide insight in a much more accessible way on how policy or lack of it is felt by ordinary people.

The researchers and others formed part of two new CICEWA networks. The East African network, coordinated by APC member in Kenya KICTANet, convened national online discussions and national internet governance forums in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The network addressed broadband access to the internet and fed their recommendations to an East Africa Internet Governance Forum (EA-IGF) led by KICTANet and held in Nairobi from 7-9 September 2009.

The Central and West African network GOREeTIC convened an advocacy workshop from 2-4 September 2009 in Douala, Cameroon, under the leadership of Sylvie Siyam of APC member PROTEGE QV and Coura Fall. The CICEWA research and first phase advocacy process on universal access was analysed and assessed. The outcomes of the research on universal access were reviewed and advocacy plans developed for Benin, Cameroon, Mali, Niger and Senegal.

► **TO WATCH IN THE FUTURE** The third East Africa IGF will be held in Kampala, Uganda in August 2010 and broadband will be on its agenda. The issue of the effectiveness of universal access funds is likely to be debated further in national and global forums, especially as the transition to broadband gains momentum. West African networks will be carrying out their advocacy plans in 2010.

## 1b. Communication for Influence in Latin America (CILAC – Andean Region)



THE ANDEAN REGION HAS SOME OF THE LOWEST FIXED TELEPHONE LINE, MOBILE TELEPHONY AND BROADBAND PENETRATION RATES OF ALL SOUTH AMERICA, THE CONTINENT WITH THE STARKEST ECONOMIC DISPARITIES IN THE WORLD. PHOTO: VELAIA ON FLICKR

In the 1990s, Andean countries adopted new liberalisation and privatisation policies in order to attain universal access. Almost twenty years later, universal access is still a dream.

APC studied each country through national reports in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela in order to understand what went wrong. As the state in countries like Venezuela and Ecuador has begun to play a more pro-active role, the research also analysed their effectiveness and the

### Research summaries

Broadband in Bolivia: Good intentions and a long way to go (1,212 reads in English, 703 in Spanish)\*


Colombia: Estrategia de apertura de establecimientos educativos como centros de acceso comunitario a internet (in Spanish only, 1,608 reads)

Ecuador: Getting to where cables and commercial interests don't reach (1,377 reads in English, 1,870 in Spanish)

Peru: The battle for control of the internet (2,746 reads in English, 2,742 in Spanish)

Local internet traffic in Venezuela: More efficiency or more state control? (1,821 reads in English, 1,901 in Spanish)

\* Reader numbers from [www.apc.org](http://www.apc.org), 10 June 2010.



opportunities and challenges of this renewed involvement. The research is a solid tool that is being used now by civil society to ensure that inclusive and democratic policies around broadband are put in place.

CILAC<sup>4</sup> also promoted the creation of AndinaTIC, a network of civil society organisations, which produced national advocacy reports.

Through their involvement in CILAC, groups in the AndinaTIC network saw what was at stake in the ICT policy arena in their countries and the research findings backed their efforts to engage with policy and decision makers. Several have become recognised as references in the field.

In Ecuador, AndinaTIC together with partners provided conceptual, legal and technical proposals for the formulation of a rights-centred communications bill for Ecuador. CIESPAL (Centro Internacional de Estudios Superiores de Comunicación para América Latina), a prestigious Latin American organisation working for the democratisation of communication, then used these proposals as the basis for a broader consultation with civil society to write an alternative communications bill to the one proposed by the government. A draft bill was produced and has been the principal advocacy tool used by civil society when lobbying for a holistic communications law for Ecuador since August 2009.

► **TO WATCH IN THE FUTURE** In 2010, APC will continue working at national level for policy change in Latin America in two CILAC countries – Peru and Ecuador – as well as Uruguay. This time we will look at how social networking tools can be and are being used to link research, policy and advocacy.<sup>5</sup>

### Regulation victory in Peru

The CILAC report “Peru: The battle for control of the internet”<sup>4</sup> alerted Peruvian internet users to the state of net neutrality in Peru. Terms of use imposed by media companies looked like they were about to create a two-tier internet for those who can pay more and a lesser one

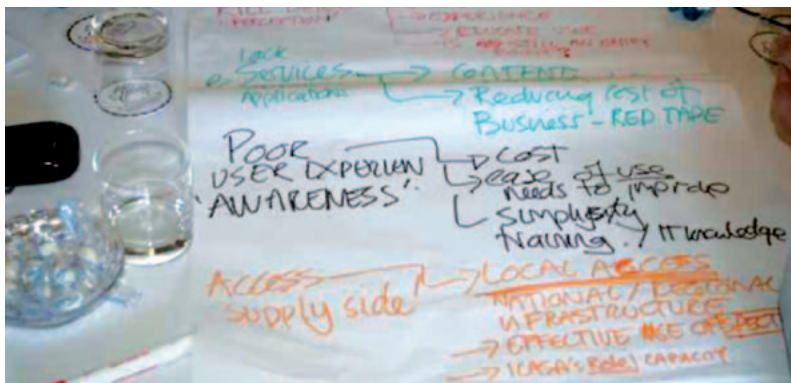
for those who cannot. Bloggers and the media picked up on the APC report. As a direct result, the Peruvian regulator stepped in to enforce regulations to stop operators from arbitrarily interrupting services and blocking applications for some users.

\* [www.apc.org/en/pubs/research/peru-battle-control-internet](http://www.apc.org/en/pubs/research/peru-battle-control-internet)

4 [www.apc.org/en/projects/cilac](http://www.apc.org/en/projects/cilac)

5 [www.apc.org/en/node/10143](http://www.apc.org/en/node/10143)

## 1c. Broadband-for-all campaign in South Africa



AT MOST CONFERENCES, SAID AFRICA COMMONS BLOGGERS, "THE REAL CONVERSATIONS TEND TO TAKE PLACE IN THE TEA AND MEAL BREAKS, OR OVER A CIGARETTE QUICKLY SNEAKED OUTSIDE. AT THE NATIONAL BROADBAND STRATEGY FORUM, USING THE WORLD CAFÉ METHOD FOR FOSTERING COLLABORATIVE DISCUSSION, PARTICIPANTS WERE ENCOURAGED TO TALK OPENLY AND EASILY WITH EACH OTHER THROUGHOUT THE DAY." PHOTO: AFRICA COMMONS

In 2009 South Africa was on the eve of a major broadband infrastructure roll-out. Affordable broadband can have a significant impact on the country's socio-economic, political, cultural and educational development; but broadband penetration in South Africa lags behind countries with a similar level of development such as the Czech Republic and Turkey. This was due in part to the lack of a coherent policy framework to guide the development of broadband. The election of a new government in 2009 provided an opportunity to look at the policy framework with fresh eyes and to consider the inter-related components needed to develop a coherent national broadband strategy. APC built a coalition to campaign<sup>6</sup> for the lowering of costs associated with the internet in South Africa.

The project mobilised internet service providers (ISPs), communications workers, content providers, academics, alternative energy experts, civil society organisations and private sector associations to advocate for affordable broadband access for all South Africans.<sup>7</sup> Together these interest groups wrote recommendations for a national broadband strategy, which was consolidated into a framework and presented to the new government. The government presented a draft national broadband policy for public comment in September 2009 and the final policy is expected in the first half of 2010.

► **TO WATCH IN THE FUTURE** Taking the South African campaign as a model, APC is supporting similar initiatives in Ghana and Nigeria (led by APC member Fantsuam Foundation).

6 [www.broadband4africa.org.za](http://www.broadband4africa.org.za) By June 2010 1,769 individuals and 248 organisations had signed up to the broadband framework campaign site.

7 [www.southafricaconnect.org.za/?cat=36](http://www.southafricaconnect.org.za/?cat=36)

## 2. MAKING TECHNOLOGY WORK TO SUSTAIN THE ENVIRONMENT

As a network co-founded by environmental activists, APC has always promoted sustainable local community development. APC members across the globe are involved in work from monitoring environmental degradation, to natural disaster and accident reporting, to the use of ICTs in managing energy resources more efficiently, to research on low-power computing, alternative energy sources and e-waste management. In 2009 APC began work to develop an action research network and we took ICTs and environmental sustainability as the pilot theme for the network and a potential new APC programme.

### 2a. GreeningIT: ICTs, climate change and environmental sustainability

*“Egypt has ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and has issued Law 4 of 1994 for the Protection of the Environment. There is no specific mention in the law re ICTs or e-waste however, though water issues, agriculture and energy are some of the most important sectors in Egypt in terms of impact [...] Climate change being a vital issue in Egypt, we should find leverage for policy changes in the coming year.”*

**Leila Hassanin, ArabDev, Egypt during APC’s first Greening IT network meeting**

As a first step to reducing our own carbon emissions, we tested virtual meeting tools and held a synchronous online five-day meeting rather than meet face-to-face. The fledgling network of eight APC members<sup>8</sup> plus staff reviewed their own policy environments related to ICTs and environmental sustainability and scanned regional and global agreements that affect them.

Members developed research plans to investigate the state of ICT and environmental sustainability policy in their countries. These plans looked at policy gaps and anomalies in and between policies on climate change, waste management and ICTs.

Collectively, members decided to develop a practical online resource aimed at “greening the internet” that will raise awareness amongst their target communities. The resource will offer practical advice and tips, particularly for the ICTD and activist communities, on the purchase, use and disposal of internet-related ICTs and how to best reduce carbon footprints generated by ICT use.

► **TO WATCH IN THE FUTURE** Research, advocacy and campaigning work starts in earnest in the 2010-2012 period. APC’s flagship publication – Global Information Society Watch<sup>9</sup> – will focus in 2010 on ICTs and environmental sustainability.

8 From Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Colombia, Egypt, Mexico, Nigeria and Pakistan.

9 [www.giswatch.org](http://www.giswatch.org)



### 3. USING EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR SOCIAL CHANGE



IN RURAL PAKISTAN GIRLS SCHOOLS ARE SOMETIMES BURNED TO THE GROUND, SO WHEN HUDA SARFRAZ AND HER TEAM STARTED TO TEACH PUNJABI GIRLS HOW TO USE COMPUTERS SHE FEARED THEY MIGHT BE RUN OUT OF TOWN. HOWEVER, THE GIRLS CLAMoured TO LEARN AS MUCH AS THE BOYS DID. THANKS TO GEM THE TEAM FOCUSED SPECIFICALLY ON GETTING GIRLS AND WOMEN TEACHERS INVOLVED. "INITIALLY, WE ONLY SAW TWO GROUPS TO WORK WITH – STUDENTS AND TEACHERS. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF GEM, WE LOOKED AT THEM AS FOUR – GIRL STUDENTS, BOY STUDENTS, WOMEN TEACHERS AND MEN TEACHERS," SAYS SARFRAZ. PHOTO: HUDA SARFRAZ

APC believes that technologies can be transformative and that gender equality and women's rights are pivotal for social change. APC is contributing to changing the lives of women around the world towards freedom from violence and abuse, equal rights to property, education and employment, access to resources, freedom of expression and participation in political life.

Our work impacts change on the ground through initiatives that focus on supporting activists and organisations in local communities. We work with partners in Peru, Uganda and the Philippines in building the capacity of telecentre managers to design services that respond to women's needs and change practices that exclude or disadvantage women. Through our long-term collaboration and mentoring, our partners in Bangladesh and Nigeria have more women in decision-making positions and are institutionally more gender-competent. In Africa, our small grants have opened up opportunities for rural women. Around the world, we work with women's rights activists and find ways of using technologies to keep women safe from harm and abuse and to protect their freedom of expression.



### 3a. Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM)

GEM<sup>10</sup> is an evaluation methodology developed by the APC women's programme that integrates a gender analysis into evaluations of initiatives that use ICTs for social change. It is used to determine whether ICTs are worsening or really improving women's lives and gender relations, as well as to promote positive change at the individual, institutional, community and broader social levels.

GEM was first developed in 2002 and was tried and tested by 30 community-based organisations. Since then hundreds of people have become involved in GEM's development.

In November 2009, the Dominican Republic became the first Latin American country to pledge to include a "gender perspective" in every ICT initiative and policy developed by the government. This is significant regionally as the Dominican Republic is leading Latin American governments' thinking around gender and technology as part of the regional eLAC2010 plan. The Dominicans chose GEM as the tool to design and evaluate all public policies.

GEM was applied to dozens of projects in 2009.<sup>11</sup> For example, GEM was used in Chhattisgarh State in India to evaluate why women rural heads of villages are not participating actively in local government despite the fact that they are numerous (30% of all local government seats are reserved for women) and that they can in theory remotely communicate the needs of their villages through the use of a Simputer – a low-cost computer that does not require computer literacy. The GEM study revealed that numerous technical problems related to the Simputers combined with ingrained inequalities mean that even designated female representatives remain voiceless. An evaluation that does not focus on gender-related inequalities may not have uncovered these reasons.

► **TO WATCH IN THE FUTURE** After nine years of building our expertise, APC will open a consultancy unit in 2010 which will offer GEM evaluation and training services more broadly to the development sector.

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10 [www.genderevaluation.net](http://www.genderevaluation.net)

11 Articles about some of the different evaluations are collected at [www.apc.org/en/projects/gem](http://www.apc.org/en/projects/gem)

### 3b. Gender, Agriculture and Rural Development in the Information Society (GenARDIS)

GenARDIS<sup>12</sup> is for the deaf woman in Ethiopia who can now generate her own income through digital photography. It is for farming women in Cameroon who were able to purchase new and more appropriate farming tools thanks to increased revenues and the ability to call into town to order products. GenARDIS is for the villagers in Tanzania who were tired of walking three hours to get to the market, and created their own market using radios and mobile phones to get clients. It is for the lives of rural men and women that are changing thanks to access to technologies.

The GenARDIS small grants programme started in 2002 to support work at the grassroots level on gender-related issues in ICTs for agricultural and rural development in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions.

The third round of GenARDIS grants launched in 2009 received over 230 applications. Grants of €7,000 each were disbursed to fifteen projects as diverse as radio drama groups, pest control through information access, and ICTs to promote women's inheritance and land rights. GenARDIS also built the capacity of grantees and runners-up through capacity building online and at two face-to-face workshops. Capacity building focused on two skills that project evaluations recommended: gender training and project and proposal development.

► **TO WATCH IN THE FUTURE** GenARDIS Round III ended in 2010. The programme has disbursed €310,000 in direct seed grants to 34 grassroots organisations for rural initiatives and in capacity building since its inception. We are seeking funding for Round IV.

Christy Bawa, a woman of the Bagi tribe, was a small-scale farmer, just like many of the other women in her village in Nigeria. On market days, she sold packs of sand and a negligible amount of fruits and vegetables.

But as a regular participant in an African Radio Drama Association (ARDA) radio programme, she learned how to use a mobile phone and voice her concerns over the radio. People began to recognise her skills and integrity and ask her for advice. She was one of the few women able



CHRISTY BAWA – FROM FARMER TO VILLAGE LEADER. PHOTO: ARDA

to persuade village elders to open an adult literacy school. Christy has become a village leader in a community traditionally run by men. – ARDA is a GenARDIS 2008-2010 grantee.

12 [genardis.apcwomen.org](http://genardis.apcwomen.org)



### 3c. FTX: Feminist technology training for women's rights activists

The APC women's programme has been training women's rights activists since the 1990s. Our approach is technology training embedded in feminist values. Our training emphasises the politics of technology and promotes practice that is empowering for women. We relate with technologies in two ways. On one hand, we discover how technology impinges on women's rights. On the other, we find ways of using technology to fight inequality and oppression.

In 2009, demand for training in strategic use of ICTs from women's rights organisations soared after we ran a Feminist Tech Exchange (FTX)<sup>13</sup> in November 2008. At this event, we trained over 100 women's rights activists who participated at the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) Forum, the largest global women's rights gathering, held every three years.

A central methodology that we are training in is digital storytelling. Digital stories – short videos using images and sound to tell a personal story – hold tremendous power for bringing about change. They can be used for both advocacy and documentation and take advantage of the impact of images and the spoken word and music to convey a story or message.

In 2009 we trained 137 activists from women's rights organisations coming from fourteen countries in seven workshops. FTXs which focused on documentation of stories of abuse, violence and survival through digital stories and on learning to use social networking tools for campaigns took place as part of our MDG3 project in South Africa, Uganda, Republic of Congo, Argentina, Colombia, Mexico and Malaysia. One workshop was co-facilitated for the African Decade for People with Disabilities<sup>14</sup> and digital storytellers included Uchenna Maduake, a Nigerian woman with cerebral palsy,<sup>15</sup> and participants with no hearing.

► **TO WATCH IN THE FUTURE** The APC women's programme will train campaigners from the global campaign Stop Killing and Stoning Women in social networking and mobile tools for advocacy. This campaign is being coordinated by Women Living Under Muslim Laws, a network in over 70 countries, and is undertaking projects on "culture", women and violence with eight partners in Senegal, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Indonesia including Aceh, Iran and Sudan. Beneficiaries will be Muslim women in these countries who are currently at risk or those who are vulnerable.

At least twelve FTXs will also be held in 2010 in the same number of countries as part of the MDG3 Take Back the Tech! project.

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13 [ftx.apcwomen.org](http://ftx.apcwomen.org)

14 [www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=women%27snet&aq=f](http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=women%27snet&aq=f)

15 Miss Courageous by Uchenna Maduake [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qdw4-p3hkVI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qdw4-p3hkVI)

## 4. BUILDING THE “INFORMATION COMMONS”



MAP OF THE WORLD INDICATING WHERE MOST ROYALTY FEES ARE GATHERED.  
© 2006 SASI GROUP (UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD) AND MARK NEWMAN (UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN)  
WITH PERMISSION

One of the emerging concerns for APC relates to how we protect and grow the existing information and knowledge commons so more people can benefit from having access to information and knowledge including cultural goods like music and film, learning materials, access for people who are visually impaired and access to affordable medicines. At a practical level this means understanding how copyright debates and developments negotiated in global forums like the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) can impact on national copyright law and shape – and often limit – poor and marginalised communities’ access to a range of information- or knowledge-based goods.

APC is advancing a development agenda in relation to intellectual property and copyright, and to highlight the need for balance between the rights of creators and copyright holders and the rights of consumers and citizens to knowledge and development.



#### 4a. Media piracy study

In South Africa, APC conducted research into the nature and extent of media piracy, and the effect of the legislative and enforcement framework on access to knowledge. This research is one of a set of parallel studies in Brazil, India and Russia and coordinated by the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), based in New York.

We examined the anti-piracy industry and enforcement infrastructure and evaluated if the costs involved in fighting piracy are greater than the gains. The research also sought to open a debate on piracy that widens the discussions to include the cultural needs and community practices of information sharing and circulation in societies where there is great social inequality. So we also included the viewpoints of select marginalised communities about why and how they consume pirated media.

A second aspect of the project is to influence the policy debate by engaging with the relevant stakeholders in the South African government as well as to approach other intergovernmental forums – like the India-Brazil-South Africa Forum – on the information society and intellectual property rights implications of the research.

► **TO WATCH IN THE FUTURE** Access to knowledge will become more important as a consumer rights issue as it is negatively impacted by maximalist intellectual property regimes which want to extend copyright lifetimes. The closed negotiations around the Anti-Counterfeit Trade Agreement (ACTA) is one development that most advocates will be watching closely. The research will be published by SSRC in mid-2010.

## 5. SECURING AND DEFENDING INTERNET RIGHTS




WITH THE INTERNET FACING INCREASING CENSORSHIP, LIMITS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, REGULATION AND THREATS TO PRIVACY OFTEN IN THE NAME OF SECURITY, APC JOINED OTHER CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN PROPOSING THAT THE THEME OF THE FOURTH IGF BE INTERNET RIGHTS. GOVERNMENTS PROVED RESISTANT. PHOTO:WORLD BANK ON FLICKR

As the internet becomes more integrated into the multiple facets of everyday life, it becomes ever more important that it is governed through a framework of rights. This is to make sure that every person is able to use, develop and enjoy the potential benefits of the internet, as well as have access to redress when violation and abuse take place. APC is working with the Internet Rights and Principles Dynamic Coalition to produce a new version of the APC Internet Rights Charter<sup>16</sup> which was originally developed in 2001-2002 by APC and revised in 2006. This is happening in tandem with a new initiative by APC to develop an Internet Rights Monitor that will monitor internet rights violations in a range of countries and seek to bring complaints of violations of freedom of expression and association on the internet before the Human Rights Council in Geneva. APC is also working with partners in twelve developing countries in a Take Back the Tech! project to improve women's human rights on the internet.

### 5a. Human rights and the Internet Governance Forum

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is a multi-stakeholder policy dialogue space convened by the United Nations Secretary General in 2006 with an initial lifetime of five years to “foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the internet.” It provides a kind of “pressure relief valve” for some of the most controversial internet governance issues, allowing actors with quite radically different and often opposing views to come together in an

16 [www.apc.org/en/node/5677](http://www.apc.org/en/node/5677)



environment that is in the main respectful and constructive and for APC has been our most important international policy arena since its creation.

At the IGF,<sup>17</sup> we advocate for policies and regulatory approaches that ensure a development agenda for internet governance. And we express our concern about the erosion and diminishing visibility of a rights-based approach to how the internet is governed.

Human rights were far more prominent in the 2009 IGF as reflected in workshops and main sessions. Most significant was the consensus among panellists from all stakeholder groups in the main session on “Openness and Security” that privacy and security are not to be traded off against one another or seen as opposing priorities which need to be balanced. Both are equally important. This is a significant step in the right direction and one that APC has been advocating for especially in our work around content regulation.

Workshops focusing on social media, freedom of expression, freedom of information, women’s rights and sexuality rights all concluded that technical, legal and other interventions aiming to regulate use of the internet should be based firmly on internationally recognised human rights instruments, and leave people with ultimate control over their own being, actions, interactions, expressions and data online.

Broad consensus was reached that the development of the internet should take into account existing human rights frameworks (e.g. the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) that can help ensure the enhancement of individual and collective rights related with online communications.

We campaigned for the issue of internet rights and principles to have greater agenda and substantive space within the IGF and within the practices of internet governance institutions.<sup>18</sup> However, governments proved resistant.

APC began exploratory research into the area of sexuality rights, censorship and the internet<sup>19</sup> in 2009. Findings and higher-profile policy advocacy work are planned for 2010 and the principal audience for our research findings includes IGF participants including child protection groups mobilising around the internet.

► **TO WATCH IN THE FUTURE** The advocacy process to get human rights on the internet onto the agenda at the IGF5 which is to take place in Vilnius, Lithuania in September 2010 has not succeeded. Instead the IGF agenda for 2010 will include the issues of development and internet governance. Vilnius will be the scenario to shape a debate that has been clamouring for attention. The findings from our sexuality and internet research EroTICs will be disseminated throughout 2010.

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17 [www.apc.org/en/projects/internet-governance-forum-igf](http://www.apc.org/en/projects/internet-governance-forum-igf)

18 APC produced a briefing for civil society on the IGF which also laid out our goals for our involvement. It was accessed 2,626 times by 8 June 2010. [www.apc.org/en/news/brief-apc-fourth-internet-governance-forum](http://www.apc.org/en/news/brief-apc-fourth-internet-governance-forum)

19 [www.apc.org/en/projects/erotics](http://www.apc.org/en/projects/erotics)



## 5b. MDG3: Take Back the Tech! to end violence against women



JUST AS WOMEN ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY THE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE WORLDWIDE, THE SITUATION IS JUST AS BAD ONLINE. WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND ICT ACTIVISTS ARE COMING TOGETHER IN PAKISTAN (PICTURED) AND ELEVEN OTHER COUNTRIES AS PART OF APC'S INNOVATIVE NEW PROJECT. PHOTO: BYTES FOR ALL


The UN estimates that 95% of aggressive behaviour, harassment, abusive language and denigrating images in online spaces are aimed at women and come from partners or former male partners. Other surveys show that the victims of cyber stalking are predominantly female. However, ICTs are also being used worldwide to fight violence against women, by women's groups and other campaigners.

In 2009, we took our work in ending violence against women, which began in 2005, to a whole new level. In January, we started our biggest current project: Take Back the Tech! to end violence against women,<sup>20</sup> which brings significant resources to twelve developing countries for documenting violations of women's rights online, capacity building for activists and survivors in the creative and safe use of ICTs, and advocating for policies to strengthen protection of rights online. This project is part of a global effort to achieving Goal 3 – achieving gender equality – of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The first part of this project involved carrying out studies<sup>21</sup> of the current situation of violence against women and ICTs in each country and how legislation or lack of it hinders or helps women. These reports looking at the interconnection of policy related to both violence against women and

20 [www.apc.org/en/projects/mdg3](http://www.apc.org/en/projects/mdg3)

21 [www.apc.org/en/pubs/research/VAW-ICT-country-reports](http://www.apc.org/en/pubs/research/VAW-ICT-country-reports)



ICTs are the first of their kind, continuing the APC women's programme's groundbreaking work in this area.

To illustrate, the Malaysia report finds that the absence of privacy legislation in Malaysia has created a situation where privacy protection is non-existent. In consequence researchers found that one mobile service provider offered the option of tracking another mobile phone. While the advertising was directed at parents, it was unclear whether the permission of the party being tracked was required, and implicit in the advertisement was the idea that it was not. This has obvious repercussions for domestic violence victims.

The reports are essential groundwork for the next stages of the project. Cross-country analyses compare and contrast the findings from country reports in each region.

Our country partners have mobilised over 200 women's rights advocates in civil society as well as policy makers from the government and private sector to take part in awareness-raising activities and strategy workshops that build support for policy advocacy and capacity building. APC wants to help create a global community of women and adolescent girls who are critically taking up ICT tools and using them to change what the UN Millennium Project has called a global epidemic of violence.

The project also finances FTXs and Take Back the Tech! campaigns in each country.

► **TO WATCH IN THE FUTURE** In 2010-2011, we will disburse small grants for interventions aimed at stopping violence against women through the use of ICTs in each of the twelve countries. Related to policy we will work to catalyse policy advocacy processes to integrate women's rights perspectives in ICT policies in national contexts and increase women's involvement and leadership in ICT policy spaces that have an impact on women's rights.

## 5c. Take Back the Tech! 16 days of activism to end violence against women



WOMEN'SNET TOOK ONLINE ACTIVISM OFFLINE AND TO THE STREETS TO TAKE BACK THE TECH! IN SOUTH AFRICA. WELL-KNOWN ACTOR KENNETH NKOSI AND TWO GIRLS'NET MEMBERS ENGAGE WITH A TAXI DRIVER IN SOWETO. PHOTO: WOMEN'SNET

From 25 November to 10 December in over a dozen languages both online and off, people took control of technology to end violence against women during the Take Back the Tech! campaign.<sup>22</sup>

2009 marked the fourth year of the campaign and saw increased intensity and interest in the creative appropriation of technology by women, girls and men in different parts of the world to raise awareness and take action.

In the Congo and Cambodia, where internet use is still quite low, campaigners went to cybercafés and youth hangouts to Take Back the Tech! with materials in French and Khmer.

### Taking back the tech! for women's equality


The project is being carried out in twelve countries:

Africa: South Africa, Uganda, the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Asia: Pakistan, Cambodia, Malaysia and the Philippines

Latin America: Argentina, Colombia, Mexico and Brazil.

22 [www.takebackthetech.net](http://www.takebackthetech.net)



The Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET) held a sixteen-day online exchange, with men and women strategising around violence against women and which communications tools and actions can provide the most effective response, especially for women in rural areas who face extreme poverty.

When the Centre for Independent Journalism began doing audio workshops with women in villages throughout Malaysia and asked women what they wanted to talk about, the overwhelming answer was violence against women. Campaigners opened their first Tamil blog<sup>23</sup> where Tamil-speaking women and girls can share stories and discuss experiences in their efforts to end violence.

In Mexico, Modemmujer and LaNeta created sixteen info sheets for women's organisations with tips and tools to support internal networking, safe online communications, and advocacy. A workshop and discussion on if and why feminists should be using Twitter was also streamed via radio, taking the training from Mexico City to the states of Puebla and Chiapas.

► **TO WATCH IN THE FUTURE** The Take Back the Tech! campaign will continue to grow stronger and louder through local campaigns in 2010, joined by Take Back The Tech! Arabia and a new campaign site in Urdu from activists in Pakistan. The global site will continue to support campaigners with new materials, an improved campaign website, sixteen engaging daily actions and much more content in Spanish and French.

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23 [magalirmathum.blogspot.com](http://magalirmathum.blogspot.com)

## 6. IMPROVING GOVERNANCE, ESPECIALLY INTERNET GOVERNANCE



APC has two initiatives aimed at improving governance of the internet. One is the development of a code of good practice on information, participation and transparency in internet governance<sup>24</sup> which can be adopted by institutions involved in the governance of the internet. The second is to undertake advocacy on the issue of the accountability of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to its stakeholders as an international organisation responsible for rule making with respect to the internet domain name system (DNS).

<sup>24</sup> The term “internet governance” is understood to mean “the development and application by governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet,” as it was defined in the Tunis Agenda on the Information Society, agreed at the World Summit on the Information Society in 2005.



## 6a. A code of good practice on information, participation and transparency in internet governance

Since the inception of the Internet Governance Forum, the Council of Europe, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and APC have been working on a joint initiative to develop a code of good practice on information, participation and transparency in internet governance<sup>25</sup> to provide an element of public accountability with regard to internet governance institutions. The code builds on existing internet governance experience and the principles concerning internet governance which were adopted at the World Summit on the Information Society.

At the 2009 IGF a draft code was put out for discussion which was well received. Several internet governance institutions such as ICANN, the Internet Society (ISOC) and the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) participated in the review and expressed willingness to use the code.

► **TO WATCH IN THE FUTURE** In the course of 2010 the code will be trialled by at least three internet governance institutions. They will apply it to specific governance processes and report on the outcome at the 2010 IGF. Stakeholders will be asked to use the code as a basis for recording their perspective on how easy it was to participate in each process and access information about it.

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25 [www.intgovcode.org](http://www.intgovcode.org)

## 6b. ICANN and accountability

ICANN is the institution that manages the domain name system and internet protocol (IP) addressing processes; in other words, it controls the underlying logical infrastructure of the internet, what makes the internet the internet as opposed to a bundle of different and separate physical telecommunications and data networks. Until early 2009 it was under the unilateral control of the US government. Whether one government should have a pre-eminent role in relation to international internet governance was the key point of contention between governments at the 2005 UN World Summit on the Information Society.

In 2009, with the US government's contract with ICANN up for renewal, the Internet Governance Project, APC, APC member RITS from Brazil and IT for Change from India shared draft inputs and encouraged one another to make their own submissions building up pressure to argue that the contract (or agreement) should expire.<sup>26</sup> The combined civil society input acted as a countervailing voice to those (mainly trademark and telecom interests in the US private sector) who were arguing for the agreement to continue.

ICANN and the US government agreed to let the agreement expire<sup>27</sup> and agreed to a new Affirmation of Commitments which is a permanent instrument that removes the US government's singular oversight role and places the onus of ICANN accountability on a broader multi-stakeholder basis by setting in place a series of performance reviews for ICANN.

► **TO WATCH IN THE FUTURE** The first ICANN review on accountability and transparency will take place in 2010.

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26 [www.apc.org/en/pubs/briefs/comments-icann-proposed-by-law-changes-improve-acco](http://www.apc.org/en/pubs/briefs/comments-icann-proposed-by-law-changes-improve-acco)

27 [www.apc.org/en/news/icann-and-us-government-end-affair](http://www.apc.org/en/news/icann-and-us-government-end-affair)



## PUBLICATIONS

IN 2009, APC published 29 pieces of research on our website and three books as well as numerous statements. Here we highlight Global Information Society Watch, which was produced for the third year and which is a flagship initiative for APC – it is not only an annual publication but a global advocacy tool and process.

All APC's publications are free for download and whenever possible published in English, French and Spanish (or sometimes Portuguese when the content is pertinent to Africa).

### **GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY WATCH 2009**

The Global Information Society Watch (GISWatch) reports aim to stimulate a collaborative approach to ICT policy advocacy and create a common platform to share disparate experiences. Ultimately, GISWatch hopes to impact on policy development processes in countries, regions, and at a global level.

GISWatch takes a different thematic focus each year. The 2009 report focused on access to online information and knowledge – advancing human rights and democracy. It included thematic reports on areas such as intellectual property rights, knowledge rights, open standards and access to educational materials and libraries, as well as an institutional overview and a reflection on indicators that track access to information and knowledge. As an innovation, the 2009 report included a visual mapping of global rights and the use of ICTs during the political crisis in Iran.

Authors from 48 countries as diverse as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mexico, Switzerland and Kazakhstan analysed the state of access to online information and knowledge in their countries, while overviews offered a bird's eye perspective on regional trends.

#### **Books authored by APC in 2009**

*The APC ICT Policy Handbook* (Second edition) APC/Ed. David Souter  
Publisher: APC, Montevideo

*Global Information Society Watch 2009* APC/Hivos  
Publisher: APC/Hivos, Montevideo (in English, French and Spanish)

*ICTs for Democracy: Information and Communication Technologies for the Enhancement of Democracy – with a Focus on Empowerment* APC  
Publisher: Swedish International Development Agency, Stockholm



GISWatch 2009 reports that while there is growing intellectual acceptance of the “right to know”, consumers’ access to online information is limited and reflects the imbalance between the rights of copyright holders and users of copyrighted materials. In some countries copyright holders include technological protection to restrict copying and sharing of content that is legally permitted. Advocacy for access to information and knowledge is crucial if the information society is going to be anything other than a buzz word in many nations.

Global Information Society Watch 2009 was dedicated in honour of Amy K. Mahan, a long-time collaborator of APC and former GISWatch contributor who died on 5 March 2009.

*“While the internet opens up new ways to communicate daily, attempts to stifle, bend or just plain shut down people with something to say are also popping up everywhere. APC and Hivos have pulled together an excellent overview of both trends, and give you the details to back it up.”*

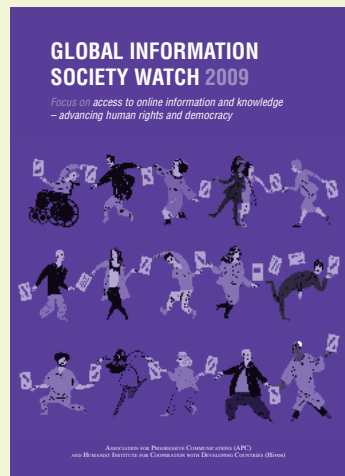
Mark Surman, Mozilla Foundation

*“GISWatch has taken up the difficult and incredibly important task of understanding the converging issues of freedom of expression, access to knowledge and information and digital rights in a global, comparative context. Many of these issues have come to the fore in policy conversations in the past decade, but researchers, advocates and policy-makers have lacked a framework for mapping and comparing them globally. Now they have one.”*

Joe Karaganis, Social Science Research Council

*“Though only in its third edition, the Global Information Society Watch (GISWatch) is proving to be a must read annual companion for anyone who cares about how information and communications technologies (ICTs) can make a difference for human development.”*

Sisule F. Musungu, Iqsensato



*“I particularly liked the measuring section. The knowledge economy needs indices that are both qualitative and quantitative. Keeping human rights and human development central in the indicators gives ‘soul’ to the measurement. This in my view is one of most balanced access to information publications in the post-WSIS period.”*

Buhle Mbambo-Thata, University of South Africa (UNISA) Library Services

## APC MEMBERS IN 2009

IN DECEMBER 2009 APC had 50 members in 36 countries; 80% of members are from developing countries.

### Argentina

Nodo Tau

[www.tau.org.ar](http://www.tau.org.ar)

Wamani

[www.wamani.apc.org](http://www.wamani.apc.org)

### Australia

apc.au

[www.apc.org.au](http://www.apc.org.au)

### Bangladesh

Bangladesh Friendship  
Education Society (BFES)

[www.bfes.net](http://www.bfes.net)

Voices for Interactive Choice  
and Empowerment (VOICE)

[www.voicebd.org](http://www.voicebd.org)

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

OneWorld Platform for Southeast  
Europe Foundation (owpsee)

[www.oneworldsee.org](http://www.oneworldsee.org)

### Brazil

Rede de Informações para  
o Terceiro Setor (RITS)

[www.rits.org.br](http://www.rits.org.br)

### Bulgaria

BlueLink Information Network

[www.bluelink.net](http://www.bluelink.net)

### Cambodia

Open Forum of Cambodia

[www.forum.org.kh](http://www.forum.org.kh)

Open Institute

[www.open.org.kh/en](http://www.open.org.kh/en)

### Cameroon

PROTEGE QV

[www.protegeqv.org](http://www.protegeqv.org)

### Canada

Alternatives

[www.alternatives.ca](http://www.alternatives.ca)

Web Networks

[www.web.net](http://www.web.net)

### Colombia

Colnodo

[www.colnodo.apc.org](http://www.colnodo.apc.org)

### Congo, Republic of

AZUR Développement

[www.azurdev.org](http://www.azurdev.org)

### Costa Rica

Sulá Batsú

[www.sulabatsu.com](http://www.sulabatsu.com)

### Croatia

ZaMirNET

[www.zamirnet.hr](http://www.zamirnet.hr)

### Czech Republic

Econnect

[www.ecn.cz](http://www.ecn.cz)

### Dominican Republic

Networks & Development  
Foundation (FUNREDES)

[www.funredes.org](http://www.funredes.org)

### Egypt

ArabDev

[www.arabdev.org](http://www.arabdev.org)

### Hungary

Green Spider

[www.zpok.hu](http://www.zpok.hu)

### India

Digital Empowerment Foundation  
(DEF)

[www.defindia.net](http://www.defindia.net)

### Japan

Japan Computer Access Network  
(JCA-NET)

[www.jca.apc.org](http://www.jca.apc.org)

Japan Computer Access  
for Empowerment (JCAFE)  
[www.jcafe.net/english](http://www.jcafe.net/english)

### Kenya

African Regional Centre  
for Computing (ARCC)  
[www.arcc.or.ke](http://www.arcc.or.ke)

Arid Lands Information Network  
(ALIN)  
[www.alin.or.ke](http://www.alin.or.ke)

Kenya ICT Action Network  
(KICTANet)  
[www.kictanet.or.ke](http://www.kictanet.or.ke)

### Macedonia

Metamorphosis Foundation  
[www.metamorphosis.org.mk](http://www.metamorphosis.org.mk)

### Mexico

LaNeta  
[www.laneta.apc.org](http://www.laneta.apc.org)

### Nigeria

Fantsuam Foundation  
[www.fantsuam.org](http://www.fantsuam.org)

### Peru

Centro Peruano  
de Estudios Sociales (CEPES)  
[www.cepes.org.pe](http://www.cepes.org.pe)

### Philippines

Foundation for Media Alternatives  
(FMA)  
[www.fma.ph](http://www.fma.ph)

WomensHub  
[www.womenshub.net](http://www.womenshub.net)

### Romania

StrawberryNet  
[www.sbnnet.ro](http://www.sbnnet.ro)

### South Africa

Community Education Computer  
Society (CECS)  
[www.cecs.org.za](http://www.cecs.org.za)

Southern African NGO Network  
(SANGONeT)  
[www.sangonet.org.za](http://www.sangonet.org.za)

Ungana-Afrika  
[www.ungana-afrika.org](http://www.ungana-afrika.org)  
Women'sNet  
[www.womensnet.org.za](http://www.womensnet.org.za)

### South Asia

Bytes for All<sup>28</sup>  
[www.bytesforall.org](http://www.bytesforall.org)

### South Korea

Korean Progressive  
Network Jinbonet  
[www.jinbo.net](http://www.jinbo.net)

### Spain

Pangea  
[www.pangea.org](http://www.pangea.org)

### Uganda

Collaboration on International  
ICT Policy for East and Southern  
Africa (CIPESA)  
[www.cipesa.org](http://www.cipesa.org)

Women of Uganda Network  
(WOUGNET)  
[www.wougnnet.org](http://www.wougnnet.org)

### UK

Computer Aid International  
[www.computeraid.org](http://www.computeraid.org)  
GreenNet  
[www.gn.apc.org](http://www.gn.apc.org)

### USA

Institute for Global  
Communications (IGC)  
[www.igc.org](http://www.igc.org)

LaborNet  
[www.labornet.org](http://www.labornet.org)

May First/People Link  
[www.mayfirst.org](http://www.mayfirst.org)

### Uruguay

Third World Institute (ITeM)  
[www.item.org.uy](http://www.item.org.uy)

### Venezuela

Fundación Escuela Latinoamericana  
de Redes (EsLaRed)  
[www.eslared.org.ve](http://www.eslared.org.ve)

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28 APC works actively with Bytes for All in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

## NEW MEMBERS

IN 2009, APC's member organisations were joined by two more. Digital Empowerment Foundation was especially significant to us as it is our first member in the sub-continent though we have worked with many Indian partners over the years.

### Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF), India



MADHYA PRADESH HAS OVER FIVE MILLION TRADITIONAL WEAVERS. DEF HAS BEEN TEACHING WEAVERS DESIGN ON COMPUTERS. THESE WOMEN FROM CHANDERI WHERE THE COMPUTER CENTRE IS LOCATED MAKE GARMENTS USING THE NEW DESIGNS. PHOTO: DEF

DEF was founded in December 2002 by former software company owner Osama Manzar. After years working in the IT industry, he saw the potential ICTs had to empower the poor and he set out to learn more about how they could help rural communities. What started off as a one-man operation in his own home has now become a completely self-sustaining organisation, with a staff of about 40 people, and an extended network of partner organisations in 60 countries. DEF's revenues come from consultancy, research, events, and a continuous flow of government-mandated projects. DEF's work is as varied as it is innovative – building telecentres in India's 35 states, as well as advocacy work, capacity building, research and advisory services and holding seminars and conferences to identify best practices.

DEF [www.defindia.net](http://www.defindia.net) (joined APC in September)

## May First/People Link, USA



STAFF AT THE 2009 WORLD SOCIAL FORUM IN BELEM, BRAZIL. MF/PL ARE ACTIVE IN MANY COALITIONS AND CAMPAIGNS. THEY HAVE LED THE TECHNICAL TEAM AT A NUMBER OF US SOCIAL FORUMS. PHOTO: MF/PL

New York-based cooperative May First/People Link is an alliance between two non-profit tech organisations as well as a membership organisation of people who see the internet as vital in the movement for social change. Together, they have pooled their resources to provide quality web hosting, email and other internet tools to help “preserve the open quality of the internet, expand its usefulness and use by the progressive movements internationally” and build new tools that will make ICTs even more user-friendly and accessible to all. The organisation focuses primarily on resource sharing and activism. They have been providing internet service for over fifteen years as an alternative to commercial service providers.

May First/People Link [www.mayfirst.org](http://www.mayfirst.org) (joined APC in January)

## GOVERNANCE AND STAFF DIRECTORY



THE BOARD OF APC AT THEIR 2009 MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES IN JUNE. PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: MAGELA, DANILO, MICHEL, ANDREW, VALENTINA, ANRIETTE AND AL. PHOTO: APC

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN 2009<sup>29</sup>

Danilo Lujambio, Argentina (chair)

Janine Moolman, South Africa (vice chair until January)

Valentina Pellizzer, Bosnia and Herzegovina (vice chair from February)

Andrew Garton, Australia (secretary)

Magela Sigillito, Uruguay (treasurer)

Alan Alegre, Philippines

Anriette Esterhuysen, South Africa (executive director)

Michel Lambert, Canada

James Nguo, Kenya

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<sup>29</sup> For the period November 2007-November 2010.

## COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES IN 2009

### AFRICA

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**ALIN, Kenya**

James Nguo

**ArabDev, Egypt**

Leila Hassanin

**ARCC, Kenya**

Alfred Orimbo, Steven Yogo

**AZUR Développement,****Republic of Congo**

Blanche Zissi, Romeo Mbengou

**CECS, South Africa**

Arnold Pietersen

**CIPESA, Uganda**

Vincent Bagiire, Lillian Nalwoga

**Fantsuam Foundation, Nigeria**

John Dada, Kelechi Micheals

**KICTANet, Kenya**

Alice Wanjira, Muriuki Mureithi

**PROTEGE QV, Cameroon**

Sylvie Siyam, Avis Momeni

**SANGONeT, South Africa**

David Barnard, Janine Moolman

**Ungana-Afrika, South Africa**

Toni Elias, Tshepo Thlaku

**Women'sNet, South Africa**

Sally-Jean Shackleton,

Lebogang Marishane

**WOUGNET, Uganda**

Milton Aineruhanga,

Goretti Zavuga Amuriat

### ASIA-PACIFIC

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**apc.au, Australia**

Andrew Garton, Grant McHerron

**BFES, Bangladesh**

Reza Salim, Rashiduzzaman Ahmed

**Bytes for All, South Asia**

Partha Pratim Sarker, Frederick

Noronha

**DEF, India**

Osama Manzar, Shaifali Chikermane

**FMA, Philippines**

Alan Alegre

**JCAFE, Japan**

Onoda Mitoye, Okabe Kazuaki

**JCA-NET, Japan**

Fujino Satoshi, Hamada Tadahisa

**Jinbonet, South Korea**

Byoung-il Oh, Ji-Sung Kim

**Open Forum, Cambodia**

Im Sokthy

**Open Institute, Cambodia**

Chim Manavy, Kong Sidaroth

**VOICE, Bangladesh**

Ahmed Swapan Mahmud, Farjana

Akter

**WomensHub, Philippines**

Pi Villanueva

## EUROPE

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### **BlueLink, Bulgaria**

Pavel Antonov (until October),  
Vera Staevska (from October),  
Milena Bokova (until April),  
Kalin Lilovski (from April until July),  
Evgenia Tasheva (from August)

### **Computer Aid International, UK**

Tony Roberts, Anja Ffrench  
(from July)

### **GreenNet, UK**

Michael Moritz, Liz Probert

### **Green Spider, Hungary**

Peter Dunajcsik, Zoltan Varady  
(until March), Robert Fidrich  
(from March)

### **Metamorphosis, Macedonia**

Bardhyl Jashari, Irina Shumadieva

### **owpsee, Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Valentina Pellizzer, Sanjin Bužo  
(from June)

### **Pangea, Spain**

Leandro Navarro, Lorena Merino

### **StrawberryNet, Romania**

Mihaly Bako

### **ZaMirNET, Croatia**

Danijela Babic, Gabrijela Ivanov  
(until June), Nebojsa Gavrilov  
(from June)

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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### **CEPES, Peru**

Maicu Alvarado, Roberto Bustamante

### **Colnodo, Colombia**

Julián Casasbuenas, Ariel Barbosa

### **EsLaRed, Venezuela**

Edmundo Vitale, Lourdes Pietrosemolli

### **FUNREDES, Dominican Republic**

Daniel Pimienta

### **ITeM, Uruguay**

Pablo Accuosto, Elsa Duhagón

### **LaNeta, Mexico**

Olinca Marino, Erika Smith

### **Nodo Tau, Argentina**

Danilo Lujambio,  
Eduardo Rodríguez

### **RITS, Brazil**

Carlos Afonso, Graciela Selaimen

### **Sulá Batsú, Costa Rica**

Margarita Salas, Francia Alfaro  
(until February), Kemly Camacho  
(from February)

### **Wamani, Argentina**

Carlos Alvarez, Rodolfo Rapetti

## NORTH AMERICA (not including Mexico)

---

### **Alternatives, Canada**

Michael Lambert, Caroline Tagny

### **IGC, USA**

Mark Graham, Mitra Ardron

### **LaborNet, USA**

Steve Zeltzer, Erika Zweig

### **May First/People Link, USA**

Alfredo Lopez, Hilary Goldstein

### **Web Networks, Canada**

Oliver Zielke, Ramya Ramanathan



## STAFF TEAM IN 2009



APC STAFF IN BUENOS AIRES, JUNE 2009. PHOTO: APC

### STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

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**Executive director**

Anriette Esterhuysen,  
South Africa

**Administrator**

Eunice Mwesigwa, South Africa\*

**Executive assistant**

**and grants administrator**

Emilar Vushe, South Africa  
(from May)

### FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

---

**Finance manager**

Maya Sooka, South Africa

**Finance assistant**

Fatima Bhyat, South Africa

**Finance associate**

Misty McWilliam, South Africa/USA  
(\*until August, then staff)

**Events and logistics coordinator**

Mylene Soto,  
Philippines/Switzerland

## COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA

---

**Communications, media  
and promotions manager**

Karen Higgs, Uruguay

**Specialist editor**

Analia Lavin, Uruguay

**Communications, media  
and promotions associate**

Lisa Cyr, Canada/Uruguay  
(\*until March, then staff)

**Technical and  
systems administrator**

Sarah Tomas, Philippines

**Technical consultant**

Adolfo Dunayevich, Mexico\*

**Communications intern**

Federico Pérez, Uruguay  
(from October)\*

## APC Women's Networking Support Programme (APC WNSP)

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**APC WNSP manager**

Chat Garcia Ramilo, Philippines

**APC-Africa-Women coordinator**

Jennifer Radloff, South Africa

**Latin America network (PARM)  
coordinator**

Dafne Plou, Argentina

**GEM research coordinator**

Angela Marianne Kuga Thas,  
Malaysia

**GEM practitioners network  
coordinator**

Lenka Simerska, Czech Republic

**Women's rights advocacy  
coordinator**

Jac sm Kee, Malaysia

**MDG3 project coordinator**

Janine Moolman, South Africa

**GenderIT.org coordinator**

Katerina Fialova, Czech Republic

**Communications coordinator**

Erika Smith, Mexico

**GenderIT.org website editors**

Flavia Fascendeni, Brazil/Argentina\*,  
Sonia Randhawa, Malaysia/Australia  
(from February)\*

## *Communications and Information Policy Programme (CIPP)*

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### **Policy manager**

Willie Currie, USA/South Africa

### **National ICT policy advocacy coordinator**

Natasha Primo, South Africa

### **Latin America policy programme (CIPP-LA) coordinator**

Valeria Betancourt, Ecuador

### **Communications advisor to CIPP-LA**

Analía Lavin, Uruguay

### **CIPP-LA editor**

Florencia Flores, Uruguay\*

### **CIPP-LA intern**

Felisa Ponce Tamayo, Ecuador/  
Canada\*\* (until March)

### **Global Information Society Watch editor**

Alan Finlay, South Africa\*

### **ICT policy networking and advocacy coordinator**

Chad Lubelsky, Canada  
(from November)\*

### **Media piracy research assistant**

Natalie Brown (until May)\*

## *Strategic Technologies and Network Development (STaND)*

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### **STaND manager**

Karen Banks, United Kingdom

### **Member collaboration and knowledge-sharing coordinator**

Karel Novotný, Czech Republic/  
Uruguay

### **Technologies for internet rights and activism coordinator**

Cheekay Cinco, Philippines

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\*Consultants and/or temporary staff who worked with APC during 2009

\*\*The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) provided APC with two outstanding interns in 2009.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

WE WOULD LIKE to thank the following agencies and organisations for their support of our work<sup>30</sup> in 2009:

### **Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS) MDG3 Fund**

MDG3: Take Back the Tech! to end violence against women

### **Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)**

Web 2.0 and Social Networking for Development (IMARK module)

### **Ford Foundation**

EroTICs: Sexuality and the internet (An exploratory research project)

Strengthening Civil Society Networking and Advocacy on Internet Public Policy in Global Arenas

### **Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries (Hivos)**

Core support for the APC Strategic Action Plan 2009-2012

Global Information Society Watch 2009

GenARDIS: A Small Grants Fund to Address Gender Issues in ICTs in ACP Agriculture and Rural Development Round III (2008-2010 edition)

### **Institute of International Education (IIE) - Partnership for Higher Education in Africa (PHEA)**

Decreasing Cost of Broadband in South Africa, Ghana and Nigeria

### **International Development Research Centre (IDRC)**

Communication for Influence in the Andean Region, Latin America (CILAC)

Towards Détente in Media Piracy

Communication for Influence in Central, East and West Africa (CICEWA)

Capacity Building and Institutional Support for APC – INSPRO II

Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) II: Building Gender Evaluation Practice within the ICT for Development Community

GenARDIS: A Small Grants Fund to Address Gender Issues in ICTs in ACP Agriculture and Rural Development Round III (2008-2010 edition)

### **International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD)**

GenARDIS: A Small Grants Fund to Address Gender Issues in ICTs in ACP Agriculture and Rural Development Round III (2008-2010 edition)

### **Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)**

Global Information Society Watch 2009

Study of Effects and Possibilities of ICT for Enhancement of Democracy – with a Focus on Empowerment in East Africa

### **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**

Global Information Society Watch 2009

Building Communication Opportunities (BCO) Alliance – Coordination

### **Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation (CTA)**

GenARDIS: A Small Grants Fund to Address Gender Issues in ICTs in ACP Agriculture and Rural Development Round III (2008-2010 edition)

### **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

Pro-Poor ICT Access Resource Kit

### **Grants processed by APC on behalf of APC members and partners**

KICTANet, APC member in Kenya, from IDRC

SANGONeT, APC member in South Africa, from the Gates Foundation

Ushahidi, APC partner in Kenya, from Humanity United and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation

<sup>30</sup> For more information about the initiatives they supported please visit the “What we do” section of the APC website. Past projects are also archived at [www.apc.org/en/projects/past](http://www.apc.org/en/projects/past)

## ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2009

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2009		
	2009 (USD)	2008 (USD)
<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>1,718,319</b>	<b>2,057,776</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
Equipment	2	2
<b>Current assets</b>	<b>1,718,317</b>	<b>2,057,774</b>
Accounts receivable	23,498	65,388
Accrued income - consulting	-	30,807
Accrued income - grants	3,196	705,218
Cash and cash equivalents	1,691,623	1,256,361
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,718,319</b>	<b>2,057,776</b>
<b>RESERVES AND LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,718,319</b>	<b>2,057,776</b>
<b>Reserves and sustainability funds</b>	<b>659,385</b>	<b>638,403</b>
Sustainability funds	625,366	604,384
Retained income	34,019	34,019
<b>Current liabilities</b>	<b>1,058,934</b>	<b>1,419,373</b>
Accounts payable	38,148	92,116
Deferred income from project implementation	-	-
Deferred income from grants	1,020,787	1,327,258
<b>TOTAL RESERVES AND LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,718,319</b>	<b>2,057,776</b>

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009		
	2009 (USD)	2008 (USD)
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>3,002,927</b>	<b>2,989,660</b>
<b>Grant and contract income</b>	<b>2,879,019</b>	<b>2,847,243</b>
<b>Earned Income</b>	<b>123,908</b>	<b>142,417</b>
Consulting revenue	52,344	76,492
Interest	452	-
Membership fees	23,135	28,377
Sponsorship	10,872	14,399
Sales and sundry	37,105	23,149
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2,981,945</b>	<b>2,812,150</b>
Auditors' remuneration	10,760	9,270
Meetings (staff, board and council)	22,341	56,978
Operational expenses	71,217	64,345
Personnel costs	343,876	378,769
Programme and project expenses	2,506,322	2,261,235
Telephone and fax	1,799	1,145
Translation	7,005	15,610
Travel, accommodation and per diems	6,853	11,905
Website (includes re-design)	11,772	12,893
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>20,982</b>	<b>177,510</b>

Note: Detailed information is available in the audited financial statements for 2009.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Annual report editor: Karen Higgs, APC communications manager  
[khiggs@apc.org](mailto:khiggs@apc.org)

Thanks to the APC management team for all their support in the production of this report. Following last year's five-year review<sup>31</sup> it was not easy to go back to an annual report format when APC's impact is usually perceived over the longer term. We really have to switch to bi-annual reporting! Huge thanks to Maya Sooka, our financial manager who has battled with ill health this year and still managed to submit the financial information on time. Analía Lavin and Lisa Cyr compiled the member achievements chapter and Karel Novotný the governance and member listings.

APC's print publications for 2010 have a new look to commemorate APC's twentieth anniversary and we are indebted as usual to the creative design team at Monocromo in Uruguay. A big thank you to copy editor Lori Nordstrom in her fourth year of editing APC's annual reports. Many thanks also to star translators Clio Bugel and Danielle Elder, and Analía and Lisa again for ensuring that the translations are absolutely faithful to the original version.

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<sup>31</sup> APC Progress Report 2004-2008 in English, Spanish and French is online in our publications section.

Special thanks to the following people for their contributions to this report:

The APC team all over the world	Kong Sidaroth, Cambodia
Agustín Fernández, Uruguay	Leandro Navarro, Spain
Ahmed Swapan Mahmud, Bangladesh	Lebogang Marishane, South Africa
Alan Alegre, Philippines	Leila Hassanin, Egypt
Alfred Orimbo, Kenya	Lillian Nalwoga, Uganda
Alice Munyua, Kenya	Liz Probert, United Kingdom
Andrew Garton, Australia	Lorena Merino, Spain
Anja Ffrench, United Kingdom	Lourdes Pietrosevoli, Venezuela
Avis Momeni, Cameroon	Margarita Salas, Costa Rica
Bardhyl Jashari, Macedonia	Maxigas, Hungary
Byoung-il Oh, South Korea	Mihaly Bako, Romania
Caroline Tagny, Canada	Olga Paz, Colombia
Chim Manavy, Cambodia	Olinca Marino, Mexico
Daniel Pimienta, Dominican Republic	Oliver Zielke, Canada
Danilo Lujambio, Argentina	Osama Manzar, India
Deirdre Maguire, United Kingdom	Pablo Accuosto, Uruguay
Dejan Georgievski, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Rozi Bako, Romania
Elsa Duhagón, Uruguay	Sally-Jean Shackleton, South Africa
Erika Smith, Mexico	Sandra L. Enriquez, Mexico
Flavia Fascendini, Argentina	Shahzad Ahmad, Pakistan
Francia Alfaro, Costa Rica	Susan Mwangi, Kenya
James Nguo, Kenya	Toni Eliaz, South Africa
John Dada, Nigeria	Vera Staevska, Bulgaria
Kelechi Micheals, Nigeria	Vincent Bagiire, Uganda
	Vivi Benito, Argentina

and to all of the other APC representatives who contributed stories of their work in facilitating the use of ICTs by civil society groups around the world.



[www.apc.org](http://www.apc.org)

Association for Progressive Communications  
Asociación para el Progreso de las Comunicaciones  
Association pour le progrès des communications

Executive director's office ☉ Oficina de la directora ejecutiva ☉ Bureau de la directrice exécutive  
PO Box 29755, Melville 2109, South Africa ☉ Telefax: +27 11 726 1692 ☉ Mail: [info@apc.org](mailto:info@apc.org)