information for development program

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Fiscal year 2000 witnessed an intensification of *info*Dev activities, with project disbursements reaching some US $22 million. The *info*Dev Symposium in Washington, D.C., the creation of the new Global Information and Communication Technologies Department in the World Bank Group, the transition through the "millennium bug" critical dates, and the growing involvement of *info*Dev in international efforts to define the place of information and communication technologies (ICT) on the development agenda were some of the highlights of the year.

On November 10-11, 1999, *info*Dev held its annual symposium at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, D.C. on the theme of *The New Networked Economy: What is At Stake for the Developing World?* More than 500 participants, including experts in economic and social development, the Internet, and telecommunications exchanged views on salient ICT issues such as universal access to telecommunications, regulatory policies and the development of applications to bridge knowledge gaps. How to connect those on the wrong side of the digital divide was another major topic. The Symposium emphasized the need for a greater focus – at a policy level and in the context of public-private partnerships – on access for the poor to modern information infrastructures and technologies. It also helped to highlight the growing relevance of ICT for the development agenda.

Over a two-year period of operations, the Y2K Initiative to address the "millennium bug" received a total of 161 requests for planning, implementation and other Y2K-related grants. In response to those requests, 140 grants, of which 55 in FY00, were awarded and more than 100 governments in the developing world, including 75 countries eligible to assistance from the International Development Association (IDA), launched and conducted successful national Y2K programs. On request of governments, technical teams were sent by *info*Dev to assess national or sector risks and support the development of contingency plans. The Y2K Initiative also sponsored a series of global and regional seminars and organizations–e.g., the International Y2K Cooperation Center–setting the standards for international cooperation to address ICT-related risks in the global economy.

The growing visibility of *info*Dev resulted in an increasing number of requests to help with the development of new ICT initiatives, such as the Global Development Gateway. The Global Development Gateway being developed under the leadership of the World Bank Group, is expected to be the premier Web "portal" to facilitate partnerships, promote Internet-based activities in developing countries and lower transaction costs for searching quality information useful to the development community. *info*Dev has also been called upon by several partners–for example, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the G8 Summit of Heads of States, and Governments–to share its experience and to provide inputs into international efforts designed to close the digital divide.

The new institutional setting under which the Program now operates facilitated *info*Dev activities. On January 1, 2000, *info*Dev became part of the new Global ICT Department in the World Bank Group. This department combines the policy-focused expertise and financial instruments of the World Bank and the investment capability of the International Finance Corporation. As a result, the synergies between *info*Dev grants and other World Bank Group instruments are being strengthened, further contributing to the innovative use of ICT in the fight against poverty.

Information and Communication Technologies: Impact on Poverty Reduction

What is poverty?

Poverty is hunger. Poverty is lack of shelter. Poverty is being sick and not being able to see a doctor. Poverty is not being able to go to school, not knowing how to read, not being able to speak properly. Poverty is not having a job, is fear for the future, living one day at a time. Poverty is losing a child to illness brought about by unclean water. Poverty is powerlessness, lack of representation and freedom.

The World Bank[1]

The *info*Dev 1998 Annual Report emphasized that "there is growing recognition that telecommunications and Internet access are no longer luxuries for developing countries but rather strategic factors of development and poverty reduction.". Last year's Annual Report examined the growing digital divide and identified measures that countries can take to close the digital gap. This year we focus on the role and contribution of the evolving information infrastructure and accelerated distribution of ICT resources to poverty reduction.

ICT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

A historical correlation exists between higher rates of economic growth and technological innovation. During the industrial revolution in England from 1780 to 1860, the rate of economic growth increased from 0.5 percent per year to more than 2 percent per year. In the late nineteenth century in the United States, the advent of electrification, new power generation and transportation infrastructure resulted in high growth rates surpassing 4 percent per year. Now, a similarly profound technologically based economic revolution seems to be occurring.[3] In the United States.

The recent period has been marked by a transformation to an economy that is more productive as competitive forces become increasingly intense and new technologies raise the efficiency of our business. With the rapid adoption of information technologies, the share of output that is conceptual rather than physical continues to grow. While these tendencies were no doubt in train in the "old" pre-1990s economy, they accelerated over the past decade as a number of technologies with their roots in the cumulative innovations of the past half-century began to yield dramatic economic returns. [4]

Recent econometric studies have found strong evidence of a causal link between telecommunications development and economic growth. Other studies document high returns on investment in telecommunications equipment, especially within the telecommunications sector. The use of the Internet increases the economic value of a telephone connection, suggesting that the economic benefits of networking will increase. At the micro-level, the Internet provides new opportunities for businesses to reduce costs and increase market coverage (both at home and abroad), facilitating the achievement of economies of scale and scope. Technological innovation streamlines production and enhances global communications outreach. There is growing evidence that ICT is the gateway for taking part in global exchanges.

- Outreach. The use of the Internet and advances in ICT unlock opportunities in all areas, from product development to marketing, to purchasing, to distribution, and to customer service, regardless of geographical restrictions.
- Information-based products. Knowledge gathering, previously one-dimensional, is now escalating exponentially.
- Resource Tools. Business functions can be outsourced via the Internet, virtually globally, reducing the cost of intra and inter-firm transactions.
- Streamline Communications. Where Internet penetration is strong, traditional go-between functions can be eliminated; and Internet-based procurement systems, auctions, and business-to-business exchanges can get the job done. Supply chains are more efficient owing to faster and more direct interaction with customers and suppliers.
- New intermediaries. As an alternative to traditional intermediaries, new firms help users navigate the vast amount of information now available to bring buyer groups with a mutual interest, closer together, at a lesser cost.

Although the use of the Internet offers more opportunities for economic development, it also threatens those economies that

[1] http://www.worldbank.org/poverty/mission/up1.htm.
[2] The following discussion draws heavily from C. Kenny, J. Navas-Sabater, and C. Z. Qiang. 2000. ICT and Poverty. World Bank, Washington, D.C.; and from The Networking Revolution: Opportunities and Challenges for Developing Countries. World Bank, Washington, D.C.; http://www.infodev.org/library/NetworkingRevolution.doc.
[3] F. Caron. 2000. "Internet, c'est la Troisieme Revolution Industrielle." L'Express International April 27: 2000, pages 10–13.
[4] Alan Greenspan. 2000. "Structural Change in the New Economy." Remarks before the 92nd Annual Meeting, National Governors' Association, , State College, Penn., July 11; http://www.federalreserve.gov/BoardDocs/Speeches/2000/20000711.htm.

do not adjust. Many developing countries are still lagging behind the information revolution. However measures that can be taken to close the gap are parallel prescriptions to those that foster economic growth (e.g. trade liberalization, human resource development and transparency procedures that foster a competitive environment). Countries with an inadequate ICT infrastructure will be disadvantaged, as will countries that do not put into place essential policies, institutions, and resources that help them join the information revolution.

As much as one-half of the difference between Africa's and East Africa's manufactured exports (as a share of GDP) has been attributed to the weakness of communication networks in Africa.[5]

For a review of these studies, see the Analysis report commissioned by *info*Dev, The Network Revolution and the Developing World available at http://www.infodev.org/library/working.htm.

EMPOWERING THE POOR

Poverty is like heat
You cannot see it
You can only feel it
So to know poverty you have to go through it.

A poor man, Adaboya, Ghana
(from Voices of the Poor, World Bank, Washington, D.C., 1999)

Currently, 1.2 billion people in the world live with a purchasing power of no more than $1 per day per person, and 2.8 billion have no more than $2 per day per person. Poverty reduction means increasing incomes and consequently decreasing the number of people living on such low incomes.

Three salient arguments that support information and communication technologies (ICT) development and their effect on poverty reduction can be summarized as follows:[6]

- That the revolutionary advances in technology are changing the rate of growth of economies -by fostering productivity- and have the potential to reduce poverty.
- That ICT can directly empower the poor to increase their incomes and to deal with poverty.
- That ICT help produce goods and services that directly benefit the poor.

Direct access to ICT can be crucial to the effort of the poor to escape poverty. As Figure 1 shows, the poor in Chile spend nearly four percent of their income on telecommunication (including radio, television, and posts), more than they spend on water. Poor people use ICT to find ways to market their products at higher prices, to buy goods at lower prices, to save expenses on unneeded trips, to find out about the weather, and of course to communicate with others.

Figure 1
Percentage of Expenditure on Utilities by Category of Customers in Chile, 1998

Source: C. Kenny, J. Navas-Sabater, and C. Z. Qiang. 2000. *ICT and Poverty*. World Bank, Washington, D.C.

Policies and institutions created to promote public access to communication services have a central role to play in empowering the poor to reduce their own poverty. By providing public access through a telephone line or an Internet terminal, countries can aggregate demand and enable more people to benefit from telecommunications connections. For example, pay phones and telecenters derive higher revenues than residential lines –- so operators can achieve commercial viability and ensure continued provision of service. In Senegal, there are now more than 6,000 privately operated telecenters and public access to a telephone has more than doubled in per capita terms. India, Peru, South Africa, and Thailand have also seen dramatic growth in privately owned and operated telecenters. These telecenters provide people in rural areas with access to new information sources as well as commercial and educational opportunities.

GrameenPhone, in Bangladesh, is a good example of a cost-effective method for bringing telephone access to the rural poor

[5] Ibrahim A. Elbadawi. 1999. "Can Africa Export Manufactures? The Role of Endowment, Exchange Rates, and Transaction Costs." Policy Research Working Paper 2120. World Bank, Washington, D.C.
[6] The following discussion draws heavily from C. Kenny, J. Navas-Sabater, and C. Z. Qiang. 2000. *ICT and Poverty*. World Bank, Washington, D.C.; and from *The Networking Revolution: Opportunities and Challenges for Developing Countries*. World Bank, Washington, D.C.; http://www.infodev.org/library/NetworkingRevolution.doc.

and for addressing the existing gender gap in access and use of ICT. Grameen Bank has provided more than 1,100 telephones to rural poor women through micro-credit loans averaging US$350. Those loans cover equipment and start-up costs for them to become local village operators. These woman operators make a profit by reselling airtime to others in the village. New phones lines allow rural farmers to check livestock prices, communicate with their families and better address their health needs.

Moreover, the use of telephones in Bangladesh villages has challenged the traditional power that wealthy landowners and intermediaries have held over rural economies and politics. In addition, the phone lines represent an important source of new business generation, creating jobs and income in sectors that never existed before. Further information on GrameenPhone and on its founder, Muhammed Yunnus, can be found at http://www.rdc.com.au/grameen/impact.html

ICT also empowers artisans in cottage industries and traditional handicrafts. These artisans are discovering how ICT can assist them in marketing and distributing their arts and crafts to a worldwide client base. For example, in Kenya, the Naushad Trading Company sells local wood carvings, pottery, and baskets through their Internet web site (http://www.ntclimited.com/). Peoplink (http://www.peoplink.org), a project supported by *info*Dev, is seeking to encourage and empower similar cottage industries and crafts organizations to sell products in other parts of the world. Novica (http://www.novica.com/) is another website that offers arts and crafts from a number of developing countries around the world. The Virtual Souk (http://www.elsouk.com/), one of the Stories Project and Global Development Marketplace winners in 2000, is working on establishing a web presence for artisans from countries in the Middle East and North Africa. Maker to Market, another Development Marketplace winner, with the assistance of Aid to Artisans (http://www.aid2artisans.org/) is helping African artisans sell to world markets and to use the Internet.

ICT also enables the poor to obtain better access to financial services. In South Africa, AutoBank E developed a fully automated savings system to benefit the poorest segment of the population. Customers can open an account with a deposit equivalent to roughly US$8 and gain access to an array of electronic banking services. In order to keep transaction costs to a minimum, deposits and withdrawals are completed through Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs). The bank uses data collected on depositor's bank accounts to analyze credit worthiness in order to provide more equitable credit access for the country's poorest citizens. The program is extremely popular, with 2.6 million depositors and 50,000 more accounts being added each month. The *Autonomous System for Interactive Electronic Commerce*, project based in Ghana and supported by *info*Dev, pilots a Computerized Mobile Bank to use ICT to expand the outreach of formal banking service to SMEs and lenders in the informal sector to reduce transaction cost and improve financial services.

ICT spurs the development of innovative programs and research in the agricultural sector. Farmers around the world are increasingly using ICT to obtain market information, to bypass intermediaries and to charge higher prices for their products. In addition, small farmers can source badly needed supplies and equipment at lower prices. In Chile, the national agricultural extension created an Internet-based rural information service for farmers' groups, cooperatives, government officials, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). As the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) reports, "It was estimated that transmitting price and market information in this way cost 40 percent less than using traditional methods. In addition, the information was more timely, reaching farmers much faster. In the past, the publication and distribution of a printed bulletin took 45 days."
(http://www.fao.org/waicent/faoinfo/sstdev/cddirect/cdan0018.htm)

However, unless small and medium enterprises fully engage in exploiting digital opportunities, the benefits of the information revolution will be inequitably dispersed leaving millions of people feeling disenfranchised while others prosper. Entrepreneurs in developing countries often face a number of obstacles in gaining access to ICT. There is a general lack of knowledge on how Internet business models operate; and how Internet-based businesses can obtain financial assistance, technical expertise and reach new markets. There is a shortage of qualified people to train local entrepreneurs in technical research, Internet marketing tools, website design and management of IT resources.

[7] Khan, M. and Swanborough, R., Information Management, IT and Government Transformation: Innovative Approaches in the New South Africa Information Systems for Public Sector Management. Working Paper Series No. 6 IDPM, University of Manchester.

Efforts to empower the poor must pay special attention to gender gap issues. The great majority of ICT users in less developed countries (LDCs), especially users of advanced ICT, are men. This point raises the notion that modern ICT could be one more element in the exclusion of women from economic development opportunities. This suggestion underscores the need for the design and implementation of programs to specifically target women. However, womens organizations are increasingly relying upon ICT resources to support the empowerment of women. In Africa, groups such as the African Women's Network of the Association for Progressive Communications have conducted training workshops to support electronic networking among women's groups. In Uganda, the Forum for Women in Democracy uses the Internet and e-mail to research issues for the country's female MPs. Women's Net is a similar initiative in South Africa.

IMPROVING PRODUCTS AND SERVICES TO BENEFIT THE POOR

Government Services

There is growing evidence that the use of ICT offers increased opportunities to improve the living conditions of the poor through better government services, enhanced environmental monitoring and more efficient education and health care services.

Governments are using ICT to improve the quality and efficiency of public services delivery systems. To this end ICT helps governments strengthen internal information flows, accountability and transparency, and procurement of goods and services. Governments that properly use ICT can raise the quality standards for information technology (IT) suppliers.

Networked computers are being used in a number of developing cities and regions to improve systems that have a significant impact on the lives of the poor. In Andhra Pradesh, India, ICT applications focus on the government's effort to become SMART (simple, moral, accountable, responsive, and transparent). One example where the state government makes full use of ICT is in the registration of deeds and stamp duties. Using traditional registration methods, the Indian government had to go through cumbersome steps and take up to 15 days to register each of the 120 million documents processed per year. This highly opaque process encouraged bureaucratic delay and corruption practices. Today, by using a networked system, the same task is accomplished in just over two hours, with improved transparency and better administrative controls.

Not all governments implement ICT operations successfully. In fact, the complexity of introducing ICT into government operations has prevented successful implementation of programs in some countries. In South Africa, for example, more than 80 percent of the information system projects have fallen short of expectations -- not being delivered on time, not within budget, not effectively implemented.[7] Similarly, a program established by the Indian National Informatics Center to help local governments use ICT for the storage of land records and to monitor Ministry of Agriculture programs, was reported to have only a marginal impact after 15 years. In these cases government administrative cultures had not adapted sufficiently to accommodate to new ICT processes.[8] Therefore, one key lesson learned is that ICT applications must be introduced within the context of a broader reform program and not be counted on as a substitute for those reforms.

Environmental Monitoring

Environmental monitoring, inherently data-intensive, can be significantly enhanced through use of ICT resources. Geographic information systems are becoming less expensive and are very useful tools for regional planning. These systems provide early warning signals of weather patterns that can lead to floods, hurricanes and other natural disasters. The information from environmental monitoring can help local and municipal government prepare for natural disasters and to organize community data for local decision making. Sound environmental management requires more than analysis and publication of environmental threats.

Several case examples from Indonesia and Mexico illustrate how ICT played a key role in the administration and management of environmental programs. Government officials, discouraged by weak enforcement of water pollution standards in Indonesia, developed a publicly accessible database that rated the degree to which companies were in compliance with these emission standards. Companies immediately reacted to this initiative and started taking steps to improve their ratings even before survey results were made public. Civil organizations used these ratings to identify factories that were not compliant with existing regulations, urging them to follow environmentally safe practices. In the first 15 months of the program, approximately one third of the unsatis-

[8] Heeks, R., Information Age Reform of the Public Sector: The Potential and the Problems of IT for India Information Systems for Public Sector Management. Working Paper Series No. 6 IDPM, University of Manchester.

factory performers became compliant with existing regulations. In Mexico the use of satellite generated images and digitized data from the field dramatically improved the capacity of the government to detect fires in the wilderness. This early warning detection enabled the government to mobilize resources for immediate intervention thereby reducing by more than 50 percent all areas affected by fires.

ICT is an invaluable resource that can help governments channel resources to combat environmental problems in a number of developing countries where the poorest segments of the population are the most vulnerable to natural disasters.

Education

ICT complements traditional educational infrastructure and has multiple applications in and out of the classroom. In rural areas ICT can be used as a cost effective tool to alleviate shortages of teachers, desks and instruction materials. In the urban slums of Brazil, for example, the Committee to Democratize Information Technology (CDI) has created 110 sustainable and self-managed community and volunteer-based Computer Science and Citizenship Schools. The CDI schools train more than 38,000 young students per year in ICT skills, enhancing their educational and employment opportunities. CDI cites numerous cases in which participants have, as a result of this training, not only greatly increased their self-esteem but have a renewed interest in formal schooling. In addition, many of the program's graduates are putting their computer skills to work in various community activities, including health education programs and AIDS awareness campaigns.

Similarly the African Virtual University that received one of the first *info*Dev grants in 1996, improves educational efficiencies while providing more equitable access to tertiary education on the continent. Courses made available through the Virtual University in computer technology, economics, and language are in high demand and meet especially acute educational needs.

In Mexico, over 700,000 secondary-school students in remote villages now have access to the *Telesecundaria* program. This program provides televised classes and a comprehensive course curriculum through closed-circuit television, satellite transmissions, and teleconferencing between students and teachers. Although students from rural areas enter the program with substantially lower mathematics and language test scores than their counterparts at traditional urban schools, by graduation time they equal their urban counterparts in math scores and cut their language-score deficit in half. This successful program has been accomplished with a relatively smaller student/teacher ratio (than in urban areas) and with only a 16 percent increase in cost per pupil.

In order for countries to most effectively harness ICT resources for educational outreach there are basic steps that need to be taken by the communities at large. First, the Internet cannot function well in schools without the presence of effective teachers. Nor can it operate in an environment where school buildings are unsafe or dilapidated. Internet access requires infrastructure support including electrical outlets, equipment and manpower to handle technical matters. Communities must have the budgets required to be able to pay for using the Internet. In the case of Singapore with a population of only 3 million people, the government had to spend $1.2 billion over 5 years to bring computers and broadband access into all schools. China, by comparison, would have to spend 50 percent of its GDP if it were to provide equal per capita access and connectivity to all its schools.

Health Care

Although health applications of ICT are being slowly diffused throughout the sector there is a great potential for improving access to vital information for health care providers and patients.

One very interesting case in point is the role that ICT played in the creation and implementation of programs to control river blindness in West Africa. Data collected by sensors along 50,000 km of rivers were fed into computers and beamed to a network of entomologists by satellite radio. These communication facilities combined with state of the art technology has enabled health experts to eliminate river blindness in seven countries, protecting 30 million rural people from the disease and opening up 25 million hectares of land to settlement and cultivation.

Governments still need to carefully evaluate priorities in the health care sector related to national data systems. There is a great need for better diagnostic, preventive and curative care for constituencies in developing countries. ICT can act as a catalyst in the development of those agents to make them affordable to the poor.

CONCLUSION

A digital divide continues to exist between rich and poor countries and those who are "wired" and those who are not "wired" within countries. Governments and institutions must develop programs that help developing countries adopt and adapt to ICT applications in order to foster economic growth. All countries in their ICT development policies should consider the poverty reduction potential of access to modern information infrastructure and related ICT applications. It is especially important to institutionalize means by which applications of ICT indirectly benefiting the poor, can be financially supported.

Reform agendas typically include adoption of measures to liberalize telecommunications services and to create a legal and regulatory framework that fosters competition and ensures universal access to basic communication services. Countries should capitalize on the potential provided by new ICT to help poor segments of the population gain greater access to new markets, financial services, health care and public services.
Naturally , the degree to which developing countries can mobilize ICT for greater economic growth with equity will depend in large part on their understanding of the issues involved

*info*Dev actively encourages the use of ICT to provide better goods and services benefiting the poor more efficiently through pilot, demonstration, and best practices projects. In the next section on *info*Dev operations in FY 2000, we highlight projects that strengthen institutional and human capacity allowing ICT to be fully employed in the development and production of goods and services for the poor.

Operations

Fiscal year 2000 continued to be a very dynamic period for *info*Dev. In its fifth year of operation, *info*Dev received 142 new project proposals under the core grants program representing the largest number since the first year of operation (see Annex 4) . Especially noteworthy is the fact that the millennium date change passed without major disruption of computer and communications systems in developing countries due, in large part, to the full-scale operation of the Y2K Initiative.

These successful accomplishments have propelled *info*Dev into new project areas including the Global Development Gateway initiative (www.worldbank.org/gateway) that encourages people to use the power of the Internet to act locally through country web-based gateways of information. *info*Dev actively participated in the formation of the new and integrated Global Information and Communication Technologies Department in the World Bank, and has prepared new flagship projects for possible funding by donors.

THE *info*DEV WORK PROGRAM

The year began with a core portfolio of 49 active projects. During FY00, *info*Dev funded 34 new projects in its core program, 34 projects were completed, a project funded in FY99, Tele-Medecine in Ethiopia, was canceled and the Kenya Rural Telecom project was closed. Total projects funded to date equal 115, of which 67 have been completed (see Annex 3). Moreover, under the Y2K Initiative, *info*Dev awarded 55 additional Y2K grants to governments. Table 1 presents project funding by region in FY00.

This year *info*Dev also funded two of the projects submitted to the Development Marketplace - a World Bank–sponsored program intended to introduce new ideas into World Bank programs.

The Information and Communication Technologies Portfolio

The 115 active or completed projects funded by *info*Dev are listed in Annex 3 and summarized by category in Table 2. The table highlights several major areas that reflect the priorities of the ICT Portfolio. This year project classification parameters have been enhanced to accurately reflect project content.

Projects related to telecommunications and use of the Internet represent a significant share of the ICT Portfolio in FY00. Many projects have focused directly on policy issues, reflecting *info*Dev's strong support for the participation of developing economies in the WTO Telecommunications Agreement and in ITU related activities.

Capacity building projects, primarily under the *info*Dev Conference Scholarship Fund, have been a vital building block in the *info*Dev strategy, representing more than one-third of all projects funded.

Table 1 Project Funding by Region in Fiscal Year 2000

Region	Number of Funded Projects			Percentage of Total Funding		
	Regular Program	Y2K Initiative	Total	Regular Program	Y2K Initiative	Total
Sub-Saharan Africa	8	12	20	23.5	21.8	22.5
Latin America and the Caribbean	8	11	19	23.5	20	21.3
Middle East and North Africa	--	4	4	--	7.3	4.5
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	3	14	17	8.8	25.5	19.1
Asia and Pacific	7	5	12	20.7	9	13.5
Global/Multiple Regions	8	9	17	23.5	16.4	19.1
Total	**34**	**55**	**89**	**100**	**100**	**100**

Table 2 Active and Completed Projects by Category and Main Activity as of June 2000

	Telecom	Internet	Education	Health	Environment	Government	e-Commerce	Total
Networks and Communities of Interest	1	4	2	1	2		1	11
Policy	14	5					1	20
Capacity Building	10	16	4	1	4		3	38
Pilot and demonstration	1	9	7	7	7	6	9	46
Total	**26**	**34**	**13**	**9**	**13**	**6**	**14**	**115**

Note: Figures reflect number of grants awarded. Associated projects (e.g., initiatives in partnership with the EU) and Y2K grants to national governments are not accounted for in this table.

The demand for *info*Dev funds continues to focus on raising awareness of ICT benefits and applications in the areas of health, education, environment, government, and e-commerce. This year *info*Dev witnessed a strong demand for e-commerce pilot projects in emerging markets. Nine e-commerce pilot projects were funded in FY00 in comparison to four projects in previous years. Pilot and demonstration projects represent almost half of all *info*Dev projects – a trend that is consistent with the innovation objectives of the program.

*info*Dev Conference Scholarship Fund

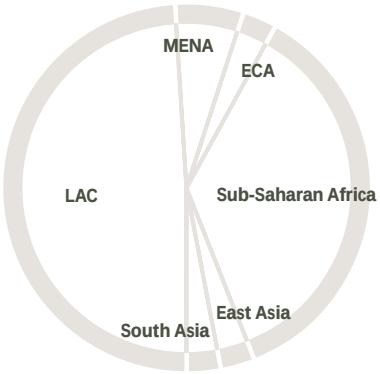
The *info*Dev Conference Scholarship Fund (iCSF) continues to facilitate the attendance of developing country participants at conferences related to the use and applications of information and communications technology. Applications are judged on the basis of conference content, relevance to *info*Dev's mission and qualifications of the proposed Fellows.

The fiscal year 2000 iCSF Call for Applications was posted on October 15th, 1999 and closed on February 11th, 2000. iCSF received 22 eligible proposals, of which ten were eventually approved and funded. Five other conferences were supported with grants in FY00, based on proposals submitted in FY98.

Total funding in FY00 for the 15 conferences amounted to roughly US$370.000. The funding covered the travel expenses of a total of 269 iCSF Fellows. An average of 18 iCSF Fellows participated in conferences that received grants for a total of 1,145 conference-days.

In terms of geographic representation, 40 percent of the iCSF Fellows came from Africa and 49 percent from Latin America and the Caribbean. Figure 2 below highlights the distribution of iCSF Fellows by region of origin.

Figure 2
iCSF Fellows By Region of Origin



Two online post-conference discussions were initiated this year for *Cesii'99*, and for the *Latin American Forum on Communications*. Four others on-line discussions have been prepared for *Bamako2000, IAALD Xth World Congress, Pan-American Seminar/Workshop, and Commsphere2000*.

Program Statistics

Figures 3, 4, 5 and 6 (which do not include proposals under the Y2K Initiative) highlight *info*Dev proposals received by proponent from FY95 to FY00, by proponent for FY00, by region from FY95 to FY00, and by region for FY00. As can be seen, the proposals come from a similar distribution of public sector, NGO, and academic institutions. Fewer proposals were received from international organizations this year.

Figure 3
***info*Dev Proposals by Proponent- FY95 through FY00**

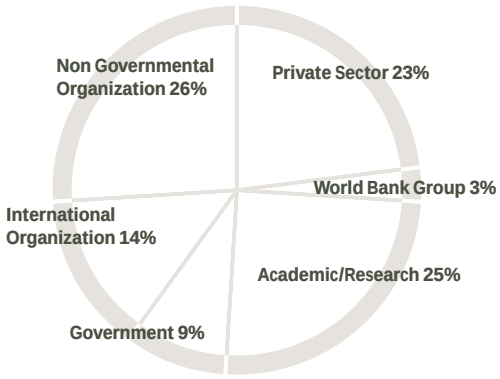


Figure 4
***info*Dev Proposals by Proponent FY00**

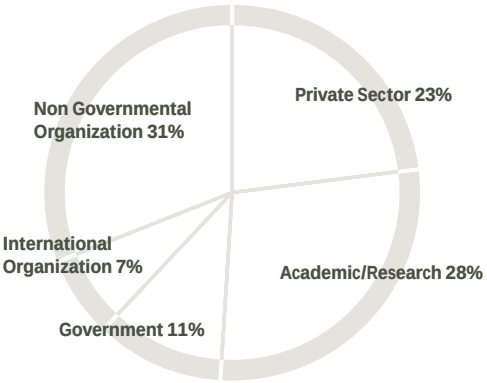


Figure 5
***info*Dev Proposals by Region- FY95 through FY00**

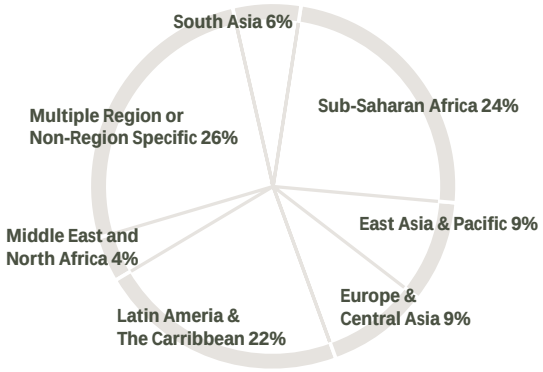
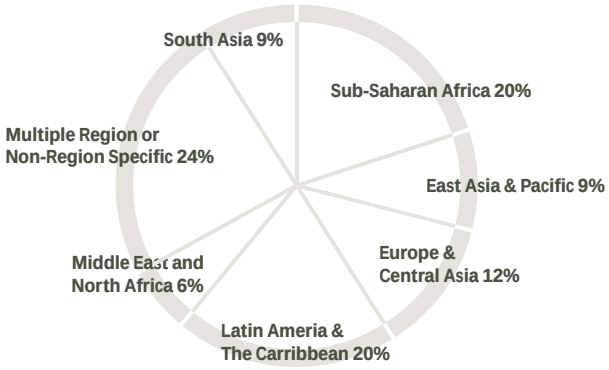


Figure 6
***info*Dev Proposals by Region FY00**



The geographic distribution of proposals has stayed relatively unchanged with the exception of a slight increase of proposals from European and Central Asian and South Asia this year. Africa and Latin America continue to represent the largest share of grant proposals. The trend towards growing number of multinational/regional proposals has been reversed.

Projects

Of the 115 projects funded under the *info*Dev core program (not including those under the Y2K Initiative), 48 were active at the end of the fiscal year. A complete list of funded projects is in Annex 3. Several projects active in FY00 are profiled below to illustrate ways in which *info*Dev encourages the use of ICT to reduce poverty.

Table 3 iCSF Conferences for FY00

Conference Title	Date	Location	Organizer Proponents	Fellows Participants
NIT'99 the 11th International Conference on New Information Technology	August 18–20, 1999	Taiwan, China	Chen & Chen CIts	4
The African Computing and Telecommunications Summit	August 25–27, 1999	Cambridge, UK	AITEC	27
ICDE Librarians' Roundtable	October 11–12, 1999	Hong Kong	Open University of Hong Kong	10
The World Services Congress	November 1–3, 1999	Atlanta, Georgia, USA	Coalition of Service Industries	17
Integration with Information Technology and Electronic Commerce	November 8–13, 1999	Douala, Cameroon	ASAFE	20
Tel-isphere 99	November 24–27, 1999	St. Michael, Barbados	Commonwealth of Learning	21
The Executive Conference on Integrated Information Systems - Cesii '99	November 20–24, 1999	Orlando, FL, USA	Black and Gorman LLC	59
IAALD—10th World Congress—Challenges facing the agricultural information community in the third millennium	January 24–28, 2000	Dakar, Senegal	IAALD	10
Latin American Forum on Communications	January 25–28, 2000	Miami, FL, USA	Public Utility Research Center	13
Bamako2000	February 21–26, 2000	Bamako, Mali	Fondation du Devenir	20
Pan-American Forum/Seminar on National Spatial Data Infrastructure	February 28 – March 1, 2000	Santafe de Bogota, Colombia	Instituto Geografico Agustin Codazzi	21
Commsphere 2000—Affordable telecom and IT solutions for developing countries	Febr. 28 – March 2, 2000	Chennai, India	Indian Institute of Technology, Madras	10
GKII—Global Knowledge Conference	March 7–10, 2000	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	NTIC	19
Stockholm Challenge Award	June 2–5, 2000	Stockholm, Sweden	City of Stockholm	4
ICANN Yokohama Meetings	July 13–17, 2000	Yokohama, Japan	ICANN	14

As mentioned in the first section of this report, efforts to reduce poverty are most effective when they empower people to work productively. Several pilot and demonstration projects utilize ICT in innovative ways to generate new jobs for poor people in developing countries. PeopLink, which had already been funded by *info*Dev in FY97, received another grant this year, in partnership with the Leland Initiative and the African Development Foundation. This new grant is earmarked to the development of a globally connected network of grass-roots organizations that will promote and market via the web a wide range of crafts and agricultural goods. PeopLink pilot centers are located in Kenya, Bangladesh, and Guatemala. The pilot centers have access to Internet-mediated markets in richer countries that allow artisans to receive better prices for their products, thus increasing their incomes, and creating new jobs as production levels increase. Other organizations are launching similar networks, modeled in part after PeopLink's innovative approaches.

Approximately five million Central Americans are disabled. Although half of them are at prime working age, most cannot find jobs. They are often among the poorest of the poor. Under a new pilot project, *IT: Employment for People with Disabilities*, Net Corps Americas utilizes ICT to empower people with disabilities to enter the workforce. Volunteers -with and without disabilities- train disabled people to use computer programs and to acquire work-related technology skills. Net Corps Americas uses the Internet to connect these people to the outside world so they can learn about more about educational and employment opportunities.

Women are often relegated to poverty due to lack of training and employment opportunities. ICT training programs targeting women contribute to ameliorating their ability to effectively participate in civil society. In 1999, *info*Dev funded *Project SITA (Study of Information Technology Applications)* to create a computer skills training program for low-income women in India. According to India's Department of Electronics more than 745,000 job vacancies for computer-trained woman exist, yet a small percentage (roughly) 45,000 women possess the necessary qualifications to fill these vacancies. This project, based on a cost-effective, high-quality training model, helps women become ICT professionals. In the first phase of the program, 250 students are selected for training from two regions, Kerala and Karnataka. The training instruction kit includes multimedia resource tools (audio, video, book and disk). The video segments are telecast over popular TV channels in India; and successful students will be given a certificate and placed in organizations that agree to make a contribution to support the continuity of the program. Although a nominal fee is assessed to cover course materials, 50 percent of the students from the poorest segments of the population receive scholarships.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are a major source of employment for the poor. *Guatemala MicroNet* is a demonstration project using ICT-based business development services to help SMEs increase their business skills, market access and competitiveness. Using a for-profit, private-public sector, joint-venture model, MicroNet proposes to help at least 25,000 SMEs raise their earning potential. MicroNet is managed by PRONACOM, a public-private Guatemalan partnership. This project will enable micro-businesses to expand outside of their local environments; and to establish market linkages with higher income segments in a national and, in some cases, international market. MicroNet can be replicated in other countries, including Mexico, Ecuador and Jamaica, whose governments have recently expressed interest.

Access to credit and other micro-finance services is absolutely essential for SMEs to be productive and to create employment for the poor. A new *info*Dev project, *PlaNet University Information System*, uses ICT resources to promote micro-finance services. PlaNet University is an international non-governmental institution that provides support to the micro-finance sector through the Internet. The PlaNet University Information System offers a cost-effective platform for linking companies to financial services on-line:

- A customer and donation module
- An information center: PlaNet University Virtual Library providing information about micro finance, micro-projects and micro-enterprises
- A training center: PlaNet Online University providing specific training to the micro finance industry (practitioners, students, and consultants).

Connectivity and Commerce: Accelerating Electronic Commerce in Uganda and Tanzania provides enterprises with a better chance to capitalize on opportunities for electronic commerce through the Internet. Six to ten start-ups, located in Uganda and Tanzania, will

receive mentoring from well-established companies to develop their technical, financial and marketing capabilities. This project will enhance the capacity of local Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Internet Solutions Service Providers (ISSPs) to support Ugandan businesses that, in turn, should be able to compete effectively with foreign enterprises in emerging international markets.

Access to appropriate technology and knowledge is paramount to improving productivity and management. A newly funded project, *Knowledge Network for Augmenting Grassroots Innovations, (www.sristi.org)*, will create a knowledge network for members of the agricultural community to exchange information on grassroots innovations in South Asia. The Knowledge Network (KN) is establishing an experimental network of farmers, rural extension workers and researchers in agricultural institutions in the state of Gujarat to share results of field experiments and other innovations in the sector. Information and research findings will be made available to scientists, investors, entrepreneurs and consumers. To facilitate communication with illiterate farmers, data will be transmitted by sound or picture files. In the future, this knowledge network will expand to other countries.

Last year's review of *info*Dev's education projects concluded that"*info*Dev should increase the proportion of its total portfolio devoted to education projects, given the central role of education and training in the increasing knowledge-based and global economy. But to leverage this increased investment, a greater portion should be invested in projects involving policy formulation and research, and both should include built-in evaluation and dissemination components."

Over the long term, education has proved to be the most important instrument for poverty reduction, which justifies *info*Dev's emphasis on promoting innovative use of ICT in education, targeting the poor. The *Conexiones* project, completed during the fiscal year, (http://www.conexiones.eafit.edu.co) created a pilot computer communications network linking 60 public and private Colombian schools in urban and rural areas. It deploys low cost technology and educational tools in dissemination of traditional educational content and supports classroom teachers in the areas of management, pedagogy, didactics and technology. Technology applications in a multimedia environment are used to create interactive learning teams in the classroom and in community programs.

Networking for Innovation in Technology and Teacher Training is developing nine case studies on the use of ICT, notably the use of the Internet for in-service teacher training in developing countries. This project focuses on schools serving the poorest families where the teachers are at a disadvantage with respect to training opportunities.

Direct health interventions to protect the poor are among the most effective tools for alleviation of poverty. By the end of FY00, *info*Dev had funded a total of nine health projects, eight of which were still active.

The *Use of Information Technology for Delivering Quality Health Care to the Rural Population Project* is testing the use of Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) to help rural health workers in India increase their efficiency in delivering health information. This project aims to reduce redundant data entry prevalent in paper registers through automatic generation of monthly reports from Auxiliary Nurse Midwives. Health care providers and workers (including those who are semi-literate) will be trained in the use of Personal Digital Assistant (PDAs) to process data with ease. It is anticipated that, if successful, the project concept will be extended to other areas of the country. One immediate benefit of the project is less time spent by health care workers on administrative tasks and more time for them to interact with patients.

With a grant from *info*Dev, SatelLife and SatelLife Healthnet Kenya have created a Regional Information Technology Training Center (RITTC) in Nairobi, Kenya. During the 1999-2000 academic year, the RITTC offered full scholarships to 70 health professionals in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda to take training courses on use of information and technology communication. RITTC facilitates communication and information exchange among physicians, researchers, medical librarians, and other health professionals through use of e-mail, CD-ROM, and the World Wide Web/Internet. With four sessions completed to date, the response of participants has been overwhelmingly positive. Many participants have commented that the use of IT is revolutionizing their approach to health care. The challenge ahead is to transform RITTC from a short-term grant-funded project into a sustainable institution that will serve the health community for years to come.

(8)Peter T. Knight , "Lessons from infoDev Education Projects", Knight-Moore Telematics for Education and Development/CDI, June 2000. http://www.knight-moore.com/.

Proposal Evaluation Process

During the fiscal year, *info*Dev has reviewed 288 proposals for its main program, including 120 proposals for the core program, 69 pre-proposals for the Development Marketplace, 22 proposals for the *info*Dev Conference Scholarship Fund (iCSF) program, and 55 applications for the *info*Dev-Motorola University project to be funded in FY01. In addition, 46 submissions prepared under the Forward project were screened to identify those of possible interest for *info*Dev funding. Publicity for *info*Dev competitions, targeted at developing countries, appeared on the Internet through pamphlet dissemination and announcements at conferences. This publicity resulted in a 172 percent increase in proposals submitted as compared to FY99. The forms for proposal submission were revised and streamlined. Electronic links to instructional materials on proposal development and presentation are now included in the guidelines.

The review process for the core program is a two stage process, with the opportunity for those submitting proposals to clarify points raised by reviewers during the first stage. Second stage reviews are conducted by an external agency. Simplified, more rapid review processes are used for the iCSF program and other special initiatives. A proposal has been submitted by the Technical Advisory Panel and Donors' Committee on further revisions of this proposal evaluation process.

Table 4 summarizes the status of all proposals received, including iCSF proposals, for the core program since the inception of *info*Dev in 1995. The table does not include the proposals reviewed under the Development Marketplace, the *info*Dev-Motorola University project and the Y2K Initiative.

Table 4 Processed Proposals as of June 30, 2000

	FY95-99	FY00	Total
Proposals received	391	144	535
Proposals not accepted	287	106	393
Proposals funded	81	34	115
Proposals completed	33	34	67

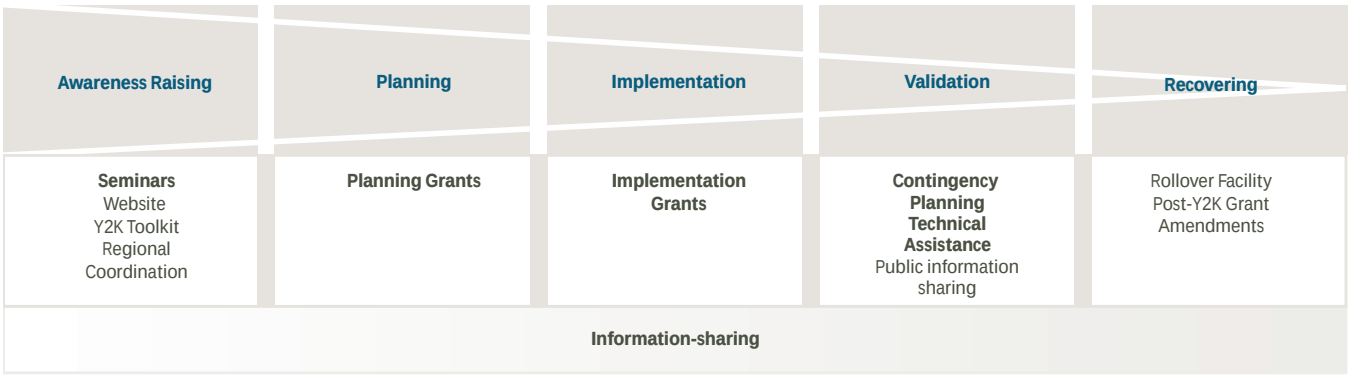
THE Y2K INITIATIVE

Starting in 1998, *info*Dev designed and implemented a program to help developing countries and emerging economies address the Year 2000 (Y2K) computing problem. The Y2K Initiative was funded by donations from the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Sweden, The Netherlands, Australia, Italy, France, and Switzerland, for a total of over $39 million over the period 1998-2000.

After designing a tool kit for governments to help them address the problem, *info*Dev developed an overall Y2K strategy to help governments manage the risks and to develop contingency plans. The *info*Dev Y2K Initiative focused on the following areas:

- Raising awareness among governments on the seriousness and implications of the problem
- Sharing information through a web site (www.worldbank.org/y2k), a listserv, and the dissemination of publications, including the original *Y2K Tool-Kit* for public sector organizations
- Providing grants to help governments design national plans and implement remediation activities
- Providing technical assistance on cross-border issues, economic sector risks, and contingency planning
- Guiding the conversion of Y2K resources to valuable use after the rollover.

Figure 7
***info*Dev Y2K Assistance Strategy**

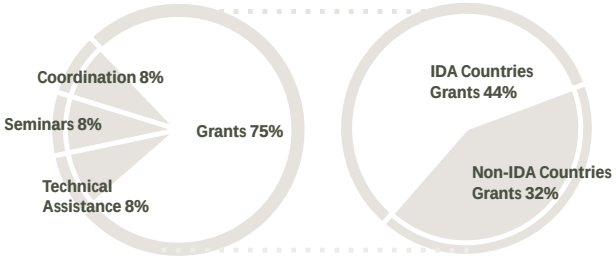


In a second phase of its Y2K Initiative, *info*Dev provided grants to national Y2K coordinating agencies to assist with planning and implementation of remediation programs. *Planning Grants* funded the development of worldwide Y2K National Action Plans. *Implementation Grants* funded remediation, testing, and evaluation of targeted critical systems.

From May 1998 until December 1999, *info*Dev received a total of 161 requests (of which 18 in FY00) for planning, implementation, and other Y2K-related grants. In response to those requests, a total of 140 grants were awarded (of which 55 in FY00). Seventy-four of those grants went to the least developed countries (that is, countries eligible to receive financing from the International Development Association (IDA)). As a consequence, more than 100 governments in developing countries launched and conducted successful national Y2K programs with support received from *info*Dev.

In a third phase of the program, *info*Dev provided technical assistance for contingency planning. On request of client countries, technical teams were sent out into the field in order to conduct national and sector risk assessments. Thirty-five country missions were conducted. In addition, five special projects were funded with matching private sector funds.

Figure 8
Program expenditures by activity



Planning and implementation grants amounted to 75 percent of the total resources allocated from donor funds. Technical assistance accounted for 8 percent of the total and included contingency planning missions, the development and deployment of toolkits, and funding for the rollover facility. Coordination represented 8 percent of the expenses, and covered program administration as well as funding of an International Y2K Coordination Center.

Scope of Grant Program

*info*Dev allocated nearly $26 million in grants to 106 countries and nine non-governmental organizations (NGOs) under the Y2K initiative (Table 5). These grants ranged in value from $69,000 to $700,000. The average value of the planning grant was $99,000. The average value of the implementation grant was $329,000. Applications were considered on a first-come/first-serve basis. However, preference was given to the poorest countries—IDA eligible countries—and to higher caliber work programs.

Grants to Non-Government Entities

Although the program was oriented toward government agencies, it appeared that several issues would be best tackled by non-governmental organizations and industry consortia. Consequently, *info*Dev provided nine grants to NGOs to address specific tasks, three of which funded the establishment of regional Y2K coordination centers in Africa, Europe and Central Asia, in Latin America, three went to organizations working on specific sectors including health and power, and three others were administered under the main *info*Dev program for training and public information purposes (see Annex 3).

Table 5 Requests and Grants by Region (Millions of United States Dollars)

Region	Requests for grants	Grants approved	Requests from IDA countries	Grants approved to IDA countries
Sub-Saharan Africa	52	43	44	36
Latin America	30	26	10	9
Middle East and North Africa	11	10	2	2
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	41	37	16	16
South Asia	7	5	7	5
Eastern Asia and Pacific	11	10	7	6
Global Initiatives	9	9	—	—
Total	161	140	86	74
Total ($ millions)	**43.917**	**25.811**	**23.848**	**14.260**

Technical Assistance

The *info*Dev strategy for the end of 1999 and the beginning of 2000 focused on contingency planning in high-risk sectors, including cross-border issues. On request of client governments, technical teams were sent to conduct national and sector risk assessment. The technical teams were drawn from a database of Y2K specialists from a variety of sectors. Special procurement procedures were established to expedite the deployment of resources including consulting firms in response to countries' applications for assistance. Such procedures included an adaptation of the World Bank thresholds for engaging consultants and consulting services through sole sourcing and competitive contracts. The countries had the option of requesting assistance from alternative service providers, including local consultants. To facilitate information sharing, these assessments made use of the *info*Dev *Y2K Contingency Planning Methodology and Guide* where applicable.

Rollover Facility

For technical problems after the rollover to the year 2000, *info*Dev worked with the International Y2K Cooperation Center (IY2KCC), the G8 countries, and a number of international organizations to provide assistance as and when needed. This assistance was to be rolled out in phases depending on the nature of problems encountered and participation of funding sources. The first Y2K-caused disruptions were to be handled by by national governments with the assistance of regional experts. To address problems that could not be solved by the country itself, even with regional support, *info*Dev had helped establish a referral and evaluation process. This measure help to build confidence among governments and institutions that potential disruptions could be handled promptly and effectively. This response framework did not need to be exercised since the world passed through the 2000 year date change with only minor problems.

KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION AND EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Knowledge dissemination and information exchange continues to be an important part of *info*Dev's mandate to promote deeper understanding and public awareness of the benefits of ICT applications, especially as they relate to the poor. Lessons learned from information collected from *info*Dev projects is a fundamental asset of the program. Knowledge and information is disseminated through different channels reaching key target audiences. The web site, www.infodev.org (see Annex 1), is the main source of exchange and dissemination. The *info*Dev *Quarterly Report* highlights new and current project developments. The *info*Dev *eXchange* is a quarterly publication that analyzes salient trends in ICT management through interviews with key players in the field. Both publications are also accessible through the *info*Dev web site. The *info*Dev *Bulletin* is an electronic newsletter distributed through the *info*Dev-L listserv. An e-mail discussion group, on ICT-related topics, reaches over 1,200 members.

*info*Dev representatives participated in several conferences and seminars during FY00 to continue to promote ICT for development, to provide information on the program and increase its visibility. These international conferences and meetings with *info*Dev participation included the following:

- International Telecommunication Union Telecomm '99 Forum in Geneva, Switzerland (*info*Dev joined UNDP, UNCTAD and IICI)
- 13th Annual Conference on Science and Technology in Kingston, Jamaica
- Global Knowledge II Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- UN Secretary-General's Panel on Information Technology in New York, United States
- 2nd Global Forum, Democratic State and Governance in the 21st Century in Brasilia, Brazil
- Health and ICT conference in Cambridge, United States
- Third Consultative Expert Meeting of the Technical Center for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation Observatory on Information and Communication Technologies in Wageningen, The Netherlands
- Stockholm Challenge in Stockholm, Sweden
- Indonesian International Telecommunications, Media, and Information Technology Conference–Exhibition 2000 conference in Jakarta, Indonesia.

*info*Dev also participated in the selection committee of the fifth call for proposals of the Fonds Francophone des Inforoutes, the ICT program of the Agence de la Francophonie.

The New Networked Economy Symposium

The *info*Dev symposium is an annual, invitation-only event that brings together global leaders to discuss the opportunities and challenges presented by the Information Age.

The 1999 *info*Dev symposium—*The New Networked Economy: What is at Stake for the Developing World*?—was held in November at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, D.C. Over 500 individuals representing governments, private organizations, research and academic institutions, NGOs and development agencies participated in the symposium that focused particularly on how to establish public-private partnerships in bridging the "Digital Divide".

The discussion of the Symposium centered upon four main topics:
- Adapting the way we do business in an Internet-led economy
- The meaning of universal access in a broadband environment
- Implementing regulatory policies which optimize economic and social outcomes, and
- Building new application platforms in areas such as education, health, trade.

Mr. James Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank Group, opened the symposium. Rubens Ricupero, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, and His Highness the Aga Khan, 49th hereditary Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims, were the keynote speakers. Over the two days of the symposium, leaders such as President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, President Kim Dae-Jung of the Republic of Korea, Vinton Cerf, Senior Vice President of Worldcom and Chairman of the Internet Society, Yoshio Utsumi, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunications Union and Muhammad Yunus, Founder of Grameen Bank and others addressed the symposium, on the opportunities and challenges facing the world in this new networked economy.

In closing the symposium, Carlos Braga, Manager of *info*Dev, remarked that although the tide of network development is lifting all boats, there still needs to be greater focus on applying innovative solutions to the problems of access for the poor.

*info*Dev Working Papers

Dissemination of relevant studies, statistics, case studies and sector information is another important function of *info*Dev. This year, *info*Dev commissioned three major studies. These studies provide evidence and data to support discussions regarding transfer of ICT knowledge resources to developing countries. They complements the Pyramid group study that was funded FY99, and published in FY00 (http://www.infodev.org/projects/375/fin375.htm).

A working paper, by Francisco Rodríguez and Ernest J. Wilson, III, "Are poor Countries Losing the Information revolution" is a non-technical summary of research that explores the digital divide between rich and poor countries, and whether that gap is growing or shrinking. "Rural Access to Information and Communication Technologies: The Challenge for Africa," was prepared for the African Connection Secretariat by the TeleCommons Development Group with the support of the British Department for International Development. "The Network Revolution and the Developing World" is another *info*Dev working paper by Analysys Consulting. It provides an update on the impact of networking on economic, social and institutional development. The three working papers are available on the *info*Dev web site.

PARTNERSHIPS

During this past year *info*Dev has strengthened its partnership with the Stockholm Challenge, the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD) that co-sponsors the ICT Stories Project, and the Global Knowledge Partnership. *info*Dev also took part in the Development Market Place, launched by the World Bank to promote innovative development projects. Finally, *info*Dev co-funded a project in partnership with a private company as part of the Africa Connection flagship Initiative.

The Stockholm Challenge

The Stockholm Challenge Award is an initiative of the city of Stockholm, Sweden, in partnership with the European Commission to offer information technology entrepreneurs from around the world an opportunity to showcase their projects. *info*Dev provided support to the Stockholm Challenge Award through the *info*Dev Conference Scholarship Fund.

The Challenge, through a panel of international judges, identifies and awards prizes to those projects that best demonstrate the opportunities and benefits of ICT in key sectors. This year,

96 projects out of more than 600 entries, were selected as finalists. Thirteen prizes were awarded in six categories: Public Services and Democracy, the Environment, the New Economy, Equal Access, Culture and Entertainment, and Education. Three *info*Dev projects—*Computer Skills Training for Low-Income Women in India, Honey Bee: Knowledge Network for Augmenting Grassroots Innovations, and Conexiones*—were selected as finalists.

ICT Stories Project

The ICT Stories project is an initiative undertaken by *info*Dev and IICD in The Hague. Its objective is to capture the learning process that accompanies the introduction and implementation of ICT for development. These stories describe good practices and lessons learned from contributors' experiences.

An annual competition is organized to select the best stories. The first round was completed in November 1999. An international panel of judges selected the four stories from more than fifty entries presented at the Global Knowledge II conference held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Following the success of the first round, *info*Dev and IICD decided to continue the project by announcing round 2000 of the ICT Stories. The four winning stories will be presented at the *info*Dev Symposium in Cairo, Egypt, in October 2000.

Global Knowledge Partnership

The Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) is an evolving, informal partnership of public, private, and not-for-profit organizations. Partner organizations are committed to sharing information, experiences, and resources to promote broad access to, and effective use of, knowledge and information as tools of sustainable, equitable development. From March 7–10, 2000, the GKP, in partnership with the Malaysian government, hosted the Global Knowledge II (GK II) conference. More than a thousand people representing the public and private sectors from 120 countries convened to develop strategies that would put information and knowledge in the hands of developing countries and the world's poor. iCSF's scholarships were awarded to support the participation of representatives from developing countries in GK II.

Directly supported by *info*Dev, GKP, the World Bank Institute, and Bellanet, GK-AIMS is a set of online tools that facilitates information sharing and allows for greater collaboration among project planners. GK-AIMS acts as a central information clearinghouse for all key stakeholders building the information, communications, and knowledge resources of developing countries.

Development Marketplace

The Development Marketplace is a forum sponsored by the World Bank and other development agencies to encourage cooperation within the development community in the search for solutions to reduce poverty. Through a series of events it hosts a competition and electronic space to be used by members of the development community to find and create new ways of working together. The first Innovation Competition of the Development Marketplace was held in Washington, D.C., February 8 and 9, 2000. *info*Dev supported the evaluation process of ICT-related projects submitted to the competition and two proposals, *Guatemala MicroNet* and *IT: Empowering People with Disabilities*, were selected for funding by *info*Dev.

African Connection

The African Connection (AC) is a region-wide, Africa led and managed initiative to harmonize improvements in infrastructure and management of ICT across the entire continent. It is intended as a "common road map for enabling Africa's launch into the Information Age" and ensuring that countries are in a position to take full advantage of many promising new ICT applications—in health, education, commerce, agriculture— to promote broad based development and to improve the welfare of the poor.

As part of the African Connection Initiative, *info*Dev co-finances *Satellite Communications for Africa*, a study of regulation requirements for mobile communication systems, with ICO-Teledesic Global, Ltd. (formerly ICO Global Communications). This project develops a regulatory toolkit and makes recommendations regarding the licensing process for satellite-based telecommunications services. The Global Mobile Personal Communication (GMPCS) encourages a consensus on policy imperatives such as universal service. It is expected that successful outcomes of this project will lead partnering organizations, including telecom operators, to launch new pilot projects demonstrating practical applications of satellite communication such as village phones or telecenters.

Organization

GOVERNANCE

*info*Dev is governed by a Donors' Committee, which is composed of donors paying at least the minimum contribution specified in the *info*Dev Operational Guidelines of May 15, 1999 (see *info*Dev 1999 Annual Report). The Donors' Committee is chaired by a vice president of the World Bank. It meets once a year to review the operational and financial results of the program, to discuss its strategic orientations in terms of thematic and geographic priorities, and to receive pledges and indications of financial support. A six-member Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) assists the Donors' Committee and the manager of the program in designing an overall strategy for *info*Dev. Day-to-day management of *info*Dev activities is delegated to the World Bank. *info*Dev can form partnerships to achieve its objectives and can organize co-funding of its activities with other organizations. Under certain conditions these partners may have observer status or become members of the Donors' Committee.

Donors' Committee

The fifth meeting of the Donors' Committee was held in Brussels, Belgium, on December 6 and 7, 1999 (see Annex 2) Salient topics relevant to *info*Dev activities discussed during the meeting related to: the role *info*Dev could play in reducing poverty in developing countries, ways to improve public-private partnerships in *info*Dev, the balance between knowledge generation and knowledge dissemination, and the difference between demand driven and flagship projects. Members generally expressed their satisfaction with the way the program operated and confirmed their continuous support.

It was announced that Ms. Nemat Shafit, World Bank Vice President for Private Sector and Infrastructure, will succeed, on January 1, 2000, Mr. Jean-François Rischard, Vice President for Europe at the World Bank, who had chaired *info*Dev Donors' Committee since the creation of the program at the end of 1995. It was also announced that, at the same date, *info*Dev would become part of a newly formed global product group for information and communication technologies, a joint department of the World Bank and its affiliate, the International Finance Corporation. Mr. Mohsen Khalil, the director appointed to head the joint department, addressed the meeting and gave his views emphasizing the special role he foresaw for *info*Dev "as a venture fund for ideas"in the new setting.

Technical Advisory Panel

At the end of 1998, recommendations for the external review of the program resulted in a new terms of reference for the TAP. A new six member TAP was selected in FY99 b and took office at the beginning of FY00. The new TAP comprises the following members appointed for 3-year terms:

Ms. Fernanda Cabanas, Mozambique
Dr. K. J. John, Malaysia
Dr. Silvio Romero de Lemos Meira, Brazil
Dr. Nii Quaynor, Ghana
Mr. Philippe-Olivier Rousseau, France
Dr. George Sadowsky, United States

The new TAP does increase representation from developing countries. Dr. George Sadowsky, who was also appointed coordinator of the new TAP, and Mr. Philippe-Olivier Rousseau, the previous coordinator, had served on the first TAP. The four other members are from developing countries. Ms. Cabanas had participated in the external evaluation team that reviewed the organization and activities of the program at the end of 1998.

The role of the TAP is to advise the Donors' Committee and the Program Manager on making strategic recommendations to strengthen *info*Dev's program; to assess advances in information and telecommunication technologies relevant to developing countries; to identify new and more efficient paths to reach the objectives of *info*Dev, notably through special initiatives or flagship projects; and to help evaluating the impact of selected *info*Dev activities.

The first formal meeting of the new TAP was held in Washington, D.C., in early November. During this meeting the TAP was informed by the *info*Dev management team on priority objectives, the processes used by *info*Dev to reach those objectives, the status of the work program and other activities. The TAP advised the Program Manager on a proposal to establish a scholarship initiative for developing IT curricula, and

suggested ways to improve the proposal. This proposal came to be implemented as the *info*Dev Motorola University project, to be funded in FY01.

At its first meeting, the TAP also started preparing its annual report to the Donors' Committee. This report was presented at the meeting in Brussels. In its 1999 annual report the TAP stated that, in its view, *info*Dev is a very valuable addition to efforts for leveraging information and communication technologies for development. The TAP noted that the number of private partners participating in *info*Dev is still limited and recommended to the Donors' Committee to explore ways to further engage the private sector. The TAP also recommended to simplify the process to evaluate project proposals, and to create new flagship priority areas of focus, notably to help generate new ICT enterprises in developing countries.

A second formal meeting of the TAP was held on the occasion of the second Global Knowledge Conference (GK2) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in March 2000. Five of the six TAP members participated in this Kuala Lumpur meeting which focused on issues discussed at GKII and their relevance to *info*Dev. Following up on the discussions at the Donors' Committee in Brussels, the TAP considered how it could contribute to the promotion of more efficient partnerships with private sector organizations.

In addition to its formal meetings, the TAP held six teleconferences during the fiscal year. The program manager and other *info*Dev staff participated in these teleconferences which discussed the organization of the TAP work program, provided updates on *info*Dev strategy and activities--including flagships, dissemination efforts, possible partnership with other development institutions, the interface between public and private sector institution for *info*Dev funding, the participation of the TAP in GKII, and the role *info*Dev could play in the Global Gateway initiative.

Private Sector Participation

Developing countries could greatly benefit from private sector involvement in building modern telecommunication networks in a competitive environment. However, for the private sector, developing countries remain a largely untapped market. *info*Dev has a useful role to play in facilitating a greater participation of the private sector in these countries.

There has been continued recognition that the private sector participation in *info*Dev is essential to the long-term impact that *info*Dev can have on ICT development. Private companies offer familiarity with the rapidly evolving technologies and can develop products adapted to the conditions of emerging economies. For its part, *info*Dev provides a forum and a clearinghouse of information and data dissemination promoting market and business development. It can also play an instrumental role in enhancing and improving the human resources side of development—fostering the creation of a skilled work force in emerging economies.

Current private sector partners in *info*Dev include IBM, Motorola, Telecom Italia and ICO-Teledesic Global, Ltd. At the end of the fiscal year, *info*Dev was in the process of finalizing discussions with several companies, whose participation is expected to be announced in the first half of FY01.

Two initiatives in which the private sector was actively involved this past fiscal year—the African Connection and the *info*Dev symposium—illustrated the critical role that *info*Dev can play in mobilizing resources and knowledge from public and private partners to promote greater economic and social development.

ADMINISTRATION

During the fiscal year, the program manager appointed a new Work Program administrator to replace Mr. Larry Forgy, who left *info*Dev in December 1999. Dr. John Daly, former Director of the Office of Research at U.S. Agency for International Development, agreed to serve as the new program administrator on a part-time basis. Ms. Eva Lystad, Senior Informatics Specialist, replaced Ms. Joyce Amenta as Y2K Coordinator, as of July 1, 1999. Ms. Lystadt subsequently resigned from the World Bank and relinquished her role with the Y2K Initiative on June 30, 2000 to take on new professional opportunities and return to her home country.

Finances

The financial standing of *info*Dev at the end of FY00, the Program's fourth full year of operation, corresponded to an exceptional level of activity during the year under review. Disbursements reached a new record as payments for activities related to the Y2K Initiative increased. However, total transfers from donors declined, in line with the planned phasing out of the Y2K Initiative, and also because of lower contributions to the main *info*Dev program.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Total contributions paid-in during the fiscal year amounted to $14.48 million (of which $9.48 million for the Y2K Initiative) compared to $27.09 million in FY99 (of which $20.82 million for the Y2K Initiative). These amounts do not include a $137,000 in-kind contribution from the government of Australia for the Y2K Initiative. Contributions for *info*Dev main program (other than Y2K activities) decreased by 20.4 percent, reflecting a reduction in the contributions received from the World Bank, as well as the absence of new contributions from several past donors. Several donors reduced or postponed contributions they had pledged in the past because of reductions in national development assistance budgets, or for technical difficulties in finalizing transfers.

Table 6 summarizes the cumulative financial contributions available to *info*Dev between September 1995, when the Program started, and June 2000, at the end of the last fiscal year. The amount of $61.86 million made available to *info*Dev was net of cost recovery fees retained by the World Bank to manage the trust funds, but included incomes from investments and reinvestments of trust funds balances when donors have allowed such investments and reinvestments to accrue to *info*Dev trust funds. Total amounts contributed by donors, before deducting cost recovery fees, reached a cumulative total of $62.79 million, as indicated in Table 7.

Unrestricted contributions include so-called "core" contributions from public and private donors through trust funds with the World Bank. Such core trust funds can be used to fund any activity supported by *info*Dev. Contributions from the World Bank's Development Grant Facility (DGF) funded by the net income of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, are also unrestricted. Restricted contributions are earmarked in advance by donors. These contributions must be used in support of specific themes, type of activity or regions. They are administered through different trust funds arrangements with the World Bank. In-kind contributions include staff secondments from donors, as well as contributions from the World Bank budget to cover part of the *info*Dev staff and administrative costs.

During the year, the *info*Dev main program received cash contributions from the governments of Canada, Finland, Germany, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The government of France, Telecom Italia and the World Bank provided in-kind contributions to the main program. In the case of the government of France and Telecom Italia, these in-kind contributions were in the form of staff services. All in-kind contributions were used to support *info*Dev's general operations, covering some of the costs associated with the program's governance, management, evaluation of proposals, overall supervision of ongoing activities and monitoring of operations, dissemination of results, and the general promotion of the Program.

Table 6 Cumulative Contributions by Funding Category (Millions of United States dollars- Cumulative Figures FY95-00)

Cumulative Figures	Pledged	Paid in a/	Committed	Disbursed
Unrestricted	**18.40**	**16.53**	**15.42**	**12.83**
Core	9.49	7.62	6.82	4.23
World Bank DGF	8.91	8.91	8.60	8.60
Restricted	**40.49**	**38.88**	**34.67**	**31.91**
Y2K b/	38.46	37.05	33.36	31.21
Others	2.03	1.83	1.31	0.59
In Kind	**6.13**	**6.45**	**6.40**	**6.38**
World Bank c/	5.61	5.89	5.89	5.89
Other Donors	0.52	0.56	0.51	0.49
Total	**65.02**	**61.86**	**56.49**	**51.12**

a/ Paid-in amounts in this table are net of cost recovery fees and accumulated earnings on investments
b/ Excludes World Bank's Y2K contribution
c/ Includes Y2K contribution

Table 7 *info*Dev Donor Pledges/Contributions (As of June 30, 2000) (Thousands of United States dollars)

	PLEDGES				CONTRIBUTIONS			
	FY96-98	FY99	FY00	Total	FY96-98	FY99	FY00	Total
Australia, Y2K (in kind)			120	120			137	137
Belgium	511			511	511			511
Brazil	250			250	150	100		250
Canada		250	245	495		250	245	495
Canada--Y2K		726	406	1,132		742	406	1,148
Colombia	250			250	122	118		240
Denmark	500			500	500			500
El Salvador		100		100		100		100
European Union (in kind)	250			250		80		80
Finland	690		100	790	690		100	790
France	494			494	447			447
France (in kind)	153	80	86	319	153	57	77	287
France--Y2K		350		350			330	330
Germany	260	38	31	329	114	121	38	273
IBM	500			500	375			375
Italy	441	250		691	441		250	691
Italy--Y2K		295		295			295	295
Luxembourg	200	100	100	400	200			200
Motorola	200			200	200			200
The Netherlands	750	250	250	1,250	500	164		664
--Y2K		4,250	1,364	5,614			5,423	5,423
Sweden	900	350		1,250	427	378	351	1,156
--Y2K		1,230		1,230		1,230		1,230
Switzerland	1,489	251		1,740	1,489	226		1,715
--Y2K			1,024	1,024			1,024	1,024
Telecom Italia	250	150		400	250	150		400
Telecom Italia (in kind)		100	100	200		100	100	200
United Kingdom	300	455	370	1,125	200	89	370	659
United Kingdom-- Y2K	8,516	8,184		16,700	8,516	6,336	1,616	16,468
United States Y2K		12,000		12,000		12,000		12,000
World Bank	2,548	900	1,087	4,535	2,697	1,020	1,087	4,804
World Bank-Y2K	200	500	381	1,081	200	509	381	1,090
World Bank DGF	3,000	3,325	2,580	8,905	3,000	3,325	2,278	8,603
TOTAL	22,652	34,134	8,224	65,030	21,182	27,095	14,508	62,785
Total Y2K	**8,716**	**27,535**	**3,295**	**39,546**	**8,716**	**20,817**	**9,612**	**39,145**

In addition, the governments of Canada, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom provided additional funds to support the Y2K initiative; and the government of Australia supported the Y2K Initiative with consultancy services. The World Bank contribution totaled $3.75 million, of which $2.28 million from the Development Grant Facility (DGF), compared to $4.85 million in FY99, of which $3.32 million from the DGF.

EXPENSES

Total disbursements rose by 49 percent from $17.26 million in FY99 to $25.69 million, of which $20.57 million were disbursed as part of the Y2K Initiative ($11.48 million in FY99).

Disbursements on projects under the *info*Dev main program decreased by some 18 percent from $4.5 million in FY99 to $3.7 million in FY00, as a consequence of the 20.4 percent decrease in contributions noted earlier.

Significant efficiency gains in administering the program were recorded during the year. For example, project evaluation costs were reduced by 31 percent and program administration costs decreased by 14 percent. Governance costs increased, however, notably because the new six-member TAP implemented a more active work program. There was also an enhanced program to generate and disseminate knowledge through new activities (including the *info*Dev Symposium), which resulted in a 178 percent increase in related costs. Overall costs -- other than direct project funding--but including costs related to governance, project evaluation and monitoring, knowledge dissemination, and general administration--were reduced from 14.59 percent to 9.63 percent of total disbursements. Table 8 summarizes *info*Dev expenses by category during the year.

CASH POSITION

As of June 30, 2000, cash resources in trust fund accounts controlled by *info*Dev totaled $10.74 million, of which $3.70 million were in core funds and $7.07 million in restricted funds. Some $5.73 million of the restricted funds were earmarked for the Y2K Initiative. From that amount, $2.04 million was committed and expected to be disbursed shortly. Disbursements related to the Y2K Initiative were expected to be finalized and the related trust funds to be closed by the end of calendar year 2000. The reallocation of some $3.69 million of unused funds earmarked for the Y2K Initiative was under discussion with the concerned donors at the end of the fiscal year. With respect to the main *info*Dev program, a cumulative amount of $1.33 million was available for new commitments, of which $0.80 million in unrestricted core funds, $0.52 million in restricted funds, and $50,000 as in-kind resources. All these resources were expected to be fully used early in the FY01.

Table 8 *info*Dev Expenses, Fiscal 1996-2000 (Thousands of United States dollars)

Type of expense	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00
Project Funding a/	**36**	**1,405**	**4,405**	**14,739**	**23,217**
of which Y2K initiative			200	10,238	19,521
Project Evaluation	**45**	**102**	**139**	**461**	**318**
of which Y2K initiative				250	200
Governance	**58**	**54**	**22**	**44**	**151**
of which Donors' Committe	31	14	5	10	52
of which TAP	27	40	17	34	99
Program Administration	**435**	**443**	**520**	**1,491**	**1,282**
of which Y2K initiative			15	780	640
Knowledge Dissemination b/		**119**	**43**	**109**	**303**
Overhead-other admin.costs c/	**123**	**107**	**221**	**413**	**422**
of which Y2K initiative			36	213	215
Total	**697**	**2,230**	**5,350**	**17,257**	**25,693**

a/ Includes direct cost of project supervision by TM
b/ Includes cost of infoDev symposium, Annual Report, website
c/ Office occupancy, comunications and internal computing

A N N E X 1

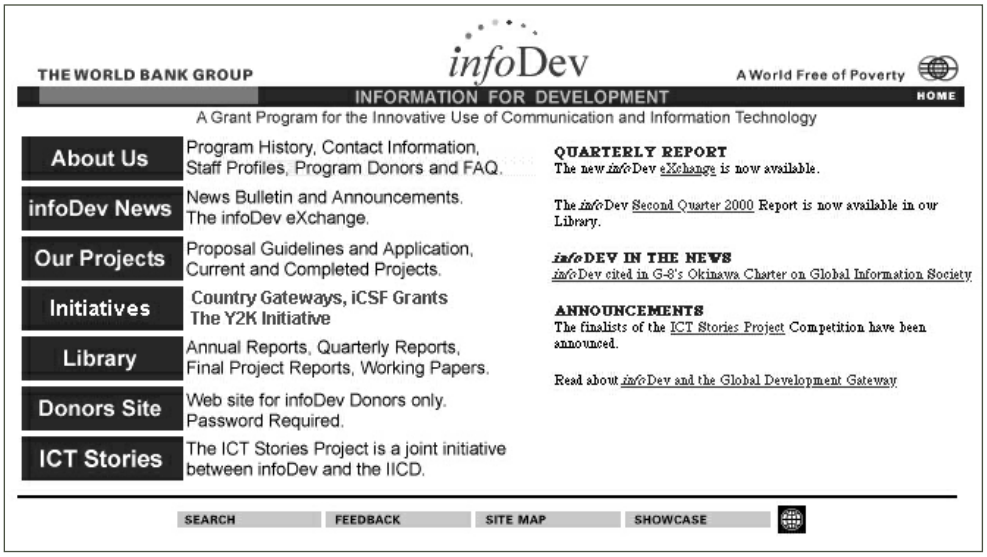
*info*Dev Web Site

The *info*Dev website continues to be the source of the most up-to-date program information and electronic outreach. The site is updated with program news on a regular basis as well as reports (quarterly reports, final project reports, working papers) thatwhich are made available as soon as they are released. An electronic newsletter is distributed to the infoDev electronic distribution list (infoDev-L), which is over 1200 members strong and open to the entire development community.

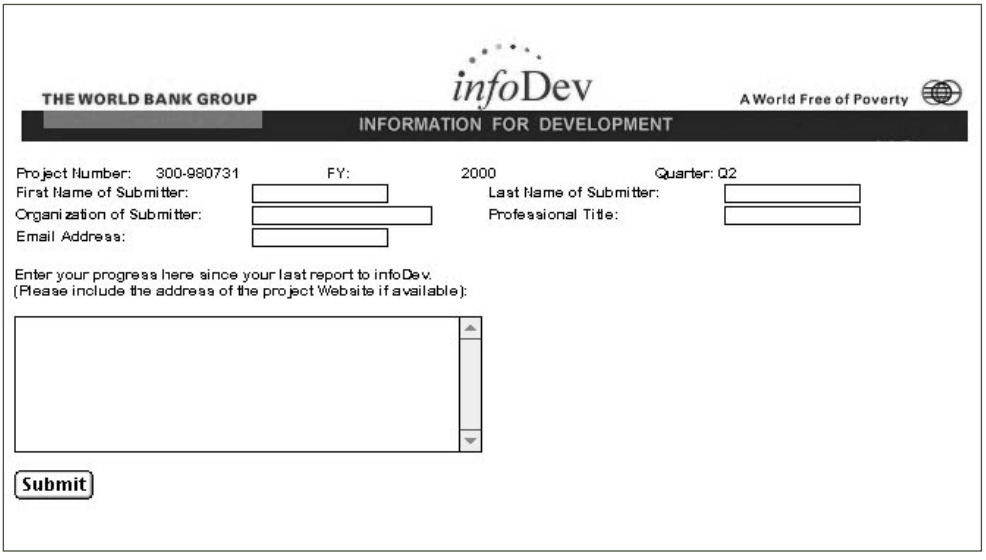
This year a new online quarterly report system was successfully introduced thatwhich reduced the time needed to collect reports from active project proponents.

The ICT Stories Project wWebsite was launched in 1999 in partnership with the IICD in Tthe Netherlands. This site is seeking to become the online resource for collecting lessons learned from ICT projects around the world.

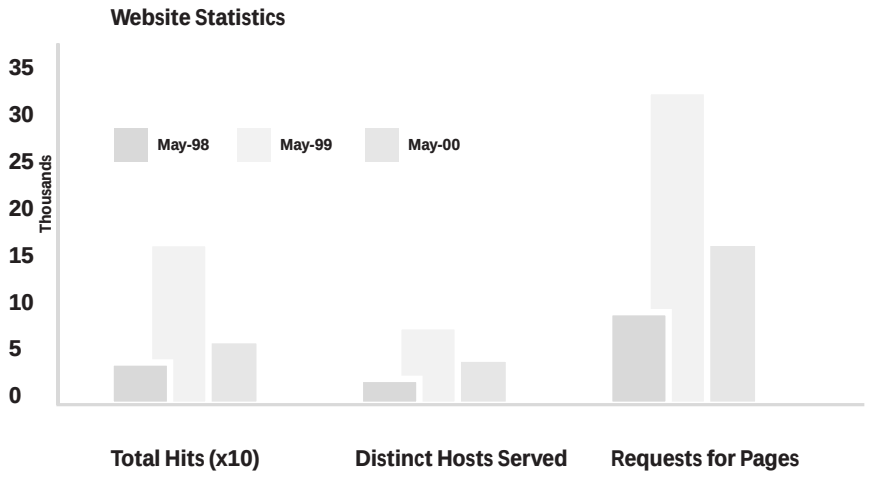
The infoDev eXchange was launched in 1999. This electronic magazine includes stories and interviews relating to infoDev projects and activities as well as topics of interest for anyone working in development.



Screenshot of main *info*Dev webpage



Screenshot of Quarterly Reporting Online



*1999 statistics include statistics for the Y2K portion of the World Bank's website

A hit is an action on the websiteWeb site, such as when a user views a page or downloads a file.

Request for pages counts hits to HTML pages only (access to non-HTML documents are not counted).
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Request for pages counts hits to HTML pages only (access to non-HTML documents are not counted).

The increase in the web traffic and hits during the year 1999 is due to the residing of the World Bank's information about the Y2K bug and the Y2K initiative on the infoDev website. This drew an extraordinary amount of traffic to the site, notably towards the end of the year. We expect the statistics for following years to return to normal levels and resume a steady upward trend (as seen between 1998 and 2000).

A N N E X 2

Donors' Committee

1999 ANNUAL MEETING - BRUSSELS, DECEMBER 6-7, 1999

Summary Proceedings

1. The 1999 Annual Meeting of the Donors' Committee of the Information for Development Program (*info*Dev) was held on December 6 and December 7, 1999 at the Borschette Conference Center of the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium. The Agenda of the meeting and a List of Participants are attached as Annex 1 and Annex 2. In the absence of Mr. Jean-François Rischards, Chairman of the Donors' Committee, the meeting was chaired by Mr. James P. Bond, Director of the Energy, Mining and Telecommunications Department of the World Bank, who delivered introductory remarks on behalf of Mr. Rischard (see Annex 3). Mr. Bond also introduced to the Donors' Committee Ms. Nemat Shafik and Mr. Mohsen Khalil. Ms. Shafik, World Bank Vice President for Private Sector and Infrastructure, will chair the Donors' Committee succeeding Mr. Rischard as of January 1, 2000, and Mr. Khalil will be responsible for direct oversight of *info*Dev management, also as of January 1, 2000, as Director of the newly established global product group for telecommunications and information technologies in the World Bank Group.

2 On December 6, a series of discussions took place on current information and communication technologies (ICT) development projects, with presentations on the current approaches by the European Commission and the World Bank and on information infrastructure projects--such as the Baltic Sea Information Society/Start up: Northwest Russia project--information technologies and education, and electronic commerce.

3. On December 7, the Coordinator of the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) presented the report from the TAP. The TAP stated its belief that *info*Dev is a worthwhile program with potential to achieve larger goals. The TAP presented to the Donors a series of conclusion and recommendations with respect to the size of the program; the role of the private sector; the adoption of new flagship areas; knowledge generation and dissemination; the role of the TAP; projects submission, evaluation and approval processes; and administrative costs. The report from the TAP is attached as Annex 4.

4. Mr. Khalil indicated that, in the World Bank/IFC joint set-up, *info*Dev will be an integral part of the new global product group with the overall objective of using ICT to address poverty issues, recognizing that this was not an easy task. He also remarked that the digital divide remained a major risk, between countries, but also within societies. He proposed that the donor community and the private sector, through new forms of partnerships, help create a new class of entrepreneurs in developing countries who would be able to use ICT to foster economic development.

5. The Manager of *info*Dev presented the achievements and prospects of the program, with particular emphasis on the evolution of the work program, the implementation of the Year 2000 (Y2K) Initiative, the follow-up on the recommendation of the 1998 external review and the updated work plan, the financial situation, the way forward for *info*Dev and issues which should be addressed. Management stressed that it intended to focus on the implementation of the mandate as a tool to address basic needs and poverty reduction, through a balance between demand driven projects, knowledge dissemination and flagship initiatives. It was also pointed out that improvements were needed on the organization of public-private partnerships, alternative and less expensive modes of evaluation, networked solutions to bring down administrative costs, and on the level and structure of funding.

6. Several speakers commended the management of the program for its achievements during the year and the ability demonstrated by *info*Dev to respond quickly and efficiently to new challenges. The discussion was organized along the following topics: ICT as a tool to alleviate poverty; public and private partnerships; the balance between demand driven projects and flagships, and between pilot project and volume financing; knowledge generation and dissemination; *info*Dev cooperation with other programs and initiatives, within and outside the World Bank—including with respect to the Global Development Gateway and the Comprehensive Development Framework; the measurement and improvement of project quality; post-Y2K activities; administrative costs, and funding and the overall size of the program.

7. ICT and Poverty Reduction. Several donors expressed concerns that the focus of *info*Dev on poverty reduction--as indicated in the program new mission statement—was not clearly translated into operational principles in the document "*info*Dev: The Next Three Years" and not explicitly mentioned in the TAP report. The inclusion of poverty reduction criteria during the screening of proposals and the use of performance indicators to assess results were recommended. Other donors remarked that it was unlikely that the use of ICT will help directly address the needs of the poor, but several speakers observed that ICT was a necessary ingredient to foster economic growth and generate resources to fight poverty. A delegate indicated that his government classifies poverty reduction projects as enabling projects, inclusive projects or targeted projects. It was suggested that a similar classification could be useful to confirm the poverty reduction aspect of *info*Dev projects.

8. The Coordinator of the TAP clarified that TAP members assumed that ICT generally assist in reducing poverty and did not find it necessary to reaffirm this basic principle of *info*Dev. ICT, he added, is nowadays a key factor for accelerating economic development which, in turn, is crucial to alleviate poverty. There is also anecdotal evidence that ICT can help the poor improve their living conditions. It has been reported, for example, that when the Internet reached the agricultural sector in a South Asia country wholesale agricultural prices paid up to farmers went up significantly because of farmers better access to information. Another direct impact on poverty could be through the creation of "Internet Job Banks" making information on job opportunities more accessible to the unemployed. E-commerce is another opportunity, and we should not forget that ICT also helps the poor through better access to education, through access to cultural content and by helping to increase governments accountability. In a recent survey, poor people in developing countries have indicated that their most important complaint was corruption and the lack of attention from the government, something ICT can help improve.

9. The Manager of *info*Dev remarked that the poverty orientation of the program was prominently stated in the new mission statement. However, from the reactions received at the meeting, he agreed that poverty reduction needed to be further clarified as the priority objective of *info*Dev. He also remarked that explicit poverty reduction criteria were already part of the evaluation process and will be made clearer. He added that the management of the program is concerned by the digital divide, not as a technological issue, but because the digital divide may increase the "human divide" and hamper human development opportunities. However, despite the risks of a digital divide, wider and better uses of ICT present significant opportunities for development. Such opportunities should not be foregone. He recognized that the typology of projects with respect to poverty reduction presented by one delegate was useful and very much in line with *info*Dev's own approach.

10. Public and Private Partnerships. It was recognized that the dynamism of the private sector was leading the rapid evolution in ITC, and that *info*Dev can only benefit from a the participation of the private sector. The Chairman reminded that at its inception, *info*Dev was established as a pioneering public/private partnership. Remarking that the private sector participation in *info*Dev is still limited and that private sector partners are mainly interested in investment and profit-making opportunities, the TAP had suggested to investigate the conditions which would satisfy both potential private partners and the Bank.

11. Several public donors, however, while recognizing that the participation of the private sector in *info*Dev is an asset for the program, insisted that its economic development focus and poverty reduction orientation should remain intact. They cautioned that *info*Dev should exert prudence in the way it works with the private sector and not loose sight of its mission. One public donor, however, indicated that the public/private partnership was indeed an important feature of the program, and that *info*Dev should not shy away from considering going more directly into commercial applications if such applications lead to substantial development benefits. The same donor mentioned that *info*Dev was an important complement to this particular donor's limited national capacity to handle ICT projects for development, notably through partnerships with private organizations. This particular comparative advantage must be preserved.

12. Another public donor estimated that *info*Dev should make a more focused effort in its approach to attract the private sector and suggested to develop an appropriately targeted information package--possibly with the help of an outside consultant--to this aim.

13. Ms. Shafik remarked that it was important to distinguish between private sector partners as donors and as recipients. As donors, private partners must share the concerns of public donors with respect to creating an enabling environment for ICT and building consensus for market development. The role of private partners as recipients is not as straightforward. It may lead to situations with the appearance of conflicts between business interests and development preoccupations, and we may need to investigate further some innovative approaches.

14. A delegate from a developing country donor noted that universities in his country had benefited from private sector donations in ICT equipment. However, it was clear that such donations were made by major international companies with the intent to capture future markets. He recommended that *info*Dev sets up a mechanism by which private companies could pass resources to developing countries or group of countries, without having to channel such resources through the World Bank. The Manager later remarked that such a possibility already exist for flagships, and has been already been used in the case of the African Connection with ICO Ltd. providing co-financing.

15. A private donor indicated that his organization was ready to explore new ways of working with *info*Dev, notably in education by setting up fellowships to develop ICT curricula. This would also focus on identifying individuals with high potential for developing new ICT applications adapted to the particular needs of developing countries.

16. Another representative from a private donor stated the importance of preserving the concept of public/private partnership in *info*Dev.

He suggested the establishment of a task force including public and private donors to investigate how *info*Dev could set up new projects and funding mechanism—possibly including a revolving fund--aimed at a new class of ICT entrepreneurs in developing countries.

17. One of the approaches suggested and supported by several donors, would be to create a "second window", still to be defined, which could use instruments more adapted to the private sector, and which could more easily mobilize resources from the private sector.

18. One donor expressed the view that, at this particular point in time, there was a need for consolidation in *info*Dev work and organization. This donor pointed out that over the last year, *info*Dev had accomplished a lot in redefining itself: going through a high quality external review, updating its 3-year strategy paper and mission statement, and at the same time carrying on the Y2K Initiative and expanding its work program. At this point, rather than looking at long term issues, there was a need to look at short-term ones and focus on the implementation of the strategy paper, at least for the year to come.

19. Several speakers remarked that financial instruments to fund commercial ICT ventures in developing countries already exist, notably within IFC, and that any "second window" of *info*Dev should not compete with existing mechanisms but rather try to catalyze private initiatives.

20. The Manager agreed with a previous speaker that there was a need for consolidation in *info*Dev, but also indicated that *info*Dev stands ready to explore a second window option over the next few months if the donors were interested. He also remarked that many challenges remained to be addressed, such as the creation of innovative mechanisms to expand access to the Internet in the least developed countries. If a poverty reduction case can be made for such investments, *info*Dev should look for partnerships with the private sector and better exploit the co-financing possibilities which already exist.

21. Summing up the discussion on this point the Chairman remarked that there was no consensus on how to better involve private donors. He recognized the need to explore further with the private sector, in consultation with private donor, and suggested that this point be revisited with the Donors' Committee by the next Annual Meeting. It was agreed that if a second, private sector "window" was to be established by *info*Dev, it would have to be under the same mission statement as the one now adopted for the program, poverty reduction being the common principle.

22. It was suggested that, early in 2000, the management of *info*Dev propose to the donors a way to evaluate the conditions which would be necessary to attract a greater private sector participation while maintaining *info*Dev's focus on economic development and poverty reduction. A review and, if necessary, a re-design of the program information package more effectively targeted to private sector needs would also be prepared, depending on the result of the evaluation mentioned above. The manager of the program indicated that these suggestion would need to be supported by additional resources from donors and several donors indicated that they would be willing to participate.

23. Demand Driven Projects and Flagship Initiatives. A representative from a developing country donor noted that demand driven projects, corresponding to entry-level initiatives, are the most difficult to fund because they are the riskier. In developing countries, *info*Dev has built a reputation as almost the only source of funding for such projects.

24. Some donors thought that there was already enough areas defined as "flagships" and no need at this time to adopt new ones. One donor remarked that ICT was still a new and difficult subject in developing countries, and that there is a lot to learn from existing *info*Dev projects. Furthermore, it was estimated, that before adopting new flagships area *info*Dev must first focus on learning from existing flagships. One donor stated that the proportion of demand driven projects, from which we can also learn, is about right and should stay the same.

25. The Manager mentioned a new high level initiative, the Global Development Gateway, of which the World Bank is in the process of developing the concept. The Global Development Gateway is envisaged to become the premier web portal for promoting sustainable development and poverty reduction. In partnership with Microsoft, IBM, the Open Society Institute, Bloomberg, Cambridge Technology and many other private and multilateral partners (UNDP, OECD, etc.), the Bank is currently developing a business plan for this initiative. It will foster coordination of donor activities, increase the transparency of development interventions, and facilitate access to knowledge about economic development and e-business. At the same time, via its associated country gateways, it will help developing countries acquire a significant presence on the web. *info*Dev might be ideally positioned to play a key role in this initiative which is in line with the Comprehensive Development Framework recently initiated by the World Bank.

26. Knowledge Generation and Dissemination. It was suggested that *info*Dev increases its role as clearinghouse for ICT projects in developing countries, beyond the projects and initiatives it funds directly.

27. One donor remarked that one important issue was that of "replicability" of *info*Dev or other ICT projects.

28. The Manager observed that knowledge generation and dissemination, which culminated this year in a very successful *info*Dev symposium on the networked economy, was an essential part of *info*Dev. *info*Dev is also cooperating with the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD) of the Netherlands in disseminating ICT project stories. The proposed creation of an *info*Dev "Club of Grantees" was welcome, and should be useful to extend and further disseminate the lessons from *info*Dev and other ICT development projects.

29. It was indicated that one donor was preparing an initiative to help establish a network of researchers from developing countries who are or could be involved in research on policy issues related to ICT and development—such as the risks of exclusion—to directly support ICT policy formulation by governments in developing countries.

30. Other donors proposed to link their--already publicly available--information on ICT research for development with the *info*Dev web page.

31. Cooperation with other Programs and Initiatives. Several donors inquired on the level of collaboration between *info*Dev and other ICT programs and organizations. One donor asked whether *info*Dev management could provide an overview of other programs, similar to *info*Dev, and of their respective activities and possible cooperation with the program.

32. In response, the Manager called donors' attention on GK AIMS, a global database developed through a partnership between Bellanet, CIDA and others under the leadership of the World Bank Institute. GK AIMS, which information could be accessed through the *info*Dev web site, is intended to be a source of information on development efforts around the world. The Global Development Gateway is expected to provide another way to make information on ICT for development activities around the world more easily accessible. The Manager indicated that in the next few month, *info*Dev will prepare a summary on its cooperation with other programs and was ready to provide a demonstration on the GK AIMS data base to donors who would need it.

33. Quality of Projects. The evaluation of the quality of projects, ex-ante and ex-post, was recognized as an issue which remains difficult. It was indicated that *info*Dev will continue to work on improving the quality of its projects, notably the quality at entry through closer cooperation with regional centers. This question will also be more systematically addressed with the arrival of monitoring and evaluation specialist seconded by one public donor.

34. Administrative Costs. The Manager indicated that there had been a confusion in previous papers, notably from the External Review and subsequently from the TAP, suggesting that the level of overhead was at about 35% of the total spending. While this figure was correct during a short period at the start of the program, the real figure was now at 15%, very much in line with comparable grant programs. He added that *info*Dev will continue to work on reducing its costs, notably the cost of project evaluation with an on-line experiment, with peer-review evaluation and with experiment on monitoring and ex-post evaluation also on-line.

34. Post Y2K Activities, Overall Size of the Program and Funding. Given the size of the Y2K Initiative and its phasing out over the next few months, several donors were concerned that *info*Dev, without the Y2K Initiative, may loose its critical mass and not be sustainable any longer.

35. The Manager first remarked that the focus for *info*Dev was now to ensure a smooth roll-over at the turn of the year, and be ready to implement a reconstitution effort aimed at critical information systems if needed. He remarked that, in this respect, *info*Dev was the only donor coordination mechanism in place for Y2K focusing on developing countries. He indicated that a plan to phase out the Y2K effort had been prepared and, at the same time, *info*Dev has prepared a plan to respond to post Y2K needs, should such needs arise. But, he added, it is correct that the Y2K Initiative had enabled the program to surpass the critical mass mentioned in previous strategy papers as necessary for the program to survive. As indicated in previous strategy papers, *info*Dev needs between $10 million to $12 million per year, of which about $3 million to $4 million provided by the World Bank's Development Grant Facility (DGF), to start the 40 to 50 new projects per year necessary to make the program significant and sustainable. However, the DGF support comes with an exit strategy which will result in a reduction of DGF support starting in FY2001 and a total phase out in 2004. Thus, there was an urgent need for clear, and possibly multi-year commitments from donors.

36. A representative from a developing country donor noted his country's positive experience as a donor. There is a role in *info*Dev for developing countries as donors and more countries should be encouraged to join.

37. During the pledging session, 14 public and private donors were in a position to confirm their support to *info*Dev, either in the form of cash or in-kind contributions. Some of the pledges were for several years. Several donors indicated that, because of budget uncertainties, administrative reorganizations or other reasons, they were not in yet a position to confirm their participation for FY2000. Based on indication received at the meeting, *info*Dev should have available a minimum of contribution valued at about $5.5 million in FY2000.

38. Next meeting/symposium. The Chairman indicated that *info*Dev has received an invitation from Mr. Isham El Sherif of RITSEC to hold *info*Dev next Symposium in Egypt, under RITSEC's auspices. Several donors suggested that the *info*Dev symposium be held in conjunction with the next annual meeting of the Donors Committee, possibly in October 2000. The management will communicate directly with donors on such a possibility and on proposed dates for the next *info*Dev Symposium and Donors Committee meeting.

A N N E X 3

DISBURSEMENTS OF INFODEV FUNDED PROJECTS THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000 (COMPLETED PROJECTS ARE IN ITALICS)

	Project Title	Total Project Cost	*info*Dev Funding	Disbursed through June 30, 1999	E-Com.	Education	Environment	Government	Health	Internet	Telecom/ Regulatory	Y2K non-government	iCSF Grants
FY96													
1	*Jamaica: Partnership for Technologie in Basic Education*	1,500,000	450,000	421,000									
2	*African Virtual University*	990,900	250,000	248,000									
3	*Telematics for African Development*	626,500	250,000	250,000									
4	*Sixth ITU Regulatory Colloquium*	507,000	145,000	129,200									
FY97													
5	*Linking Poor Producers to Global Markets*	261,600	158,400	158,400									
6	*The National Information Infrastructure of Mexico: The Environmental Link*	347,000	250,000	250,000									
7	Increasing Electronic Connectivity between Strategic Allied in the HIV/AIDS field in South East Asia	224,000	224,000	200,447									
8	*Economic Tool-kit and Workshops for Internet Connectivity in Africa*	211,300	193,300	192,899									
9	*The Internet Society 1997 Workshop on Network Technology for Countries in the Early Stages of Internetworking*	182,000	50,000	50,000									
10	*Connectivity Information & Training Center for Internet, Cameroon (Internet CITI Cameroon)*	174,652	120,152	97,000									
11	*Kenya Rural Télécommunications Field Trial and Commercialization Pilot*	775,000	250,000	100,000									
12	*Program to Enhance Participation of Emerging Economies in WTO Telecommunications Negotiations*	293,000	233,000	201,400									
13	*Establishment of Cyber Cafes at the Sixth Annual Conference on Telecommunications, Informatics, and Broadcasting (AFCOM)*	25,000	25,000	25,000									
14	*Toward a National Informatics and Telecommunications Policy for Russia*	370,000	250,000	250,000									
FY98													
15	Networking for Innovation in Technology and Teacher Training	406,000	250,000	125,000									
16	*Interactive Workshop and Conference on "Emerging Global Electronic Distance Education"*	250,000	100,000	100,000									
17	*Cyberschool Africa*	125,970	70,910	70,910									
18	*Proyecto Conexiones*	1,320,494	250,000	250,000									
19	*Regional Distance Learning Networks for Information Technology*	330,000	250,000	250,000									
20	*Wise-Dev (Web Integrated System for Environment & Development)*	2,200,000	228,600	131,946									
21	Sustainable Development of Industrial Minerals Resources and Environmental Constraints	90,000	88,780	88,780									
22	The Environment and Information: Building Capacity in Central America for the Management of Electronic Information	500,000	250,000	225,000									

	Project Title	Total Project Cost	*info*Dev Funding	Disbursed through June 30, 1999	E-Com.	Education	Environment	Government	Health	Internet	Telecom/ Regulatory	Y2K non-government	iCSF Grants
FY98													
23	Information for Collaborative Planning: Global Knowledge-Activity Information Management System (GK-AIMS)	341,000	250,000	175,000									
24	UrbanDataLink	467,750	249,750	124,875									
25	Promotion and Development of Telematics in the Public Sector in Ghana	342,800	250,000	200,000									
26	Informatisation du Système d'Information à des fins de Gestion (SIG) du Ministère de la Santé Publique et de l'Action Sociale (MSPAS) de la République de Sénégal	3,300,000	250,000	175,000									
27	*info*Dev Health Information Training Center	317,504	287,504	250,000									
28	Physician-Based Sentinel Surveillance System for Emerging Health and Disease Problems in the Caribbean	433,357	248,407	211,146									
29	*Demonstrating in Indonesia a Generalizable Model for Introducing Technologies to Expand and Strengthen National Reproductive Health Training and Service Delivery Systems*	3,055,614	248,572	248,572									
30	Business Plan Development for Telecommunication/Information Centers in Ghana	86,000	55,000	44,000									
31	African Empowerment Network in Information Technologies	550,000	250,000	175,000									
32	*The Baltic Sea Information Society Project-Start up: Northwest Russia*	250,000	250,000	250,000									
33	Development (A demonstration project in Cajamarca Department, Peru)	267,775	247,885	123,943									
34	*Second Annual Ballerina Meeting: Support to CIS and CEE Participation*	147,000	36,750	36,750									
35	*Africa Global Connectivity Conference*	600,000	250,000	201,400									
36	*Development of Web Site and Online Services for ITU Regulatory Colloquium*	155,805	101,065	101,065									
37	*Assistance for Emerging Economies to Participate in the WTO Telecommunications Market Liberalization: Caribbean Telecommunications Union*	70,360	70,360	63,443									
38	*Assistance for Emerging Economies to Participate in the WTO Telecommunications Market Liberalization: Asia Pacific Telecom. - Implement WTO Telecoms*	72,600	72,600	72,600									
39	*Assistance for Emerging Economies to Participate in the WTO Telecommunications Market Liberalization: Telecom Forum of Africa--WTO Program (* Grant was originally $107,996)*	124,121	124121	124,121									
40	Participate in the WTO Telecommunications Market Liberalization: Wissenschaftliches Inst.--WTO Commit	86,500	86,500	69,200									
41	*Support to International Telecommunication Operations in Emerging Economics to Make adjustments Necessitated by the Inevitable Reduction in International Telecommunication Settlement Revenues*	70,000	70,000	70,000									

	Project Title	Total Project Cost	*info*Dev Funding	Disbursed through June 30, 1999	E-Com.	Education	Environment	Government	Health	Internet	Telecom/ Regulatory	Y2K non-government	iCSF Grants
FY98													
42	*ITU Seventh Regulatory Colloquium, ITU, Headquarters, Geneva*	8,140	8,140	8,140									
43	*Toolkit for Addressing the Y2K Problem in Developing Countries*	250,000	243,000	218,700									
44	*Commsphere Africa '98, July 2-22,98, Dakar, Senegal*	300,000	50,000	50,000									
45	*Workshop for Latin America & Caribbean, July 13-18, 1998, Rio de Janeiro*	170,000	30,000	30,000									
46	*Executive Conference on Integrated Information Systems (Cesii) in Florida, Sep.21-23, 98, Miami, Florida*	266,054	48,054	48,054									
47	*Internet Society Network Technology Workshop for Developing countries, July 12-24, 1998, Geneva, Switzerland*	714,162	50,000	50,000									
48	*12th Annual Conference, Asian Association of Open Universities: "The Asian Distance Learner", Nov.2-6, 1998, Hong Kong*	211,645	21,645	21,645									
49	*First International Conference on Rural Telecommunications, November 30-December 2, 1998, Washington, D.C.*	104,230	48,030	48,030									
FY99													
50	*Conference on Global Electronic Commerce (India)*	191,500	88,500	88,500									
51	Trade Information Network (TIN) of The Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Assimilated Institutions of the Group of 77 and China, UN as an Integral Part of IBCC-NET (Worldwide	684,488	250,000	225,000									
52	Autonomous System for Interactive Electronic Commerce (ASIEC): Phase 1 - Computerized Mobile Bank (CMB) (Ghana)	600,000	250,000	150,000									
53	*Report for the 8th ITU Regulatory Colloquium, "Regulatory Issues for E-Commerce"*	50,000	50,000	50,000									
54	SITA (Study of Information Technology Applications): computer Skills Training for Low-Income Women (India)	220,000	120,000	108,000									
55	SOLARIS – Solidarity Information System (Sub-Saharan Africa)	750,000	250,000	187,500									
56	Strengthening Electronic Communications Capacities of Women's Organizations in Africa (Africa)	500,000	250,000	187,500									
57	China's Industrial pollution Projection System (CIPPS)	412,900	249,900	50,000									
58	The Environment and Information: Building Capacity (Mexico)	347,000	177,000	159,300									
59	The Establishment of a Technical, Operational and Legal Framework for the Management of Geographic Information (The Philippines)	168,800	88,000	66,600									
60	For Sale and Distribution to Agricultural Data Users (Central America & the Caribbean)	1,008,478	241,489	181,117									
61	*Demonstration Project with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to Create an International Waters Learning Exchange and Research Network (IW LEARN) (Worldwide)*	600,000	140,000	140,000									
62	From Accounting to Accountability: Managing Accounting Records as a Strategic Resource (Namibia &Zimbabwe)	274,806	245,749	221,174									
63	*Reference Model for Government Treasury Systems (Worldwide)*	250,000	250,000	250,000									

	Project Title	Total Project Cost	*info*Dev Funding	Disbursed through June 30, 1999	E-Com.	Education	Environment	Government	Health	Internet	Telecom/ Regulatory	Y2K non-government	iCSF Grants
FY99													
64	Tobacco-Control Training and Communications Program (Czech Republic)	924,029	249,879	187,409									
65	The U.S./Russia Child Health Care Telemedicine Network (Russia)	3,750,000	250,000	187,500									
66	InfoCaffé (Ecuador, Senegal & India)	676,966	249,535	175,000									
67	21st Century Communications (Africa)	806,340	250,000	150,000									
68	Forward – A Project to Foster a Wide and Rational Development of Telecommunication Infrastructures (Latin America)	612,500	400,000	200,000									
69	*Information Infrastructure Indicators, 1990-2010 (Worldwide)*	100,000	100,000	100,000									
70	Preparation of a Practical Handbook for Telecommunications Regulators (Worldwide)	334,410	245,000	214,375									
71	*Regional Journalists' Y2K Awareness Seminar (Latin America)*	211,057	100,000	100,000									
72	*Y2K and GPS Bug Web Site (Worldwide)*	120,000	68,000	48,000									
73	*The Y2K Public Awareness and Preparedness Campaign (Russia)*	720,253	150,000	150,000									
74	*AHCIET special workgroup on accounting rates, Oct. 22-23, 1998, Cartagena, Colombia*	70,000	18,200	18,200									
75	*ITU-T study group 3 meeting, Dec. 7-15, 1998, Geneva, Switzerland*	457,500	54,264	54,264									
76	*African Telecom Summit '99, Mar. 2-4, 1999, Accra, Ghana*	118,292	73,700	73,700									
77	*GITA 99 Annual Conference , Apr. 25-28, 1999, Charlotte, NC*	57,595	48,970	48,970									
78	*ITU-T study group 3 meeting, June 2-12, 1999, Geneva, Switzerland*	457,500	49,864	49,864									
79	*The Global Bangemann Challenge Conference and Exhibition, June 9-10, 1999, Stockholm, Sweden*	400,000	7,010	7,010									
80	*ESLARED II Workshop on Internet Networking Technologies 1999 for Latin American Countries, June 13-18, 1999, Merida, Venezuela*	223,580	32,500	32,500									
81	*AHCIET Hispano American Forum on Telemedicine, June 22-23, 1999, Santiago de Compostela, Spain*	187,571	47,360	47,360									
FY00													
82	*IYCC-Health Sector Coordinator (Worldwide)*	260,306	120,700	100,700									
83	RFP/Analysys (Worldwide)	150000	150,000	90,000									
84	Stories Exchange Net (Czech Republic)	332,350	245,295	187,500									
85	Connectivity & Commerce: Accelerating E-Commerce (Uganda & Tanzania)	500,000	249,500	187,000									
86	Development of an Information Infrastructure (Uganda)	247,000	230,000	172,500									
87	Implementing a Global E-Commerce Network of Artisan Groups (Worldwide)	250,000	125,000	70,000									
88	Conducting a Series of Demonstration Projects (Georgia)	61,707	44,727	24,727									
89	Planet University Information System (Worldwide)	376,000	250,000	187,500									
90	MetaBase de Datos: Improving Public Access to Central America's Bibliographic Resources Via the Internet (Central America)	282,470	250,000	187,500									

	Project Title	Total Project Cost	*info*Dev Funding	Disbursed through June 30, 1999	E-Com.	Education	Environment	Government	Health	Internet	Telecom/ Regulatory	Y2K non-government	iCSF Grants
FY98													
91	The National Graduate Registry in Panama - Partners for Employment (Panama)	309,800	210,800	158,100									
92	Enhancing Transparency in Local Government: Management Information System for the Municipality of Sofia (Bulgaria)	344,010	250,000	187,500									
93	Information Strategy Tool Kit (ISTRA) (Worldwide)	125,000	55,000	35,000									
94	Knowledge Network For Augmenting Grassroots Innovations I (India)	385,000	75,000	42,500									
95	Knowledge Network For Augmenting Grassroots Innovations II (India)	385,000	155,000	155,000									
96	Guatemala Micronet (Guatemala)	127,000	50,000	40,000									
97	Empowering People with Disabilities (Central America)	227,000	50,000	25,000									
98	INDEV : India's Development Information Network (India)	374,000	188,000	0									
99	India Health Care Project - Use of Information Technology for Delivering Quality Health Care to the Rural Population (India)	375,000	250,000	0									
100	APT Conference Thailand (East Asia)	152,000	30,000	0									
101	*The African Computing Telecommunications Summit - Aug. 25-27, 99 (sub-Saharan Africa)*	65,947	26,190	26,190									
102	*NIT'99 11th International Conference on New Information Technology - Aug. 18-20, 99 (sub-Saharan Africa)*	88,000	8,480	8,480									
103	*ICDE Librarians' Roundtable - Oct. 11-12, 99 (East Asia)*	64,647	15,150	15,150									
104	*Integration with Information Technology and Electronic Commerce - Nov. 8-13, 99 (sub-Saharan Africa)*	190,562	26,800	26,800									
105	*Tel-isphere 99 - Nov. 24-27, 99 (Latin America & the Caribbean)*	126,900	31,625	31,625									
106	*The World Services Congress, Nov.1-3, 99 (Worldwide)*	800,000	25,000	25,000									
107	*The Executive Conference on Integrated Information Systems - Cesii '99, Nov.20-24, 99 (Latin America & the Caribbean)*	258,000	25,000	25,000									
108	*Commsphere 2000 - Affordable telecom and IT solutions for developing countries, Feb.28-Mar.2, 00 (sub-Saharan Africa)*	85,000	20,000	20,000									
109	*The Latin American Forum on Communications, January 25-28, 2000 (Latin America & the Caribbean)*	180,000	21,123	21,123									
110	*Bamako 2000 : Bridges to Development, Feb.21-25, 00 (sub-Saharan Africa)*	1,000,000	20,000	20,000									
111	*IAALD-10th World Congress-Challenges facing the agricultural information community in the third millennium, Jan.24-28, 00 (sub-Saharan Africa)*	337,000	20,000	20,000									
112	*The Pan-American Seminar/Workshop NSDI, February 28 - March 1, 2000 (Latin America & the Caribbean)*	205,000	20,000	20,000									
113	*Global Knowledge II (Worldwide)*	4,000,000	50,000	50,000									
114	*Stockholm Challenge (Worldwide)*	400,000	10,000	10,000									
115	*ICANN Yokohama Meetings, July 13-17, 2000, Yokohama (Japan)*	2,100,000	50,000	50,000									

A N N E X 4

EVALUATION STATUS OF INFODEV PROPOSALS IN FISCAL 2000

Name of Activity	Organization	Total Cost (US$)	Funding Request (US$)	Status
The African Computing and Telecommunications Summit	AITEC Exhibitions & Conferences	65,947	26,190	Project Completed
World Services Congress	Coalition of Service Industries Research and Education Foundation	800,000	50,000	Project Completed
The Executive Conference on Integrated Information Systems - Cesii '99	Black and Gorman	258,000	50,000	Project Completed
Latin American Forum on Telecommunications	Public Utility Research Network - PURC University of Florida	180,000	80,112	Project Completed
Commsphere 2000 - Affordable Telecom and IT Solutions for Developing Countries	Indian Institute of Technology	85,000	42,300	Project Completed
Bamako 2000 : Bridges to Development	Fondation du Devenir	1,000,000	50,000	Project Completed
Xth IAALD World Congress: Challenges facing the Agricultural Community in the Next Millenium	IAALD	337,000	49,619	Project Completed
Pan American Seminar / Workshop : National Spatial Data Infrastructures and Geographic Metadata	ICAG : Instituto Geografico Agustin Codazzi	205,000	50,000	Project Completed
Global Knowledge II	MIMOS Berhad - National Technology Council	4,000,000	50,000	Project Completed
NIT'99 11th International Conference on New Information Technology - Aug. 18-20, 99 (sub-Saharan Africa)	Chen and Chen Consultants	88,000	8,480	Project Completed
Integration with Information Technology and Electronic Commerce - Nov. 8-13, 99 (sub-Saharan Africa)	Association pour le Soutien et l'Appui a la Femme Entrepreneur - ASAFE	190,562	26,800	Project Completed
Tel-isphere 99 - Nov. 24-27, 99 (Latin America & the Caribbean)	The Commonwealth of Learning	126,900	31,625	Project Completed
The Pan-American Seminar/Workshop NSDI, February 28 - March 1, 2000 (Latin America & the Caribbean)	ICAG : Instituto Geografico Agustin Codazzi	205,000	50,000	Project Completed
Stockholm Challenge	City of Stockholm	1,000,000	50,000	Project Completed
ICDE Librarians' Roundtable - Oct. 11-12, 99 (East Asia)	The Open University of Hong-Kong	64,647	16,947	Project Completed
Telemedicine in Ethiopia	Ministry of Health, Ethiopia	125,925	18,000	Project Closed
Characterizing the Challenges and Opportunities Arising from the Networking Revolution in the Developing World (RFP)	Analysys Ltd	150,000	150,000	Funded
IT: Employment for People with Disabilities	Trust for the Americas, Organization of American States	227,000	50,000	Funded
Guatemala MicroNet	Guillermo Monroy	127,000	50,000	Funded
Conducting a Series of Demonstration Projects (Georgia)	International Telecommunications and Information Center (ITIC)	61,707	44,727	Funded
Planet University Information System (Worldwide)	PlaNet University	418,000	250,000	Funded
MetaBase de Datos: Improving Public Access to Central America's Bibliographic Resources Via the Internet (Central America)	Fundación Acceso	282,000	250,000	Funded
The National Graduate Registry in Panama - Partners for Employment (Panama)	EDUC-INTER (Canada)	309,800	210,800	Funded

Name of Activity	Organization	Total Cost (US$)	Funding Request (US$)	Status
Enhancing Transparency in Local Government: Management Information System for the Municipality of Sofia (Bulgaria)	Applied Research & Communications Fund (ARC)	344,010	250,000	Funded
Information Strategy Tool Kit (ISTRA) (Worldwide)	United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)	125,000	55,000	Funded
Knowledge Network For Augmenting Grassroots Innovations (India)	Indian Institute of Management	385,000	75,000	Funded
Knowledge Network For Augmenting Grassroots Innovations (India)	Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions (SRISTI)	385,000	155,000	Funded
INDEV : Indians Development Information Network (India)	The British Council, Delhi	374,000	186,000	Funded
India Health Care Project - Use of Information Technology for Delivering Quality Health Care to the Rural Population (India)	CMC Centre, India	375,000	250,000	Funded
Asia-Pacific Telecommunications Regulatory Forum	Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)	152,000	107,000	Funded
The Narod Network Project 2000 (NNP2K)	The Ani and Narod Memorial Fund (ANMF)	376,500	189,850	Pool of Recommended Proposals
Global 2000	Special Libraries Association	1,116,837	20,580	Pool of Recommended Proposals
Promoting Stability By Disseminating Chinese Legal Materials More Widely	Illinois Institute of Technology	195,700	150,700	Pool of Recommended Proposals
Kidlink Houses and Families in Brazil	Pe. Leonel Franca Foundation (FPLF) of the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio)	1,512,000	134,000	Pool of Recommended Proposals
Online ICT Resource Centre for the Global Development Community	Association for Progressive Communications (APC)	353,700	248,710	Pool of Recommended Proposals
Creating a Global Information Network on Distance Education	Commonwealth of Learning	529,613	245,450	Pool of Recommended Proposals
The Small Business Facility Initiative	Ministry of Economy and Trade	346,000	250,000	Second Stage Evaluation
Training of Small and Medium Enterprises in the Use of Internet Technologies & E-Commerce	DEVNET Asociación Internacional	486,000	248,000	Second Stage Evaluation
The Creation of the Network of the Network of the Ministry of Economy and Trade (metNet)	Ministry of Economy and Trade (Lebanon)	240,500	240,500	Second Stage Evaluation
MEDICO: Improved Health Education and Communication for Rural Zimbabwe using Internet Technologies	Kudu Foundation for African Conservation and Education	429,500	248,500	Second Stage Evaluation
Global Knowledge for Development Online Forum	Education Development Center, Inc.	617,464	224,621	Second Stage Evaluation
Inter-city Marketing Network for Women Micro-Entrepreneurs	Foundation of Occupational Development (FOOD)	159,610	134,600	Second Stage Evaluation
Capacity Building in Africa for the Improvement of ICT in Education	International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement	1,511,054	250,000	Second Stage Evaluation
Interactive Conference on Engineering Education via Electronic Communications	National Technological University	93,339	48,950	Second Stage Evaluation
Data Fusion for Flood Analysis and Decision Support (ANFAS)	Chinese Academy of Sciences, Institute of Automation	2,645,000	245,000	Second Stage Evaluation
Southern Africa EnviroInfo Knowledge Network	IUCN - The World Conservation Union	460,000	250,000	Clarification Requested

Name of Activity	Organization	Total Cost (US$)	Funding Request (US$)	Status
Asthma-specific Clinical Information System	Queen's University, MacKenzie Health Services Research Group	177,300	177,300	Clarification Requested
Science and Technology Policy Studies Information Network in Africa	African Technology Policy Studies Network (IDRC)	250,000	250,000	Clarification Requested
Agriware System: E-commerce and Agribusiness in Morocco	Fondazione Rosselli	297,000	198,000	Clarification Requested
Empowering Local Communities in Mexico: Design and Implementation of Environmental Information Systems	Centro de Investigacion en Geografia y Geomatica	506,000	245,000	Clarification Requested
Tuition Free Telecommunications Training	United States Telecommunications Training Institute (USTTI)	4,500,000	250,000	Clarification Requested
Cost Effective IT Applications in Micro-Finance Programs	Development Research Network	100,000	70,000	Clarification Requested
ICANN Yokohama meetings - 14-17 July, 2000	ICANN Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers	2,100,000	50,000	First Stage Evaluation
Training for African Women in Internet Working Technology	Economic Commission for Africa	669,595	249,000	First Stage Evaluation
Developing National Information and Communications Infrastructure (NICI) Strategies in African Countries	Economic Commission of Africa	397,000	243,000	First Stage Evaluation
Community Biodiversity Monitoring Information System	Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries (SEMARNAP)	500,000	250,000	First Stage Evaluation
Incubator (Netakeoff)	Netakeoff	3,000,000	250,000	First Stage Evaluation
An Online Tool Kit for Starting and Operating E-Business Incubators in Emerging Markets	The Alliance for Global Internet Services (AGIS)	463,432	245,990	First Stage Evaluation
Dissemination of Distance Learning Resources	Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul	2,381,000	250,000	First Stage Evaluation
Telecommunications Policy and Regulatory Training for SADC and other African Countries	University of Witwatersrand, LINK Centre	350,000	300,000	First Stage Evaluation
Experimentation and application of adequate information and communication technologies to contribute to Internet access for third sector organizations.	RITS - Rede de Informacoes para o Terceiro Setor (Information Network for the Third Sector)	383,892	249,980	Other
InfoLink of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia-Herzegovina Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations	454,000	291,900	Other
Business Plan for International Center of Information Technology for the Elimination of Global Poverty (ICITEGP)	Choudhry & Co.	307,000	250,000	Other
Visiting Scholars Fellowship Program	Motorola University	120,000	70,000	Other
An Analysis of Information Policy in Lithuania, as a Driving Fforce for Rapid Economic Development	Ministry of Public Information Reforms and Local Authorities	150,000	100,000	Other
Information Technology for Small and Medium Enterprises	Circes Ltd. (Finland)	344,000	249,000	Not Accepted
Y2K Resource Centers for the Russia Regions	TerraLink Technologies	720,253	425,582	Not Accepted
Information Center for Developing Countries	Compu Magic for Vision Networks Co.	200,000	150,000	Not Accepted
Standardized Corruption Database on the Internet	The Fordham Institute for Ethics and Economic Policy (FIEEP)	455,000	150,000	Not Accepted
Distance Education of Seismic Protection for Teachers, Women, and Disabled Workers	Armenian Fund for Seismic Protection	312,438	240,313	Not Accepted

Name of Activity	Organization	Total Cost (US$)	Funding Request (US$)	Status
Telecommunications Internet Services Provider	Banco do Brasil	1,000,000	250,000	Not Accepted
Rapid Education for Victims of War, Forced Migrants and Displaced Populations (RapidEd)	UNESCO Institute for Education, Hamburg	696,000	498,400	Not Accepted
Mapping the Information Industries in China	Centre for Strategic Economic Studies	184,000	149,400	Not Accepted
Municipal/Provincial ICT Lab and Development Center	Electronic Enterprise (Jesus Angelo Salazar)	100,000	100,000	Not Accepted
CARPE-NET: Computer Assisted Resource Production for Education Network	University of Twente	384,700	247,000	Not Accepted
Small and Medium Enterprises Industrial Performance Improvement Project	Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute	294,370	210,870	Not Accepted
Consensus Building and Awareness Raising Activities	Sarbodaya Rural Development Organization	160,000	140,000	Not Accepted
Internet Presence for Georgia	IT Group	180,000	160,000	Not Accepted
Ibero-American Science and Technology Education Consortium (ISTEC)	Ibero-American Science and Technology Education Consortium (ISTEC)	500,000	242,000	Not Accepted
GIS-Based Disaster Mitigation Model for Developing Countries	Geospatial Information and Technology Association	392,032	249,432	Not Accepted
The Application of Handheld Computers in Community Health	Federal University of Sao Paulo (UNIFESP)	407,012	249,700	Not Accepted
Development of an Informational Network between 4 Environmental NGOs in Former Soviet States - Azerbaidjan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan	Nova Southeastern University	71,900	20,000	Not Accepted
Computer, Information Communications and Technology System	Women, Children and Security	250,000	250,000	Not Accepted
IT Diffusion among Small and Medium Enterprises in India	Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI)	228,400	198,400	Not Accepted
Internet Supported System for Health Education, Expert Consultancy for Disease, Disease Control and Management of Emerging Health Problems for Weaker Sections of the Society	KVM Trust	350,000	250,000	Not Accepted
A Water Resource Information System for CSEZ Watershed, Philippines	Civil Engineering Research Foundation (CERF)/International Institute for Energy Conservation	400,000	250,000	Not Accepted
TongaData	Tonga Pacific Company	250,000	250,000	Not Accepted
Replicability of Product, Price, Promotion and Placement of POP Products	Passion Infotech Ltd	1,484,830	148,435	Not Accepted
Proposal for the Development of the Ecological Information System for Central America (SINEC)	Fundacion Galileo	126,240	45,700	Not Accepted
Portable Video Games for Basic Math and Reading Skills: An Intercultural Approach	Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile	1,095,000	250,000	Not Accepted
Public Management Modernization	Executive Secretary of the Presidency Ministry of Chile	120,000	120,000	Not Accepted
Feasibility Study for a Global Monitoring Organization	Olof Hesselmark (consultant)	35,500	35,500	Not Accepted
Pilot Project for Human Resources Development for the Information Age	Softnet Institute of Information Technology	273,061	248,694	Not Accepted
Create a University Information System for Hanoi University of Technology	Hanoi University of Technology	298,000	250,000	Not Accepted

Name of Activity	Organization	Total Cost (US$)	Funding Request (US$)	Status
E-delivery of Contraception Training, Development and Translations	Course Taken Ltd.	400,000	200,000	Not Accepted
Internet Knowledge for Developing Countries	TurnCourse Solutions	348,600	223,600	Not Accepted
Tupou High School Business and Computer Education Center	Tupou High School	713,900	113,900	Not Accepted
Small Scale Industry Information Centers for the Niger Delta	AfricaService	88,000	88,000	Not Accepted
Systeme Arabe Anglais Francais d'Indexation et de Recherche	EPOS S.A.	1,501,387	151,500	Not Accepted
Use of Computer Methods of Deposits Evaluation for the Entreprises of Small Business	Institute of Geological Sciences	43,140	43,140	Not Accepted
GIS Ostrava 2000 Conference and Continuing Workshop Series	VSG-TUO, VSB - Technical University of Ostrava	52,790	52,790	Not Accepted
Information Systems for NGOs and Civil Society Fostering Development in Peru	National Association of Research Centers, Social Promotion and Development, ANC	486,000	248,000	Not Accepted
New Knowledge Frontiers For Sustainable Development	Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Technology and Development Program	75,000	44,600	Not Accepted
Implications of increasing diversity in education in developing societies	Uppingham Seminars in Development Committee	10,000	10,000	Not Accepted
New Knowledge Frontiers for Sustainable development	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	75,000	44,600	Not Accepted
Decentralization and Democracy in Latin America	University of Minnesota	13,000	2,680	Not Accepted
"Radiocracy" - International Conference on Radio Democracy and Development	Cardiff University Center for Lifelong Learning	15,000	8,400	Not Accepted
USTTI e-Commerce Internet Seminar	United States Telecommunications Training Institute (USTTI) and the USTTI Board of Directors	80,000	16,200	Not Accepted
Implementation of MLPO Project	P.T. Sarana Yukti Bandhana	1,400,000	200,000	Not Accepted
A Generic Interactive IT Information Map Architecture to Support IT Planning in Developing Countries	Infology Corporation	200,000	200,000	Not Accepted
Schools without Walls - Establishing the Macedonian Distance Education Network (MAC-DEN)	Sv. Kirili i Metodij University	328,000	250,000	Not Accepted
eBook & Flashcard Technology, including Digital Textbooks	Instantaneous Links Inc.	325,000	175,000	Not Accepted
Globespinner.com	Lion Rock Capital Management Inc.	1,506,000	250,000	Not Accepted
Providing Communication Knowledge and Health in Rural Sector of Southern Region of India	Communication Health Center	300,000	250,000	Not Accepted
Internet Supported System for Health Education	K.V.M. Trust, P.B. No. 30	350,000	250,000	Not Accepted
Creation of the Information Product for Investment Decisions	Ukrainian Center for Enterprise Restructuring and Private Sector Development	240,000	215,000	Not Accepted
Automation of Okhla Waste (Sewerage) Water Treatment Plant	Ministry of Information Technology	1,823,810	419,048	Not Accepted
Consumers International - Global Utilities Program (CI-GUP)	Consumers International	3,700,626	249,513	Not Accepted
Expanding E-Commerce in Less Developed Sectors and Regions in China	Center for Information Infrastructure and Economic Development, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences	445,000	215,000	Not Accepted

Name of Activity	Organization	Total Cost (US$)	Funding Request (US$)	Status
28th International Symposium on remote Sensing of Environment	CSIR - South African Council for Science Industry and Research		50,000	Not Accepted
The first Conference on research in Distance and Adult Distance Learning	the Center for Research in Distance and Adult Learning of the Open University of Hong Kong	196,284	100,000	Not Accepted
Computerization of Government Services - NAS-IS project	The National Aid Fund	343,500	274,800	Not Accepted
Structuring, Strengthening and Expanding the Amazonia Information Network	Superintendency of the Development of Amazonia -SUDAM	327,741	276,441	Not Accepted
EDSAT-Americas Technical Planning Team	National Education Telecommunications Organization & EDSAT Institute (NETO/EDSAT)	1,420,000	249,750	Not Accepted
Xth Transborder Forum	University of New Mexico General Library	45,000	6,000	Not Accepted
Common Futures Forum South African Initiative	IDASA	250,000	40,600	Not Accepted
Association of Canadian Archivists 2000 Annual Conference	Association of Canadian Archivists	12,500	2,500	Not Accepted
Empowerment Technology: Improving Girls' Math and Science Education Internationally	Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC)	276,764	233,611	Not Accepted
Feasibility Study: Impact and Effectiveness of Distance Education Systems in Isolated Areas	Dorada Interactiva S.R.L.	604,800	248,800	Not Accepted
African Telecom Summit	Spectrum International LTD, Ghana		57,000	Not Accepted
Structured Knowledge Exchange Network (SKEN)	Cluster del Conocimiento	800,000	400,000	Not Accepted
World University for Humanity	World University for Humanity	3,000,000	250,000	Not Accepted
Development of a Software Application to Automate Operations of Commercial Registers	Elemeco International - Engineers, Management Consultants	708,000	248,000	Not Accepted
Virtual Schools	The National Federation of Coffee Growers of Colombia-Caldas Coffee Growers Association	938,000	250,000	Not Accepted
New Readers Circle	FUNDACITE-Merida	129,250	83,250	Not Accepted
Creation of a Network of Informational Training Centers to Support the Formation of International Economy	State Engineering University of Armenia	155,200	98,650	Not Accepted
A Portal Cross-Fertilizing All NGO-related Activities	Sulabh International Social Service Organization	321,500	321,500	Not Accepted
Prospective Versus Historical Information Processing	University of California, Riverside	261,000	181,000	Not Accepted
Forming Effective Groups and Distance Education in Cape Verde	The Association for Training Social-Economic Organizations (ACTS)	100,000	100,000	Not Accepted
Center for Computer Resources and Research	Le Comite de Gestion de l'Environnement	134,222	97,663	Not Accepted
Expanding the Scope of Internet Usage in Nigeria through the Media	Riniks Life Media (NIG) Limited	318,000	245,000	Not Accepted
Reforme du secteur des Telecoms et Commerce des Services de Telecommunications	Conference des Telecomunications Ouest-Africaines (CTOA)	60,719	50,000	Not Accepted
Internet Access Network Optimized for the Needs of Emerging Economies	Circle Link Communications, Inc.	548,000	249,000	Not Accepted
A National Information Service Center and Cybercafe for the Environment	Centre for Environmental Resources and Sustainable Ecosystems (CE-ERASE)	333,850	246,600	Not Accepted
Digital Early Phonic Reading Room	Digital Educational Services Limited	259,980	206,000	Not Accepted
Assessing the Impact of Budget 2000 on Poverty Alleviation and Small Businesses	Ridgeway Investments Limited	165,700	152,300	Not Accepted

Name of Activity	Organization	Total Cost (US$)	Funding Request (US$)	Status
Using Community Radio to Promote Development in Nepal	UNICEF Nepal Country Office	222,000	220,000	Not Accepted
Improving Nepal's Television Infrastructure in the 21st Century	UNICEF Nepal Country Office	250,000	250,000	Not Accepted
RENa - Website in the K-12 Curriculum	National Academic Network (REACCIUN)	540,318	250,000	Not Accepted
Agribusiness Information Marketing System (AIMS)	NuTek 2000, Inc.	1,000,000	250,000	Not Accepted
A Feasibility Study for Implementing Bioremediation Techniques	The Green Cheque Initiative	162,400	145,400	Not Accepted
Institutional Development of The Mother and Child Institute of Pernambuco	Instituto Materno Infantil de Pernambuco (IMIP)	587,000	243,000	Not Accepted
Green Watch in China: Promotion of Environmental Information Disclosure	Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences	350,000	240,000	Not Accepted
Information Technology for Cultural Resource Management in Cambodia	Cultural Site Research and Management (CSRM)	335,000	245,000	Not Accepted
Rural Information Capacity Building Through a Multipurpose Telecentre	The Jane Addams College of Social Work - University of Illinois at Chicago	300,000	250,000	Not Accepted
Computer Education Programme through Distance Learning	UP Hill Electronics Corporation Ltd.	695,000	535,000	Withdrawn
Ongoing Funding of Regulatory Web Forum	Analysys	89,776	89,776	Withdrawn
Improving Performance in the Telecommunications Industry in Sierra Leone	University of Sierra Leone	365,300	248,500	Withdrawn
Virtual Central American Clearing House for Donors and Recipients	Sustainable Development Networking Program in Costa Rica	350,000	150,000	Withdrawn

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome
CDI	Committee to Democratize Information Technology (Brazil)
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FY	Fiscal Year
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IDA	International Development Association
IICD	International Institute for Communication & Development (IICD)
IT	Information Technology
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
IY2KCC	International Year 2000 Coordination Center
LDC	Less Developed Country
PDA	Personal Digital Assistant
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
RITTC	Regional Information Training Center (Kenya)
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
VSFP	Visiting Scholarship Fellowship Program
WTO	World Trade Organization
Y2K	Year 2000

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