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Investment in ICT for Higher Education in Burundi: Opportunities and challenges

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I. Motivation, problem area

- The will of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific research is to fundamentally improve the use of Information Technology and Communication in all Institutions of Higher Education and Scientific Research

Motivation,problem area(continue)

- Despite the efforts and investments carried out to date, it is clear that:
- Institutions are unequally equipped servers and personal computers;
- The interconnection between works stations is often inexistent
- Access to internet is slow and expensive
- Student often do no have basic computer literacy;this slows down the introduction of new teaching methods
- Qualified IT resources are scare and volatile

II. ICT status in Burundi

- Despite the liberalisation of this sector, the indicators parameters reflect this situation in Burundi:
 - Fixed number of subscribers: 32,000
 - Number of mobile subscribers: around 1,000,000
 - Number of Internet subscribers: 10,000
 - Number of Internet users: 60,000
 - Number of Internet Services Providers: 6

III. ICT Research in Burundi

- Little or no specialised structures (CURDIF) in various educational institutions and/or research.
- Research conducted by teachers within foreign research teams
- Work graduation are made in the Departments of Computer Science in two or three private universities.

IV. Investment in ICT for Higher Education and Scientific research

The Master Plan 2012-2015

- Computer developments of higher education institutions are based on the following objectives:
 - 1) Development of a common telecommunications infrastructure, based on radio and satellite transmissions (Internet), later on the optical fiber
 - 2) Networking services and professionals: administration, teachers, students, etc

Investment in ICT for Higher Education and Scientific research(continue)

Master Plan 2012-2015(continue)

3).Development of software to manage the BMD(Bachelor, Master, Doctorate) system

4).start progressive management software Administration (accounting, finance, personnel, archive) library management, training, self-study and communication with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and all other stakeholders

Investment in ICT for Higher Education and Scientific research(continue)

To achieve these objectives, the Government undertakes the following actions:

- To set up a project team of high level, to serve all
- To develop an integrated approach that concerns software producers suppliers
- To promote development institutions like excellence centers in ICT

Investment in ICT for Higher Education in Burundi (continue)

- To provide mechanisms to ensure that the plan has a long-term financing Plan and funding for its sustainability

Investment in ICT for Higher Education in Burundi(continue)

This because Government is convinced that ICTs are nowadays a fundamental tool of formation and research in Higher Education modern system.

In this perspective, the Government has undertaken among others, the following actions:

- A National Policy in ICT;
- A Project of optical fiber;

Investment in ICT for Higher Education in Burundi(continue)

- A Plan of computerizing in Higher Education system;
- A Policy for free charges in imported ICT Equipments;
- Development of Partnerships in ICT Networking.

For example, BURUNDI has signed a grant Agreement with European Commission in Relation to IST-Africa (Information, Science and Technology)

Investment in ICT for Higher Education(Continue)

Preparation and organisation of meetings:

- Project board meeting is held twice per year in conjunction with project activities-one meeting prior to the IST-Africa Conference in the host African country in May and one meeting prior to IST-Africa workshop in Europe in october

Investment in ICT for Higher Education(Continue)

- We wish and hope other partners come and help us to promote and make ICT be effective and essential of element in responding to Africa's socio-economic development needs and challenges.

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