Enabling Access to Education through ICTs: How Can Accessible Information and Communication and Assistive Technologies for Persons with Disabilities be Best Deployed in Schools and Universities?

Event Sponsor

An international inquiry organized by the Centre for Internet and Society in cooperation with G3ict, an advocacy initiative of the United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development with the support of UNESCO, the International Telecommunication Union, the DAISY Consortium and the World Intellectual Property Organization

Indian partners: Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF), Society for Promotion of Alternate Computing and Employment (SPACE) and the Deaf Way Foundation.
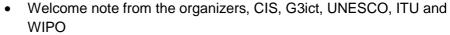
Event Organisers

- Dates: 27 to 29 October, 2010
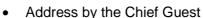- Venue: India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

Wednesday, October 27, 2010

08.30 – 09.30 **Registration opens**

09.30 – 11.00 **Opening session**
- Welcome note from the organizers, CIS, G3ict, UNESCO, ITU and WIPO
- Address by the Chief Guest
- Keynote Address

11.0 – 11.15 Tea break

11.15 – 13.00 Axel Leblois, Executive Director, G3ict
ICT Accessibility and Reasonable Accommodation in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Implications of Article 9 and 24 for State Parties and Education Ministries
- Nirmita Narasimhan, CIS
Presentation and Structure of Agenda, Objectives of Meeting
Why Accessible and Assistive Technologies Matter? – An Overview of ICT Barriers to Access and Solutions
- Live examples and case studies of ICT accessibility issues and solutions in education. The topics – (access to websites), (published works and libraries),(classroom materials and tests), (hardware and software) and (K to 12 and university perspectives)
Speakers
- Cindy Rowland

Visible and Hidden Barriers for Students and Faculty, Impact of Lack of Accessible ICTs for Students with Disabilities – An International Perspective

- Dr. Sushmita Mitra, National Institute of Open Schooling
  School Textbooks and Educational Resources – Making Distance Education Work
- Dr.Hemalata, Indira Gandhi National Open University
  ICT for Inclusion
- Representative from Ministry of HRD in Charge of Education (TBC)
  Barriers and Initiatives of the HRD Ministry

Q & A discussion

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 – 15.30 **Beyond Accessibility: Implementing Assistive Technologies for Students with Disabilities**

- Live examples and demos. Topics - (input / output devices), (screen readers), (text to speech and voice recognition), (language support) and Representatives of Inclusive Planet - (social networking and solutions for students with learning disabilities and what is needed to make it work?)
- The need for individual solutions and
- Training and support essentials
  Speakers
- Srinivasa Chakravartula
  An Overview of Assistive Technologies and Accessibility Tools
- Prof S R Mittal, Department of Education, University of Delhi
  Solutions Which are Required to Make Education Work in Universities and Colleges
- Harihara Kumar, Head, Deaf Way Education Unit, Hyderabad
  ICT Education for the Deaf, Challenges and Best Practices
- Representative from Ministry of IT (TBC)
  Challenges and initiatives for the MICT
- Professor Mamoru Iwabuchi
  University of Tokyo
  Development of ICT based assistive technology for minority languages

15.30 – 16.00 Tea break

16.00 – 17.30 **Shifting Paradigms for Accessible and Assistive**

Solutions: Can India Schools Leapfrog Current Solutions?
 Speakers
- Prabir Purkayastha and Microsoft Representative
  Open Source Software and Proprietary Software, The Need for Interoperability
- Susan Schorr, ITU
  Connecting Schools: Global Challenges and Solutions
- Claudio Giugliemma, President, Dominic Foundation (Switzerland)
  Accessible e-learning
- Dr.Hemalata- IGNOU
  ICT and Inclusion

17.30 **Adjournment, Announcements for Next Day Program**
Thursday, October 28, 2010

09.30 – 11.00 **Morning Session – UNESCO-CIS Case Studies Overview Education in ICTs Initiatives in the Asia Pacific Region: Success Stories**
 Speakers
- Irmgarda Kasinskaite-Buddeberg, UNESCO and presentations by other case study presenters
  Band Case Studies Research Program Overview

James Mathew- Insite
Professor Kenryu Dakamura
University of Tokyo
*M*obile phones in special education.

11.00 – 11.20 Tea break

11.20 – 13.00 **Plenary Session with DAISY Speakers - The New Frontier for Access to Published Works: Success Stories and Roadblocks**
 Speakers
- Hiroshi Kawamura
  Daisy Consortium Presentation
- Viji Dilip
  The Bookshare.org success story
- WIPO representative
  The Intellectual Property Challenge and the WIPO Negotiations
- Dr. Sam Taraporevala
  India's situation
- Discussion and Q & As

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 – 15.30 **DAISY Best Practices for Educators**
<u>Speakers</u>
- George Kerscher
  Latest Technical Developments and Sample Implementations such as in DAISY Mathematics
- Prashant Ranjan Verma
  Over view of Hardware and Software Tools for Authoring and Playback of DAISY Books
- Birendra Raj Pokharel
  Sharing of Experiences on Implementation of DAISY Book Production and Distribution in Developing Countries
- Sharon Kerr, Macquaire University Accessibility Services, Australia

Nepal Best Practices in Providing Accessible Materials to Persons with Print Disabilities

15.30 – 16.00 Tea break

- 16.00 – 17.30 Break-out Sessions: Educators' Success Stories: Case Studies and Testimonials from India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Thailand and Sri Lanka
  - Group 1: Primary education
  - Group 2: Secondary education
  - Group 3: Tertiary education
  - Group 4: Vocational and lifelong learning

  Each group covers
  - Covers 2 to 3 case studies presented by field practitioners with Q&As
  - Discuss key challenges and success factors as described by field practitioners

Agreed on key policy recommendations to be presented in plenary session
Moderator:

17.30 Adjournment

Friday, October 29, 2010

09.30 – 11.00 **Developing an ICT Accessibility and Assistive Technology Support Eco-system for Educators**

The topics – (centers of excellence and peer support), (training the trainers), (employing disabled persons as trainers), (resources for field practitioners), (role of universities), (standards), (public procurement), (international examples), (discussion with selected case studies leaders and participants and India's Ministry of Education officials)

<u>Speakers</u>

Cyndi Roland- University of Utah

Shanti Raghavan- Enable India

Arun Rao- Deafway Foundation

Prof Bhattacharya- Delhi University

Professor Nagarjuna- Foss in education (tbc)

Moderators:

11.00 - 11.20 Tea break

11.20 – 13.00 Wrap-up session presentation of group work, feedback and action points. On site web based survey of participants on policy priorities. <u>Will be used to edit white paper</u>.

13.00 – 14.00 Closing lunch

14.00 – 15.30 **Afternoon Organizer's Private Session**
- Summarizing key findings
- Looking at on-line survey results
- Drafting key points of white paper
- Drafting table of contents

Next steps

15.30 – 16.00 Tea break

16.00 Adjournment