

## Of Special Interest

The Thinkaton took place on December 6, 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> in The Hague, The Netherlands! Please claim your ticket voucher with Cyber gateway Center (See annex #1)

The Open Call for participation to the Santiago workshop goes out today Wednesday December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

## Face-to-Facebook

Kudos to the participants from the African workshop for creating a FB group, however this space must not remain African in its nature.

Unlike the digitalnatives.in website where posts are necessarily segregated by region, the FB group can serve as a space for intercultural bridges.

Let's use it to create conversations and dialogue, like Paidamoyo has been doing in his provocative statements about gender-based violence and gender inequality. Let's also use this space to provide links about interesting DN-related projects within our contexts, like Rotimi and Richard have done.



## Thinking + Marathon = Thinkaton

By Nishant Shah

The Digital Natives with a Cause? Thinkathon conference co-organised by Hivos and the Centre for Internet and Society is being held from 6 to 8 December at the Hague Museum for Communication. The Digital Natives with a Cause? research inquiry seeks to look at the potentials of social change and political participation through technology practices of people in emerging ICT contexts. It particularly aims to address knowledge gaps that exist in the scholarship, practice and popular discourse around an increasing usage, adoption and integration of digital and Internet technologies in social transformation processes.

In the late summer of 2010 two workshops, in Taiwan and South Africa, brought together 50 Digital natives from Asia and Africa to place their practice in larger social and political legacies and frameworks. The 'Talking Back' workshop in Taiwan looked at the politics, implications and processes of talking back and being political and the 'My Bubble, My Voice and My Space' workshop in Johannesburg looked at change, change processes and the role of Digital Natives in it.

For the Digital Natives with a Cause? Thinkathon that will be held in The Hague, The Netherlands from 6 to 8 December 2010, Digital Natives from the workshops in Taipei and Johannesburg have provided us with their take on social change and political participation in the following position papers. They look at issues of: what does it mean to be a Digital Native? What is the relationship of people growing up with new technologies and change? What are the processes by which change is produced? Can you institutionalize Digital Natives with a Cause Activities? How do you make it sustainable in each context?

We hope you will find the Digital Natives with a Cause? position papers inspiring, thought-provoking and challenging.

Download the position papers **here**. Original by Nishant Shah **here**

"We would sneak in at night and use the computers after looking on at what the pros were doing in the day" – Frank



Frank Odongkara in 20 years?

### Digital Natives News

Universities are listening! A recent [article](#) on The Asia Pacific Future Gov website outlines how Asian educational institutions responding to an increasingly high demand for technologized learning environment.

An unknown [blogger's](#) effect on wikileaks

How do digital natives perceive and interact with others at the workplace? PC world recently published an article on it [here](#)

## Word around town...



Frank opens up a window into his past, and shares with us his process of becoming one with digital technologies. From the time when he first heard about computers but had not actually seen one, to when he would sneak up at night into the computer lab to train himself on computer skills, Frank's story (Framed around Shafika Isaac's matrix) offers a different story of engagements with technology than we usually hear. It's interesting to note that in the end of his story, Frank says "I am just another digital native" and yet - most conceptions of digital natives see one as being born into an environment where technologies are already there. In fact, Frank's story of going to a school because it had better computers and sneaking in at night to use them reminds me a bit of Bill Gates' story. Bill Gates, is not a digital native (or is he?). Full story can be found [here](#)

Joe G relates of an occurrence where he met a high school friend who he had not seen in many years but had kept in touch with through Facebook. Alas, when they met, they only spoke for 10 minutes and bye bye! No more connection. Joe concludes "the social networks have brought people, situations and events so close to each other technologically but in real sense stealing the joy that one would encounter after staying for ages without seeing a family member, a colleague, a spouse, a schoolmate, and all the important people of their lives." Is he referring to some aspect of human communications yet to be conceived by digital technologies? or perhaps he is making reference to the "weak" versus "strong" social connections that Malcolm Gladwell via Maes [brought](#) into our table a couple months ago?

Albert decides to give us some advice on corporate life and the social relations inside any organization really, and Paidia shares some important concerns about the ICT-as-a-tool to give a "voice" debate. Paidia stresses that in the gender equality debate, the questions should not concern themselves with the access to technology but should question deeper societal issues, and for example how in traditional patriarchal societies there is no tradition of women voicing their concerns. He goes on and says "The starting point should be getting the women to speak up". Whose role is that then? Is it the social scientists? The community organizers? The researchers? The policy makers? The women themselves? Is it an issue we should solve before focusing on the access to technology part? I am sure we all ways of contributing to Paidia's question, as this question came up in conversations at the South African workshop a lot.

Lastly but not least importantly, Buddikha gives us a link to the article which introduced the term "Digital Native" back in 2001. Mark Prensky's must read via Buddika is [here](#):





Maesy Angelina, a Chinese Indonesian, has been involved in various citizen initiatives and development projects related to youth, gender, women, critical thinking, and environmental issues in Indonesia and Timor Leste for the past decade. Her MA thesis, a part of the Hivos-CIS "Digital Natives with a Cause? Knowledge Programme, explored the new forms of contemporary youth activism due to the use of Web 2.0 based on the case of Blank Noise, a collective addressing street sexual harassment in urban India.

### Direct Video Feed

What is the Cloud? As usual, 10-year-old kids have the [answers](#).

The president of Uganda would like to know if you want another [rap](#)

New Blackberry commercial [ad](#) from India portrays digital natives in a very specific way

## DN in Depth: Maesy Angelina

### What motivates you?

It started by being annoyed at how digital natives (or young people who are using technology for activism) are being discussed by academicians and practitioners alike. It's like the only thing that matters is that they use twitter, Facebook etc, not what they actually have to say. Also mostly they are not taking into account the perspectives of these young people themselves so as a youth studies student who is interested in the new forms of activism (that interestingly has always been pinned down to transnationalism and the use of new media tech) I decided to take up this project for my master thesis.

### Do you consider yourself a Digital Native?

If digital natives are about uber-technologically savvy youngsters, i don't consider myself as one. but if it is about how we see things as a result of our involvement / interaction through internet technologies, then yes.

Through my research with BN, i found that i also share how they view social change, movements... much more than how we see / use technology.

### What is the future for "digital natives"?

Digital Natives are already carving a space for themselves. I see DNS as active citizens who are already shaping the way societies work through their practices.

### Is this view aligned with what is currently being said about Digital Natives?

Yes if 'current' means for the past 2-3 years, this perspective is rather new and less frequent, but it's getting more popular in this year.

### Where to after your Masters'?

I am going back to Jakarta to my previous work as a programme officer for a development agency on the issues of gender but i am definitely will be engaged with more researches around the same issue. i am especially interested to see what Indonesian digital natives are doing or thinking right now.



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