



**UNITAR'S WEB SEMINAR SERIES ON ICT POLICY ISSUES FOR
DEVELOPMENT**
ORGANIZED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE INTEL CORPORATION
2006

INFORMATION NOTE

BACKGROUND

The digital divide between countries and communities is an issue that has gained greater international attention, as leaders throughout the globe recognize the incredible potential of information communication technologies (ICTs) to impact economic growth, poverty eradication, education and sustainable development.

The **UNITAR Web Seminar Series on ICT Policy Issues for Development** will stimulate critical thinking and provide a forum for discussion and learning related to ICTs and their potential policy implications world-wide. It will present diverse local realities and development goals with the tools and information necessary to make appropriate policy decisions both within the United Nations system and at a country level. This Series has been specifically designed to address the needs of developing nations most affected by a growing digital divide and is meant to be viewed as a progressive list of topics culminating in an intensive three-day symposium in August of this year.

This Series has also been developed in light of the outcome of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) which took place in November 2005, and produced a number of recommendations on ICT policies outlined in the "*Tunis Commitment*" and the "*Tunis Agenda for the Information Society*". These recommendations along with the newly announced **Global Alliance for ICT and Development** make this series especially timely and of relevance to delegates serving on the Second Committee as this new, multi-stakeholder Forum will address the use of ICT for enhancing achievement of internationally agreed upon development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

OBJECTIVES

- To present delegates with the most current information from a variety of perspectives on key ICT policy issues.
- To allow delegates the opportunity to interact substantively in a workshop setting with experts and the tools and strategies they employ in this field.

STRUCTURE AND METHODOLOGY

These one-day workshops will be offered to United Nations delegates in New York and will draw from UNITAR's vast network of expertise within academia, the public/private sectors and civil society. Presentations will then be broadcast live over the Internet.

The 2006 UNITAR Web Seminar Series will be organized on the following preliminary topics:

BASIC CONNECTIVITY

WEBINAR 1

Date: 17 May 2006 **Title:** Broadband Wireless to Bridge the Digital Divide

UNITAR Partners: Wireless Internet Institute (W2i) in association with International Training Centre for Local Authorities/Actors (CIFAL) Atlanta

Description: Will address the issue of connectivity within the developing world and will present case studies and examples of what developing countries without extensive or traditional IT infrastructures can do to become active members of an information society.

USING CONNECTIVITY TO ENHANCE GOVERNANCE

WEBINAR 2:

Date: 14 June 2006

Title: E-Governance for Development

UNITAR Partners: Department of Public Administration and Development Management / UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DPADM/UN DESA)

Description: Will explore the term e-governance and provide concrete examples of e-governance strategies within specific regional contexts.

FORMULATING ICT STRATEGIES: A THREE-DAY SYMPOSIUM

DAY 1:

Date: 29 August 2006

Title: Free Open Source Software (FOSS): Alternative Technologies for Development and the UN

UNITAR Partners: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), other United Nations partners

Description: Will both define and explain how FOSS is being utilized within the developing world as well as provide delegates with interactive opportunities to interact with FOSS technologies. This event will also incorporate experts from the private sector, government and the media for a roundtable discussion on the relevancy of FOSS within the UN.

DAY 2:

Date: 30 August 2006

Title: TBA

UNITAR Partners: TBA

DAY 3:

Date: 31 August 2006

Title: IT Leadership within a Developing Country Context

UNITAR Partners: Dr. Michael Fors

Description: Will function as a leadership workshop aimed at providing delegates in leadership positions with concrete skills for formulating and eliciting high performance from their ICT strategies.

PARTICIPANTS

While this series is open to all delegates, it is designed for members of the permanent missions who participate in the work of the Second Committee and who address matters of which Information Communication Technologies for Development are of relevance. The selected candidates are requested to regard their participation as a firm commitment.

WORKING LANGUAGE

All series events will be conducted in English.

REGISTRATION

Participants are requested to fill out the attached nomination form. All participants must be nominated by the Permanent Representative of their Mission. Nominations forms should be faxed to:

UNITAR
Attn: Ms. Amy Weesner
ICT Programmes
212-963-9686 or 0995

*Currently registration is open for Webinar 1: **Broadband Wireless to Bridge the Digital Divide.***

THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS 12 MAY 2006.

Detailed information including a nomination form and a regularly updated agenda will also be available on our website: www.unitarny.org

Questions may be directed to:

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