

DYNAMIC COALITION ON INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO CONNECTING THE UNCONNECTED

Main Session Input Paper for IGF 2016 in Guadalajara, Mexico

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Our Work

Businesses, Civil Society Organizations and Governments around the world have initiated multiple demand and supply side efforts to improve broadband adoption around the world. No one is systematically organizing and analyzing them for what works. The Dynamic Coalition on Innovative Approaches to Connecting the Unconnected seeks to consolidate, extend, and share information about these efforts by collecting and disseminating case studies on practices that have proven effective in improving broadband adoption.

Over the last few months, the dynamic coalition has identified close to 200 case studies for further study. Over the course of the next year, we seek to expand this list as well as publish case studies on these initiatives on a dedicated website in a manner that is easily searchable by category.

The next phase of our work seeks to use academic standards to synthesize the insights obtained at the grassroots level in order to inform interested stakeholders who are stymied by the lack of comprehensive empirical information. We seek to assess these initiatives based on their cost effectiveness, collecting data about these initiatives that are underway in various parts of the world. The dynamic coalition is thus engaged in extensive research that can feed into policy debates and advocacy.

We are also looking to engage in collecting stories on connectivity from these areas, as we are determined to put a human face on what connecting to the Internet means and how

connectivity has changed people's lives. We intend to conduct interviews as well as crowdsource data for this information.

Relevance

The existence of multiple initiatives focusing on improving connectivity (including the U.S. State Department's Global Connect, ISOC's Community Grants Programs and Beyond the Net Initiative, World Economic Forum's Internet for All, IGF's Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion, just to name a few) makes it important to understand what makes our work distinctive. While some organizations are studying Internet connectivity at a very high level, others are doing so at a low level by supporting grassroots projects.

We are determined to collate information from different sources, organize and synthesize them using academic standards, and provide this information in an easy, searchable and digestible form. Our commitment to academic standards, as well as the fact that we are the first such initiative to make an effort to compile such information, makes our work complementary to the number of ongoing efforts.

A systematic compilation of all initiatives to connect the unconnected has the capability to be useful to governments and other organizations who are interested in implementing or funding such initiatives. Spotlighting efforts made by various stakeholders, and evaluating them for their cost effectiveness, funnels investment in the right directions, leading to enhanced outcomes for the investment that is being made across the world in Internet deployment.