

Trends



Trends in ICT and Capacity Building: Africa Perspective February 2018



Virtual HR

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Agenda

- PART 1: The trends – from 1900s to present (3 eras)
- PART 2: The Barriers & The Opportunity
- PART 3: What has been done?
- PART 4: What does it mean for Capacity Building



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- PART 1 – THE TRENDS



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1. The Trend ...1990 – early 2000s

- Development focused on **information and communication** technology.
- It concentrated on bridging the digital divide through overcoming:
 1. Connectivity
 2. Access barriersfor more & more of Africa's population



The Trend ...1990 – early 2000s

- This provided connections to the rest of the world and therefore helped overcome the “**last mile**” challenge faced in Africa



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2. Late 2000s – early 2010

- Penetration of ICTs increased across Africa
- Focus started to shift to uptake and impact of these ICTs in order to:
 1. Transform lives
 2. Transform societies
 3. Transform economies



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2. Late 2000s – early 2010

- It was clear that enhancing information flow is not sufficient to grasp **development opportunities**



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3. From 2017 going forward...

- The importance to foster digital opportunities and social inclusion by enhancing the use of ICTs for:
 - Capacity building
 - Empowerment
 - Governance and
 - Social participation



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From 2017 going forward...

- To strengthen capacities for:
- scientific research
- information sharing
- exchange of knowledge
- enhance learning opportunities thru access to diversified contents and delivery systems to support the transformation to knowledge



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- PART 2 – THE BARRIERS & THE OPPORTUNITY



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Barriers

- Barrier to overcome are no longer only technological (as in early years) but also educational, cultural and linguistic in nature
- Thus very important for Africa to focus on **investing in human capacity** otherwise the 'last mile' challenge may end up becoming the 'lost mile'



The Opportunity

- How can ICT enable **better lives** for the people in Africa?
- The role of ICT infrastructure and institutional quality to enable an increase in **intra-African trade**?
- The use of mobile telephony in the agricultural sectors to enable an **information sharing**?
- The use of ICTs to enable **information access** in remote rural areas?
- Ways to increase **successful implementation** of ICT



- PART 3 – WHAT HAS BEEN DONE?



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What has been done?

- Kenya – ihub
- <https://ihub.co.ke>



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- iHub aims to become the best African **support system** for ICT focused tech entrepreneurs and individuals who aspire to create great companies that tackle some of our biggest challenges. We will create an environment of trust and experimentation that will be focused on the idiosyncrasies of our local ecosystem in Kenya at first, but will venture out across the continent and beyond.





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- Founded in 2010
- iHub is a globally recognized organization that is deeply steeped in the local **tech innovation** culture
- iHub has been both the **main catalyst** for regional tech acceleration and a role model for tech hubs across emerging markets
- Nurtures the best innovation and **entrepreneurship ecosystem**; one that constantly challenges and influences technology; one that can be replicated across the continent
- With the belief that African innovation will play a critical role in shaping **future technology globally**.



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Membership

- The iHub offers a mix of creative work spaces and meeting rooms
- 23,000 square feet of space, which includes private offices, co-working space, meeting rooms... and an outdoor terrace
- iHub members access facilities including 24/7 access and subsidized rates.



Some pictures at IHub



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2. What has been done?

- Kenya – Mpesa



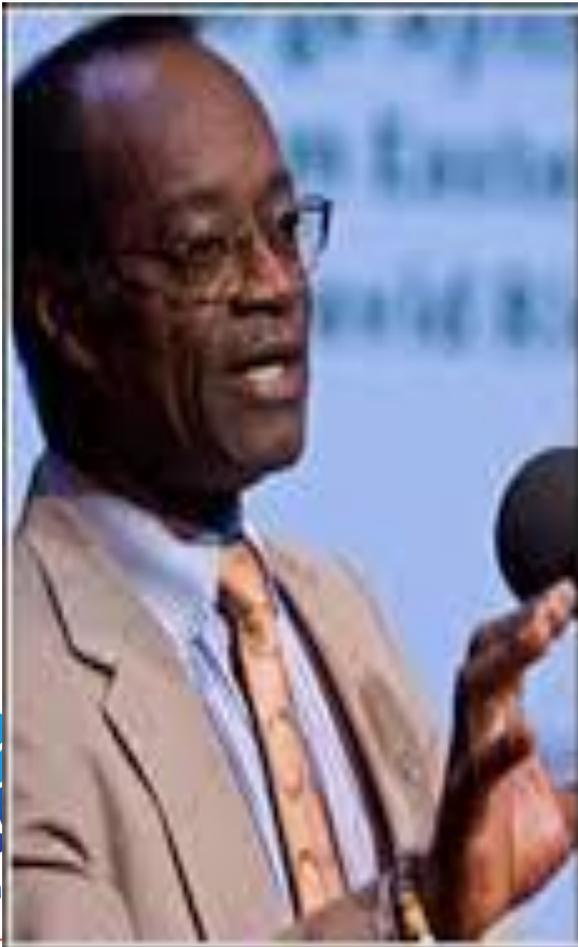


- The service allows users to deposit money into an account stored on their cell phones
- To send balances using Pin secured text message to other users
- Users are sellers of goods and services
- To redeem deposits for regular money
- Users are charged a small fee for sending and withdrawing money using the service
- M-Pesa is a Branchless banking
- M-Pesa customers can deposit and withdraw money from a network of agents that includes airtime resellers and retail outlets acting as banking agents



3. What has been done - Ghana

- Cheetah Generation



The 'Cheetah Generation' refers to the new and angry generation of young African graduates and professionals, who look at African issues and problems from a totally different and unique perspective.

— George Agyepong —

AZ QUOTES



Ghana

- In the informal sector that we find the so-called “cheetah generation,” a term coined by the Ghanaian economist George Ayittey (2014)



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Ghana

- Young African graduates and professionals who see every social need in Africa as a business opportunity. Many of these “cheetahs” are digital natives who are “innovators and users spearheading some of the world's most exciting ICT advances”
- They are impatient and unwilling to wait for leaders to deliver on their promises. They are entrepreneurial and keen to use their own initiative to create employment and solve problems in Africa.



- PART 4 – WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR CAPACITY BUILDING



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What does this mean for capacity building?

- 1. With many countries in Africa in a demographic transition, the resulting youth bulge - thus a clear opportunity for **capacity building**
- Lead to clear **demographic dividend** if the majority of young, working age adults can find productive employment.



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What does this mean for capacity building?

- 2. The diffusion and **adoption** of various ICTs and the impact across the African continent in order to better build lives for the people of Africa



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What does this mean for capacity building?

- 3. There is need to develop not only ICT infrastructure but also the **human potential** within Africa to benefit from the market opportunity
- Its clear that higher value added services that also command higher revenues, require **advanced technical and analytical skills**



- Botswana had an acute shortage of high-skilled ICT personnel to take advantage of the emerging digital economy in the country.
- The skills for the knowledge economy are now built at the tertiary education level



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Conclusion

Given the diversity within Africa, capacity building should aim to:

- provide insight into the practices and **applications** of ICT
- identify **problems** and barriers
- present context-specific findings and solutions and illustrate how ICT is **enabling development** in Africa
- only support **future development-focused ICT research** efforts in and on Africa and help unleash the human potential on the African continent



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