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- Healthcare self-management
- Healthcare information privacy
- Electronic Health Records and Electronic Medical Records
- Remote Hospital Management

Applications of ICTs in Agriculture:

- Precision farming and knowledge intensive agriculture
- Global Positioning Systems for agriculture
- Computer-controlled devices (automated systems) for agriculture
- Decision support systems for agriculture
- Tools for e-agribusiness
- Environmental information and management systems
- Wireless sensor networks for agriculture

ICT Policy issues:

- Improving ICTs environment for entrepreneurship
- IP issues in ICTs application development

WHO SHOULD ATTEND THE WORKSHOP?

Industry Experts, Academicians, PhD students, ICT Entrepreneurs and ICT Policy Planners, belonging to OIC and COMSATS Member States and possessing relevant academic qualification (at least Masters Degree in ICTs/Engineering) and vast experience in the field, are welcome to attend the workshop.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Partial or full financial support will be provided to the selected foreign speakers/participants from Member States of COMSATS, ISESCO and INIT.

4th International Workshop on
Applications of ICTs in

EDUCATION
HEALTHCARE
&
AGRICULTURE

July 25-27, 2017
Abuja, Nigeria

Organized by

ISESCO   INIT   COMSATS   FMST

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Technological progress is a driving force behind economic growth, citizen engagement, and job creation. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), in particular, are reshaping many aspects of the world's economies, governments and societies. The so-called Fourth Industrial Revolution is a digital revolution that requires universal and reliable internet access; without which many developing countries will not be able to fully participate in an increasingly mobile and digital-based economy. Public organizations, businesses, and citizens in developing countries can harness the transformative power of ICTs to provide more efficient services, and catalyze economic growth.

Under Sustainable Development Goals No. 9, the world set an ambitious target to "significantly increase access to information and communications technology (ICT) and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020". However, the governments, private sector, and the international community have a lot to do in order to reach this target and bridge the digital divide. In this regard, effective ICT policy reforms can ultimately enable poverty reduction and shared prosperity.

ICT IN EDUCATION

In the present age, the importance of education cannot be overemphasized and the issues facing the developing countries can only be addressed through ensuring quality education for the masses. ICTs can contribute to universal access to education, equity in education, the delivery of quality learning and new teaching technologies, teachers' professional development and more efficient education

management, governance and administration. The role of ICTs in education is even more significant in poverty stricken regions where mobility and access to already non-existent educational facilities is a fundamental challenge. ICTs can provide easy access to education with rapid delivery, extended outreach, personalization of learning and interactivity, at a much lower cost.

ICT IN HEALTHCARE

ICTs can play a critical role in improving healthcare for individuals and communities. By providing new and more efficient ways of accessing, communicating and storing information, ICTs can help bridge the information divide that has emerged in the healthcare sector in developing countries, i.e. between health professionals and the communities they serve and between the producers of health research and the practitioners who need it. ICTs can play a major role in improving health conditions of the marginalized communities in the society. The benefits of ICTs in healthcare include: enabling remote consultation, diagnosis and treatment through telemedicine; strengthening the ability to monitor and respond to emergencies in a timely and effective manner; increasing the efficiency of healthcare facilities; facilitation of dialogue regarding major public health threats; facilitation of collaboration among health workers, including sharing of widely adapted training approaches; and effective dissemination of and access to modern medical research findings, etc.
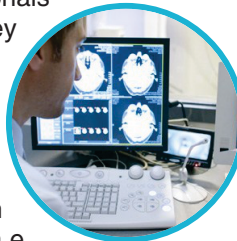
ICT IN AGRICULTURE

The emerging concept of e-agriculture incorporates the sophisticated use of ICTs, which empower different stakeholders involved in the value chain to perform tasks quickly, efficiently, and with greater ease and accuracy. ICTs can help farmers in making informed decisions. Computers, internet, geographical information systems, mobile phones, as well as traditional media such as radio or TV stimulate participation and enhance productivity. By using ICT tools, farmers can get timely, up-to-date, relevant and accurate technical information and advice regarding good agronomic practices, ranging from soil testing to post-harvest management techniques to exploit their farming potential. Moreover, timely information on weather forecasts can help them prevent crop losses. Therefore, the role of ICTs to stimulate agriculture, enhance food security and support rural livelihoods is increasingly being recognized.

THE WORKSHOP

In view of the above, the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS); the Inter Islamic Network on Information Technology (INIT); the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO); and the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology/National Space Research and Development Agency (FMST/NASRDA), Nigeria, are jointly organizing the 4th International Workshop on 'Applications of ICTs in Education, Healthcare and Agriculture' on July 25-27, 2017, in Abuja, Nigeria.

The event is a continuation of the series of workshops that highlight and address key issues in Education, Healthcare and Agriculture sectors in the developing countries. The earlier events of this series were held in Jordan (2016), Morocco (2015) and Pakistan (2014).

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The workshop aims to conduct a knowledge-sharing exercise regarding the role of ICTs in the sectors of Education, Healthcare and Agriculture, and their impact on the socio-economic landscape of a country. The workshop is expected to expand knowledge-base and capabilities of the participating scientists, researchers and professionals belonging to the Member States of OIC and COMSATS, regarding the cutting edge innovative ICT-based technologies and techniques used in Education, Healthcare and Agriculture sectors. The event will also attempt to explore an enabling policy framework for strengthening ICT policies in OIC and COMSATS Member States for enhancement of their technological capabilities for achieving national developmental goals.

FOCUSED AREAS

Focused Areas of the workshop include but are not limited to the following:

Applications of ICTs in Education:

- ICT-based universal access to education and delivery of quality learning
- ICT-based teachers' professional development
- ICT-based education management, governance and administration

Applications of ICTs in Healthcare:

- eHealth and Telemedicine