

PROGRESS REPORT 2006

Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development

The Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development (GAID) was created by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in March 2006, and launched in Kuala Lumpur on 19-20 June 2006. Since assuming the office of Secretary-General on 1 January 2007, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon has identified information and communication technologies (ICT) as a priority area for the United Nations in support of the goals of the Global Alliance. Having been involved in the field for years, Mr. Ban sees ICT as powerful tools to further development, and he encourages the use of the United Nations' convening power to bring together information and communication technologies for development (ICTD) actors to contribute to the attainment of a development-oriented, people-centred, inclusive Information Society and to further the United Nations development goals.

In this Inaugural year, GAID's energies have focused on (a) developing and operationalizing an appropriate organizational structure, (b) defining its areas of priority and developing its business plan, (c) building collaborative links and (d) raising awareness of the Alliance.

The Alliance was supported through 2006 by a light secretariat based in New York, composed of an Executive Coordinator, three project staff, a staff member seconded from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia, one consultant and three staff temporarily seconded on a part-time basis from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

GAID has laid a firm foundation for future activities having (i) established its governance mechanisms; (ii) agreed its mission and objectives; (iii) approved its areas of focus and a business plan for 2006-2007; (iv) begun forming the organizational framework for partnerships through which the Alliance aims to leverage the resources, know-how, energy and will of various stakeholders to meet its objectives; (v) organized several successful meetings and engaged in other outreach activities; and (vi) undertaken preparations for planned 2007 activities. The report concludes with (vii) a brief assessment of GAID's progress.

(i) Governance and advisory mechanisms

The Global Alliance was established on the basis of the principles and elements¹ that emerged following one-and-a-half years of international, multi-stakeholder consultation undertaken by the United Nations ICT Task Force². In the second quarter of 2006, nominations for the GAID **Strategy Council** were solicited, and the 60-member Council³ composed of 30

¹ "Principles and elements of a Global Alliance for ICT and Development (Multi-stakeholder Forum)" <http://www.unicttaskforce.org/perl/documents.pl?id=1583>.

² <http://www.unicttaskforce.org/>. The United Nations ICT Task Force was honoured with a UN21 Awards for innovation, efficiency and excellence in the delivery of its programme and services in December 2006.

³ <http://www.un-gaid.org/council/council.html>.

governments and 30 representatives from the private sector, civil society and international organizations was formed to provide strategic guidance and vision for the Alliance. An 11-member **Steering Committee**⁴, led by **Chairman** Craig Barrett, Chairman of the Board of Intel Corporation, was also formed to provide executive direction to, and priority setting for the Alliance, as well as oversight and guidance to the secretariat.

A panel of **High-level Advisers**⁵ has been constituted, providing a pool of policy and expert advice to the Global Alliance, and the GAID Network of **Champions**⁶ is a growing group of practitioners, experts and activists who facilitates the diffusion of knowledge and experience of innovative uses of ICT for the attainment of development goals, provides “bottom-up” flow of information on implementation of ICTD activities on the ground to inform policy discussions at the Global Forum and in the Steering Committee and the Strategy Council, and promotes the implementation of the Alliance’s outreach efforts, as well as fosters formation of partnerships. Both networks are connected through web-based groups, maintained by the secretariat.

(ii) **Mission and objectives**

Under the guidance of the Chair and with input from the Steering Committee and the Strategy Council, the mission of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development was agreed:

to contribute to transforming the spirit and vision of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) into action and promoting the use of ICT for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Alliance works toward fulfilling this mission by providing an inclusive, multi-stakeholder global forum and platform for cross-sectoral **policy dialogue and advocacy** and by catalyzing multi-stakeholder, action-oriented **partnerships** encouraged under the GAID umbrella. In itself, GAID does not have any operational or implementing role. It provides multi-stakeholder input to intergovernmental bodies, including the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Science and Technology for Development.

Six broad objectives that support its mission and will be pursued over its lifetime have been identified:

- Mainstreaming the global ICT agenda into the broader United Nations Development Agenda;
- Bringing together key organizations and other stakeholders involved in ICT for development to enhance their collaboration and effectiveness for achieving the internationally agreed development goals;
- Raising awareness of policy makers on ICTD policy issues;
- Facilitating identification of technological solutions for specific development needs and goals and launching of pertinent partnerships;

⁴ <http://www.un-gaid.org/steering/>.

⁵ <http://www.un-gaid.org/advisors/advisors.html>.

⁶ <http://www.un-gaid.org/champions/champions.html>.

- Promoting creation of an enabling environment and innovative business models for pro-poor investment, innovation and entrepreneurship and growth and for empowering people living in poverty and other marginalized communities; and
- Providing the Secretary-General with advice on ICTD-related issues.

(iii) Areas of focus and business plan

The Strategy Council of the Global Alliance decided at its first meeting in Kuala Lumpur (see Section v below) that GAID will initially focus on the use of ICT in promoting the following **four focus areas**: (1) education, (2) health, (3) entrepreneurship, and (4) governance (specifically, enhancing citizens' participation and promoting accountability, transparency and efficiency in governance processes).

A High-level meeting of the Steering Committee was convened under the Chairmanship of Craig Barrett at the United Nations Headquarters on 27 September 2006 (see Section v below), to discuss the draft **business plan**,⁷ which would provide direction and a framework for the work of the Global Alliance through its first year. The Steering Committee approved the business plan in December 2006, at which time it was made publicly available.

(iv) Framework for partnership

In order to take concrete steps toward achieving these objectives, through the collaborative efforts of the Chair, the secretariat, the Steering Committee, Strategy Council and other partners, the Global Alliance is creating a framework to foster policy debate and partnerships-for-action, as laid out in the business plan. The framework is composed of multiple networks operating for different purposes and goals. Secretariat-level relationships with partners are also valued and, on 31 December, the GAID secretariat initiated consultations with 21 organizations (see Annex).

Several **Flagship Partnership Initiatives**⁸ (FPIs) being formed under the umbrella of the Global Alliance are the first set of multi-stakeholder activities catalyzed by GAID to leverage joint resources and to spur visible action toward attaining its objectives across the four GAID focus areas. These are:

<i>GAID Flagship Partnership Initiatives</i>		
Title	Lead organization(s)	Partners
<p>Cyber Development Corps The Cyber Development Corps will promote capacity-building through South-South cooperation. This initiative will establish a global outreach programme based on the spirit of volunteerism to help lesser-developed nations and communities benefit from global ICT, infrastructure and resources; and help enhance their national development plans towards becoming equal participants in the global information-knowledge society.</p>	<p>Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Malaysia</p>	<p>UNDP, Intel, Digital Opportunity Trust, regional development institutions and banks.</p>

⁷ <http://www.un-gaid.org/about/GAID%20Business%20Plan%2007Dec2006.pdf>.

⁸ On 31 December 2006, lead organizations were asked to collaborate with partners to develop and submit to the GAID secretariat work programmes for 2007.

GAID Flagship Partnership Initiatives (continued)

Title	Lead organization(s)	Partners
<p>Better Connectivity with Broadband to Africa As a key enabler of the four priority areas of the Global Alliance, this initiative will support African efforts to accelerate the roll-out of communication infrastructure and increase broadband access across Africa. ICT infrastructure is essential for African countries to achieve regional integration and to enable poor people to participate in markets and help reduce poverty. Economic growth in Africa will depend upon widespread access to ICT services, which, in turn, provide access to local, national, regional and global markets. Therefore, national and regional backbones, cross-border links, and rural connectivity need to be vastly expanded, in parallel with the deployment of applications to take advantage of connectivity for productive use.</p>	World Bank	European Commission, the African Development Bank, the International Telecommunication Union (<i>itc</i>), the E-Africa Commission/NEPAD, bilateral and multilateral donor organizations, telecommunications operators associations, and representatives of users and civil society.
<p>Telecentre 2.0 Building on the existing telecentre.org programme - which aims to significantly scale up the successes of the telecentre movement, to increase local capacity and promote long-term sustainability - this GAID FPI will promote a more inclusive digital world by helping telecentres become stronger, more sustainable and more numerous. The aim is to move beyond simply providing access to also include e-learning, training and skills development, local content generation, financial services, e-government and others services relevant to the local community. Partners rallying under the GAID/telecentre.org banner will work in four areas: (1) building telecentre networks; (2) developing content and services; (3) documenting knowledge and learning; and (4) convening events for telecentre leaders.</p>	International Development Research Centre (IDRC)	Microsoft, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP). The initiative also works actively with dozens of network and knowledge-sharing partners at the national level.

Furthermore, multi-stakeholder **advocacy campaigns** encouraging national-level action are being formulated in the following areas:

<i>GAID Partnerships for Advocacy</i>		
Theme	Lead organization(s)	Partners
<p>Free Access for all Schools to the Net Given the revolutionary developments in new (ICTs) to be part of the knowledge society requires the opportunity to access this wealth of information and knowledge and capacity to use these new ICTs. Schools are particularly fertile grounds to foster the development of a new generation of innovative citizens, who have the skills and are actively engaged in the global knowledge society. Efforts to connect societies and people to the Internet are in the making; however, no specific and systematic effort has been undertaken to connect all schools to the Internet and, henceforth, enable teachers and students alike to be part of and benefit from the information society. GAID will provide the umbrella for the campaign to mobilize support for this initiative and help find innovative financial solutions to avoid the cost burden for schools.</p>	Initiative submitted by SDC to build partnerships at the national level for promoting free access for all schools to the Internet	Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative (GeSCI). Other appropriate organizations active in this area will be identified to mobilize support.
<p>Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communications Technologies (G3ICT)⁹ This initiative will (1) promote ICT solutions for people with disabilities and related best policy practices among governments in the context of the new United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and expanded member states legislations and regulations, and (2) accelerate the development by industry and civil society of the scientific, industrial, standardization and economic conditions to make such solutions affordable worldwide.</p>	Wireless Internet Institute (W2i) and World Times, Inc.	United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, UN Enable, IBM, NIIT, other ICT private sector participants, Georgia Institute of Technology, UNITAR.

GAID Regional Networks will ensure the open, inclusive, participatory and truly global character of the Alliance, and the adequate reflection of regional perspectives and specific needs in its activities along the four focus areas. The networks are in various stages of formation:

<i>GAID Regional Networks</i>		
Region	Lead organization(s)	Status
Arab States	UN ESCWA	In consultation with lead organization
Africa	UN ECA	In consultation with lead organization
Asia Pacific	UN ESCAP, Shanghai Municipal Authorities	Launched in Shanghai, 19 October 2006

⁹ In 2006, the G3ICT has submitted a two-year work programme to deliver two global forums, five regional meetings, multi-stakeholder working groups and research tools. It held a highly successful kick-off event on 4 December 2006 (see Events), just before the formal adoption by the Plenary of the United Nations General Assembly of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 13 December 2006.

GAID Regional Networks (continued)

Region	Lead organization(s)	Status
Europe	UN ECE, Government of Germany	Launched in Dresden, Germany, 16 January 2007
Latin America and the Caribbean	Inter-American Development Bank (IaDB), Government of Argentina	To be launched in Buenos Aires, April 2007
Southeast Europe	Government of Greece	To be launched in the Summer, 2007
Transition countries	Government of Azerbaijan	Launched in Baku, 2 October 2006

Stakeholder networks that exist or are being created by the GAID will build on and generate synergies among constituents with shared interests. The Alliance will reach out to engage all relevant stakeholder networks to maximize participation by all interested entities, extend the outreach of the GAID and promote channels for smooth communications and collaboration. On 31 December 2006, lead organizations have been identified and networks were in the process of being formed:

GAID Stakeholder Networks

Constituency	Lead organization(s)
Civil society	Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with the United Nations (CONGO)
Youth	ATHGO International, Titi Akinsanmi (Global Teenager Project), Dennis Anderson (Pace University), ILO Youth Employment Network
Gender	IT for Change, Centre for Women and Information Technology, Centre for Feminist Research and Action
Persons with disabilities	Wireless Internet Institute (W2i), secretariat of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, IBM
Parliamentarians	International Parliamentarians Association for IT (IPAIT), Global Centre for Parliaments, Inter-American Development Bank (IaDB)
Local government and regional authorities	IT4All (Bilbao)
World Broadcasting Unions	European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and seven sister members

Thematic **Communities of Expertise (CoEs)** will bring together motivated and capable actors to address specific, well-defined ICTD problems in a results-oriented manner and to identify and disseminate good practice. A call for proposals was met with impressive worldwide response and, on 31 December 2006, 17 had been selected to begin operation¹⁰ within the four GAID focus areas and four cross-cutting themes (gender, youth, content and rural development).

GAID Communities of Expertise

GAID FOCUS AREAS	LEAD ORGANIZATION
Governance	
E-governance for development	Division for Public Administration and Development Management, UNDESA

¹⁰ Lead organizations had been asked to collaborate with partners to develop and submit to the GAID secretariat work programmes for 2007.

<i>GAID Communities of Expertise (continued)</i>	
CROSS-CUTTING AREAS	LEAD ORGANIZATION
E-services for development	Observatory for Cultural and Audiovisual Communication
Information and Communication Technologies for Peace	ICT4Peace Foundation
Entrepreneurship	
ICT Policy and Finance for Social, Community and Public Entrepreneurship	Association for Progressive Communications
Expanding financial services to the unbanked	Intel
Enterprises' competitiveness through the use of ICTs	ILO, International Chamber of Commerce, UNCTAD
Education	
ICT Competencies for Teachers	UNESCO
Strategy and Policy with ICT for Preservation of, and Access to S&T Data in Developing Countries	Chinese Academy of Science
Beyond Distance Research	Leicester University
ICTs in education	GeSCI
ICT Integration and Pedagogical Engineering	WITFOR Education Commission
Health	
ICT for Country Health Strategies	World Health Organization
Rural development	
E-agriculture	Food and Agriculture Organization
Gender	
Information Society (IS) policies, gender and development	IT for Change
Women and ICT Taskforce	Centre for Women and Information Technology
Youth	
Youth Social Technopreneurship	Philippine Resources for Sustainable Development
Local content	
e-Content and Creativity – World Summit Award and Network (WSA-net)	International Centre for New Media

(v) Meetings organized and outreach activities

In the second half of 2006, the Global Alliance held two meetings of the governing bodies; an official, public launch event; two regional network meetings (see above); and two thematic public events. The first meeting of the Partnership for advocacy on the Global Initiative for Inclusive ICT was also held in December 2006.

<i>GAID 2006 Meetings</i>			
Event details	Co-organizers	Participants	Output
First Steering Committee Meeting and Inaugural Meeting of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development, Kuala Lumpur, 19 – 20 June 2006	Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Malaysia	More than 500 representatives of UN Member States, NGOs, academia, civil society and intergovernmental organizations	Decision on focus areas of the Global Alliance and Statement by the co-organizers ¹¹ .

¹¹ http://www.un-gaid.org/kl06/kl_outcome.html .

GAID 2006 Meetings (continued)

Event Details	Co-organizers	Participants	Output
High-level Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development, United Nations Headquarters, New York, 27 September 2006 ¹²	Intel Corporation	Chairman Craig Barrett, principal members of the Steering Committee ¹³ , Secretary-General Kofi Annan; Economic and Social Council President Ali Hachani and Economic and Social Affairs Under-Secretary-General José Antonio Ocampo	Revised GAID Business Plan, criteria to evaluate Communities of Expertise proposals, funding strategy
18 th Annual AIT ICT meeting and Web4Development Conference, United Nations Headquarters, New York, 20-22 November 2006	AIT Global, UN/Department of Public Information, World Bank	Approximately 900 representatives of UN Member States, NGOs, academia, civil society and intergovernmental organizations	Awareness-raising, capacity-building, networking
Our Common Humanity in the Information Age: Principles and Values for Development, United Nations Headquarters, New York, 29 November 2006	Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, UN/DESA, United Nations Global Compact, UNDP, UNFIP, UNESCO, Millennium Project, World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA), World Bank, Pace University, Alliance of Civilizations, Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), Friends of the UN, Institute for a Culture of Peace, International Council for Caring Communities (ICCC), UN- IRENE and World Peace Prayer Society	Approximately 1100 representatives of UN Member States, NGOs, academia, civil society and intergovernmental organizations	Conference blog, publication to be produced first quarter 2007. GAID will convene meetings in the first quarter of 2007 with interested partners to chart the next steps on the path to reaching Our Common Humanity's objectives.
Flagship Partnership Initiative: Kick-off Meeting of the Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs (G3ICT), United Nations Headquarters, New York, 4 December 2006	Wireless Internet Institute (W2i)	More than 60 representatives from the private sector, disability groups, international bodies and academia	Four work groups were created to deal with major issues related to inclusivity and accessibility of ICTs. They will organize a panel around their topics for the first G3ICT Global Forum in March 2007

¹² http://www.un-gaid.org/steering/highlights_27sept06.html.

¹³ Please see <http://www.un-gaid.org/steering/steering.html>.

Furthermore, the GAID Executive Coordinator addressed audiences to raise awareness of, and promote, GAID and issues related to ICTD at many high-profile events throughout the second half of 2006, including: The Council of Europe’s “Human Rights in the Information Society: Empowering Children and Young People,” Yerevan, Armenia, 5-6 October 2006; WHO’s “The World of Health IT Conference and Exhibition,” Geneva, 10-13 October 2006; “The 6th Annual Forum on City Informatization in the Asia-Pacific Region” (CIAPR VI), Shanghai, China, 18-19 October 2006; and Santa Clara University’s Centre for Science, Technology, and Society and RIOS Institute’s “Silicon Valley Challenge Summit,” Santa Clara, California, 16 November 2006.

With the aim of building awareness of the GAID brand, a logo and website template were designed, as well as informational marketing materials. A short video on the Alliance, the Millennium Development Goals and GAID was produced for the launch meeting in Kuala Lumpur. The GAID website (www.un-gaid.org) provides background information on GAID and its activities and events. WSIS-online, a powerful portal developed for the Geneva and Tunis phases of the WSIS, was donated to GAID and is in the process of being integrated into the GAID website. In 2007, the site will be integrated with the GAID website, incorporating the relevant databases and interactive aspects to encompass the work of the various networks and initiatives operating under GAID’s umbrella.

(vi) **Activities for 2007**

Before the end of 2006, the GAID secretariat and its partners had already begun actively preparing for a number of significant events and initiatives scheduled for 2007:

<i>GAID 2007 Activities under Preparation</i>			
Date	Organizers	Location	Theme
16 January 2007	GAID European Regional Network – Government of Germany	Dresden, Germany	“Focal Point Europe” meeting
27-28 February 2007	GAID secretariat and Intel Corporation	Santa Clara and Mountain View, California	Second Strategy Council Meeting and “UN Meets Silicon Valley” special event
26 March 2007	FPI: G3ICT	United Nations Headquarters, New York	First Global Forum on Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies
April 2007	GAID Latin American and Caribbean Regional Network – Government of Argentina and Inter-American Development Bank	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Launch of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Network

GAID 2007 Activities under Preparation (continued)

Date	Organizers	Location	Theme
22 May 2007	GAID and CSTD secretariats	Geneva, Switzerland	Joint multi-stakeholder event in conjunction with the Tenth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)
23 May 2007	GAID secretariat and UN/DESA	Geneva, Switzerland	WSIS Action Line meeting on international and regional cooperation in conjunction with WSIS Week.
May 2007 (<i>tbc</i>)	GAID secretariat	Geneva, Switzerland	Global Forum on Youth and ICT for Development
5-6 July 2007	GAID secretariat and Global Compact	Geneva, Switzerland	(Event in conjunction with the Global Compact Leaders Summit)
July 2007	GAID secretariat and ECOSOC	Geneva, Switzerland	(Event in conjunction with Substantive Session of the UN Economic and Social Council)

GAID is also committed to co-hosting **UNITAR’s Web Seminar Series** on the following topics: “Women and the Information Society” (March); “ICT and Indigenous Issues” (May); “ICT and Youth” (June); and “Open Source Software and Development: Regional Case Studies” (October).

Three **publications** are being compiled and are expected to be unveiled at the Second Meeting of the GAID Strategy Council in Santa Clara in February: the first, a primer on the Global Alliance for ICT and Development, describing its founding, compiling its guiding documents, and providing information on how interested actors can contribute to the attainment of its mission and objectives; the second is a companion publication to the 29 November 2006 special meeting on “Our Common Humanity in the Information Age;” and the third is on *Humanizing the Digital Revolution*, published jointly by GAID, Fordham University and Kadir Has University.

(vii) Assessment of progress

In 2006, with the intent of laying the foundations for future substantive work, GAID aimed to (1) develop and operationalize an appropriate organizational structure, (2) define its

areas of priority and developed its business plan, (3) build collaborative links and (4) raise awareness of the Alliance.

The Global Alliance for ICT and Development has gone from approval by the Secretary-General (March 2006) to launch (June 2006) to operation in a very short period, thanks to the guidance of the Intel Corporation, the executive direction of the Steering Committee, and the support and contribution of the Strategy Council and other partners. Its governing and advisory bodies are fully functioning, its areas of priority identified, its business plan approved, three Flagship Partnership Initiatives are underway, its regional and stakeholder networks are being formed, as well as its thematic communities of expertise, and its secretariat is already preparing for a full programme of events for 2007.

GAID has succeeded in securing the partnerships of many competent and committed organizations – among them the World Bank, the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, Global Knowledge Partnership, the International Development Research Centre and the Malaysian Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation; and major United Nations agencies and entities – which are leading the networks and initiatives of the Global Alliance. The secretariat is supporting them to develop work programmes and methods to implement in 2007, as well as to bring other competent individuals and organizations into their networks.

Meanwhile, the GAID's name and brand is growing in recognition, due to efforts by the Chair and Executive Coordinator to promote it among high-level contacts throughout the ICT and ICTD communities and at international conferences, as well as to international press coverages. Its website serves as a repository of information for all stakeholders and members of the public, who wish to learn more about the entity and how they can contribute to the Alliance.

Having undertaken this extensive preparation, GAID is now positioned to be a key contributor to the achievement of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, especially by bringing multi-stakeholder input to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Economic and Social Council. It is also well placed to further the United Nations Development Agenda, which includes the Millennium Development Goals, and to make a meaningful contribution to harnessing the technology-driven WSIS process to support the broader United Nations development goals. To this end, it promotes policy dialogue and action-oriented initiatives through a multi-stakeholder partnership approach. It has already emerged as a spring-board and a major platform for the United Nations system, private sector and civil society partnerships in the strategic areas of education, health, entrepreneurship and governance, serving to advance common goals.

ANNEX**Organizations with collaborative arrangements with GAID
As of 31 December 2006**

1. ATHGO International - Alliance Toward Harnessing Global Opportunities
2. Capacity Development Fund
3. CDI International
4. Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization
5. Development Gateway Foundation
6. Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT)
7. Enterprise Incubator Foundation
8. Global Business Dialogue on Electronic Commerce (GBDe) secretariat
9. Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP)
10. Inter-American Development Bank
11. International Council for Caring Communities (ICCC)
12. International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
13. IT4ALL - Network of Local Authorities for the Information Society
14. Organisation internationale de la Francophonie
15. RiOS Institute
16. United Nations Foundation (UNF)
17. United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP)
18. United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
19. Wireless Internet Institute
20. World Federation of Scientists
21. World Summit Award