

## **Workshop report**

### **1. Title**

“Enhancing Multi-Stakeholder Participation in ICT Policy Making: An Exploration of Effective Policy Processes That Enhance Access to ICTs and the Internet”

### **2. Organizers and Panellists**

#### Organizers:

- Global Information Infrastructure Commission (GIIC) and
- World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA)

#### Speakers and Panelists:

- Phil Bond, President, WITSA, and President, Information Technology Association of America
- Masanobu Katoh, GIIC Commissioner; Corporate Vice President and President, Law and Intellectual Property Unit, and Security Export Control Headquarters, Fujitsu Limited
- Hideo Shimizu, Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination (International Affairs), Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan
- Hisham El-Sherif, GIIC Commissioner and Regional Director for the Middle East; Chairman and CEO, IT Ventures
- Fred Kakaire, Chief Executive Officer, Uganda Chartered Healthnet
- Nasser Fouad, Director, Egyptian Information Technology, Electronics and Software Alliance
- Waudo Siganga, President, Computer Society of Kenya
- Abdullah H. Kafi, Bangladesh Computer Samity; Managing Director & CEO, JAN Associates
- Nizar Zakka, Chief Executive Officer, Professional Computer Association Of Lebanon & Union of Arab ICT Associations

### **3. Discussion**

The aim of this workshop was to explore effective means by which representatives of different sectors of society in individual nations can work together – and *have* worked together –to foster adoption and adaptation of public policies likely to enhance access to ICTs and the Internet. This topic, the workshop organizers and participants felt, was consistent with the “capacity building” emphasis that has been at the heart of so much of this first meeting of the IG Forum.

While it would be an exaggeration to report that participants left the workshop with any hard and fast rules, recommendations, or bursts of new insights, they did hear a number of success stories – from Egypt, Bangladesh, Uganda, and Lebanon – about how business people, along with public officials, academics, and researchers have, in fact, worked collaboratively to, first, abolish particular regressive policies that were punitive toward or inhibiting of ICT diffusion, and second, to foster adoption of new laws and regulations that gave birth to new applications of ICTs – particularly in the realm of rural health services – and that in other ways resulted in a greater diffusion of ICT capabilities.

At the end of the workshop meeting, our moderator, GIIC Commissioner Hisham El-Sherif of Egypt, concluded that it was evident from the case histories that were presented that there is power in partnerships. Participants agreed that it was precisely this realization – the power of partnerships in changing and shaping the thinking of public policy makers – that was as overarching a theme as any other that came from the discussions.

#### **4. Inventory of events and actors related to the issue under discussion**

#### **5. Possible follow-up**

#### **6. Useful links**

[www.giic.org](http://www.giic.org)

[www.witsa.org](http://www.witsa.org)