

## DRAFT PROPOSAL v.3

### eGY-Africa Workshop: better Internet access for scientists in Africa

Revised: 22 Jun 2009

**Dates:** During 2010. Possibly Nov 2009?. Not Oct 2009.

**Venue:** To be decided- preferably a francophone country in West Africa, e.g., Senegal or Ivory Coast.

#### Possible joint partners

- IAP – the Inter-Academy Panel on International Issues. [www.iap.org](http://www.iap.org)
- UNGAID-eSDDC – UN Global Alliance for Enhancing Access to and Application of Scientific Data in Developing Countries. <http://www.un-gaid.org/>
- eIFLnet – Electronic Information for Libraries. [www.eifl.net](http://www.eifl.net)
- CODATA Task Group: Preservation of and Access to Scientific and Technical Data in Developing Countries. <http://www.codata.org/taskgroups/TGpreservation/index.html>
- CODATA Task Group: Data Sources for Sustainable Development in SADC Countries <http://www.codata.org/taskgroups/TGsadc/index.html>
- ..... others?

**Sponsors** IUGG has granted USD 10,000.  
Other sponsor are needed.

#### Organising Committee

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#### Background

eGY-Africa was initiated during the Electronic Geophysical Year (eGY) to improve Internet access for scientists and educators in African Universities and similar institutions ([www.egy.org/egyafrika.php](http://www.egy.org/egyafrika.php)). The Digital Divide problem is greater in Africa than elsewhere, and the gap is widening. Despite the new opportunities for collaboration and sharing of data and resources offered by modern ICT, the reality in Africa is that scientists, educators, and others are becoming increasingly marginalized from mainstream developments elsewhere in the world. Paradoxically, it is widely acknowledged that achievement of the Millennium Development Goals identified for Africa is conditional on having a vigorous, effective, and affordable education and research

sector in each country.

### **Objectives**

The Workshop will bring together people who share a common desire to improve Internet access for scientists and educators in African institutions. The meeting will serve to

- raise awareness about the Digital Divide problem and how it is affecting development in Africa
- share information about the Internet status, plans, successes, and problems throughout Africa
- explore collaborative arrangements with organizations and programs committed to reducing the Digital Divide in Africa,
- establish and strengthen a network of people with common interests
- highlight relevant policy statements and activities of agencies and programs at the institutional, national, Africa-wide, and international levels
- develop strategies for improving internet access in African institutions,
- provide a focus for developing national action groups
- develop an action plan and assign responsibilities.

### **Scope**

Topics to be covered will include, but are not limited to the following:

- The role and benefits of internet access in Universities (etc.)
- The Digital Divide issue.
- The status of Internet facilities in African countries and their Universities, Colleges, etc. including the PingER survey to measure Internet performance, and eGY-Africa's questionnaire survey
- Progress in improving Internet access for Africa – programs, plans, development of NRENs (National Research & Education Networks)
- Case histories of successes and failures of efforts in individual institutions and countries to secure adequate internet access; problems encountered
- Programs of all agencies that are addressing the Digital Divide issue
- Policy statements and resolutions
- Strategies for improving Internet access in institutions
- Recommendations for action (establishment of national groups, cooperation among groups, information sharing, next steps, ...)

### **Who should attend?**

- Active scientists and teachers in African Universities and similar research and education institutions who need better Internet access.
- Representatives of agencies and high-level bodies committed to achieving Millenium Development Goals for Africa
- Representatives of international science organizations and professional societies, which stand to gain from greater African participation.
- NREN proponents and developers
- Decision makers who have responsibility for allocating Internet resources
- Agencies and donors who are wish to work towards reducing the Digital Divide.

### **Further information**

Visit the eGY-Africa website: [www.egy.org/egyafrika.php](http://www.egy.org/egyafrika.php)

Address enquiries to:

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