



*African Training and Research Centre in
Administration for Development*

*The International Development
Research Centre*

First LOG-IN Africa Methodology Workshop
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OPENING SPEECH

by

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the name of the Chairman of the Governing Board of CAFRAD, in the name of the Director-General of CAFRAD, Dr. LELO, who unfortunately was not able to honour us with his presence because of the official visit of H.E. the Prime Minister of Gabon to CAFRAD, thus, in my name and with great pleasure as Representative of the Director-General that I warmly welcome you to the First LOG-IN Africa Methodology Workshop, to CAFRAD, and indeed also to Tangier, our attractive city.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you all know, both national and international debates have highlighted the importance of good governance for sustainable development and identified development at the local level as the key to good governance including the use of ICTs.

Other instances, held since June 2004 by both the IDRC and ECA emphasized the innovative applications of ICTs for local governance in Africa and proposed to set up a regional research network to be coordinated by CAFRAD, to design and undertake research on the impact of ICTs on local governance in Africa. Other consultative meetings and various forums were held since then to debate the issue until LOG-IN Africa became a reality in February 2006 with the financial support of IDRC. So LOG-IN Africa has a long history until the project happened and CAFRAD is today delighted to inaugurate it officially and to kick-off its First Methodology Workshop.

Nine (9) countries have been selected on a competitive basis for the research, namely, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda. The research is intended to assess the current state and outcomes of e-local governance initiatives in these countries and to address itself mainly to one major question: What progress has been made and what are the outcomes in the provision of e-local governance in Africa, what are the challenges and what are the good practice strategies and solutions that are emerging?

Ladies and Gentlemen,

So, the purpose of this First Methodology Workshop is to enable and facilitate the interaction with each other, to work out a conceptual framework within which each of the individual research activities can be placed and through which the individual projects can be linked to the variety of other on-going projects. In this way, a broader basis for moving towards an empirically grounded e-local governance “Roadmap” of value both at the national and continental level will be constituted. This, of course, will be achieved with respect to the local circumstances and realities of each individual country with the hope that the research findings will come out with some success stories that could be served as models for other African countries, that may help to promote dialogue between the central and local levels, that may help to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of the rural poor and of course with the use of ICTs, it is expected that delivery of services will be improved to local citizens. At this point, I would like to underline that ICTs are no longer an option in Africa but a necessity for the reason that ICTs are significant tools to enable Governments to function more efficiently and to deliver more effectively.

At the completion of the project, CAFRAD and IDRC intend to disseminate widely the research results hopefully to influence policies, inform practice and add to the knowledge base in the area of e-local governance.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity to express sincere gratitude to IDRC for its generous grant without which it would have been impossible for LOG-IN Africa project to take place. In addition, I would be failing my duty if I did not thank and expressed appreciation to Gianluca who designed the project and in this I recognize the instrumental role he played to make LOG-IN Africa a living reality; thanks too, to Michael who across the miles is following the project with keen interest, insight and intellect, and last but not least, my very warm thanks are extended to Zoubir and Anu who had been working tirelessly and diligently around the clock to prepare the Workshop of today, and to the other staff members of CAFRAD who in one way or the other contributed to the organization of the Workshop. With this team championing the project, and with all the selfless efforts that they deploy in its work, and together with yourselves, as competent researchers in the field, I am confident that we shall succeed and we shall be proud of ourselves when the LOG-IN Africa research network has become fully operational in the continent.

Through team spirit, we know very well that the word “TEAM” is only an abbreviation meaning “**Together Everyone Achieves More.**” So, we are all here to achieve.

**Long Live CAFRAD, because
To none will we deny service
To none will we delay service
To none will we pervert service
and Long Live Africa.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With these words, I conclude and I wish you a pleasant stay in Tangier, a safe passage back home and success in your deliberations.

May God bless all of us abundantly and I hereby declare open the First Methodology Workshop.

Thank you for your attention.