On 2-4 September 2009, the Annual Meetings of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development (UNDESA-GAID) will take place in Monterrey, Mexico. The Annual Meetings will be jointly organized by UNDESA-GAID, the Government of Mexico, Indigo Brainmedia and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The event in Monterrey will bring together ICT and the development communities under the umbrella of the Global Alliance for a focused dialogue on emerging issues and challenges in the field of ICT for development, particularly in the areas of Innovation for Education, and foster cooperation among governments, private sector and civil society. Particularly, it is expected that the Annual Meetings will attract 500 to 600 participants, policy-makers, business leaders, and innovators in the field of information and communication technologies for development from around the world.

Among our featured speakers are:

✦ Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

✦ His Excellency Mr. Juan Molinar Horcasitas, Secretary of Communication and Transportation, Legal Cabinet, Government of Mexico

✦ Mr. Shai Reshef, Founder & President, University of the People (UoP)

✦ Mr. Nicholas Negroponte, Founder & Chairman, One Laptop Per Child

as well as several Ministers, prominent figures in the ICT community, and friends of UNDESA-GAID.

Online Discussions

UNDESA-GAID has launched online discussions on potential themes for the Alliance’s upcoming year. The results of these discussions will be presented at the Strategy Council meeting on the 2nd of September in Monterrey. The Strategy Council will break into four parallel interactive “Solution Salons” that will be grouped by the focus areas that emerged from the UNDESA-GAID online consultations:

✦ Financial and Economic Crisis and Poverty Eradication

✦ Health and Education

✦ Climate Change

✦ Gender

✦ Network Development & Outreach

UNDESA-GAID aims at developing an agenda for action in each of these themes, in order to align its work with the broader UN Development Agenda and address emerging issues. Our community will play a significant role by contributing to these discussion forums and blogs.

To take part in the online discussions, visit: http://un-gaid.ning.com/forum/topics/brainstorming-the-conference

For additional information, visit our website: http://www.un-gaid.org or contact Ms. Enrica Murmura, Secretariat of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development; e-mail: murmura@un.org
Be interactive

iMarketSpace

The Annual Meeting of UNDESA-GAID in Monterrey, Mexico will be a truly global and dynamic event and will be attended by policy makers, United Nations high-level representatives, technologists, academics, educators, business leaders, social entrepreneurs, the civil society and young leaders. During the three-day meeting, attendants will engage in active conversations in the field of ICT for Education, participate in interactive panel discussions, and showcase their ICT-for-development projects and network.

The iMarketSpace is one of the key elements of this meeting and is intended as an interactive exhibit space where stakeholders from the ICT-for-development community can present and promote their initiatives, projects, ideas, and solutions that leverage on ICT and demonstrate how innovation and emerging technologies can be utilized as enablers of development. The space is also designed to encourage small interactive sessions. Lounges will be set up to allow informal networking and business development among stakeholders and an area with free internet connectivity will also be arranged.

Activities that are conceived to be part of the iMarketSpace include: multi-media presentations of projects, initiatives or case studies; slide shows; mini documentaries, and demonstrations of innovative technology applications for educational purposes. The iMarketSpace is aimed at facilitating the promotion of new partnerships and exchange of expertise, knowledge, and resources in a face-to-face approach.

Further information, including iMarketSpace participants, can be found at: http://www.un-gaid.org/tabid/1067/Default.aspx

Best in E-Content & Creativity

World Summit Award

The World Summit Award (WSA) and World Summit Youth Award Winners Celebrations take place in Monterrey from September 2-5, 2009 in collaboration with the UNDESA-GAID Global Forum.

The event in Monterrey will provide a unique opportunity to meet and connect with WSA and WSYA winners, ICT experts, business leaders, multimedia producers and young creatives as well as government and business leaders who will be giving their recognition to the showcased best practice examples:

- At the WSA Winners Conference the 40 WSA Winners teams selected from around 20,000 applications from all over the world will take stage to present their awarded projects.
- The WSA and WSYA Gala Celebration is the highlight of the entire WSA process 2008/09 and a unique ceremony to honor excellence in multimedia and e-Content creation.
- The Content Caves are an exhibition offering a platform to present the world's best practice examples of innovation in e-Content.

The WSA was started in 2003 as part of the UN’s World Summit on the Information Society. It is a global initiative to select and promote the world’s best e-Content and innovative ICT applications; to date 157 countries are actively involved. Through national contests and a global jury process, WSA demonstrates the local diversity and rich creativity of ICT use. WSA is a global hub for everyone who values the significant important of local content to make today’s information society more inclusive.

Information provided by the WSA Office in Salzburg, Austria.

http://www.wsis-award.org

Parque Fundidora, Monterrey, Mexico
Global Forum Event

Parallel Sessions

Taking place on the final day of the Global Forum, the Parallel Sessions will provide workshops, panel discussions, brainstorming sessions, and other similar opportunities for interactive dialogue. In the framework of this Annual Meeting of UNDESA-GAID, these sessions will serve as a platform for flagship partnership initiatives, regional and stakeholder networks, communities of expertise, and partners of the Global Alliance.

The format for the discussions will be organized by a moderator. The Parallel Sessions will take place on Friday the 4th of September from 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM. The location will soon be announced.

The following organizations will be featured at the event:

- Athgo International
- BluMail
- Digital Opportunity Trust
- EMC Corporation
- G3ict
- GAID Committee of e-Leaders for Youth & ICT
- GeSCI
- ICT4Peace
- IC4Volunteers
- Infopoverty Institute and OCCAM
- Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization
- The International Taskforce for Women and ICT
- e-Government Authority and the Ministry of Education of Bahrain

We look forward to your participation. More information regarding the Parallel Sessions can be found at: [http://www.un-gaid.org/tabid/1069/Default.aspx](http://www.un-gaid.org/tabid/1069/Default.aspx)

From GAID’s July Events

ECOSOC High-Level Segment

During the ECOSOC High-Level Segment, GAID together with United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP), Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA), and the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) co-organized two events:

- a “Special Ministerial Breakfast Roundtable on Africa and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs): Partnerships and Health - Digital Health and Development in Africa and the LDCs” on 7 July 2009
- and a “Special Event on Africa and the Least Developed Countries” on 8 July 2009.

During the two events, special attention was given to Africa and the LDCs as a whole, since these are the furthest off track to meeting the MDGs on reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and combating infectious disease (MDGs 4, 5, and 6).

Participants highlighted that the world has the knowledge and means to address global health issues and that new technologies and innovative applications are transforming communication and access to information and changing the landscape and prospects for the most disadvantaged groups, including women, youth, the disabled and the rural poor, to get connected and take advantage of health information and services.

For additional information, visit our website: [www.un-gaid.org](http://www.un-gaid.org) or contact: Ms. Enrica Murmura, Secretariat of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development; e-mail: murmura@un.org
Upcoming UNDESA-GAID Publication
‘Best Practices’ on ICTs for Development

UNDESA-GAID presented a new forum for young people to showcase their experiences in using information and communication technologies (ICTs) for community development projects. Best practices, innovations, success stories and more were shared in the new e-Leaders ICT4D Best Practices Forum, powered by TakingITGlobal.

The UNDESA-GAID Committee of e-Leaders for Youth and ICT have selected the best of the best, and will award the innovators with the most creative and impacting projects with fellowships to attend the UNDESA-GAID Global Forum on ICT and Innovation for Education in September 2009 in Monterrey, Mexico.

These and other exceptional case studies will soon be published and presented at the Global Forum in Monterrey. This publication will be distributed to governments, civil society, academia, and private sector organizations around the world.

By highlighting and summarizing the ‘Best Practices’, the e-Leaders seek to promote these types of initiatives to improve pre-existing ventures or inspire the creation of new ICT-related projects.


ICT In Education for Development
UNDESA-GAID WHITE PAPER

UNDESA-GAID collaborated with the Graduate Programme in International Affairs at The New School University on a research project examining the impacts of information and communication technologies (ICT), and their innovative characteristics, on the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In the framework of this research, teams of students at The New School were assigned to develop a series of white papers, one for each MDG cluster, to explore, in detail, how ICTs can contribute to the MDGs and make recommendations for policy-makers, government, donors and international development agencies. The aim of the research is to reinforce the case of ICTs as a crucial instrument for socio-economic development.

The first White Paper, published in August 2009, is the first of the series. This paper focusing on ‘Education’ was prepared by: Brian Gutterman, Shahreen Rahman, Jorge Supelano, Laura Thies, and Mai Yang; and advised by Ambassador Rafat Mahdi.

The Global Alliance for ICT and Development, an initiative approved by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2006, was launched after comprehensive worldwide consultations with governments, the private sector, civil society, the technical and Internet communities, and academia to promote policy dialogue and multi-stakeholder partnerships for action for the use of ICT and advancing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

While the WSIS and the 2005 United Nations World Summits emphasized the importance of ICT in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, there was a need for a truly global forum that would comprehensively address cross-cutting issues related to ICT in development.

Recognizing that no single actor is capable of achieving the MDGs in isolation, the creation of an open and inclusive platform that can broaden the dialogue on innovative ways of harnessing ICT for advancing development is crucial.

The Global Alliance is a direct response to this need. With its multi-stakeholder approach, the Alliance reaffirms the belief that a people-centered and knowledge-based information society is essential for achieving better life for all. Help us empower the world’s most disadvantaged people by getting them connected to the world economy and take advantage of the new opportunities created by ICTs.

Contact Information
Global Alliance for ICT and Development
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Two United Nations Plaza, Room DC2-1442
New York, NY 10017
Tel: +1 212 963 5796
Fax: +1 917 367 4340
Email: gaid@un-gaid.org
Website: www.un-gaid.org

http://twitter.com/ungaid