Information & Communication Technology Policy for the Education System

Draft Policy for the Integration of Information & Communication Technology in the Education System

Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth & Sports
St. Lucia

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Management Team - MOE
Presentation Outline

- Background
- Overview of Policy:
  - Philosophy
  - Objectives
  - Policy Statements:
    (1) ICT in the curricula and education administration;
    (2) planning and implementation of ICT initiatives; and
    (3) sustaining, supporting and evaluating ICT initiatives
- The Way Forward: Integration of Policies & E-Government
Primary Themes: Consultation Process

The Philosophy, Objectives and the policy statements with respect to the “ICT in the Curricula and in Education Administration” are presented under the following areas:

- Access
- Creativity and End-User Development
- Economic and Social Development
- Reform and Capacity Building
Background: Why ICT for Education?

Key Changes:

- the emergence and strengthening of the global economy;
- the transformation of agrarian & industrial economies into knowledge and information-based service economies; and
- the radical transformation of business enterprises (Laudon and Laudon 2003).
Background: Why ICT for Education?

- ICTs are radically changing the nature of work and the workplace
- ICTs offer tremendous possibilities in:
  - improving student’s learning by enhancing the teaching/learning process;
  - developing teachers’ professional capability; and
  - strengthening institutional capacity.

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Computers...Problem or Opportunity?

- ICT, like any powerful tool, can do as much harm as good.
- Bad pedagogy implemented on a computer & mismanagement of computing resources can have its harmful effects multiplied by the power of the technology.

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Planning Process!

The introduction of ICT into the classroom must be managed with great care so that the potential benefits are realised, while the dangers are eliminated or minimised.
Data Processing, Computing, IT, ICT & IS ???

Information & Communications Technology

- the application of computing and telecommunications technologies to all aspects of managing and processing information
ICT: A Means to an End...

- Emphasis on the role and function of ICT in education as a teaching and learning tool
- Integrated into a wide range of subject areas, and as a subject by itself.
ICT: A Means to an End...

- Efforts are concentrated on developing new media as tools in the service of:
  - richer curricula
  - enhanced pedagogies
  - more effective organisational structures in schools
  - stronger links between IT in schools and the society & the economy
  - the empowerment of disenfranchised learners.
ICT Philosophy of the MOE

1. Universal Access to Information & Knowledge
2. Relevant to Economic & Social Development
3. Independent Learning
4. Curriculum Reform
5. Training
6. End User Development of Teaching Material
7. Partnership Approach
8. Copyright and Intellectual Property
ICT Philosophy of the MOE

- Access
- Creativity and End-User Development
- Economic and Social Development
- Reform and Capacity Building
Overview of ICT Policies for Education

Objectives

Policy Statements:
(1) ICT in the curricula and education administration;
(2) planning and implementation of ICT initiatives; and
(3) sustaining, supporting and evaluating ICT initiatives
Implications of ICT Policies for Education

1. Financing
2. Curriculum Reform
3. Continuous Training/Capacity Building
4. Collaboration: Broad-based

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ICT in Teaching & Learning: The Information Value Chain

- **DATA**
- **INFORMATION**
- **KNOWLEDGE**
- **WISDOM**

Common-Sense/Sensible Application

Understanding

Processing

Research & Analysis

Values

Behaviour & Action
The Way Forward

1. Integration of Policies: Evidence Based Policy Formulation
2. E-Government Initiative

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Guiding Principle

• Evidence-based Policy Formulation:
  “Good government is thinking government… rational thought is impossible without good evidence… social science research is central to the development and evaluation of policy”.

E-Government Activities

Internet Fiesta

The main objectives:
1. To increase awareness of the possibilities of the Internet among the young and the old, and among private and public sector workers in a fun environment;
2. To initiate an electronic network with people across language and cultural barriers.
E-Government Activities

Internet Fiesta

• A guiding principle in the execution of the celebrations is to make it a truly national event.
• Full report and photo gallery of St. Lucia Internet Fiesta 2004: http://www.candw.lc/users/slu-internetfiesta/