Knowledge Societies Division
Activities within IFAP’s priorities and beyond

Presented by Dr. Indrajit Banerjee
Director, Knowledge Societies Division
Communication and Information Sector
UNESCO

Tenth session of the IFAP Intergovernmental Council
20-21 June 2018
1. IFAP STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR 2017-2021

2. KSD'S ACTIVITIES IN IFAP'S PRIORITY AREAS
   - Information for Development: YouthMobile, Broadband Commission, Netexplo, AI
   - Information literacy: Media and Information Literacy (MIL), ICT in Education
   - Information Preservation: Memory of the World Programme, Software Heritage
   - Information Ethics: Ethical dimensions of the Information Society, Internet Governance Forum

- Information Accessibility: Open Access, ICT and Sciences, Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities
- Multilingualism: Multilingualism in cyberspace, World Atlas of Languages

3. WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (WSIS) FORUM 2018
1. IFAP PRIORITY AREAS

IFAP workshop, Saint-Vincent et-les-Grenadines (March 2018)
IFAP STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

SIX STRATEGIC IFAP OBJECTIVES FOR 2017-2021:

1. Mainstreaming knowledge society policies in national development plans for sustainable development
2. Fostering information literate societies
3. Promoting and widening access to knowledge and information in the public domain through the organization, digitization, dissemination and preservation of content and data
4. Raising awareness of ethical issues related to information
5. Enhancing opportunities for disadvantaged communities by providing access to information and knowledge
6. Reinforcing promotion and use of Multilingualism in Cyberspace
2. KNOWLEDGE SOCIETIES DIVISION’S ACTIVITIES WITHIN IFAP
**INFORMATION FOR DEVELOPMENT**

Access to information as well as relevance and usefulness of information in people’s daily lives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KSD</th>
<th>KSD</th>
<th>KSD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YOUTHMOBILE</td>
<td>BROADBAND COMMISSION</td>
<td>NETEXPLO and A.I.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EMPOWERMENT

of young women and men, through ICT

- Introduction to coding and programming skills for ~1.5 million youth since 2016
- Projects in 26 countries since 2014
- Priorities: African continent and gender equality
- Development of locally relevant applications for achieving the SDGs
- Soft skills, life skills, entrepreneurship skills
- Scaling of projects: creation of policy tools to support governments while introducing coding education, scaling up of existing local projects

UNESCO YouthMobile (Qatar 2017)
DIGITAL SKILLS AND EMPOWERMENT

Leveraging access to Broadband and smartphones to help countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

- 2018 Spring Session held in Kigali, Rwanda, in May 2018 co-chaired by Paul Kagame and Carlos Slim, with UNESCO and ITU
- 2017 Spring and Fall sessions hosted in Hong Kong/Shenzhen and New York City
- Broadband 2025 Targets endorsed to address Digital Skills and narrowing the Gender Digital Divide
- UNESCO and Baroness Beeban Kidron to lead new Working Group on Digital Skills and Empowerment
INNOVATION FOR THE FUTURE

Breakthrough digital innovations showcased at UNESCO Headquarters, 2017 and 2018

- Annual Netexplo Forum: an independent observatory of digital tech in partnership with UNESCO since 2011
- Study of new trends of digital technology and their social and economic impact
- Insights on Artificial Intelligence, big data, gaming, IOT, block chain and beyond
- 2017 Publication: “A journey through Smart Cities: Between Datapolis and Participolis”
- 2018 Publication: “Human decisions. Thoughts on AI”

AI LABS: AI Labs initiative will provide cutting edge AI research and capacity building opportunities as well as guidelines to develop normative frameworks
INFORMATION LITERACY

Competencies, skills, attitudes that enable persons to seek, evaluate, use and create information... to effectively participate in the knowledge societies

CI

MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY

KSD

ICT IN EDUCATION
UNESCO GLOBAL MIL ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

Country readiness and competencies

- A comprehensive framework for member states to assess information literacy levels
- Targeting teachers
- World Trends Report launched in Peru (May 18)
- Support to national consultations on MIL in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Global MIL Week 2017 and 2018

“[It] enables people to interpret and make informed judgment as users of information sources and to become producers of information in their own right. Information literate people are able to access information about their health, environment, education and work, empowering them to make critical decisions about their lives”

(IFAP Strategic Plan, 2017-2021)
ICT IN EDUCATION

Supporting the building of inclusive Knowledge Societies supported by ICTs for teaching and learning throughout life

Competencies Framework for Teachers (CFT)

- A comprehensive framework of teacher training competencies for ICT and education for stakeholders responsible for teacher training for the integration of ICT in education.
- It is intended to be adapted to support national and institutional goals by providing a framework for policy development and capacity building in this dynamic area.

Open Distance Learning (ODL)

- Support access to quality learning opportunities for persons with disabilities
- Creation of policy tool: “Learning for All: Guidelines on the Inclusion of Learner with Disabilities in Open and Distance Learning” document.
Advocacy, Policy development and Capacity building

Activities include the “ICT CFT Harnessing OER” Project which focuses on developing OER based teacher training programmes for the contextualization of the ICT Competency Framework for Teachers (ICT CFT).

The 2nd OER World Congress: The Ljubljana OER Action Plan

The Action Plan provides recommendations to stakeholders in five strategic areas: building the capacity of users to find, re-use, create and share OER; language and cultural issues; ensuring inclusive and equitable access to quality OER; developing sustainability models; and developing supportive policy environments.

UNESCO Normative Instrument (Recommendation) on OER

At the 39th session of the UNESCO General Conference, in CI Commission, Member States adopted Resolution 44 ‘Desirability of a standard-setting instrument on international collaboration in the field of Open Educational Resources (OER)’ authorizing the Secretariat to develop a draft UNESCO Normative Instrument (Recommendation) on OER to be examined at the 40th session of the UNESCO General Conference in 2019.
INFORMATION PRESERVATION

Builds capacity of information professionals to develop and implement analogue as well as digital preservation standards...and avoid digital amnesia
The Register lists documentary heritage of outstanding universal value

- European consultation on implementing UNESCO’s 2015 Recommendation on safeguarding documentary heritage reinforced Implementation Guidelines developed to monitor national progress.
- Questionnaire based on Implementation Guidelines approved by Member States for national reporting on the Recommendation.
- Latin American consultation on the Recommendation held at the National Archives of Colombia.
- In March 2018, MOW National Committees discussed as key structures for implementing the Recommendation in the Caribbean.
Memory of the World: Different Sources
A CONTEMPORARY LIBRARY OF ALEXANDRIA

Collecting, preserving and sharing it is the mission of Software Heritage, the first global software archive, officially made accessible to the public on June 7th 2018 at UNESCO

- Software is fragile. Software Heritage is an archive that stores and preserves it.
- Opening of the Software Heritage library on June, 7th, 2018, at UNESCO.
- The archive now gather 83 millions projects and 4.5 billions files, and it continuously expands.
- Amongst the oldest source codes in the archive, the one of the Apollo 11.

2017: signature of partnership agreement with UNESCO DG Mme. Bokova and Inria PDG Mr. Petit.
INFORMATION ETHICS

Ethical, legal and societal aspects of the applications of ICT deriving from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

KSD

ETHICAL DIMENSIONS OF THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

KSD

ACCOUNTABILITY AND INTERNET DEMOCRACY
**INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM (IGF)**

*A multi-stakeholder forum to enhance dialogue on policy related to the Internet.*

**IGF 2016**

- Theme: “Enabling Inclusive and Sustainable Growth”
- Publications launch: “Privacy, free expression and transparency: redefining their new boundaries in the digital age” and “Human Rights and Encryption”
- Sessions on: journalists safety, youth radicalization, the role of the judiciary, encryption, Internet universality, connectivity and SDGs.

**IGF 2017**

- Theme: “Shape your future”
- UNESCO advocates Internet freedom and Internet Universality
- Four sessions:
  - Internet Universality indicators
  - Multi-stakeholder practices
  - Artificial intelligence
  - Big Data
- UNESCO launched “What if we all governed the Internet? Advancing multi-stakeholder participation in Internet governance” The study unpacks assumptions on how the Internet is shaped and stresses the ongoing relevance of a multi-stakeholder approach.
THE SUMMIT AT HAGUE PEACE PALACE

*Focused on safeguarding the role of the Internet as a tool of personal and social engagement*

- The inaugural Hague Summit on Accountability and Internet Democracy addressed safeguarding the role of the Internet as a tool of personal and social engagement, organized through support of UNESCO and ITU.

- Endorsement of the ROAM values of the internet (human Rights, Openness, Accessibility and Multi-stakeholder)

- Highlight of issues related to the Dark Net, which is as much as 500 times larger than the surface Internet, while only a small fractions of crimes are reported and followed upon.
INFORMATION ACCESSIBILITY

Access to information as well as relevance and usefulness of information in people’s daily lives

KSD
OPEN ACCESS

KSD
ICT and SCIENCES

KSD
ACCESS TO INFORMATION using ICT for PERSONS with DISABILITIES
OPEN ACCESS

Advocacy, Bridging, Capacity building and Dissemination of best practices of open access solutions

**Open Scholarship Initiative (OSI)**

**Goal:** Improve research communication and the accessibility of research information

**Need:** Bring together institutions, stakeholders groups and high-level scholars to work together on sustainable solutions for OA

**Modality:** Global Think tank on OA. Issuing of Policy Briefs

**OSI 2016-25**

**South-South collaboration for OA**

**Goal:** Facilitate south-south cooperation for Open Access

**Need:** Improving knowledge transaction

**Solution:** Involvement of local governance, coordination with UNESCO Science Sector.
ICT AND SCIENCES

Leveraging the power of ICTs to advance scientific knowledge

Smart Campus Cloud Network (SCCN)

Goal: Achieving SDGs through technology innovation

Need: Introducing peer learning and capacity building

Solution: ICT infrastructure connecting different universities, sharing data, tools and methodologies. Through that, empowerment of students and teachers with 21st century skills.

Creation of SDG-ready campuses, building global network, empowering youth, training students, on-campus project pilots.

CITZEN SCIENCE

Goal: Develop a framework for digital knowledge co-creation for Sustainable Development Goals and for Climate Action

Need: Enable cogeneration of knowledge between scientists and lay people

Solution: Citizen-led and ICT and AI supported knowledge transaction system to improve information accessibility.

One of DfID funded initiative. For the first phase the project looked at Mountains of Ethiopia, Nepal, Kyrgyz Republic and Peru. Now the project is focusing Middle Mountain Range of South Asia.
ICT can be leveraged for the creation of inclusive, pluralistic, open and participatory societies

- Framework: UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- UNESCO Activities: data collection, policy development, building of enabling environment, raising awareness, development of inclusive tools, capacity building.
- Creation of Guidelines on the inclusion of Learners with Disabilities in Open and Distance Learning.
- UNESCO/Emir Jaber Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah Prize for Digital Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities: a biennial prize to recognize outstanding contributions of persons with disabilities.
- Policy and advocacy focus.
ART TO PROMOTE INCLUSION

True Colors: First ever arts festival celebrating artists with disabilities

- True Colors Festival in Singapore. Partnership with the Nippon Foundation (March, 2018).

UNESCO Artists for Peace promotes inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities

Ms. Jane Constance and Mr. Eijin Nimura, UNESCO Artist for Peace (Mauritius)
MULTILINGUALISM

The ability to access content on the Internet in a language which one can use is a key determinant for the extent to which one can participate actively in the knowledge societies.
40% of world languages are extinct or endangered. Due to significant political, economic and social transformations, the rate of endangerment is increasing.

- Goal: to raise awareness about language endangerment amongst policy makers
- Online edition complementary to the print edition
- World Atlas of Languages currently hosts ~3000 languages
- It is set to change its nature: interactive and dynamic online tool, regular and constant modifications prompted by users
- Different dimensions will be considered: language status, vitality, endangerment and sustainability aspects.
- All languages will be marked distinctly, including sign languages and notwithstanding their endangerment.
2019: THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES YEAR

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a Resolution on Rights of Indigenous People, proclaiming 2019 as the first International Year of Indigenous Languages

- Resolution (Ref.: A/RES/71/178) also extended to UNESCO the mandate to act as a lead UN agency.
- Indigenous languages are especially vulnerable to endangerment.
- Agreement signed in Paraguay between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and UNESCO DG Ms. Azoulay on “Empowerment of the local language speakers”

- The year 2019 will host a large number of events around the world related to indigenous languages. Preparations are underway.
Magaly Solier
(Peru)

UNESCO Artist for Peace, promotes the indigenous languages year and Atlas
3. WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (WSIS) FORUM 2018
The World Summit on the Information Society

2017 AND 2018 SUMMITS

The Organization has been an advocate of ensuring informed and active multi-stakeholder involvement and actions in WSIS since its inception in 2003

- New focus: Internet of Things, automated systems and Big Data, as part of a sustained efforts to achieve the SDGs
- Converging debates: cybersecurity, privacy, e-commerce, as well as the role of the media and social media for SDGs
- Promotion of Internet Universality Indicators: measuring the internet according to the ROAM scale (Rights, Openness, Accessibility and Multi-stakeholders)
- Preparation of 2019 WSIS Hackathon under the theme “Hacking Solutions for Lifelong Learning and Livelihoods”
- Over 5000 participants attended the two global forums, combined

WSIS Action Lines
Knowledge Societies Division Activities within IFAP’s priorities and beyond

THANK YOU