# A4AI-GHANA EXPERT WORKSHOPS

**11<sup>th</sup> February 2015, 9:00-17:00**
**Kofi Annan ICT Centre Of Excellence**
**Accra, Ghana**

## About the A4AI-Ghana Coalition

The Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) brings together prominent players from the private sector, public sector, and civil society to provide a unified voice and coordinated focus in addressing the shared goal of open, affordable access to the Internet in the developing world. The Alliance aims to increase the affordability of both mobile and fixed-line Internet access dramatically, with a focus on achieving the UN Broadband Commission Broadband Target of entry-level broadband services priced at less than 5% of average monthly income.

Since the start of its work in Ghana A4AI has held a successful 1<sup>st</sup> A4AI-Ghana Forum in which a number of priority issues were identified. These priority issues appear to challenge or, if not addressed effectively, have the potential to undermine efforts to increase broadband access and affordability in Ghana.  The priority issues identified in Ghana are:

- Taxation

- Infrastructure Sharing and Open Access

- Research and Data Collection

- Consumer Awareness and Pricing Transparency

Ghanaian stakeholders are currently working to produce policy and regulatory outputs related to each of the four issues identified.  These Working Groups are lead by four of Ghana's key ICT stakeholders (A4AI Champions) and are comprised of stakeholders from government, the private sector, civil society, and academia.

## Objectives and Outline of the A4AI-Ghana Expert Workshops

The two A4AI-Ghana half-day expert workshops have been designed to complement and enhance the work of the A4AI-Ghana Coalition as a whole, but the work of two of its working groups in particular.  The first of the half-day workshops will focus on infrastructure sharing. Facilitated by Steve Song, Independent Consultant at the Network Startup Resource Center, it will examine best practices in infrastructure sharing and the obstacles and opportunities for infrastructure sharing in Ghana.

The second half-day workshop will focus on taxation.  Confirmed facilitators of this interactive workshop include Jesse Bruce and Mercy Ndegwa from the GSMA who will discuss in detail the findings of the GSMA/Deloitte report, "The economic impacts of mobile sector taxation in Ghana ", provide attendees an opportunity to share questions and views on mobile sector taxation, and discuss options for aligning government and industry's objectives for taxation and steps required for achieving any required policy change.

**AGENDA**

Morning Expert Workshop: Infrastructure Sharing
Afternoon Expert Workshop:  Taxation

*Half-Day Workshop 1: Infrastructure Sharing*

**8:30-9:00** **Registration and Welcome**

**9:00-10:00** **Infrastructure Sharing Overview  (Steve Song)**

- Different types of infrastructure sharing
  - passive vs active
  - fibre, copper, spectrum
  - international, national backhaul, metro, last mile

- Examples of infrastructure sharing from around the world

**10:00-10:30** **Overview of telecom infrastructure in Ghana with a focus on obstacles/ opportunities for sharing**

**10:30-11:00** **Coffee/Tea Break**

**11:00-11:30** **Breakout groups discuss specific news stories on infrastructure sharing from around the world**

**11:30-12:15** **Breakout groups discuss opportunities for intervention in Ghana**

**12:15-12:30** **Report back**

**1:00-1:15** **Closing**

**1:15-2:00** **Lunch**

*Half-Day Workshop 2: Taxation*
*2:00-4:30 pm*

| 2 hours 30 minutes | Taxation Interactive Workshop |
|---|---|
| 30 mins | **Mobile Taxation as a Barrier to Digital Inclusion**<br>• **The mobile industry's total tax contribution**<br>Kwaku A. Sakyi-Addo, Chief Executive Officer, GCT<br>• **Mobile taxation as a barrier to digital inclusion**<br>Jessica Bruce, Business Manager – Government & Regulatory Affairs, GSMA |
| 10 mins | **Workshop introduction**<br>Mercy Ndegwa, Policy Advisor – Africa, GSMA<br><br>**Key workshop objectives are:**<br>• To discuss in detail the findings of the GSMA/Deloitte report, "The economic impacts of mobile sector taxation in Ghana "<br>• To provide all attendees an opportunity to share questions and views on mobile sector taxation<br>• To discuss options for aligning government and industry's objectives for taxation and steps required for achieving any required policy change |
| 50 mins | **Focus Group Discussions**<br>Participants will form mixed focus groups, allowing mobile operators, ecosystem players, policy makers and other stakeholders from across and the region to exchange ideas. Each of the three central themes for discussion will be discussed in turn, followed by an exchange of ideas across groups, facilitated by the GSMA and GTC.<br><br>Central themes for focus group discussion will be:<br>• Mobile Taxation Impacts: Theory and Evidence<br>• Options for Policy Change: Mobile Taxes and Alternatives<br>• Roadmap for Progress: Aligning Government and Industry's Needs |
| 45 mins | **Taxation Roadmap Discussion**<br>The focus group discussion of the "Roadmap for Progress" theme will be followed by an in-depth round table discussion moderated by the GSMA and GTC. Central questions for discussion will include:<br><br>• What are the priorities for government and the mobile industry?<br>• What are the key barriers to achieving a mutually beneficial outcome, and how can these be overcome?<br><br>The key actions identified through this discussion will feed into the action plan of the A4AI-Ghana Taxation Working Group. |
| 15 mins | **Concluding Remarks and Next Steps**<br>Kwaku A. Sakyi-Addo, Chief Executive Officer, GCT |