



A4AI-Ghana Coalition Meeting & Launch of World Development Report 2016: Digital Dividends

23rd March 2016 | 08h30-14h00

Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT | Accra, Ghana

The Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) brings together prominent players from government, the private sector, civil society and development sectors to provide a unified voice and coordinated focus on the shared goal of open, affordable and equal access to the Internet in the developing world. A4AI aims to make the Internet affordable for all who want to use it.

In February 2016, A4AI launched the 2015/2016 Affordability Report, which looks at ICT policy and regulatory environments of 51 developing countries to assess how they might facilitate affordable Internet access. This meeting will give stakeholders the opportunity to hear and discuss the findings and recommendations of the report with the lead author, **Mr. Dhanaraj Thakur** (Research Manager, A4AI).

The World Bank will join A4AI at this meeting to co-host the Ghana launch of the World Development Report 2016. The report examines what we must do to ensure that Digital Dividends—the broader development benefits of technologies—are realized. Co-author **Dr. Tim Kelly** (Lead ICT Policy Specialist, World Bank Group), and **Ms. Mavis Ampah** (Regional Coordinator and Lead ICT Policy Specialist, ICT unit, World Bank) will present key findings from the report—including the importance of providing affordable, universal access to the Internet.

Recommendations from the Affordability Report and the 2016 WDR closely align with the work of the A4AI-Ghana Coalition. Since 2014, A4AI-Ghana has been working on four priority issues that must be addressed to unlock the potential for affordable, universal and equal access in Ghana:

- **ICT Taxation** – high levels of taxation on the ICT sector
- **Infrastructure Sharing and Open Access** – limited infrastructure sharing and lack of framework for sharing
- **Research and Data Collection** – limitations on data collection processes the data available for evidence-based decision making
- **Consumer Awareness and Pricing Transparency** – limited consumer awareness about the benefits and cost of Internet services

A4A-Ghana working groups will provide updates on progress, the challenges they face and next steps in addressing these issues. They will benefit from the Panel discussion planned with experts from A4AI, the World Bank, and Ghanaian stakeholders

See detailed agenda on page 2.

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AGENDA

- 08:30 – 09:30 Registration
- 09:30 – 09:45 Welcome from Kojo Boakye, Deputy Director, A4AI and Henry Kerali, Ghana Country Director, World Bank Group
- 09:45 – 10:00 Address by Special Guest of Honour
Hon. Minister Dr. Edward Omane Boamah, Ministry of Communications, Government of Ghana (TBC)
- 10:00 – 10:35 World Development Report 2016: Digital Dividends Presentation by Tim Kelly, report author, and Mavis Ampah, regional coordinator, ICT unit, World Bank
- 10:35 – 10:50 Refreshment Break
- 10:50 – 11:25 2015/2016 Affordability Report & Affordability in Ghana
Mr. Dhanaraj Thakur, Research Manager, A4AI
- 11:25 – 12:15 Reports by A4AI [Ghana Coalition](#) Working Groups
- 12:15 – 13:00 Panel Discussion: Key Steps to Increasing Digital Dividends in Ghana
- Moderator: Kojo Boakye, Deputy Director, A4AI
- Panellists:
- Ms. Dorothy Gordon, Director-General, Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT, and Advisor to the 2016 World Development Report
 - Ms. Mavis Ampah, Regional Coordinator and Lead ICT Policy Specialist, ICT Unit, World Bank
 - Ms. Estelle Akofio-Sowah, Country Manager, Google Ghana
 - Mr. Kwaku Sakyi-Addo, CEO, Ghana Chamber of Telecommunications
 - Prof. Clement Dzidonu, President, Accra Institute of Technology
- 13:00 – 14:00 Networking Lunch



End meeting



Ms Estelle Akofio-Sowah is the Country Manager of Google Ghana. She has over 13 years of experience in the Internet and business development industry in Ghana, including being the Managing Director of BusyInternet, Africa's hugely successful Internet startup and being the Country Lead for Google's operations in Ghana.

Highlights of her leadership include launching an award winning ISP, implementing the Ghana chapter of the World Bank Incubator program, and launching and promoting various Google products and programs aimed at making the Internet an integral part of people's lives. Ms Akofio-Sowah majored in Economics and Development

Studies at the University of Sussex. Her contributions to the Internet sector and commitment to excellence earned her selection as a 2008 Fellow of the African Leadership Initiative.



Ms Mavis Ampah is the Africa Regional Coordinator and Lead ICT Policy Specialist for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in the Transport and ICT Global Practice of the World Bank.

Ms Ampah has led the Bank's ICT programs in several countries in Africa and the Caribbean regions. Her areas of expertise include telecommunications policy and infrastructure development, IT industry, e-government, and public-private partnerships. She led the World Bank and Ghana Government efforts to modernize revenue generation, business registration, and immigration systems through the eGhana project, and has held various senior level positions in the telecommunications and finance sectors in Africa. She holds a Master's degree from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and a BA from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.



Prof Clement Dzidonu is the President of the Accra Institute of Technology (AIT), a member of the Council of the Informatics Development Institute (Ireland), and a Senior Research Fellow of the International Institute of Information Technology (INIIT).

Since 1984, Professor Dzidonu has taught conducted research at many universities, including Trinity College, Dublin; National University of Ireland, Galway; Makerere University, Uganda; the National University of Science and Technology, Zimbabwe; and Valley View University, Accra, Ghana. He has published seven computer books and over 90 scientific papers and reports. The past



20 years, Prof Dzionu has been involved in many ICT-related initiatives in Europe and Africa for government agencies, companies, and international agencies. He has served as a Consultant to the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the World Bank, and the UN Development Programme.

He is currently a Chairman of the National ICT Policy and Plan Development Committee, and a member of the UN Global Alliance for ICT for Development (GAID) High-Level Advisory Committee. Previously, he served as the Chairman of the African Technical Advisory Committee of UNECA's African Information Society Initiative (AIS).



Ms Dorothy K. Gordon is the Director-General of the Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT and served as an Advisor on the 2016 World Development Report.

A specialist in technology for development, Ms Gordon has over 20 years of experience in projects and programmes to support Africa's move from technology consumption to technology creation. She works to support the design and implementation of globally benchmarked IT training, ICT R&D, and consulting services to government, private sector, and nonprofits. Her areas of expertise include capacity development; digital inclusion projects; technology

start-ups, innovation and digital content creation; gender; and IT copyright and IP and aspects of cyber-security.

Ms Gordon has been a specialist in international development for more than 30 years, with her extensive experience within the United Nations complemented by work in the private sector and global civil society organisations globally. She is involved at the Board level for a number of organisations, including the Global Commission on Internet Governance, the World Summit Awards, and Creative Commons. She holds degrees from the University of Ghana and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) of the University of Sussex, UK.



Dr Tim Kelly is a Lead ICT Policy Specialist in the World Bank Group, which he joined in 2008, initially with *infoDev*. He wrote the policy chapter of the 2016 edition of the World Development Report, on the theme "Digital Dividends." He previously managed World Bank reports on *Maximizing Mobile* and *eTransform Africa*, as well as the *Broadband Strategies Toolkit*. On the operational side, he is currently managing ICT lending programs in Comoros, South Sudan and Somalia. He was formerly Head of the Strategy and Policy Unit of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and previously worked with the OECD and Logica.

Over the last 25 years, Dr Kelly has specialized in the economics of information and communication technologies. He has written or co-authored more than 30 books on the subject including the World Bank's "*ICTs for post-conflict reconstruction*", ITU's "*Internet Reports*" and "*World Telecommunication Development Report*" and OECD's "*Communications Outlook*". He has an MA (Hons) degree in geography and a PhD in industrial economics from Cambridge University.



Mr Kwaku Sakyi-Addo is the CEO of the Ghana Chamber of Telecommunications, which comprises five major international mobile network operators and two infrastructure companies. Until his appointment in May 2011, he was General Manager (Communications) of Aqua Vitens Brand.

Mr Sakyi-Addo was previously a journalist and broadcaster with the BBC, Reuters, Ghana News Agency, and Joy FM in Accra, where he hosted the flagship current affairs show “Front Page.” He has written for international publications including The Economist, TIME magazine, and the Telegraph in the UK. Among various awards, in 2007 his leadership and media work earned him the the Order of the Volta, one of Ghana’s highest national honours.

He holds an Executive Master of Governance and Leadership from Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration, a Graduate Diploma in Communications from the University of Ghana, Advanced Diplomas in Communications from the International Institute of Journalism in Berlin, the University of Wales in Cardiff, and in American Studies from Macalester College, St. Paul, MN. He began his career with a diploma from the Ghana Institute of Journalism.



Mr Dhanaraj Thakur is Research Manager at the Alliance for Affordable Internet. He has been designing and leading research projects on ICT policy and regulation, gender and ICTs, and the socio-economic impacts of ICTs in developing countries for the last ten years. This includes assignments with the World Bank, IMF, the IDB, and several governments and NGOs. He has also published several peer reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and reports.

Mr Thakur previously held faculty positions at Tennessee State University (Nashville, USA) and the University of the West Indies (Mona, Jamaica). Prior to that he worked in the area of community development with the government of Jamaica.

A former Fulbright scholar, he holds a PhD in Public Policy from the Georgia Institute of Technology (USA), and is a graduate of the London School of Economics and the University of West Indies (Mona, Jamaica).