



COMMONWEALTH  
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# Commonwealth African Rural Connectivity Initiative: In Country Capacity Building Workshops

## About COMARCI

The Commonwealth African Rural Connectivity Initiative, (COMARCI), a Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO) project, was started under a mandate of the Commonwealth Heads of Governments granted in 2007 in Kampala. It is an initiative to assess the existing connectivity gaps in the eighteen African Commonwealth countries.

It seeks to find ways to bridge the gap by a comparator analysis of policy and regulatory frameworks of five countries - the USA, Canada, Australia, India and Malaysia - along with an evaluation of innovative technology solutions and novel business models.

## Phase 1

The CTO's Report on African Rural Connectivity\*, which was the main deliverable for Phase 1 of COMARCI, found major ICT access gaps in rural Africa. The report identified that suitable policy and regulatory adjustments, innovative business models and novel technologies could help bridge this gap.

## Phase 2

The Phase 2 of COMARCI will be carried out through a series of in-country capacity and partnership workshops and regional conferences. It will aim to facilitate the building of Public Private Peoples Partnerships (PPPPs) to create new connectivity and to leverage connectivity for the delivery of value added services, such as e-education, e-health and better governance.



### Upcoming COMARCI workshops in 2010

- **COMARCI In-Country Workshop**  
Sierra Leone, 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2010
- **Broadband for Africa (Regional Conference)**  
Nigeria, 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2010
- **Digital Nigeria (Regional Conference)**  
Nigeria, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2010
- **5th Annual Connecting Rural Communities Africa (Regional Conference)**  
Ghana, 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2010

Visit our website for more information on COMARCI and associated work.

[www.cto.int](http://www.cto.int)

\*Available on request

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