

THE 7TH ANNUAL
CRCAfrica
 CONNECTING RURAL COMMUNITIES A CTO FORUM | 2012

20 - 22 June, 2012
 Miatta Conference Centre
 Freetown, Sierra Leone

Patron



Host



Organiser



COMMONWEALTH
 TELECOMMUNICATIONS
 ORGANISATION



The road to rural broadband: making the economics work

Key Topics

- Catalysing internet and broadband use in rural areas: the critical role of Universal Service Funds
- Policy and regulatory tools for stimulating rural demand and supply
- Context appropriate devices and infrastructure
- Removing national digital divides: case studies from the Commonwealth and beyond
- Measuring and understanding the socio-economic impact of rural ICT development

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Tuesday, 19th June 2012

- 19.00 **Early registration at Country Lodge Hotel**
 20.30 - 24.00 **Welcome cocktail reception hosted by Afcom**

Day 1 - Wednesday, 20th June 2012

- 08.30 - 09.00 **Registration and coffee**
 09.00 - 09.10 **Chair opening remarks**
Michala MACKAY, Director of Legal and Licensing Affairs, Natcom
 09.10 - 09.25 **Welcome address by the host**
Siray TIMBO, Chairman, National Telecommunication Commission of Sierra Leone
 09.25 - 09.40 **Welcome address by the CTO**
Tim UNWIN, CEO, Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation
 09.40 - 09.55 **Ministerial opening address**
Hon. Alhaji Ben KARGBO, Minister of Information and Communication, Sierra Leone
 09.55 - 10.10 **Keynote presentation: Enabling ICT access for all in Africa**
Hon. George M. KHANIRI, MGH, MP, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Information and Communications
 10.10 - 10.25 **Address by the special guest of honour**
His Excellency, Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone
 10.25 - 11.00 **Morning refreshments & group photographs**

Session I: Comprehensive policy framework and converged communication strategies

- 11.00 - 12.30 **Operators' panel: Business responses to policy imperatives**
- Meeting the challenges of implementing national communications policies
 - Advocacy for an enabling policy and regulatory environment for widespread connectivity in Africa
 - Stakeholders' collaboration to achieve rural connectivity that works
 - The primacy of skills development as a pre-requisite to policy realisation

Panellists:

- Adel TAHER**, Managing Director, Sierratel
Adel SULAIMAN, Managing Director, Afcom
Mike CAROLL, Managing Director, Comium
Shadi GERAWI, Managing Director, Africell

Chair:

Mohamed Alie BAH, Director of Communications, Ministry of Information and Communications

- 12.30 - 14.00 **Q&A and networking lunch**

Session II: Implementing cost-effective technological innovations for universal access

- 14.00 - 14.20 **Designing cost-effective and sustainable rural broadband networks**
Dr. Daniel HENKEL, Senior consultant, Detecon International
 14.20 - 14.40 **Deploying next generation, cost effective satellite communication to enable universal coverage**
Lare ATCHA-OUBOU, Director, Intelsat
 14.40 - 15.00 **Transmitting solutions that will extend mobile broadband to rural locations**
Emmanuel MENSAH-BAAH, Business Development Manager, Ericsson Sub-Saharan Africa
 15.00 - 15.20 **Assessing low-cost technologies that can deliver broadband grade connectivity to rural communities in Africa**
Daniel SCHAPIRO, Senior Consultant, O3b Networks
 15.20 - 15.50 **Afternoon refreshments**

Session III: Improving lives in rural Africa: Showcasing successful programmes and projects

- 15.50 - 16.10 **Nigeria: Update on the rural broadband internet service in Nigeria**
Sylvanus EHIKIOYA, Director, New Media Nigerian Communication Commission
 16.10 - 16.30 **Mozambique: Using mobile to web technology to monitor and improve quality of care in rural health facilities**
David CANTOR, Technical Director, ICF International

* Invited, to be confirmed

16.30 - 16.50	Ghana: Bridging communication divides with the rural pay phone services projects Kofi ATTOR , CEO, Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications (GIFEC)
16.50 - 17.10	Lesotho: Showcasing how to implement and deliver ICT connectivity to rural communities Lehlomela MOHAPI , Executive Secretary, Universal Access/Service Fund, Lesotho
17.10 - 17.30	Sierra Leone: Multi-purpose community telecentre projects Senesie KALLON , Deputy Director General, Natcom Dr. Thomas Mark TURAY , The Makapi Project
17.30 - 18.10	Closing remarks
18.00	End of conference day one
19.00	Free evening

Day 2 - Thursday, 21st June 2012

08.30 - 09.30	Registration and coffee
09.30 - 09.40	Chairperson's opening remarks David CANTOR , Technical Director, ICF International
09.40 - 09.55	Featured presentation: Mahmood ZONOOZI , Manager, Spectrum Management, Avanti Communications Group
09.55 - 10.10	Keynote presentation: Enabling telecoms companies to deliver accelerated universal services to rural communities Abdoulkarim SOUMAILA , Secretary General, African Telecommunications Union
10.10 - 10.25	The effect of internet penetration on socio economic development in Sierra Leone Gerald COLE , Regulatory Affairs Manager, Airtel
10.25 - 11.00	Morning refreshments & networking

Session IV: Regulatory capacity and ubiquitous rural connectivity

11.00 - 12.30	Session discussion: Evaluating regulatory interventions required to deliver sustainable connectivity to rural communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure sharing for rapid attainment of universal coverage
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- Effective spectrum allocation to drive innovative technologies and services
- Delivering technology-neutral services and applications
- Stimulating uptake of rural services and content

Panellists:

Dr. Eugene JUWAH, Executive Vice Chairman and CEO, Nigerian Communication Commission

Lamin JABBI, Advisor to Director General, Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Agency

Isaac BOATENG, Deputy Manager, National Communications Authority, Ghana

Chair:

Mohamed BANGURA, Director General, Natcom

12.30 - 14.00	Lunch and networking
14.00 - 14.20	Featured presentation: The tower business, a success story in Africa Michael OKINE , Sales Director, Helios Towers

Session V: Plugging the rural communications access gaps in Africa - ways and means!

14.20 - 15.20	Session discussion: Filling the access gaps in rural ICT connectivity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding ICT access gap issues and challenges • Reviewing the investment levels needed for fill-up access gaps and accelerate universal services coverage • Generating active stakeholder and public-private partnerships to plug ICT access gaps • How should technology lead in helping to fill identifiable connectivity access gaps in rural Africa?
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Panellists:

Adel TAHER, Managing Director, Sierratel

Michala MACKAY, Director of Legal and Licensing Affairs, Natcom

Abdullahi MAIKANO, Secretary, Universal Service Provision Fund Nigeria

Chair:

Shadi GERGAWI, Universal Access Development Fund, Africell

* Invited, to be confirmed

15.20 - 15.50 **Afternoon refreshments**

Session VI: Multistakeholder partnerships for rural connectivity

15.50 - 16.20 **Session presentation: Multi-stakeholder partnerships to deliver universal coverage and service for Africa**

Bruce BAIKIE, Senior Director, Broadband Initiatives, Inveneo

16.20 - 17.40 **Session discussion: Examining collaborative options for achieving universal coverage**

- Discussing why actively seeking partnerships should be a policy aim
- Understanding the partnership chain - Why is the picture different from place to place
- Ensuring the engagement of local communities

Panellists:

Adel SULAIMAN, Managing Director, Afcom

Ephraim KEDISANG, Principal Communications Officer, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Botswana

Mike CAROLL, Managing Director, Comium

Bruce BAIKIE, Senior Director, Broadband Initiatives, Inveneo

Chair:

Kojo BOAKYE, Manager, Programmes, CTO

17.40 **Closing remarks**

18.00 **End of conference day two**

19.00 **Gala Dinner reception hosted for registered delegates and invitees by Natcom at Bintumani Hotel**

Day 3 - Friday, 22nd June 2012

Parallel Session A (Limited seating)

09.00 - 13.00 **Special Workshop on Universal Access for Universal Service Fund Administrators**

Parallel Session B

09.00 - 13.00 **Special Session on ICT Finance and Investment in Sierra Leone**

09.00 - 09.30 **Registration and coffee**

09.30 - 09.45 **Chairman's opening remarks**

Tim UNWIN, CEO, Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation

09.45 - 10.00 **Welcome address by the host**

Siray TIMBO, Chairman, Natcom

10.00 - 10.45 **Ministerial addresses - Creating an enabling environment & ICT investment opportunities**

Hon. Alhaji Ben KARGBO, Minister of Information and Communication, Sierra Leone

Hon. Dr. Richard KONTEH, Minister for Trade & Commerce, Sierra Leone

Hon. Samura KAMARA, Minister of Finance, Sierra Leone

10.45 - 11.15 **Questions and answers including press briefing**

11.15 - 11.45 **Networking break & group photographs**

11.45 - 12.00 **Enabling regulatory environment conducive to investment: Sierra Leone Investment and Export Agency (SLIEPA)**

12.00 - 12.45 **Industry perspectives: SierraTel, Africel, Airtel, Afcon, Comium**

12.45 - 13.00 **Concluding remarks: MoIC, Natcom and CTO**

13.00 **Lunch**

14.00 **Buses leave for field trip: Choice of beach or historical sites around Freetown**

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