



الجمعية الخيرية لرعاية الطفولة

**Project: Knowledge Networks through ICT Access Points for Disadvantaged Communities  
Workshop on the Enhancement of the Networking Capacities of Knowledge Hubs  
Preliminary Information Note**

## **1. Background**

Launched in mid-2006, the United Nations Development Account project entitled "Knowledge Networks through ICT Access Points for Disadvantaged Communities" is currently in its final stages of implementation. Led by ESCWA and co-jointly managed with the other UN Regional Commissions, its main objective is to empower disadvantaged communities by transforming selected ICT access points/telecentres into networked knowledge hubs. By providing, developing, organizing, sharing and disseminating knowledge in areas of sustainable development that include employment, education, gender and health, the project will improve the living standards of the targeted communities.

Past project activities have included: (a) The review and assessment of ICT access points; (b) The development of a detailed implementation plan; (c) The selection of ICT access points and planning project activities; (d) The preparation of regional and global strategies on the transformation and networking process; (e) The design and implementation of a knowledge network portal; and (f) Workshops aiming at sharing knowledge and building the capacities of telecentre managers.

The next planned activity, subject of this information note, is the "Workshop on the Enhancement of the Networking Capacities of Knowledge Hubs." Scheduled to take place in Cairo between 16 and 18 February 2010, it is being organized in collaboration with the Egyptian telecentre/NGO that is participating in the project, namely the Charitable Society for Child Care.

## **2. Objectives**

The main objectives of the workshop are to encourage telecentre managers to increase initiatives aimed at the enhancement of the networking capacities of telecentres and the improvement of their services by: (a) Pinpointing, discussing and working out problems that are related to the implementation of the Knowledge Networks' Portal which is the main tool that is used for networking by telecentre managers; (b) Proposing new activities aimed at the transformation of telecentres into knowledge hubs; and (c) Developing the business writing skills of telecentre managers thus empowering them to prepare proposals aimed at securing funding from local and international donors and increasing the chances of sustainability of telecentres.

## **3. Topics**

The workshop will include presentations, panel discussions and hands-on training sessions. It will cover the following topics:

- Problems encountered by telecentre managers with the implementation of the Knowledge Networks' Portal ([www.knowledgenets.net](http://www.knowledgenets.net));
- Proposals for new activities aimed at transforming telecentres into knowledge hubs;
- Questions and suggestions aimed at helping telecentre managers conceive and produce a sustainability plan that is in tune with the distinct needs of their telecentres;

- Effective business proposals with emphasis on:
  - a) Differences between small and large proposals;
  - b) Distinctions between writing a proposal to be presented to an NGO, a government entity or the private sector; and
  - c) Establishing the objectives of a proposal and determining related activities, tasks, implementation plan, budget, sustainability strategy as well as monitoring and evaluation.

#### **4. Expected outcome**

The main outcome of the workshop will be the adoption of a solution to solve problems that have been inherent in the implementation of the project's portal. Telecentre managers are also expected to develop the capacity of conceiving sustainability plans for their telecentres and of drafting viable business proposals aimed at securing funding from local and international donors.

#### **5. Participants**

The workshop will be attended mainly by the managers of telecentres/knowledge hubs which are part of the "Knowledge Networks" project.

#### **6. Venue and dates**

The three-day workshop will take place between 16 and 18 February 2010 at the Amarante Pyramids Hotel in Cairo, Egypt.

#### **7. Language**

The main working language of the workshop will be Arabic. English may be used as a second working language. Participants are expected to understand both languages as there will be no simultaneous translation.

#### **8. Additional information**

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