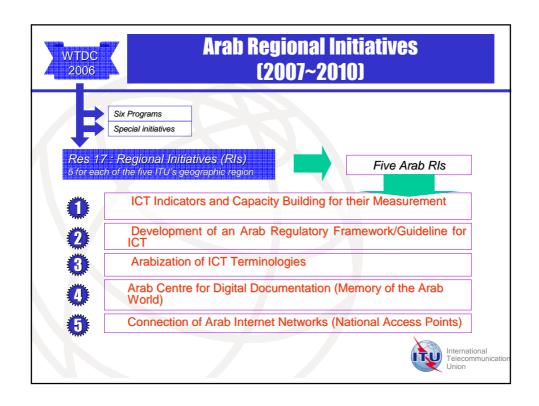# Arab Regional Initiatives (RIs)

NGN Workshop, Bahrain
April 29-May 2, 2007

Ebrahim Al-Haddad
Regional Representative & Head
ITU Regional Office for Arab Region

Arab Regional Initiatives (2007~2010)

WTDC 2006

Six Programs

Special initiatives

Res 17 : Regional Initiatives (RIs)
5 for each of the five ITU's geographic region

Five Arab RIs

1 ICT Indicators and Capacity Building for their Measurement

2 Development of an Arab Regulatory Framework/Guideline for ICT

3 Arabization of ICT Terminologies

4 Arab Centre for Digital Documentation (Memory of the Arab World)

5 Connection of Arab Internet Networks (National Access Points)

1. ICT Indicators and Capacity Building for their Measurement

Brief Description: This aims to establish indicators that would measure the development progress as outlined by the Arab Strategy Development Group through:

1. Development of transformation indicators to the information society.
2. Training of human resources within NSOs and Ministries of ICT on data collection methods to measure the growth rates and spread of the information society in the region and for regular updates
3. Development of a regional online ICT indicators database.
4. Improvement of mechanisms of obtaining data and statistics.

Potential Partners: LAS, UNESCWA, NSOs, Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, ITIDA (Egypt), etc.

WSIS Actions: C. 2,3,4 & 11

Estimated Budget: USD 450,000

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2. Development of an Arab Regulatory Framework/Guideline for ICT

Brief Description: This aims to establish a regulatory framework that would reflect the ever changing requirements through:

- Development of guidelines for ICT in the Arab region, taking into account latest developments.
- Development of procedures relating to ICT regulations and work towards simplification of procedures.
- Harmonization of standards and specifications
- Support the spread of e-applications, such as e-government and e-commerce as well as the spread of internet.

Potential Partners: LAS, World Bank, EC & others.

WSIS Actions: C 1,3,5,6,7 and 8

Estimated Budget: USD 200,000

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3. Arabization of ICT Terminologies

Brief Description*:* To unify the efforts being deployed to translate and arabize ICT terminology, by developing an Arabic glossary for ICT terminology, and to facilitate use of the internet by Arab users by increasing the penetration of domain names in Arabic. This will lead to:

• Support the building of the information society in the Arab region.
• Overcome the digital divide.
- Support the teaching of ICT in the Arabic language in schools and universities.

Potential Partners: LAS, ISESCO, UNESCO, UNESCWA, Ling Institutes and the Private sector
WSIS Actions: . C 3, 6, 7, 8, & 11
Estimated Budget: USD 360,000

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4. Arab Centre for Digital Documentation (Memory of the Arab World)

Brief Description: This project aims to show case the grandeur and treasures of the common Arab Heritage as well as to re-kindle the Arab Heritage and make it available to the rest of the world using the latest technologies to:

• Document the Arab heritage and publish it, in its different aspects, material and moral, such as the scientific Islamic heritage, the documentation heritage, the popular heritage, the architectural heritage, etc ;
- Transfer information and traditional material and publish it using the internet and electronic media.
- Inform the new generation of the Arab world of their cultural identity by establishing a website on the internet designed to show the wonders of the treasures of the Arab and Islamic heritage, using the latest technology in the Arabic, English and French languages

Potential Partners: LAS, ISESCO, UNESCO, private funding units
WSIS Actions: C 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 11
Estimated Budget: USD 2,500,000

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5. Connection of Arab Internet Networks
(National Access Points)

Brief Description: To develop nodes connecting the Arab internet networks, in order to allow traffic flow between the Arab countries through these nodes, and in order that information traffic to countries other that the Arab nations be routed through these nodes by:

- Designing internet traffic of the Arab countries in such a way to prevent current negative aspects and building it on economic feasibility, using available tools and equipment to establish universal access nodes in addition to the existing nodes ;
- Improving quality of service that leads to reduction of congestion and quicker applications download
- Efficient use of infrastructure and available capacities
- Reduction in the cost of using the internet and reduction in the cost of interconnectivity to the international backbone

Potential Partners: LAS, Private Industries etc.
WSIS Actions: C 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 & 11
Estimated Budget: USD 200M

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Executing and Financing Strategies (1)

1. **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** **Many of the RIs will have the active support of not only Member States but also regional organisations as well as some UN agencies. The Private Sector also plays a crucial role in the implementation of a few RIs.**
2. **Inter-Regional Cooperation** **to exchange experiences and expertise amongst the regions.**
3. **Use of Regional Professionals as well as Institutes** to ensure a cost effective approach and enhancement of regional knowledge.
4. **Utilization of Regional Expertise as well as ARB CoE** **for any capacity building elements of these RIs**.

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Executing and Financing Strategies (2)

5. Liaison with WSIS Actions, global DAP programs and special initiatives: for avoiding duplications and maximizing the cost-effects

Program 1: Policy & Regulation
P1. Workshop on Interconnection for NGNs (May2-3)
P1. Workshop on the Harmonization of ICT Regulatory Framework/guidelines (Sept-Oct)
P1. Regulators Exchange Programme (ongoing)
P1. Online course on dispute resolutions (Oct.)
P1. Arab Regulators Network meeting (May)

Program 2: Technologies and telecom network development
P2. Seminar in Digital Broadcasting (July-Aug)
P2. Training on Spectrum Management Software, Palestine (August)
P2. Radio Regulations Seminar (April 21-25)
P2. Seminar on Standardization and Development of NGNs (April 29-May 2)

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Executing and Financing Strategies (3)

Program 3: E-strategies and e-services/applications
P3. Seminar on Internet Protocol (Mar 19-20)
P3. Seminar on Cybersecurity including Identity Management (July)
P3. Regional meeting for the Arab Internet National Access Points (Oct)
P3. Consultancy on E-Government, Palestine (Sept)

Programme 4: Economics and Finance including costs and tariffs
P4. Studies on the impact of VOIP on Traditional operators (March)

Program 5: Human Resource Development
P5. Online training on Policy and Regulations
P5. Strategic Human Resources Management
P5. HRM/D network annual meeting
P5. Workshop on Competencies and Competitiveness
P5. Establishment of an ICT Training center for Palestine

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Executing and Financing Strategies (4)

Program 6: Special program for LDCs/SIDSs
P6. Emergency Telecoms and Disaster Relief
P6. Assistance in Human Capacity Building, Yemen
P6. Assistance in Radio Spectrum Management for Somalia
P6. Regulatory Reform, Comoros
P6. Telecom Regulatory Reform in Yemen
P.6 Assistance to Djibouti for the development of ICT strategy

Special Initiatives
SI: ICT Indicators workshop
SI: Regional meeting on Telecom services for persons with disabilities
SI: E-Portal for the Arab Women Organization
SI: Arab Women and E-Commerce
SI. Regional working Group and public/private Partnership Forum

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