Action Plan
For the formulation or review of a National Policy on ICT and Education

Belize

JANUARY 2007
AGENDA

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8. Team responsible for the elaboration of the Action Plan
1. RATIONALE

EDUCATION SITUATION

- Number of schools
  - 118 Preschools
  - 282 Primary Schools
  - 45 Secondary Schools
  - 10 Post-Secondary Institutions
  - 7 Tertiary Institutions
- Completion rate
  - 42.6% Primary School
  - 49.1% Secondary School
- 7% of population with tertiary education.
1. RATIONALE

ICT SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

- **ICT Infrastructure:**
  - 122 Telephone lines per 1000 people
  - 221 Mobile subscribers per 1000 people
  - 128 Internet user per 1000 people
  - 212.3 Secure Internet Servers per 1 Million people
  - 132 PC per 1000 people
  - 74% Households with TV
  - 20 radio stations in the country
  - 24 cable stations in the country
1. RATIONALE

ICT AND EDUCATION SITUATION

- Basic Education and ICT
  - 84 Primary schools have a computer lab (30%)
  - 31 High Schools have a computer lab (70%)
  - 1 lab = 10 computers (average)
  - Important deficit on ICT instructors

- UB offers associate, bachelors and certificate courses in IT and in Education

- No public education radio or television channels available.
1. RATIONALE

IMPORTANCE OF A NATIONAL POLICY ON ICT AND EDUCATION

- Fulfil a government promise to the people
- Fit into the overall IT policy and action plan being created by Office of Governance in the Prime Minster’s Office
- Maximize the use of available resources
- Increase inter-institutional participation (national and international).
1. RATIONALE

BENEFITS OF A POLICY ON ICT AND EDUCATION

- Provides direction and priorities for Ministry of Education in its ICT in Education efforts

- Enables the definition of long term fundable and sustainable projects and initiatives

- Identifies the inter-institutional support for implementation (national and international).
2. PURPOSE

GENERAL PURPOSE OF THE ACTION PLAN

- Determine the activities and resources needed to define, with the participation of various sectors, a National Policy on ICT in Education that will prepare all of Belize’s learners, students, teachers, and communities of today for the world economy of today and tomorrow.
2. PURPOSE

SPECIFIC PURPOSES OF THE ACTION PLAN

- To assess Belize's ICT strengths and needs
- To determine the resources available and needed resources
- To develop a national policy on ICT in Education designed to enhance the students ability to thrive in the world of work for today and tomorrow.
3. GENERAL STRATEGIES

TO ENSURE PARTICIPATION OF ALL SECTORS

- Involve the IT plan for Belize team in the committees responsible of the Policy on ICT and Education.

- Involve government, educational institutions, NGOs and business for oversight and input.

- Dissemination of action plan and policy to all sectors of Belize via radio, television and print media.
3. GENERAL STRATEGIES

TO OPERATE THE ACTION PLAN

- Prepare a detailed task for each committee
- Select carefully the people to be involved in each committee
- Organize workshops with the committees to explain their responsibilities and time table.
3. GENERAL STRATEGIES

TO ASSESS THE ACTION PLAN

- Define quality indicators for each committee activity
- Assess partial work of each comities
- Monitor the whole process.
4. PHASES, ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTS

IMPLEMENTATION PHASES OF THE ACTION PLAN

- **Phase 1: Preparation** 2 months
  - **Activities:**
    - Integration of Policy Group and technical Secretariat.
    - Involve Ministry Education and Labour.
  - **Products:**
    - Elaboration of base documents for committees to work.
    - Define list of **members and activities** in each committee (Committees: Resource, Research and Development and Strategies and Lines of Action).
4. PHASES, ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTS

IMPLEMENTATION PHASES OF THE ACTION PLAN

- Phase 2: National Diagnosis  
  - Activities:
    - Inventory of national resources: Communication and technology infrastructure, human and institutional expertise on ICT in education, digital educational materials and financial resources.
    - Evaluation of national initiatives
    - Responsible: Ministry Education and ICT Officer
  - Products:
    - Document: Belize ICT in education strengths.
IMPLEMENTATION PHASES OF THE ACTION PLAN

4. PHASES, ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTS

- Phase 3: International ICT in Education Trends  4 months
  - Activities:
    - Revise international and regional experiences on ICT in Education
    - Revise international Policies on ICT in Education.
    - Study travel to Taiwan, Finland and Antigua & Barbados
  - Products:
    - Document: Best practices on ICT in Education.
IMPLEMENTATION PHASES OF THE ACTION PLAN

- **Phase 4**: Elaboration of Belize Policy  
  3 months

- **Activities**:  
  - Analysis of diagnose and best practices.
  - Define Belize lines of action and policies for: Infrastructure, connectivity access and equity, content and curriculum development teacher professional development, financing and evaluation.
  - Internal and external feedback and authorization.

- **Products**:  
  - Belize Policy on ICT and Education.
  - Dissemination of Belize Policy.
### 4. PHASES, ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTS

#### PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

- Ministry of Education
  - All levels of education
- Ministry of Labour
- Prime Minister’s Governance Unit
- Advisory Board consisting of private sector, NGOs and Civic Society members
- University of Belize
- Yunlin University of Taiwan
- ICDF Taiwan
5. CHRONOGRAM

ESTIMATE TIME LINE

- Action Plan duration: 9 months
  - Phase One: Preparation: August – September 2007
  - Phase Two: National Diagnosis: October – January 2008
## 6. BUDGET

FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase One: Preparation</td>
<td>US $25,000</td>
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<td>Personnel materials and workshops.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phase Two: National Diagnosis</td>
<td>US $35,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personnel, evaluation of ICT programs in education.</td>
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<td>Phase Three: Best Practices</td>
<td>US $50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personnel, and international travel expenses.</td>
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<td>Phase Four: Elaboration</td>
<td>US $40,000</td>
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<td>Personnel and dissemination campaign.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>US $150,000</td>
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7. MAIN CHALLENGES

IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN

- Funding
- Trained Personnel: need to hire national and international advisors to guide and direct the process
- Political will.
8. TEAM WORK

TEAM RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ELABORATION OF THE ACTION PLAN

- Minister Rodwell Ferguson of the Ministry of Education
- CEO Marion McNab of the Ministry of Education
- Mr. Nelson Longsworth of the Ministry of Education
- Mrs. Myrtle Palacio of the Governance Unit
- Mr. Charles McSweeny of UB
- Dr. Geraldo Flowers of UB
CONTACT PERSON

RESPONSABLE OF THE ACTION PLAN

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