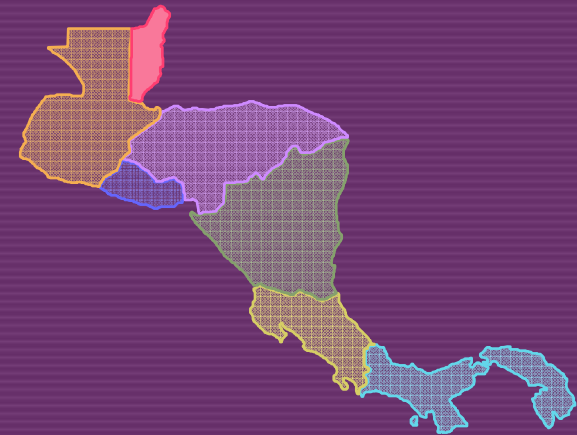




Action Plan

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



Belize



JANUARY 2007





AGENDA

CONTENT

1. *Rationale*
2. *Purpose*
3. *General Strategies*
 - *To ensure participation of all sectors*
 - *Operate the Action Plan*
 - *Assess the process*
4. *Phases, activities and products*
 - *Phases of the Action Plan*
 - *Participating Institutions*
 - *Activities and products*
 - *Quality indicators to evaluate the Action Plan*
5. *Chronogram*
6. *Budget*
7. *Main challenges*
8. *Team responsible for the elaboration of the Action Plan*

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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.

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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

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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.

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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 Minister's Office
- Maximize the use of available resources
- Increase inter-institutional participation (national and international).

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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).

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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3. GENERAL STRATEGIES

TO ASSESS THE ACTION PLAN

- Define quality indicators for each committee activity
- Assess partial work of each committees
- Monitor the whole process.

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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).

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4. PHASES, ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTS

IMPLEMENTATION PHASES OF THE ACTION PLAN

- Phase 2 : National Diagnosis 4 months
 - **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.

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4. PHASES, ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTS

IMPLEMENTATION PHASES OF THE ACTION PLAN

- 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.

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4. PHASES, ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTS

IMPLEMENTATION PHASES OF THE ACTION PLAN

- Phase 4 : Elaboration of Belize Policy 3 months
- Activities:
 - Analysis of diagnose an 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.

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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

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5. CHRONOGRAM

ESTIMATE TIME LINE

- Action Plan duration: 9 months
 - Phase One: Preparation: August – September 2007
 - Phase Two: National Diagnosis: October – January 2008
 - Phase Three: Best Practices trends: October – January 2008
 - Phase Four: Elaboration of Belize Policy – May 2008.

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6. BUDGET

FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN

	Cost
Phase One: Preparation Personnel materials and workshops.	US \$25,000
Phase Two: National Diagnosis Personnel, evaluation of ICT programs in education.	US \$35,000
Phase Three: Best Practices Personnel, and international travel expenses.	US \$50,000
Phase Four: Elaboration Personnel and dissemination campaign.	US \$40,000
Total	US \$150,000

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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.

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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

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CONTACT PERSON

RESPONSIBLE OF THE ACTION PLAN

- Minister Rodwell Ferguson
 - Telephone: +501 610-5696
 - Email: rodwellferguson@yahoo.co.uk
 - Geraldo Flowers – 501-602-2541
 - geraldoflowers@ub.edu.bz

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