PROMOTING DNS INCUBATION & DIGITAL ENTREPRENUESHIP IN AFRICA

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BACKGROUND

One of the Key Messages coming out of ICANN Durban meeting was ICANN's participation and support in promoting the DNS industry and digital Entrepreneurship in Africa.

A moving presentation by one of the current managers in the tech-hub industry – Mr. Lukonga of Bongohive - zambia reminded the audience of the positive changes that such initiatives have brought about in the lives of various youth in Africa and that it was time ICANN was felt in this sector as well

This objective has been underpinned in the ICANN African Strategy currently under implementation with strong support from ICANN leadership

Key Objectives

Work with the *hubs / *Labs in Africa to build an Entrepreneurship program in the DNS area in Africa

Promote Local content development and innovation in Africa through strategic partnerships with the *hubs / *Labs across Africa

Promote research and

development to foster innovation in Internet related technologies and businesses

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Methodology

- Our first task was to understand what exactly is happening in the "Incubation sector" A number of countries and even organizations have set up *hubs / *Labs but how do they work?

- What are the currently challenges and success from these incubators

- What are the business models and are there gaps?

- How / where does ICANN come in?

Meeting various stakeholders:

In the last 2 months, we have worked in the overdrive to try and meet as many players and practitioners in the incubation sector, so far, we have held discussions with:

- Afrilabs Director – Tayo Akinyemi: www.afrilabs.com (this is an umbrella organization for *hubs / *labs in Africa)
- K-Labs management – Rwanda.(www.klab.rw)
- iHub Management – Kenya (www.ihub.co.ke)
- Bongohive management – Zambia www.bongohive.co.zm

Planned Meetings…

To come up with a representative understanding of the entire continent, we will be meeting the following hub managers:

South Africa: Rlabs

Nigeria: Co – Creation Hub, Wennovation Hub

Zimbabwe: Hypercube

Kenya: ILabAfrica – Strathmore University - Kenya

Outcomes so far

Capacity Building: A number of hub managers and hub members have pointed out the need for more support in capacity building. This can be in form of trainings both technical and soft skills / Business skills.

Infrastructure Support: ICANN is being viewed as synonymous with the Internet, yet this is one commodity that is a challenge in a number of *Hubs / *Labs, Can ICANN support Infrastructure as a package (Sponsor connectivity and Storage – Simple cloud solutions)?

Centre of Excellence: Possibility of developing and supporting a center of excellence in DNS and Internet management. Most start – ups actually still do not understand how the Internet works!

Exchange Program with industry leaders and organizations.

FINAL DELIVERABLE

CONCEPT PAPER ON PROMOTING DIGITAL ENTREPRENUERSHIP IN AFRICA...by December

2013

THANK YOU!

Q & A