

Internet and Grids for African Science and Society

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Fondation "Partager le Savoir"
Sharing Knowledge Foundation

"Euro Africa Forum" Brussels 25-26 March 2009 Robert Klapisch

The Sharing Knowledge Foundation

- Dedicated to North-South scientific dialogue in order to foster concrete projects of Sustainable Development.
- Subjects range from Fundamental Science to satisfying basic needs: water, energy, food, and to fighting the Digital Divide .
- In December 2007 we held a meeting in Montpellier with 14 scientists from West Africa (Senegal, Ivory Coast, Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo-Brazzaville, Cameroun, Ghana), and 7 coming from Europe and one from the US.
- An in-depth discussion of needs resulted in recommendations that were brought to the Brussels meeting on 31 January 2007.



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Our recommendations

- Internet in its most advanced forms is an essential tool for African scientists to become an integral part of the World Community.
- This requires Infrastructures to be brought in line with the rest of the world at costs which are affordable.
- The fantastic growth of mobile telephony shows that there is a strong ICT demand coming from the depth of African Society.
- We salute the progress made in the last few months, both at the level of EU-Africa agreements and at the private sector laying new cables!



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BUT MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE !

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The Next steps

- NRENs should develop to become tools for pooling scientific resources both at regional and international levels.
- They should also give to all students access to the modern possibilities of acquiring knowledge.
- GRIDS are the next step and one has already been installed in July 2008 at University Cheick Anta Diop in Senegal.
- A broad collaboration is shaping up (UNESCO, h-p, I-Grilles CNRS, Meraka Institute, INFN) in order to extend the use of GRIDS to other countries.
- Our Foundation is ready to take part in that continuing effort.



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