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## Invitation to Think about Solutions

### Meeting during PrepCom-2 in Geneva about Digital Divide as a problem of content

The preparatory conference for the Second Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), taking place in Tunis this November, is being held in Geneva from 17 to 25 February.

Delegates from governments around the world meet at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Headquarters. The Austrian Federal Government and the World Summit Award will take the opportunity to stress the issue of quality contents.

As Prof Peter A Bruck (Chairman of the World Summit Award) points out, bridging the Digital Divide between developed and developing countries is not just a matter of giving away computers. People also require access to high-quality contents they can use and work with, in order to change their lives. Good e-Contents are still insufficiently known and therefore often lack financing.

To discuss the issue of content and creativity and to find solutions, all Geneva delegates are invited by Mr Bruck to come to Vienna on 2-3 June to the World Summit Contributory Conference on ICT & Creativity.

**What:** Information Meeting about World Summit Contributory Conference on ICT & Creativity from 2-3 June in Vienna, Austria.

**Where:** At PrepCom-2 of the Tunis Phase, Geneva, Switzerland, Palais des Nations, Conference Room XI.

**When:** Thursday 17 February 2005, 13:00-14:00.



## World Summit Youth Award

Promoting what young people do with young media

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New technologies today democratise the production of digital content. Especially young people have several media at their hands to communicate and to build networks of like-minded people. Both as business and social entrepreneurs, they actively address community needs and provide innovative solutions to global challenges.

To select and promote the best projects produced by young content designers for young target groups WSA & Youth Caucus (YC) are teaming up to establish the the World Summit Youth Award (WSYA).

The WSYA is an international competition that encourages the active participation of young people in the emerging Information Society. It is the first global "youth for youth" initiative for selecting and promoting best practice in e-Content and technological creativity, demonstrating young people's potential to create digital opportunities.

The WSYA addresses three key areas, highly relevant to the world of today:

**Quality Contents on Poverty, Sustainability, Social Justice** - Promoting the UN Millennium Development Goals

**Quality Contents on Knowledge, Learning, Personal Health** - Personal Capacity Building for the Information Society

**Quality Contents on Rural Areas, Indigenous People, Woman** - Bridging the Digital Divide

The WSYA Selection Committee will consist of the WSA organisers, WSIS YC representatives and the project partners. The best projects will be honoured in the framework of the WSA Gala on 16 November 2005 during the WSIS in Tunis.

For further information on the WSYA contact: [Thomas Biebl | biebl@icnm.net](mailto:Thomas Biebl | biebl@icnm.net)



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## New patron for the WSA

### Haitian Prime Minister supports the initiative

Gerard Latortue, Prime Minister of the interim government of Haiti, is joining the WSA initiative as patron.

The addition of this African leader to the list of WSA high patrons proves two things: The WSA is supported by a number of key government representatives and they are from all over the world, not just from Europe.

Latortue heads the transitional government backed by a resolution of the UN Security Council and the international community. His government has the difficult task of restoring order and bringing democracy to Haiti - with elections to be held this year, after decades of social and political unrests and dire poverty. Haiti has a population of 8.4m, at least three quarters of whom live below the UN's standard poverty line of \$2 a day.

The WSA National Expert in Haiti is Jean-Baptiste Schiller, Coordinator at the **REHRED** - "Réseau Télématique Haïtien pour la Recherche et le Développement", a non-profit organisation, including academical institutions, NGOs, public institutions and IGOs involved in Technology and Development.



WSA patron: Gerard Latortue, Prime Minister of Haiti

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## Picking out the Best

### Bahrain e-Content Award holds jury meeting

The jury meeting of the Bahrain e-Content Award ([www.bea.bh](http://www.bea.bh)) was held in Bahrain from 31 January to 5 February.

Organised for the second time, the Bahrain e-Content Award promotes creativity and innovation in the development of new media applications in Bahrain.

The evaluation process is based on the WSA procedures and technically supported by the WSA contest software package. The jury, consisting of Bahrain e-content experts has been joined by:

- Gabriel Deek, Lebanon
- Jak Boumans, Netherlands
- Elizabeth Quat, Hong Kong
- Hind Al Mualla, UAE
- Waheed AlBalushi, Bahrain Internet Society

all eminent experts and WSA Jurors 2003.

All Bahrain WSA activities are built on a successful cooperation with the Bahrain Internet Society ([www.bis.org.bh](http://www.bis.org.bh)) and the Ministry of Commerce ([www.commerce.gov.bh](http://www.commerce.gov.bh)), which was selected one of the five best e-Government portals in the world at the WSA 2003 and has since then become one of the most active and motivated partners of the WSA.



## WSA strong in Ghana

### Best practice presentation at African Preparatory Conference

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From 2 to 4 February 2005, the Second African Regional Preparatory Conference for the World Summit on the Information Society WSIS (WSIS) took place in Ghana.

The government of the Republic of Ghana hosted this event under the theme "Access - Africa's Key to an Inclusive Information Society".

The conference brought together all stakeholders, ranging from Government to civil society, the private sector and academia, parliamentarians, local authorities, African regional institutions, development partners and international organizations.

Charles Nduati, WSA Grand Jury Member 03, presented the WSA initiative to the conference attendants.

Dorothy K. Gordon, Director General of Ghana-India **Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT** (AITI-KACE) and WSA Ghana Expert 05, made it possible for the WSA to have a Road Show booth at the conference venue and she also acted as a host of a WSA luncheon for all participating WSA experts.



Access: Africa's key to an Inclusive Information Society  
2 - 4 FEBRUARY 2005