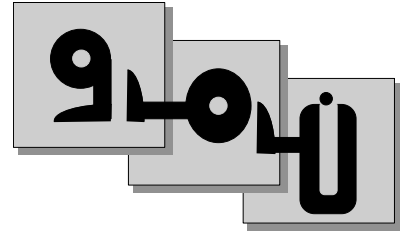




National Information
Technology Center

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The National Information System

Quarterly Newsletter of the NITC_Jordan

Issue #43, Oct., 2007

Meeting of the Arab Group for Arabic Domain Names, Cairo, 9-12/9/2007

NITC participated in the meeting of the Arab Group for Arabic Domain Names in Cairo under the auspices of the Arab League. Dr. Haidar Fraihat gave a presentation entitled "Proposal on establishing an Arab ccTLD (country code Top Level Domain) organization". The proposal was received with enthusiasm by the participants who came from Syria, Sudan, Morocco, Tunis, Lybia, Egypt, Iraq, Yemen, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Arab Laegue, ESCWA, ICANN, ITU Regional Office, and UNESCO. The Secretariat of the cctLD organization was delegated to Jordan until a further date. A letter will be sent to all Arab countries to develop consensus. During the meeting the Arab Group was merged with another Arab Group for the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). The new name of the merged group is "Arab Group for Internet Affairs".



Regional Stakeholders' Meeting on Knowledge network strategies, mechanisms and tools, 3/9- 4/9/2007

NITC participated in a project that ESCWA is implementing entitled "Knowledge networks through ICT access points for disadvantaged communities". The project will extend over a period of 36 months, starting in 2006.

Its main objective is to empower poor and disadvantaged communities and women in particular to implement the objectives of transforming selected existing ICT access points/telecentres into hubs of knowledge and their networking at the national, regional and global levels

The main objective of the meeting is to develop consensus among stakeholders in the ESCWA region on strategies, mechanisms and tools to make ICT access points evolve into knowledge hubs and build a regional knowledge network. The meeting will bring together managers and coordinators of ICT access points in the ESCWA region including project coordinators from affiliated ministries/government agencies that have been identified as potential partners in the project and nodes in the knowledge networks to be established.

Expert Group Meeting on Regional Networking and Partnership for Information Society Development, 5/9- 6/9/2007

The main objective of the meeting is to create networks, within the ESCWA region and in the rest of the Arab countries, of institutions and organizations sharing similar or complementary goals, and to monitor the development of partnerships between the various stakeholders, including the public sector, private enterprises, academia and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Networks and partnerships would help achieve the main goal of WSIS, which is the creation of a people-centered, development-oriented and inclusive information society.

The meeting includes round tables that will discuss modalities for implementing projects adopted in the Regional Plan of Action (RPoA), to identify sources of financing, and to foster the formation of partnerships. A background paper prepared by ESCWA, on ICT financing, venture capital and entrepreneurship in the region, will be presented to participants for discussion.

The main outcome of the meeting will be the formation of viable partnerships and tangible projects that will lead to the development of the information society.

Participants in the meeting will include representatives and decision-makers from ESCWA member countries, as the main target audience.



Microsoft Meeting, Brussels, 9-12/9/2007

NITC, with representatives from different IT organizations in the government, participated in Microsoft's meetings in Brussels from 9-12/9/2007. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the latest Microsoft technologies and strategies.

NITC participated in METs07 that was held from 26-29/8/2007



Main Accomplishments of NITC during the last three months

In Internet Services

- The Internet bandwidth was upgraded again 100%.
- Prices of different services were reevaluated and Internet connectivity prices were reduced 30%.

In National Coordination

- Negotiating with the MoICT concerning the operation and management of the National Broadband Network (NBN) and the possibility of transferring it to the NITC.
- Participated the evaluation and launching of the National ICT Strategy.
- Participated in a special, committee for evaluating the financial systems (GFMIS) presented to the Ministry of Finance.
- In 15/8/2007, NITC was commissioned by the MoICT to manage and execute the Government Agreement with Microsoft and Oracle.
- Construction and design of two web sites: the “Information Council” web site and the “We Are All Jordan Youth Commission” web site.
- Participated in evaluating the content of the E-gov portal of the MoICT.

In Bridging the Divide

The Royal Committee of the Knowledge Station Project(KS) upgraded the status of the KS from “ project” to “program” because of its distinguished performance during the past years since its establishment.

- The KS Program conducted a special introductory workshop for the heads of the municipalities on the objectives and services provided by the KSs.
- Five new KSs have been opened during the past three months.

Special domain names

To serve the Internet community better, NITC developed a new policy to accommodate domain names that are generic in nature. The special domain names include domain names that cannot be registered as a trade mark and are generic names that describe the main activity of the company/organization. Special domain name should not infringe on the rights of others, whether locally or internationally and it should comply with the general policy Of Domain Name Registration Policy under .jo. The initial fees are 500 JD.

Main Activities of the E-gov Operation Center

- The staff of the Ops Service Desk started training on the Heat Ticketing System.
- Eighteen government organizations that are connected to the SGN sent 60 technical help requests to the Ops Center through the Heat System (a help desk system). All requests were fulfilled.
- Maintenance contracts were signed for the generator and the Risk servers including insurance for all the equipment in the Center.
- The Center participated in different committees for the evaluation of the different tenders including SMS tender, the portal content tender, the portal tool, training, maintenance agreements, BCM, Payment Gateway.
- Communication cabinets and servers have been relocated and precision air conditioners have been installed.
- The old telephone system has been replaced by a new modern one. Our new numbers also changed to:

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