

“Bridging the Knowledge Gap” Conclusions

Panel Speakers

Empowering knowledge access

Vicente J. Montes Gan

Adjunct Director of Fundación Rafael del Pino

Open Innovation and Technology Transfer

Francis Gurry

Director General World Intellectual Property Organization

Use of ITC technologies for improving health conditions in rural areas

Javier Simó

Representative, EHAS Foundation

ITC for development Cooperation and USHAHIDI experience

Juliana Rotich

Representative USHAHIDI Platform, Kenya

Showcase

The "One Laptop per child" experience

Jan Wildeboer

Solution Architect at Red Hat GmbH

Panel Speakers

Knowledge is a source of economic progress and welfare.

A modern country needs trained people with access to technology to act as catalyst for progress in a competitive environment and this, on the basis of their knowledge and experience, has a multiplier effect that benefits all the society.

Over recent decades a true bottom-up revolution, a revolution sparked by the market and the society, has resulted in unprecedented levels of growth in the development of private initiative, reduction of poverty and expansion of the middle classes.

Conclusions

During the current world recession we should not forget this period of success and the need to reinforce the international development cooperation with the aim to bridge the knowledge gap.

But this cooperation must take into account the real needs of the people in terms of access to:

Information: articles, researches, etc.

Technological development: a more open technology.

Reflection on the relative lack of success of the international community in influencing the transfer of technology is much needed.

The Parliaments, International Institutions and the public sector have important roles to play in creating a regulatory environment conducive to the transfer of knowledge and technology and in assisting in creating transparency in technology markets and in compensating for market failure.

Conclusions

Open innovation is the tendency of firms to look outside to satisfy their innovation needs. Open innovation projects can also constitute vehicles for the transfer of technology.

The new technological platforms –social networks, etc.- are powerful instruments for the above mentioned transfer of technology towards the developing countries.

Focus has shifted from individual to group, single to multiple institutions, and national to international.

Reflection on the necessary equilibrium among the defense of intellectual property rights and the development of flexible technologies locally is needed.

Conclusions

Millions of people in rural areas have insufficient health services because local health facilities are isolated from remote hospitals or reference centers. Appropriate technologies may give a positive response to this problem and others.

However, the achievement of high impact results on these scenarios is only possible through sustained long-term research programs, good-quality funding instruments and institutional support and recognition of the role played by researchers and developers in this framework.