

4th 2-Day
International Workshop on

ICTs for Development: Mainstreaming the Marginalized

May 14 – 15, 2024
Islamabad – Pakistan

Call: +92-51-9049 5024
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Introduction and Background

The Inter Islamic Network on Information Technology (INIT) in collaboration with ICT4D Collective initiated a program of workshop series titled “ICTs for Development: Mainstreaming the Marginalized”. Under this program the INIT has conducted three training workshops in Pakistan.

The thematic areas divulged upon in the previous workshops included accessibility issues especially in terms of inclusion of the marginalized communities, where the term accessibility was further dissected into sub-domains like education, gender divide, rural needs, people with disabilities and people living below the poverty line.

The experience entailed that there is an accessibility gap that needs to be filled for the marginalized via novel concepts coupled with ICTs generating simple cost-effective solutions having the potential to change the ecosystem in OIC Member States.

Aims and Objectives

This Workshop aims at bridging the current gap in ICT provision for education, particularly for the marginalized, elderly, and disabled individuals who have been isolated until now.

Through interactive sessions, including presentations, panel discussions, and open floor debates, the Workshop seeks to address crucial topics such as accessibility policies, government support, and infrastructure availability.

It emphasizes disseminating knowledge to uplift the most affected individuals through ICT implementation. The workshop contributes to evaluating human resources in marginalized communities, integrating ICTs to enhance their quality of life.

Distinct from conventional models, the workshop adopts an interactive approach, aiming to identify implementable technologies that can significantly impact the marginalized.

By fostering collaboration and generating actionable strategies, it goes beyond theoretical discussions to catalyze real change.

The emphasis is on actively shaping solutions tailored to the practical needs of marginalized populations, instigating a paradigm shift in technology delivery.

About the Workshop

This Workshop is dedicated to harnessing ICTs for the development of marginalized communities in OIC Member States.

The Workshop aims to build on the efforts of INIT to identify ways through which stakeholders (Academia, Government, Civil Societies, Private Sector) can contribute towards diffusion of technologies for creating a positive impact on the marginalized communities.

The workshop will steer away from conventional delivery models and divulge in an interactive manner to identify steps needed for the development of a sustainable policy for provision of simple, realistic and implementable technologies that could make a life changing difference for the marginalized community.





Workshop Themes and Focus Areas

The Workshop steers away from the conventional design of training programs and aims to deliver a unique participatory based learning experience for the invitees. It will include presentations, panel sessions and open discussions around the following themes:

- General Accessibility
- Economic and Financial Well Being
- Education
- Healthcare
- Employment
- Security and Privacy

The Workshop will build upon the discussions held in the earlier editions. The Workshop will aim at identifying ways of bridging the digital divide in terms of access and applications of ICTs for the marginalized communities. It also builds on the efforts of INIT to identify ways through which stakeholders (Academia, Government, Civil Societies, Private Sector) can contribute towards diffusion of ICTs for creating a positive impact on the marginalized communities.

Lead Facilitator

Tim Unwin is a British academic and public figure, specialising in the uses of digital technology by the world's poorest and most marginalised peoples.

Trained as a geographer, he enjoys crossing boundaries between disciplines and sectors, and seeks to enhance international understanding between peoples and governments.

He led the UK Prime Minister's Imfundo initiative (creating partnerships for using IT in education in Africa) between 2001 and 2004, was Secretary General of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation between 2011 and 2015, and Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair in ICT4D at Royal Holloway, University of London between 2007 and 2023.

In 2016 he was appointed Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George for his services to the Commonwealth.



Contact Information

Dr Tahir Naeem

Executive Director,
Inter Islamic Network on Information Technology, COMSATS University
Phone: +92-51-9049 5100, 9049 5169
Email: tnaem@comsats.edu.pk

Mr Muhammad Atiq-ur-Rehman

Senior Manger
Inter Islamic Network on Information Technology, COMSATS University
Phone: +92-51-9049 5024
Email: muhammad_atiq@comsats.edu.pk

Who Should Attend the Workshop?

The target participants for this workshop comprise of academics, policy makers, technology sector representatives, non-government organizations and development sector representatives.

The Workshop is expecting an audience of line professionals/researchers from S&T organizations, universities, R&D organizations, and development sector from all over the country.

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