



# e-Inclusion and Media for Asia's Indigenous Peoples

## Moderator

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## Panelists

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# e-Inclusion

- e-Inclusion is a demand side perspective of the digital divide.
- Digital divide discussions focus more on access than on what access can achieve.
- We have learned that empowerment is not an automatic consequence of access.
- The default with ICTs is that their benefits go to the more advantaged.
- Therefore, narrowing the digital divide may not lead to the inclusion of the disadvantaged in the information society.
- e-Inclusion uses ICTs to deliver material benefits to all members of society, emphasising that disadvantaged people should not be left out.
- In Asia, e-inclusion is not an objective; it hardly exists in the vocabulary of most Asian governments, much less as a target for their Indigenous Peoples.



# The e-Bario Knowledge Fair

- A multi-disciplinary conference held in the remote village of Bario, in the Kelabit Highlands of Sarawak, 6-8 December 2007.
- Incorporated the UNDP Workshop on e-Inclusion and Media for Indigenous Peoples.
- Topics combined visitors' presentations with those of the Kelabit People;-
  - e-Culture
  - e-Kelabit
  - e-Language
  - e- Remote: Technology
  - e-Development
  - e-Tourism
- Community dinners, cultural events, handicraft workshops, local walking tours.
- Formulation of the e-Bario Vision for Indigenous Peoples.





# Development Conferencing

- Development planning as a development process.
- Development planning that takes place at the locations that it affects.
- Development planning that takes place with the people that it affects.
- Contributes;
  - Immediate benefits to the local economy.
  - Long term benefits from the outcomes.
- Engenders empathy with the issues.
- Promotes equality in participation.
- Ensures grass-roots input.

# The E-Bario Vision for Indigenous Peoples and ICTs

1. We welcome the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Declaration serves to further invigorate our own energies towards realising our rights and we note that the Declaration is a single, albeit vital step towards the ultimate goal of fully realising them.
2. We acknowledge the work Indigenous Peoples have done in bridging the digital divide with reference to the WSIS process and note Article 15 of the WSIS Declaration states, ***‘In the evolution of the Information Society, particular attention must be given to the special situation of Indigenous Peoples, as well as the preservation of their heritage and cultural legacy’***. This further supports the work of the Global Indigenous Community in protecting Indigenous Knowledge.
3. ICTs with quality rich applications and media provide significant opportunities that support aspirations of Indigenous Peoples, as demonstrated by the E-Bario Telecentre and many other Indigenous driven examples around the world.
4. The E-Bario Vision for Indigenous Peoples and ICTs foresees a world in which all Indigenous Peoples everywhere, irrespective of our location, are able to make full and effective use of new media and ICTs whilst retaining our strength in diversity and simultaneously uniting in purpose towards our common goal of self-determination. In this Vision, we will pursue our development and self-reliance on our own terms whilst retaining the full intent of the Declaration.
5. The Vision recognises the need for widespread development and deployment of contemporary and future ICTs and new media for the realisation of creative and effective solutions for the problems faced by Indigenous Peoples.
6. We acknowledge the role of governments and other stakeholders and consequently we are looking for respective partnerships in the following priority areas:
  - i. Sensitise and raise awareness of policy makers and civil society organisations on freedom of expression and rights to information for Indigenous Peoples in Asia
  - ii. Training of Indigenous journalists and other media professionals in reporting in Indigenous Peoples issues and in harnessing ICT/new media
  - iii. Develop the capacity of Indigenous Peoples organisations for setting up ICT interventions for e-inclusion to test applications of common interest (e.g. land, culture, poverty, health, access to information, freedom of expression)
  - iv. Develop the capacity in setting up a number of Indigenous community media facilities (radio, website, telecentre etc)
  - v. Establish a “community of practice” for sharing of good practices on e-inclusion and media for Indigenous Peoples
  - vi. Research on the need and availability of disaggregated data that reflects the situation of Asia’s Indigenous Peoples, as they themselves would like to express it.



**Thank you**