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Global eSchools and
Communities Initiative



Building a Knowledge Society for All – Does personal connectivity matter? How about m-Learning?

Prepared for the WSIS Forum 2009
UNESCO m-Learning Session
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2009

Our background: GeSCI's Foundation



- Developing countries are placing **ICT** and **Education** at the centre of their **development strategies**.
- However, developing countries are often less equipped in terms of **human capacity** and financial resources to successfully and effectively harness the potential of ICT.
- With this in mind, GeSCI was founded by the **UN ICT Taskforce** in 2003, and began operations in 2005 working initially with Namibia, Ghana, India, Bolivia and later Rwanda. GeSCI is now operating also in regional forums and programmes in Africa, Asia and Latin America

Our challenge in Developing Countries



- While the importance of education is commonly accepted the developing world faces severe **challenges** with regard to education.
- The challenges that can be addressed with ICT can be summarized as:
 - a lack of universal and inclusive access to education, and educational resources;
 - poor quality of education;
 - poor management and monitoring of the education system and
 - the increasing irrelevance of the current education system in the knowledge society.



The way we work:

Knowledge Sharing

- Peer to peer learning
- Participatory policy making

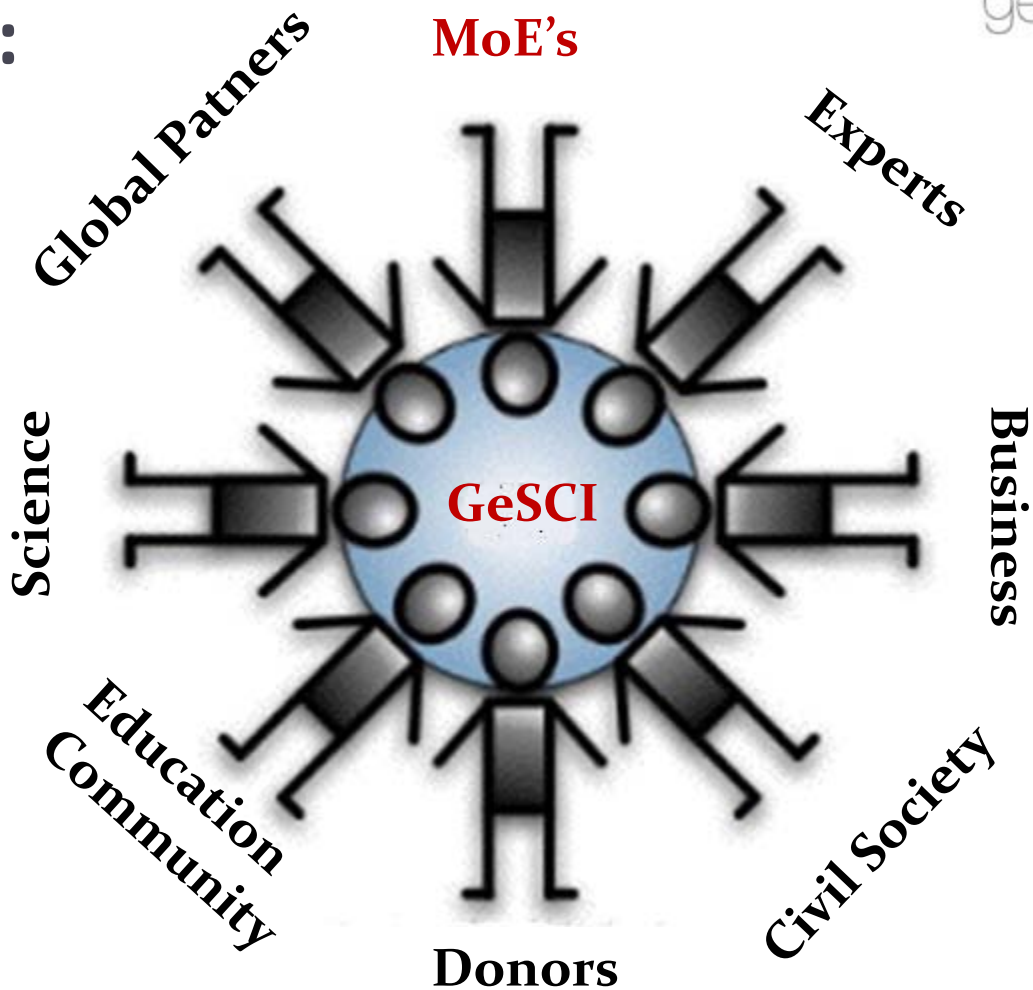
Multi stakeholder partnerships

Knowledge creation

- Research, planning tools

Critical advocacy

- Questioning fads
- Promoting knowledge, innovation, inclusiveness and sustainability



So, we critically advocate m-learning?

Yes, technically you can learn with mobile phones

But

Isn't it all about personal connectivity?

So, how about other similar models and concepts?

Therefore, some critical but constructive viewpoints to consider before rushing on m-Learning.

Personal connectivity - different competing concepts?

E-Learning?

- onezone, OLPC, classmate, any laptop

M-Learning?

- use of mobile phones instead of laptops?

U-Learning?

Learners/teachers connected with various ways (ubiquitous learning)

Are these concept different in terms of

- problem they solve in education (access, quality, efficiency, relevance)
- learning, teaching process or content?
- Schooling, education philosophy / approach ?

or only in terms of signal and handset ?

Personal connectivity - different competing concepts? (cont..)

E-Learning?

- onezone, OLPC
classmate, any
laptop

M-Learning?

- use of mobile
phones instead of
laptops

U-Learning?

Learners/teachers
connected with
various ways
(ubiquitous learning)

Are these concepts different in terms of

- Affordability and sustainability
 - TCO ?
- Inclusiveness
 - Availability ?
- Relevance of learning outcomes
 - ICT = tool / content
- Efficiency
 - Utilization of current resources

Is there a concept or technology that integrates different technologies and approaches?

So that everybody could access the educational resources and processes with technology they may have in hand??

How about “**Flexible learning**” or “**Blended learning**”?

Or, is it difficult to sell these concepts together with a computer or a cell phone?

GeSCI approach: A Systemic view to ICT integration in education

Technical level: Hardware/ software : ICT deployment models:

- Admin / educative use ?
- Resource centre / library model?
- PC lab model / distributed model?
- Onezone, **mobile**, ubiquitous etc?

Process level: "Warmware"; what people are supposed to do? Pedagogical processes that are developed based on use of ICT.

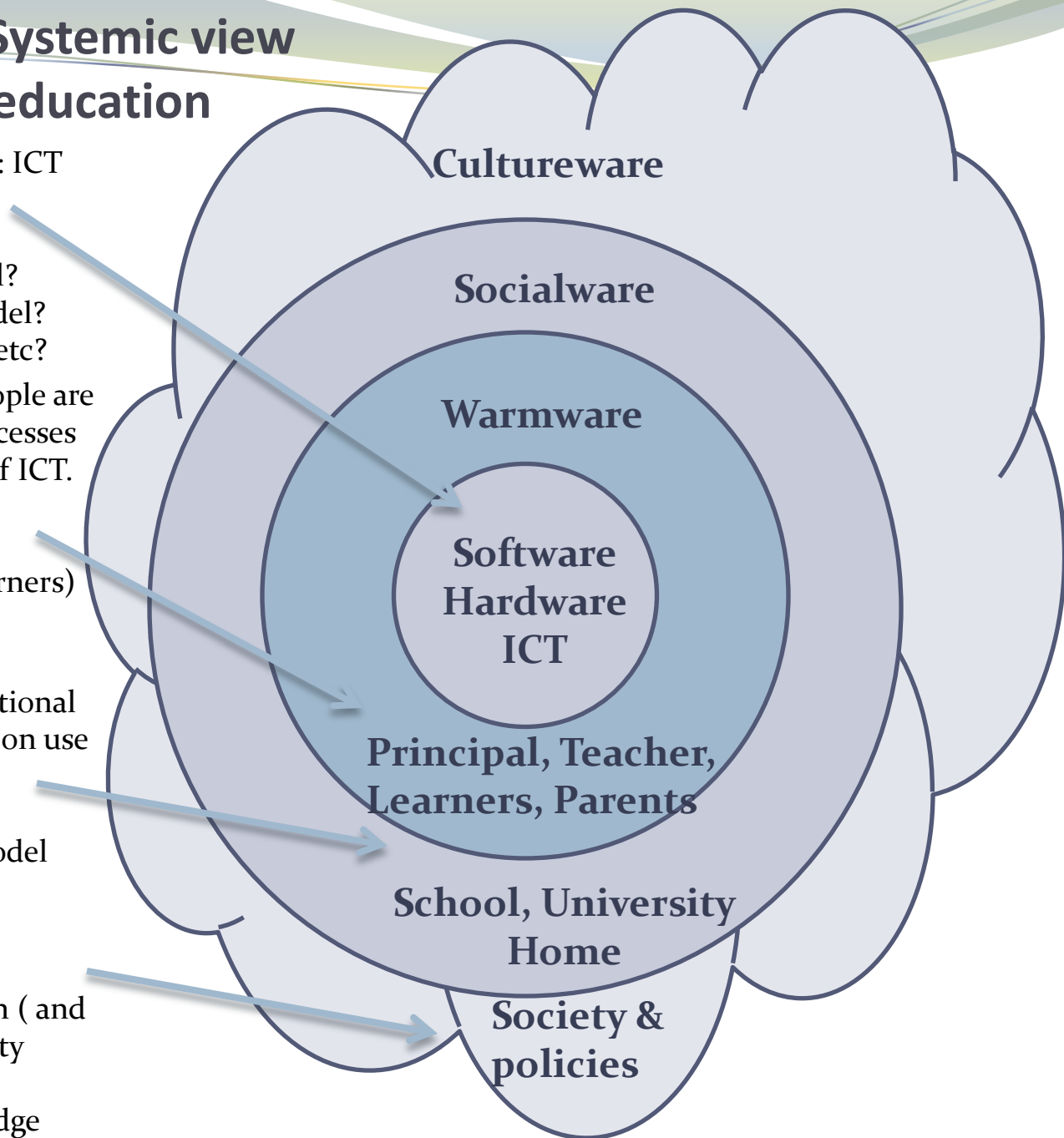
- Learning interaction (among learners)
- Teaching interaction (with learners)
- Management , monitoring, etc. processes ?

Institution level: "Socialware"; operational models that are developed based on use of ICT:

- Classroom / virtual model
- Single institution / network model
- Hybrid models
- De-schooling model

Society / policy level: "Cultureware"
Relevance of the education system (and ICT) for development of the society

- Reproduction / Innovation
- Production economy / Knowledge economy?



GeSCI



Towards Inclusive Knowledge Societies



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