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Breaking Barriers



Empowering the Poor



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A Compilation of Case Studies from Across the World

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Breaking Barriers

The Potential of Free and Open Source Software for Sustainable Human Development

A Compilation of Case Studies from Across the World

Author: Nah Soo Hoe
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ISBN: 81-312-0631-9

This is a compilation of 14 case studies on the successful deployment of free and open source software (FOSS) in select projects from Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Latin America. In each case study, the reasons for choosing to use FOSS together with the development, implementation and impact of the FOSS applications are discussed. The benefits obtained and challenges encountered, as well as any valuable lessons learned are also highlighted. This book aims to provide policy makers and development practitioners with useful insights as to why FOSS may be more suitable than proprietary software for use in information and communications technology (ICT) development, especially in poorer economies. This book comes with a DVD of *The Codebreakers* – a 40-minute version of a programme first shown on BBC World.

About the Author

Nah Soo Hoe has been in the ICT industry for over 16 years and is experienced in networking protocols, internetworking and information security issues. He participates actively in the activities of Malaysian ICT organizations, in particular the Malaysian National Computer Confederation and the Association of the Computer and Multimedia Industry of Malaysia. He has been involved in numerous events and initiatives associated with these organizations and has represented both bodies in various government committees, working groups and task forces on subject matters such as the Internet, ICT security, IT standards and FOSS, at both national and international levels.

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Empowering the Poor

Information and Communications Technology for Governance and Poverty Reduction

A Study of Rural Development Projects in India

Authors: Roger Harris and Rajesh Rajora
Foreword by: M.S. Swaminathan
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ISBN: 81-312-0629-7

As India's poverty is deepening and its information and communications technology (ICT) industry booming, there are many projects underway that are using ICT to reduce poverty and promote good governance. This book systematically analyzes 18 projects in India that use ICT for the benefit of poor people, and provides recommendations on how ICT can be applied to the massive, widespread and seemingly intractable problems of poverty. The book also ranks the projects by their relevance, service delivery, community participation and empowerment, equality in decision-making and benefits, sustainability, replicability, and their prospects for being scaled-up. The lessons learned from India's experiences can guide the nation's future directions, as well as other countries'. It is an ideal resource not only for government officers, but also development practitioners and ICT for development researchers.

About the Authors

Roger Harris is a development consultant living in Hong Kong and specializing in ICT for rural development in Asia. He has a PhD in Information Systems from the City University of Hong Kong. In 1997 he started working with rural communities in the developing world, helping them connect to the Internet and make good use of ICT for their own development needs. He was the founding editor of the *Electronic Journal on Information Systems in Developing Countries*. The Roger Harris Associates website is at <http://rogharris.org>

Rajesh Rajora is a member of the Indian Administrative Services. After completing a degree in Medical Sciences at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India, he worked as different capacities for the Indian government as Project Administrator, Chief Executive Officer of Panchayats and District Collector. He has worked towards the development of the poor and marginalized communities in India in many ways. He is also the author of the book entitled, *Bridging the Digital Divide: Gyandoot – A Journey for Digital Empowerment*.

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Exploring New Modalities

Experiences with Information and Communications Technology Interventions in the Asia-Pacific Region

A Review and Analysis of the Pan-Asia ICT R&D Grants Programme

Author: Michael Dougherty
© UNDP-APDIP, Elsevier, 2006
ISBN: 81-312-0630-0

This review and analysis is intended to explore and share the vast body of working knowledge, practical experience, and insight gained from projects implemented across the Asia-Pacific region and funded by the Pan-Asia ICT R&D Grants Programme between 2002-2005. The 56 project profiles trace the course of each project's development from the research context, target beneficiaries and outputs through its results and outcomes. The profiles are complemented by an analysis summarizing key lessons learned, common challenges faced and successful models used to implement project work and create lasting impact. This book is a useful reference not only for development practitioners and researchers working to promote information and communications technology for development (ICT4D), but also for policy makers and donor agencies supporting or planning to support ICT4D projects and programmes.

About the Author

Michael Dougherty is a communications consultant based in Bangkok, Thailand. Since 1995 he has contributed to the design and development of diverse communications products for a range of regional and global non-governmental organizations, the United Nations and private sector clients. He has an MFA (Hon) from the Massachusetts College of Art and an MA in Communications for Development from Malmö University, Sweden.

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