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   Partnership for Building the Arab Information Society
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PROPOSITIONS FOR REACHING AN
ARAB INFORMATION SOCIETY

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Presentation Outline

▸ Lebanon's actions in follow-up to WSIS Phase I

▸ Lessons learned and challenges

▸ The role of Lebanon in regional cooperation

▸ Propositions for regional projects

▸ Propositions for regional funding

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Summary of Lebanon's follow-up Actions

▶ Bridging the Digital Divide

- Increase Internet and PC penetrations
  50 /600 villages are now on-line - PC*4all* (24,000 PCs/yr)

- Lowering Internet prices
  by 30% on Dial-up, by 75% on Leased Lines since 2003

- Improving local content
  e-commerce, e-banking, e-government

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Summary of Lebanon's follow-up Actions

▶ Enabling Blocks to the Information Society

- Implementing the National e-Strategy
  Presented to the heads of state in May 2004

- Creating PPP and MSP

- Establishing the legal framework for e-transactions
  ECOMLEB (digital signature and proof, contracts on-line, consumer protection, IPR, data privacy, cyber crimes, international issues)
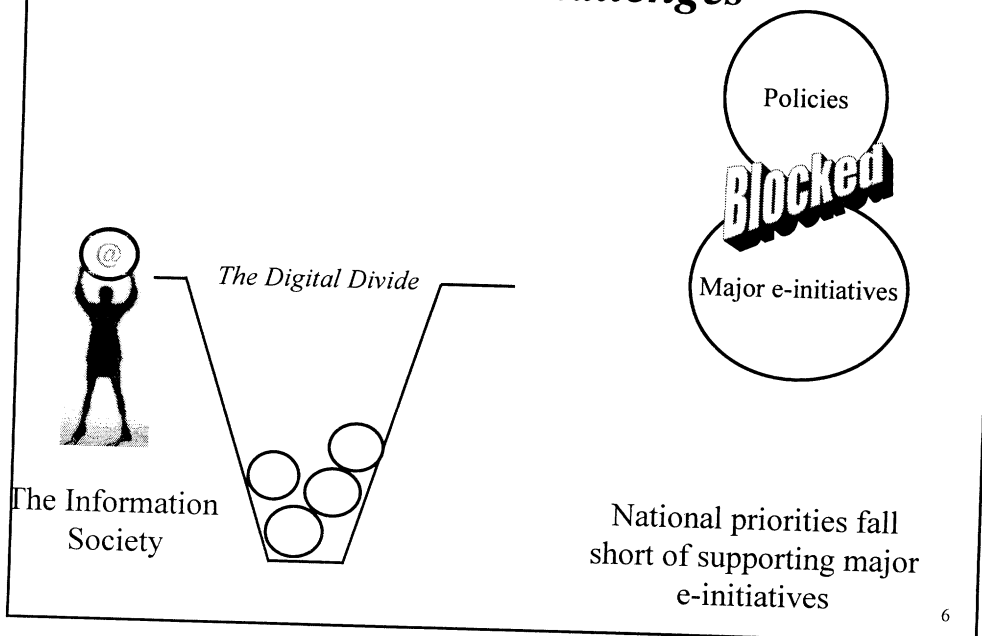
e-commerce

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Summary of Lebanon's follow-up Actions

▸ The Establishment of the National WSIS Committee

- Supported by the Ministerial ICT Committee

- Ground root – volunteer basis

- Encompassing all stakeholders from the Public, Private, NGOs, and academia

- Three working groups in support of national preparations for WSIS phase II formed – NWGIG, NWGSF & NWGL

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Lessons Learned and Challenges

Policies

Blocked

Major e-initiatives

The Digital Divide

The Information Society

National priorities fall short of supporting major e-initiatives

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Lessons Learned and Challenges

▸ Raising the National Priority Level for e-initiatives and other WSIS undertakings

▸ Agreeing on concrete sustainable developmental projects on the national level

▸ Thinking of innovative Funding channels

▸ Going beyond the digital divide and creating useful applications for all groups of society

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Regional Cooperation

▸ What Lebanon can contribute

– Multidisciplinary skills, domain experts – "communities of practice"

– Content creation – success stories to share with other Arab States

– Bridge to the Francophone and the Anglophone societies

– Rich Lebanese Diaspora network in the world and in Arab countries

– Sharing e-readiness assessment methods

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Regional Cooperation

▸ How Lebanon can benefit

  – Leapfrogging

  – To be part of a larger regional program

  – Financial support to realize national projects

  – Broadening Lebanon's e-market

  – Being a regional centre of excellence

Propositions for Regional Projects

▸ Internet NAP

▸ Arab Regional Portal
  – Regional Job opportunities
  – ICT e-training
  – Arab Diaspora Database, Forum, and Network
  – Links to government portals
  – Links to think tanks
  – Links to major newspapers
  – Links to major tourism portals

▸ Arab Regional Repository for ICT4D projects

Propositions for Regional Projects

▸ Regional ICT Research Institute
  − Security
  − Arabic content and domain names
  − Arabic language support

▸ Regional Programme for the advancement of Women in Technology
  − Scholarships to enter technology related majors
  − Job bank with emphasis on part-time and work from home opportunities

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Propositions for Regional Funding

✓ Arab ICT or Solidarity Fund backed by Arab States

✓ Regional Center for Corporate Social Responsibility

✓ ICT4D Fund financed by Regional and International donors

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Thank You

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