AfPIF 2013

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Regional Content Factor

Panel :

The Role of Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship in developing local content

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# Késako (What is) local content ?

« An expression and communication of a <u>community</u>'s locally generated, owned and adapted knowledge and experience that is <u>relevant to the community's situation</u>»

Abdul Waheed Khan

(Former Assistant Director-General for Communication and information UNESCO)

WACREN Community

- ➤ 22 countries in 2 REC = ECOWAS (15) + CEMAC (7)

- ➤ Surface Area : 9.3 mio km² & Population : 345 mio

- ➤ Registration of WACREN as not for profit association

  in August 2010 in Accra (*Initiative supported Association*

  of Africa Universities since 2007)

- ➤ 8 established National Research and Education

  Network

- ➤ Targets : HE & Research Institutes (≥ 150)

- ➤ 2.2 millions potential end-users (students and staff)
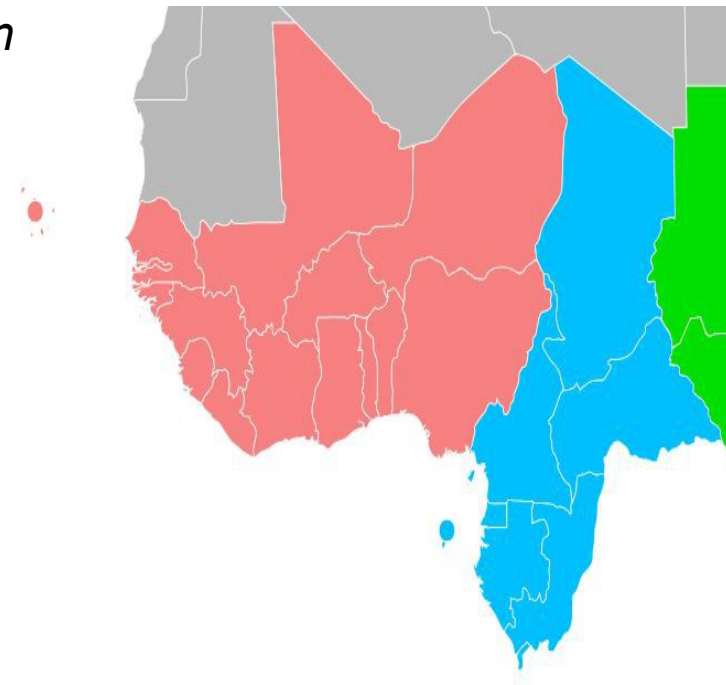
Mission and Objectives of WACREN

Mission : Build and operate a world-class network infrastructure for academic and research collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Objectives :

➔ develop knowledge and skills of the research and education community;

➔ improve research and education through collaboration between NRENs of WACREN and with their peers at continental and international levels.

➔ build up a high-quality information and telecommunication infrastructure, based on open standards using the most advanced technologies available

Which target audiences for contents produced by WACREN's researchers?

The scientific sub-community :
- Research articles + Review articles
- Communication to Congress + Colloquium + Workshop
- Monograph

The academic sub-community : Thesis, memory + Teaching work

The Professional circles : Patent of Invention (protection of the invention) + Technical Article, technical specifications, manuals

The administrative departments, policy makers : Activity Report

The general public : Newspaper article + Poster + Newsletter

The future of the "hidden" or local 'offline' contents of our NRENs?

- "Visibility" of our contents to :

    - national/regional audiences? (sure! but which %?)

    - international audiences? (perhaps?)

- What are (will be) our typical end-user online needs?
    - *Academics Contents*

        VS.

    - *Entertainment Contents (movies, music, games, social networks*

- More connected end-users in our Campus Networks!

Towards a sustainable local content development process in Africa?

• Support programs for digitizing and putting «academic and research» relevant

contents online, focusing on multilingual applications;

• Setting technical standards for incorporating local languages in ICT applications;

• Encourage NRENs to acquire, to adapt, to translate and to share contents on a

non-commercial basis (at National /Regional IXPs?);

• Foster the emergence of local/regional publishers to explore business models

able greater accessibility for HE/RI community.

Thank You

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Visit our website : www.wacren.net