



Global Digital Freedom Institute/Digital Freedom Initiative/Packet Clearing
House
Workshop report
March 22, 2007

The Global Digital Freedom Institute in partnership with Packet Clearing House and the U.S. Department of State (under the auspices of the Digital Freedom Initiative) hosted a workshop in San Francisco March 22. This workshop was designed to follow on the heels of the USTDA ICT Africa Conference, also held in San Francisco, and continue the conversations conducted at the ministerial level with ones targeting the support staff, NGO's and in-country companies who will have the task of implementing the programs and policies discussed by the ministers.

In attendance for this day long workshop were nineteen individuals representing the U.S. Government, NGO's and companies doing business in Africa. The workshop focused on the planed East Africa Regional Broadband Workshop scheduled for May 8-10th in Kigali Rwanda. The conversations centered on concrete deliverables the stake holds wanted to come out of the Kigali meetings and how best to drive the upcoming agenda to ensure the best results.

There was a thorough review of the many ICT problems associated with the region, many brought on by the lack of inexpensive connectivity (fiber). But there was plenty of discussion regarding getting the region prepared for the arrival of fiber cable from the sub fiber cable(s) planed for the region. Once the undersea fiber reached land and was built out over the region a number of policy challenges would arise and need to be address. These policy challenges were spelled out and an agreement was reached by the participants to try and assemble the best team of experts to address the delegates and staff in Kigali on how to tackle these policy objectives.