infoDev Releases Survey of ICT Use in Education at the Connect Africa Summit

Kigali, Rwanda, October 29, 2007 -- infoDev releases initial results from a landmark Survey of ICT and Education in Africa, at the Connect Africa Summit being held in Kigali, Rwanda 29-30, October 2007. The summit focuses on areas such as using ICT to empower people and to reversing the pyramid of learning by ensuring that all schools are connected to the Internet. The summit, which is organized by the ITU, the African Union, the World Bank Group and UN GAID, in partnership with the African Development Bank, the African Telecommunication Union and the UN Economic Commission for Africa, provides infoDev a platform to raise awareness on the ICT and education agenda in Africa.

The Survey seeks to gather together in a single resource the most relevant and useful information on ICT in education activities in Africa. The Summary Report from this research initiative notes that "The process of adoption and diffusion of ICT in education in Africa is in transition", finding that:

"There appears to be the beginnings of a marked shift from a decade of experimentation in the form of donor-supported, NGO-led, small-scale, pilot projects towards a new phase of systemic integration informed by national government policies and multi-stakeholder-led implementation processes," remarking that "this shift from projects to policies, and the more systematic development that that implies, would not be possible without the growing commitment to ICT in education on the part of government leaders across the continent".

While implementation varies widely throughout the continent, the report finds that "all but a handful of countries surveyed already have a national ICT policy in place or under development", concluding that a "new phase of ICT for education in Africa is occurring within national, and emerging regional, policy frameworks that are providing the basis for partnerships and donor participation." Over three hundred notable ICT in education initiatives on the continent are included in the survey.

infoDev will also release the working versions of 53 individual Country Reports developed as a result of this survey process in late 2007. These reports should be seen as “snapshots” that were current at the time they were taken during the first half of 2007. It is expected that certain facts and figures presented in some of the Country Reports may become dated very quickly; ICT use in education is at a particularly dynamic stage in Africa, and there are new developments and announcements happening on a daily basis somewhere on the continent.
For further information, see here or please see www.infodev.org/education. Please contact:

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About the ICT Education Toolkit
ICT-in-Education Toolkit provides education policy makers, planners and practitioners with a systematic process to formulate, plan and evaluate education development programs enhanced by Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). The Toolkit contains six toolboxes - a total of 19 tools - that provide interactive instruments and step-by-step guidelines which assist users with areas such as planning for physical and human requirements and ICT-enhanced content. The Toolkit contains also a Reference Handbook that summarizes worldwide knowledge, research, and experience on the effective use of ICTs for Education. More information about the ICT in Education Toolkit please visit us at http://www.ictinedtoolkit.org/usere/login.php, as well as through links on our infoDev websites.

About infoDev
InfoDev is a multi-donor programme with close ties to the global operational capacity of the World Bank, and equally strong relationships with a number of key donors. It helps the donor community and developing countries address the opportunities and challenges of ICT for development. Since its creation in 1995, infoDev has been a pioneer in promoting the innovative use of ICT as a tool for poverty reduction and sustainable development. www.infodev.org