<<September 21, 2006>>
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Edem Bakhshish, <edem.bakhshish@undp.org>

Dear E-Colleagues:

(1) Pls retrieve the following list distribution;

> **(08/23/06) Creating GUS/Altai Mir in Siberia, Russia**
> http://tinyurl.com/lt3cz

(2) I just came back from Siberia on 9/15th evening, after making a fact-finding and assessment to create GUS/Altai Mir in Novosibirsk and Altai regions — see Section V-C-1 of <http://tinyurl.com/b475v> and the following press release;

> **New Distance-Learning University Slated for Altai**
> http://tinyurl.com/mtpnq

It is said that Novosibirsk is the intellectual capital of Russia with outstanding higher educational and research institutions — during the cold war, scientists and engineers were moved from Moscow to Novosibirsk to avoid nuclear attack from the US.

We were overwhelmed with astonishing interest in our project at all levels of governments, municipalities, higher educational and healthcare institutions — our mtg was even televised by a national TV program from Moscow!!

Much of the success was thanks to Carol's initiation, excellent preparations by Marina and Linda, and of course, with the generous financial support of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Eurasia Foundation.

(3) During my stay, we decided to form the following working groups;

> (a) Infrastructure,
>
> > As mentioned in the above press release, this project has a distinctive advantage of utilizing excess capacity of already existing broadband Internet, i.e., GLORIAD, compared with other GUS projects in various developing countries in Africa and other regions, thanks to the initiation made by Greg Cole (**ATTACHMENT I**) and Prof. Fedotov.
> >
> > This GUS/Altai Mir project will then mainly focus on the extension of

the benefits using broadband Internet from the GLORIAD node in Novosibirsk to higher educational and healthcare institutions, and then, NGOs, etc., not only in Novosibirsk but also in other nearby regions, e.g., Barnaul, Gorno-Altaysk, etc.

I observed that, in general, connectivity with narrow band Internet has been accomplished. The use of broadband Internet is just beginning at a few institutions. In order to accelerate its use, it seems that they need the content development with multimedia web teaching, high quality audio, video conferencing and joint R&D with virtual reality and GRID technologies with Beowulf mini super-computer (a cluster of PCs), etc.

(b) Global e-learning,

This is on the course exchange and credit transfer, as importing courses from North America and Europe, etc.

Dear Carol:
Marina has agreed to include e-governance into this category, since it is for the training of public service personnel, as her SAPA has already been doing (but not for the deployment of information systems, such as drivers' license system, etc.)

(c) Global e-healthcare/telemedicine,

Similar to the above, but initially for Continuing Medical Education (CME).

Also, extending medical care from Novosibirsk to remote/rural area in nearby Siberian regions.

(d) Community development,

How universities can play leading role for their community development, since the university ought to be the flagship of knowledge society, particularly for NGOs in their community as extending the broadband Internet for their use.

For example, the Municipal Cultural Center Siberia-Hokkaido may be able to conduct daily high definition videoconferencing with its counter-part in Hokkaido in Japan — according to Prof. Fedotov, Japan will be a member of GLOLRIAD from next year.

The Project 3000 may also conduct mega-videoconferencing with its counterparts around the world without much cost.

(e) Globally collaborative joint R&D

This is firstly to construct the Globally Distributed Socio-Economic-Environmental Simulation System depicted in the figure mentioned in the following paper;

"**Globally Collaborative Innovation Network with Global University System**"
http://tinyurl.com/fuwg6

(4) The following is my proposed direction on the Infrastructure Working Group.

Prof. Fedotov kindly suggested Marina that her SAPA should become one of GLORIAD members.

As I mentioned to Marina, not only the SAPA in Novosibirsk, but also its offices in nearby Siberian regions should be treated as same.

Also, as the SAPA being the secretariat of the GUS/Altai Mir, all of the affiliated higher educational and healthcare institutions and NGOs should also have the same benefit of the GLORIAD as the SAPA member offices in nearby regions.

Dear Marina:

(5) You may then consider to make your SAPA office in Novosibirsk connected to the GLORIAD with an initial one-time payment of the US$20,000 GLORIAD membership.

You would need a 300 meter optical fiber line, for which you may also need to have the right-of-way permissions to lay it down along streets — I suppose your SAPA office can handle such bureaucratic maneuvering.

Since Alexander's Novosibirsk State Medical Academy has already been a GLORIAD member, you may ask him the procedures with 155 Mbps connection.

You may also ask help of Vitaly Nikultsev for technical details on the connection of optical fiber line to your SAPA office.

> You will then be able to be freed from accessing Internet at 56 Kbps, and to have outstanding videoconferencing system as Vitaly's office with a large projection screen and a beautiful Polycom high definition screen — or at the Alexander's conference room with less expensive system. With such videoconferencing system, you can communicate with your SAPA regional offices easily, which will also help your SAPA's distance education program for your students in various nearby regional towns and cities. It will be more than the current procedures with hard-copy textbook and manuals and multimedia CD-ROM.

(6) You may then lay down optical fiber network around your SAPA offices in Novosibirsk — as similar to an elementary school we visited in Gorno-Altay which has done with an intranet of coaxial cable at 10 Mbps.

You may then install WiFi base stations in various rooms so that students can access Internet via wireless approach — you may ask help to Dr. Leonid K. Bobrov of Novosibirsk State University of Economics and Management who showed me his installation of the same in his university — I suppose that, as far as its use within an educational campus, you would not need to obtain a license on the frequency use.

> This will proliferate the use of inexpensive laptop (**ATTACHMENT II**) among your students — which I did not see at your SAPA -- Pls see;
>
> **(06/23/06) Inexpensive laptop and example of deployment of broadband wireless Internet in India and Ghana**
> http://tinyurl.com/hudcf
>
> BTW, I also did not see the use of flat screen, let alone the second screen.

(7) Once you accomplish the above in your SAPA office in Novosibirsk, you may then do the same to your SAPA regional offices through the already existing optical fiber lines emanating from Novosibirsk to various nearby towns, e.g., Barnaul, etc.

You may also consider to deploy the so-called WiFi Cloud as covering entire city with installations of small antennas at every city blocks — see attached file <WiFi Cloud copy.pdf> and <http://makeashorterlink.com/?A540121DD> — as similar to New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Chicago, Taipei of Taiwan, etc. -- though you may need to obtain its frequency allocation license.

(8) You may then start considering to connect GUS/Altai Mir affiliating member institutions as same as the SAPA regional offices.

(9) Pls construct a concept paper (say, 4 to 5 pages) along the above lines, and submit to Edem of the UNDP (**ATTACHMENT III** and **IV**) from your SAPA -- pls send me its first draft to work together.

A rough budget (which will accompany with the concept paper) may indicate only the step of the Item (5) above — Items (6) to (8) are to be done with the Japanese ODA, though we would, of course, certainly welcome further involvement of UNDP.

I think that this sub-project would be suitable for the UNDP funding.

> **Dear Carol:**
> Thanks for your exploring this funding source.
> When you will be in Novosibirsk in October, pls work on the concept paper with Marina.
>
> Pls also revise your report draft to the Eurasia Foundation accordingly.

(10) Marina: I shall wait for your summary for our report to the Eurasia Foundation — pls also send me the photos you took after Carol left.

Keep in touch.

Best, Tak

ATTACHMENT I

> **From:** Greg Cole <gcole@gloriad.org>
> **Date:** Wed, 19 Apr 2006 09:47:18 -0400
> **To:** "Takeshi Utsumi, Ph.D." <utsumi@columbia.edu>
> **Cc:** Natasha Bulashova <natasha@gloriad.org>
> **Subject:** Re: Inquiry
>
> Tak, there is very good connectivity (GLORIAD has 155 Mbps across all
> of Russia currently - this will be upgraded this year - at least to 622 Mbps
> and perhaps to 2.5 Gbps) to the Novosibirsk universities
> via GLORIAD today (we see huge traffic flows to/from Novosibirsk today).
> Should be plenty sufficient for video-conferencing assuming the end
> point networks (i.e., local networks) are sufficiently provisioned
> (and not overloaded with local traffic). Thanks, Greg

ATTACHMENT II

BusinessWeek
June 12, 2006

In Search Of A PC For The People

The race is on to serve "the next billion" in emerging markets. Whose low-cost model will win?

In Silicon Valley, "the next billion" is shorthand for the vast potential market in the developing world, where few people have access to PCs. For Mark J. Beckford, it's almost an obsession. The 39-year-old Intel Corp. (**INTC**) general manager has spent most of the past decade trying to create computers for that next billion. From his office in Shanghai, he oversees a team of about two dozen engineers in China, Brazil, Egypt, and India, all designing PCs suited to the needs and wallets of customers in emerging markets. "The next billion isn't going to come by pushing the same things," he says. "It requires new levels of affordability, access methods, ease of use, connectivity, and power."

These days lots of companies are trying to serve that same billion. Intel's biggest rival, Advanced Micro Devices Inc. (**AMD**), is working on various possibilities, including a PC in India that sells for about $200. Taiwan's VIA Technologies Inc., the world's No. 3 designer of microprocessors, has launched a business group focusing on low-cost computers for emerging markets. Microsoft Corp. (**MSFT**) in late May introduced a low-cost solution. And Nicholas Negroponte, a professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is leading a group called One Laptop Per Child, which aims to produce a machine for $140 or so by yearend, and as little as $50 by 2010. "I think of digital access for kids as a human right," Negroponte said in an e-mail interview.

But as they target emerging markets, the world's info-tech powers are grappling with a host of difficult issues. How do you design a PC that's affordable to almost anyone? What traditional features do you ditch to do that? Will users in developing countries be satisfied with these computers, or will they resent the idea of getting dumbed-down machines? Do they want global brands, or are they happy to accept no-name alternatives?

LEANER AND GREENER

Just about everybody agrees selling computers in the developing world is more complex than simply adding Mandarin, Hindi, or Arabic software to existing PCs. In many places, PCs must withstand desert heat and sand -- and cope with frequent electricity outages. That requires more rugged designs that are also energy-efficient. "In emerging markets we see a huge appetite for PCs," says Richard Brown, a VIA vice-president who heads the new PC-1 business unit, set up early this year to sell computers in developing countries. "But they need to be smaller, cooler, quieter, and greener."

Microsoft, meanwhile, has come up not with computers, but with an innovative way to finance them. On May 22, the software giant announced FlexGo, software that keeps machines from working until users type in a number from a pre-paid card. The idea is that consumers in developing countries, who might not be able to shell out $500 or more in one go, can afford perhaps half the cost of a PC up front, then pay for the actual hours they use the machine via the cards. After a certain number of hours -- and payments -- the computer becomes the property of the consumer. In the developing world, computers are "simply out of reach for people who would like a PC in the home," says Will Poole, senior vice-president of Microsoft's Market Expansion Group. "What do we do to change the equation?"

Most companies are seeking to solve that equation through innovative design. For instance, Intel in March launched its "Community PC," targeted at Indian villages where those who can't afford computers of their own share a common machine. The Community PC, which costs about $550, has a filter to keep out dust, can run on a car battery when blackouts occur, and is equipped with a one-button "recover" feature in case of crashes. Also in March, Intel introduced a $250 to $350 miniaturized desktop computer (with the clunky name of Low Cost Full Featured PC); Mexican officials have ordered 400,000 for delivery by November. And the company in May revealed a prototype of a new notebook called the ClassMate PC that carries a price tag below $400.

Designing machines for developing countries can be taxing for engineers accustomed to building PCs from off-the-shelf, commodity parts. "Before, it was just cut and paste, follow the guidelines," says Kent Geeng, president of iDot Computers Inc., which designs VIA's low-cost PCs. To reach the target price of $230, his engineers had to start from scratch. "A cost-effective machine is much more difficult than doing the high end," says Geeng. "It's like building a Nissan to drive at the same speed as a Porsche."

That's just what bothers some critics, who don't believe people in poor countries need to compute at Autobahn speeds. Stephen Dukker, who founded low-cost computing pioneer eMachines Inc. in 1998, now runs Seoul-based Ncomputing Ltd. His goal is to sell not PCs but "thin clients," diskless machines that work only if connected to a server. Since a single PC can run 10 of these devices, schools and libraries in impoverished areas could get computers in front of many more people far more cheaply than by buying actual PCs for everyone. Dukker's device -- little more than a chip surrounded by plastic -- costs just $70 or so. "Why are we trying to force people to use a computing technology that's not appropriate for them?" says Dukker.

PC alternatives, though, don't have a great track record. Oracle Corp. (**ORCL**) and Sun Microsystems Inc. (**SUNW**

) tried to push thin clients in the late 1990s, without much success. Negroponte has attracted a lot of attention, but skeptics say that children -- and their parents -- may not really want a machine that cheap. "You have a low-cost device, but it's very limited," says Beckford's colleague, Intel Vice-President Bill M. Siu.

The real demand, says Microsoft's Poole, is for "a solid, midrange PC." With so many companies targeting emerging markets, there's a lot riding on the right answer.

ATTACHMENT III

On 9/10/06 3:45 PM, "Edem Bakhshish" <edem.bakhshish@undp.org> wrote:

> From: Edem Bakhshish <edem.bakhshish@undp.org>
> Date: Sun, 10 Sep 2006 23:45:58 +0400
> To: <carol@altaibooks.com>, "Takeshi Utsumi, Ph.D." <utsumi@columbia.edu>
> Conversation: GUS/Altai Mir in motion
> Subject: HA: GUS/Altai Mir in motion
>
> Dear Carol,
>
> Thank you for your message. Please take your time. As was discussed, we do not
> need a detailed project proposal, but rather a concept with budget in order to
> make the decision on whether UNDP could be part of the process and to what
> extent.
>
> The detailed proposal is normally required later, when the preliminary
> decision is made.
> Looking forward to hearing from you.
>
> Warm regards,
> Edem
>
> _____
>
> От: Carol Hiltner [mailto:carol.hiltner@gmail.com]
> Отправлено: Вс, 10.09.2006 23:03
> Кому: Edem Bakhshish; Takeshi Utsumi, Ph.D.
> Тема: GUS/Altai Mir in motion
>
>
> Dear Edem,
> Putting together a concrete proposal for you remains at the top of my
> priorities. Exactly how to formulate the proposal has been shifting as we have
> received more input, so I haven't had answers. Our meetings in Siberia were
> extremely well received, but the travel schedule was also extreme. Since
> leaving Moscow September 2nd, I've had only one brief moment on e-mail until
> now, so I apologize for the delay. I am back in Moscow for a few hours, and
> then flying back to the US.

ATTACHMENT IV

From: Edem Bakhshish <edem.bakhshish@undp.org>
Date: Fri, 25 Aug 2006 17:15:19 +0400
To: <carol@altaibooks.com>
Cc: <utsumi@columbia.edu>, Ercan Murat <ercan.murat@undp.org>, Kaarina Immonen <kaarina.immonen@undp.org>, Vera Sorokovaya

<vera.sorokovaya@undp.org>
Conversation: Global University System (GUS)/Altai Mir distance-learning university
Subject: RE: Global University System (GUS)/Altai Mir distance-learning university

Dear Carol,

Thank you very much for your visit. The idea that you have shared is very interesting. As was discussed, given we have a realistic project budget and clarify the assumption on launching the 'big' project you were talking about with the Japanese ODA funds, there is a possibility for us to step in this promising and important partnership.

I must say, it would be important to involve the regional Government of Altai as well as the federal Ministry of Education as well as relevant federal-level institutions to ensure national ownership over the envisaged project results. I can also say that the Moscow State University might be interested and supportive of this idea, too. We are currently running a project with them, aimed at integrating the human development doctrine in the graduate-level education. In particular, we help them to develop a Human Development exercise book, and organize training for trainers from other Russian Universities.

The chapter 2 of National Human Development report 2005 that I shared with you, outlines the situation in the Russia's educational system, which might also be useful for your project.

I am also copying this message to Mr. Utsumi as you referred to his personal involvement in this project.

Warm regards,
Edem

Edem Bakhshish,
Assistant Resident Representative
Head of Governance Unit
Tel.: + 7 495 7872164
Fax: + 7 495 7872101

From: Carol Hiltner [mailto:carol.hiltner@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, August 25, 2006 12:24 AM
To: Edem Bakhshish
Subject: Global University System (GUS)/Altai Mir distance-learning university

Dear Mr. Bakhshish

Thank you for taking my phone call this afternoon. I look forward to meeting with you tomorrow (Friday) at about 3pm at your office. I appreciate your interest in GUS/Altai Mir.

This project is an extremely cost-effective model, building collaboratively on existing programs and infrastructure, for empowering rural communities to address crucial health, education, and civil society-building, and economic issues, according to their own needs and priorities, but with global resources.

The text below is a "cut to the chase" description of our end-product. Also, I attach:

1) (current) Phase B funding proposal summary

2) full project proposal

3) a recent press release (with graphic in a separate file)

We look forward to the day that GUS/Altai Mir becomes a flagship project of UNDP!

Best regards,

Carol Hiltner
Initiator, GUS/Altai Mir
Director, Altai Peace International
Moscow cell: 0117-916-116-1040

Challenge: Altai Republic needs economic development and health services, but citizens must be involved in charting the course both for this development and for the addressing of their social, economic and public health priorities . There is currently no effective mechanism for citizen involvement, neither cultural nor technological.

Rural communities are isolated in a variety of ways: 1) lack of infrastructure which prevents farmers and producers from marketing goods, 2) lack of land laws that would protect their interests and 3) (most importantly) lack of mechanisms which support inclusion of the voices of ordinary people in decision-making. An example of this is the increase of tourism which is initiated and funded from outside, and other major projects with no consideration to local needs and priorities.

Even national healthcare projects and health policy do not consider specific needs of populations in Altai Republic (for instance, mobile diagnostic centers are needed for remote villages.) Health needs of the Altai Region can be outlined separately, but the isolation of these rural communities also defines their health status (including: lack of health education and communication, economic differences, lack of road infrastructure, lack of mechanisms which support physical assessment on individual or demographic basis, and lack of access to basic health services.)

Current Program (SAPA): "Overcoming the Distance Between Local Administration and Citizens in Russian Federation" MATRA Project, funded by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands, via VNG International. This ground-breaking project has completed first phase of a municipal information network within Siberia, (five pilot municipalities where information centers were established). They also assisted in establishing the Association of Municipalities of Novosibirsk Region. However, the scope of the project is limited to this region of Siberia.

A corresponding association has been initiated by citizens in Altai Republic, but they cannot effectively proceed because of lack of communication infrastructure or even viable roads. Far-flung rural settlements generally have no phone service except in district centers, and include a mix of indigenous and Russian peoples with great social and economic differences, and critical issues of health and poverty.

On the technology side, cost-effective wireless extensions can provide connectivity in remote rural villages. GLORIAD broadband internet network, linking universities in key cities in the US, China, Russia (Novosibirsk, Moscow), and the Netherlands, has ample excess capacity to link GUS/Altai Mir to the world.

Examples of end-product systems of GUS/Altai Mir:

Citizen Education and Participation: Local website, video and radio content in Russian (eventually, it must also be in English (including English language instruction) to facilitate access to global resources.

Priority is to strengthen a structure and vocabulary (with common frame of reference) which bridges indigenous people with Russian populations, offers trainings for indigenous groups including opportunities for viewing and responding to municipal council meetings.

- *"one stop shopping":* citizens are able to go municipalities and to use computer (touch screen) to click to most basic questions, with ability to print out brochure which answers these questions. Most common questions have been identified during feasibility study. If other or further queries are necessary, citizen is assisted to write email entry and response is sent back, tailored to need. GUS/Altai Mir will develop satellite kiosks at village level which link to common server.

- *municipal multimedia:* citizens can watch municipal council meetings at info hubs, include video clips. Info center computer has corresponding website with citizen feedback loop on topics as discussed: Allows citizens to respond with opinion via email or yes/no to inform decision makers (project potential: to include interesting supportive video clips, graphic

information and media link for inclusion of content on local radio. include weblinks to international resources for information reference. Cooperate with university with local task force advisory teams.

- *fast track trainings:* 1) existing professional distance learning network will be strengthened with new equipment and satellite technologies. 2) school-based distance learning via WorldSpace satellite radio with teleconferencing and email discussion between settlements.

- *employment opportunities:* data base with available jobs, linked to existing or GUS/Altai Mir occupational training programs.

- *community planning for social-economic development:* citizen input re tourism (other) ideas and strategies.

- *public education:* citizen input factored in to local radio "Q & A" weekly productions. Emails are ready "on the air" along thematic lines with radio host responding from a variety of information sources.

- *A university server and integrated data management program* supports thematic discussion between settlements, models data from citizen feedback loop to graphic format when possible, utilizing graphics, audio clips, links to expert information.

Community Health

- *"teledoc" touch screen:* computer with website featuring basic health information and most common health questions with medical response to be printed out. Second tier medical screening questionnaire is available to help identify patient's need for further medical screening. Self blood pressure machine, scale anchored next to computer.

- *healthworker trainings:* at community level, refresher and ongoing education for health workers.

- *health transport* satellite dispatch

- *university/community research* utilizing above technologies, to identify public health priorities with transfer of international "best practices" where possible.

- *advanced medical training* for rural physicians and nurses, increasing the reach of the university

Why GUS/Altai Mir?

- Takeshi Utsumi has spent 40 years developing a massive, high-level funding program (Japan ODA) and appropriate high-level infrastructure systems (GLORIAD) to enable truly global, broad-band communication; and the last 10 years creating **Global University System** to implement this program.

- Linda Hawkin Israel has spent the last 20 years working on complementary infrastructure systems at the grass-roots level with **MAMAS** . Together, they have developed all the necessary systems to actually "bridge the digital divide."

- With the **SAPA** program, Marina Tyasto has implemented a limited local model that works.

- The **Altai Republic**, with a crucial combination of good leadership, a ready citizenry, and huge need, is a model beneficiary.

- **Civil society-building** and **health** were chosen as the two initial uses for the infrastructure, because they are critical to even the establishment of the program. Once the infrastructure and systems are in place, additional sectors will be able to rapidly piggy-back.

- Carol Hiltner's organization, **Altai Peace International**, brought together all these resources, each of which has a necessary piece of a "whole" solution, under the aegis of **GUS/Altai Mir**.

The implementation funding is only available only after Japan ODA accepts the proposal.

Funding from Eurasia and others is the only way to get that proposal written. This GUS/Altai Mir planning mission is the necessary next step.

List of Distribution

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update.pdf
or
http://makeashorterlink.com/?B3BD61B1B
http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2004/01/040102092834.htm
http://usinfo.state.gov/eap/Archive/2005/Apr/15-476539.html -- about GLORIAD

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