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the wireless roadshow

The Wireless Roadshow **offers**
assistance in the design, planning and deployment of wireless networks in developing countries.

The Wireless Roadshow Team
brings a wide range of expertises,
ranging from business models for financial sustainability, over radio frequency skills and extensive experience with network management and Open Source software.

The wireless roadshow is funded by
The Open Society Institute, http://www.soros.org

who is it for?

The target group is

non-profit organisations (NGOs) and civil society initiatives with a well-defined need for connectivity.

We are open to working in many different constellations, including both technical and non-technical NGOs, health sector or educational institutions, or private sector companies wanting to extend service to the NGO sector.

how does it work?

The Wireless Roadshow Team
will consist of **2-3 wireless experts from community wireless groups** around the world. We will **visit each country/project for up to 3 weeks**, in which we will work with our local partner organisations on a series of workshops, hands-on trainings and discussions.

Together we will **teach, learn, help, build** and leave behind some demonstration network modules. The goal is to create and stimulate enough skills and ideas to **let the local partner organisations continue to extend** and maintain the network.

it is ...

seeds - not trees!

An in-depth article on the wireless roadshow published on i4donline:

http://i4donline.net/issue/april04/roadshow_full.htm

what?

Please see appendix slides for examples of scenarios and curricula -

The exact activities in each country are determined by the needs of the local organisations.

when?

We are now announcing the following available dates for workshops:

Round 1: June - August 2005
Application Deadline: March 31st, 2005

Round 2: October - December 2005
Application Deadline: June 30th, 2005

Round 3: February - April 2006
Application Deadline: October 31, 2005

we want to get/stay in touch with you ...

... if you are interested in organizing a workshop in your region

... *especially* if you can bring together several organizations and sectors

... *especially* if you have the will and ability to maintain initiative and spread the word

get/stay in touch!

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appendix: scenarios

Scenario 1: Rural Town Networking
A number of non-profits, schools and/or clinics in a rural town are in need of connectivity solutions. By sharing the monthly costs of a VSAT connection, and using a local wireless network to distribute connectivity amongst the organisations, each organisation gets a financially viable connection to the Internet.

Scenario 2: Urban Networking
Certain areas of a major city are not considered to be profitable by the dominant telecommunication company, and hence have no connectivity. By using low-cost wireless equipment and home-built antennas, schools and health clinics in these areas can be connected to those in areas that are served by the telco.

Scenario 3: Point-to-Point networking
A village is within 30 Km of a town or other village that has an Internet Connection. By using low-cost wireless equipment these towns and villages can be connected to each other using a Point-to-Point link. Local phone calls and connections between the towns/villages will be free, and the village can pay to share the towns Internet connection.

Scenario 4: Local Area Network
A number of schools or organisations in a rural area want to tighten their collaboration, exchanging experiences and sharing materials. However the cost of Internet connectivity in the entire area is prohibitive. A local area network, even without a Internet link, can be a valuable addition to such cooperation. Legal situation permitting, free local voice calls can be made between the villages, and computer based content can be exchanged.

appendix: example training modules

The Linux Operating System: Linux Networking, Linux Servers, Linux Security, Thin Clients

Free Software & Networking Philosophy, Ideas and Economic advantages.

Mesh Networking: Introduction to Mesh Networking, Mesh Implementations, Mesh protocols

Long-distance Point-to-Point links: Radio Link Calculation & Performance Tuning, Dedicated equipment.

Antennas: Antenna Basics & Do-It-Yourself Antenna Building

Hardware Lab: Using Refurbished Computers, Low energy client computers, Outdoor equipment

Renewable Energy: Solar, Wind, (Micro) Hydro, Human

ISP basics: Authentication, Encryption , Billing, QoS

Voice-over-IP: Asterisk server setup, VoIP softphones & hardware

Policy and Legal issues: Advocacy & Stealth approaches

Community Building: Community Leadership, Maintaining Community ,Community Sustainability