MINISTERE DE L'EDUCATION NATIONALE ET DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT TECHNIQUE

REPUBLIQUE DE COTE D'IVOIRE

ICT INTEGRATION INTO EDUCATION

POLICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

In 2012, this is how Cote d'Ivoire and its education system were:

- A Country coming out of 10 years of war, distrust and instability
- Very little investment in Education during past 10 years
- Schools destroyed and equipments stolen
- Low Academic achievements because of interruptions of the school years
- Overcrowded schools
- Lack of teachers and demotivated teachers
- Lack of ethics and morality in the schools
- In other words, an education system is a bad state

POLICAL VISION

The vision of the current government is to close this huge gap and take a leap forward. To achieve that, the government had decided to reform the system and allocate a huge chuck of its budget and efforts to it.

- More than 15,500 primary school teachers were hired
- More than 7,000 secondary school teachers were hired
- Rehabiliated thousands of schools and built hundreds of new classes
- Re-instated the uniform and restored discipline and order
- It made education free for all children
- More than 50 Billions CFA additional monies were invested into education
- It took the bold step of making the integration of ICT into the system a top priority

GOVERNMENT ICT POLICIES

The broad Government ICT policies were put together by the Ministry of ICT in collaboration with the other Ministries, the Private sector and NGOs.

A new Telecom Code was signed into Law:

- It created the eGouv Project with spin-offs Sectorial programs such as eEducation
- These programs are entities of ANSUT (the Universal Acces Funds)
- ANSUT was restructured to fit into the new vision and became fully operational only three months ago
- ANSUT was tasked by the Government to finance ICT projects such eEducation, eHealth, eAgriculture, etc
- A Decree was signed into Law to make ICT the 14th Subject Matter in the School System



SOME NUMBERS ON THE MINISTRY

Le Ministère de l'Education Nationale et de l'Enseignement Technique est structuré de la façon suivante :

- One (1) Cabinet
- Twelve (12) Services rattachés,
- One (1) Secrétariat Général,
- Nine (9) Directions centrales,
- Thirty Six (36) Regional Departments and (5) Departemenatl Offices
- Hundred and Eighty-six (186)Primary Education Inspections Inspections
- Forteen (14) Teacher Training Schools
- Fifteen Thousand (15.000) schools
- More than 90.000 employees with more than 70.000 active teachers
- More than four millions (4.000.000) students

WHAT DOES INTEGRATING ICT INTO SUCH A MASSIVE AND COMPLEXE SYSTEM MEAN?

- Computerizing all the administrative offices (Cabinet, Central and Regional Departments, Primary, Junior and High Schools)
- Integrating ICT into Pedagogy and Training
- Teaching ICT Skills to all students no matter what their future areas of work might be

WHAT DOES COMPUTERIZING THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES MEAN?

- Cabling the offices and bringing 3G or high-speed Internet Access and WIFI connectivity to them
- Bringing Professional Email and other productivity tools such as Web
 presence and video conferencing to them
- Providing them with Student/School Management Solutions to them
- Providing Datawarehousing, Better Statistics and BI Capabilities to decision makers

WHAT DOES INTEGRATING ICT INTO PEDAGOGY AND TRAINING MEAN?

- Providing digital multimedia books and tools
- Building computer labs with interactive classroom solutions using digital multimedia contents with the goal of enhancing teacher and student experiences
- Providing students the ability to study anywhere and anytime
- Providing teachers 21st century teaching skills
- Providing students 21st century learning environment
- Providing teachers on-the-spot student evaluation possibilities
- Giving every student and teacher the opportunity to enter into the digital age

WHAT DOES TEACHING ICT SKILLS MEAN?

- Providing every school children the necessary ICT skills they need to enter into the digital age no matter what their career choices may be in the future
- Giving every school children the opportunity to touch and feel technology, use it on a daily basis for their classes and projects
- Bridging the digital gap between rich and poor, city students and country-side students

CURRENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- A strategic ICT Integration into Education Plan has been put together
- A pilot program in 30 education facilities in in progress
- A Second Pilot of 100 facilities is in the works
- Private partners such as MTN, Haier and Samsung have equipped more than 50 schools
- The National Fiber Optic Backbone construction is ongoing
- Internet Access and professional emails have been provided to some administrative offices
- The Ministry and some departments have web sites

CURRENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Student School signed process is now done online, thus reducing corruption and thefts and school to start ontime in September
- Every department is trying to develop its own database and system
- Some schools are paying for their own Internet connections
- IFADEM- Distance Training for Primary School Teachers is ongoing
- CFIT-UNESCO- Secondary Teacher Distance Taring is ongoing
- The Minister and most of the Directors today have their tablets and communicate by email

CHALLENGES

- Teacher and administrative staff training on ICT lagging behind thus affecting the adoption of the project by those stakeholders
- Community involvement not included enough in the process
- RFP process too long and ineffective
- Lack of desire of the department heads to give up their control over their silos and thus impeding the ability to standardize, consolidate, share and make informed decisions
- Lack of discipline in the management of ICT resources
- Energy issues in remore areas
- Budget issues

CHALLENGES

- Collaboration issues with the Ministry of ICT and the other education Ministries
- Lack of content issues

OPPORTUNITIES

- Opportunity to take a leap and close the huge gap created by the war
- Opportunity to standardize, consolidate and provide reliable data and statistics for timely and informed decision making
- Opportunity to minimize the effects of the lack of teachers and overcrowding of schools by providing access to digitized educational contents online
- Provide world-class skills to our students and prepare them for competition on the world stage, in the new economy
- Turned the polical will into concrete results