July 2013 Update

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Brief Update on Activities

Recruitment

- The search for A4AI Executive Director resulted in the successful hiring of Sonia Jorge, who officially started on July 1, 2013.

- The A4AI team expects to make an appointment for the Policy Manager position very soon and efforts are under way to recruit a membership coordinator.

- A Project Accountant was hired in mid-June (Wendell Pierre).

- Our Senior Communications Advisor was hired in the second quarter (Dillon Mann).

- A4AI shares research staff with the Web Foundation other programs, especially the Web Index.

- Positions will be open until filled successfully. We urge members to disseminate the job descriptions available on A4AI.org

Brief Update on Activities

Membership and Stakeholder Engagement

- We are delighted to welcome new members, including a new donor to A4AI and an African based service provider:
    - Ford Foundation (www.fordfoundation.org)
    - Main One Cable (www.mainonecable.com)

- The team is working to continue to expand A4AI's membership and financial support base. New contributions were received and confirmed from new members.

- Priority is on diversifying the membership base, with especial focus on service providers and on South based organizations across constituencies. Discussions are under way with several potential partners and we expect several to join as members as a result of these outreach efforts.

- The Web Foundation staff and the A4AI Executive Director have participated in a number of key events to promote the Alliance and gather interest among prospective members and potencial focus countries' representatives. These events included the Wilton Park conference in Geneva, the Stockholm Internet Forum, the World Economic Forum Africa, and the ITU Global Symposium for Regulators.

Brief Update on Activities

Launch plans

- The official launch of A4AI is now confirmed to take place at the CTO Forum, in Abuja, Nigeria, October 7-8, 2013. The A4AI team is working closely with the CTO team on the event plans, which will feature keynote addresses on the opening day and a session with two panels dedicated to policy advocacy and research on affordability issues. A4AI is delighted to have this opportunity and we are thankful to the CTO team for their support.

- The team is also planning a pre-launch member-focused event, to take place on September 20, 2013, after the Broadband Commission's Working Group on Gender Meeting in NYC.

- We expect to engage with and count on the participation of several members for both events, especially for the launch in Nigeria.

Brief Update on Activities

Affordability Report

- An advisory group was formed and provided input on the structure and production of the "Affordability Report". Indicators covering most of the best practices were finalized and integrated into the Web Index survey, currently under way. Secondary data series were selected and analysis will be conducted during the third quarter.

- Coordinated with the Web Index team, research and analysis work is underway and includes the following key elements:
    - Surveys conducted by Global Integrity in 80 countries, with survey questions on Affordability aligned with best practices document
    - Secondary data has been selected and and modeling will commence in August

- The A4AI team is working to develop an innovative concept to assess the several dimensions affecting affordability levels across geographies.

- We expect to launch the Affordability Report in Q4 during the ICTD 2013 conference to take place in Cape Town , South Africa. We would like to have as much membership engagement as possible at this event and will count on the support of members sponsoring the event.

Brief Update on Activities

Country Selection

- Based on a selection criteria and input from members, an initial list of countries was developed. This selection reflects a review of current policy and regulatory frameworks, broadband prices, potential local partners, political interest, level of development in the sector. Further research is required to finalize this list, which will also benefit from the input of Advisory Council members.

- The A4AI team will share the background analysis with the Advisory Council to facilitate input in the process.

Africa:	Asia:	Latin America
• Nigeria • Uganda • Cameroon • Mozambique • Tanzania • Ghana • Sierra Leone • Liberia or Gambia • South Sudan	• Burma • Indonesia • Lao P.D.R. • Vietnam or Philippines	• Peru • Costa Rica or Guatemala

Brief Update on Activities

Governance

- The A4AI Advisory Council was elected at the end of June, after nominations were submitted by members and elections conducted with the private sector members. The new Advisory Council has replaced the Transition Committee and it had its first meeting July 2013.

- The Terms of Reference for the Advisory Council were discussed in the meeting and members have provided feedback and suggestions on several items. These are being compiled into a revised draft that will be circulated soon for final review and approval by the Council.

- The first face to face meeting of the Council is tentatively scheduled for October 6, 2013, in Abuja, Nigeria, immediately before the offical launch.

- We acknowledge and thank the Transition Committee members (representatives of all major donors) for their dedication, advise and diligent support throughout the past 9 months.

For any questions, please contact:

Sonia Jorge, Executive Director
sonia@webfoundation.org

WWW.A4AI.ORG