

Brief overview of conference and areas of agreement

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Victor Lawrence from the Stevens Institute of Technology welcomed us on behalf of his university.

P. Tapio Varis, Ph.D., Professor, Acting President, Global University System, UNESCO Chair in Global e-Learning with applications to multiple domains spoke on ICT and the culture of Peace.

Hans Herren, President of the Millennium Institute spoke on Systems Dynamic Modeling.

Victor Lawrence from the Stevens Institute of Technology spoke on ACE BB infrastructure and what it provides.

Dr. Takeshi Utsumi, from GLOSAS/USA spoke on the Global Early Warning System.

Prof. Muhammadou M. O. Kah, Vice Chancellor, University of The Gambia and Ms. Dorothy K. Gordon, Director-General, Advanced Information Technology Institute (AITI) and the Ghana-India Kofi Annan Center of Excellence in ICT made presentations on the activities of their institutions related to our concerns.

There was an overriding interest on value added activities to promote the viability of BB Internet in West Africa to take full advantage of the ICT opportunities opened by the launching of the Sub-oceanic ACE Cable from France, down the West coast of Africa till South Africa. This lecture hall was an inauguration of such BB innovation process, focused on West Africa in conjunction with the Global Ring Network for Advanced Applications Development (GLORIAD) of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville (UTK).

We used video webcasting Blackboard Collaborator application and an audio conferencing back up successfully, enabling a positive exchange of ideas and information amongst participants. Some key participants, such as our speakers from Benin, Sierra Leone and Nigeria could not establish any connection to the Videoconference. The entire event was Webcast and it is already archived at:

[View the Blackboard Collaborate recording:](#)

<<https://sas.illuminate.com/site/external/jwsdetect/playback.jnlp?psid=2013-04-18.0639.M.03E3D7E337890D94998E11A7F9C3D0.vcr&sid=2012174>>

Key points of discussion

Prof. Muhammadou M. O. Kah, Vice Chancellor, University of The Gambia expressed great interest in our Global Early Warning System (GEWS) project for the training the trainers – even offering his university for our workshop in the future.

Ms. Dorothy K. Gordon, Director-General, Advanced Information Technology Institute (AITI), Ghana-India Kofi Annan Center of Excellence in ICT said that the key for the development of GEWS is addressing of new questions that cannot be dealt with using conventional tools.

Tom Mensah, from Georgia Aerospace, suggested that GEWS efforts focus on the key issues of feeding the people, generating electricity and energy sources and water.

John Mack, a person retired from USAID, spoke on the need of developing distributed modeling for energy systems.

Francisco Bozzano-Barnes, from Tenure and Ecology, suggested that we use major rivers as a way of associating countries around key ecosystems and address water conflict resolution.