Report on Meeting to promote Linguistic diversity in CIVIC
6 December 2006

By Stéphane Bruno

Background

The meeting was held on Wednesday, November 29 2006, and was arranged as a follow up and pilot activity to the Working Group discussions on diversity which ran in a CIVIC subgroup mailing list over the period Sept 9 – Nov 28 2006.

Both activities were undertaken in partial fulfillment of Objective 2 of the CARISNET Project: **"To promote membership in CIVIC among French and Spanish speaking countries."**

Logistics

The meeting was held in the conference room of the Chambre Franco-Haïtienne de Commerce, Port au Prince, and was attended by 24 persons representing about 15 different NGO's, private and public sector organizations and individuals interested in ICTs in Haiti. There were 2 apologies from persons who could not attend, but expressed interest and intention to join CIVIC at a later date. In total, about 30 participants had confirmed their participation in the meeting.

The local organization was coordinated and invitations were issued by AHTIC (Association Haïtienne pour le développement des Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication) which also paid for the location of the room and the coffee break.

Appendix 1 and 2 represent the agenda and the list of participants respectively.

Welcome

Stéphane Bruno, board member of AHTIC and CIVIC member, welcomed the attendees on behalf of AHTIC. He said that the meeting had the objective of encouraging more participation of non English speaking members to the CIVIC community. He introduced CIVIC members Yacine Khelladi and Valerie Gordon and said that they represented the CARISNET CONSORTIUM. Then Ralph Pereira, Vice-President of AHTIC, made a brief presentation on AHTIC, its realizations and perspectives.

The Presentation

The presentation of CIVIC and CarISnet was delivered by Stéphane Bruno and Yacine Khelladi, the former presenting mainly the genesis of CIVIC, current structure and mechanisms, realizations, and the latter presenting mainly the CARISNET component.

Since there was also an Internet connection, the clearinghouse was also presented as well as the actual page and steps to join CIVIC, using one participant willing to join as an example.

The discussion period saw vibrant exchanges which included questions on:

- The structure of CIVIC- how did the group function without having a formal structure?

- If the group developed income generating services, how would the funds be handled? It was explained that this could be done by having an organization whose members are in CIVIC, handle the accounting. This can also be the case for donor funding
- The multilingual tools- the view was expressed that the non-English speaking people should have the opportunity to speak in their own language and also need to have this translated. A debate ensued on whether the speaker should translate his own submission in all languages. It was agreed that that was too much burden on the member and that the route to go would be automatic translation. This was currently being supported.
- The difference between CIVIC and CARISNET- it was explained that CIVIC was a regional ICT stakeholder group with various interests and that CARISNET was a consortium of 3 organizations working to provide tools to improve the regional networking mechanism including establishing the clearinghouse, online facilitation, promoting linguistic diversity and collaborative regional initiatives.
- Comments on how to improve the clearinghouse, for example by including a business directory

Follow up

Stéphane Bruno is to follow up on with the Haitian participants that have all expressed interest in joining CIVIC.

Appendix 1 – Agenda

9h00 - 9h05	: Welcome note, by Stéphane Bruno
9h05 - 9h20	: Brief AHTIC presentation, by Ralph Pereira
9h20 - 10h00	: CIVIC Presentation, by Stéphane Bruno and Yacine Khelladi
10h00 - 10h15	: Coffee break
10h15 - 11h30	: Debates / next steps

Appendix 2 – List of Participants

	LASTNANE	FIRSTNAME	INSTITUTION / COMPANY	Type
1	LEROY	Fritzie	AUF	International
2	MOMPREMIER	Revel	FER	Public
3	PERODIN	Michel Léon	FER	Public
4	ARMAND	Jean Heuber	Fondation Espoir	NGO / Foundation
5	BRUCE	Jimmy	YABT-HAITI	NGO
6	JAN-LOUIS	Daniel	YABT-HAITI	NGO
7	MARCEDDY	Jean-François	RIE	Press
8	DARBOUZE	Carl	TURBO SYSTEMS	Private
9	FLAVIEN	Franck	SOFIHDES	Private
10	CASSION	Léon	TURBO SYSTEMS	Private
11	BEGGY	Sandra P.	AHSI / PNUD	International
12	VITAL-HERNE	Jacques Antoine	MULTILINK	Private
13	VERNOUS	Guyverson	RDDH	NGO / Foundation
14	VINCENT	Jean-Roney	COMPHAITI	Private
15	DIEUDONNE	Richard	ONA	Public
16	PEREIRA	Ralph	COMPHAITI	Private
17	LAROCHE	Claude Stéphane	AQUALIMPIA	Private
18	CLERMONT	Carl Sherson	TURBONET	Private
19	ELYSEE	Jean-Jaunasse	DATACOM	Private
20	ETIENNE	Claude	DATACOM	Private
21	TIPPENHAUER	Hans	Fondation Espoir	NGO / Foundation
22	ATTIE	Patrick	ESIH / FRANCO	University
23	CHILOSI	Paolo	AHTIC / MULTILINK	Private
24	SAM	Marlène	AHTIC	Private