

GOVERNMENT OF GHANA

MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL INITIATIVES (MOTI & PSI)

ICT POLICY STATEMENT

June 2004

Preamble

The Government of Ghana is committed to pursuing an ICT for Accelerated Development (ICT4AD) Vision aimed at improving the quality of life of the people of Ghana by significantly enriching their social, economic and cultural

well-being through the rapid development and modernization of the economy and society using information and communication technologies as the main engine for accelerated and sustainable economic and social development.

The main mission of the Ghana ICT4AD Vision is to transform Ghana into an information-rich, knowledge based and technology-driven high income economy and society. Some of the key sub-missions of the vision are:

- (i) to develop Ghana's information and knowledge based society and economy through the widespread development, deployment and exploitation of ICTs within the society and economy,
- (ii) to develop an export-oriented ICT products and services industry
- (iii) to promote local and foreign direct investment drive in ICTs
- (iv) to develop Ghana's research and development (R&D) capacity and capabilities with the potential to conduct and engage in advanced and cutting edge R&D work required for supporting the development of a globally competitive information, knowledge-based and high tech export industry and services.

This ICT Policy Statement is designed to guide the process of the deployment and exploitation of ICTs within the Ministry of Trade, Industry and President's Special Initiatives to support its organizational activities and operations within the framework of the national ICT4AD vision. The Ministry is responsible for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the policy.

Vision and Mission Statements of the Ministry of Trade and Industry and PSI

Vision Statement: To develop a vibrant technology-driven competitive industrial sector that significantly contributes to economic growth, employment creation particularly involving mass mobilization of rural communities and other vulnerable groups and which will lead to the diversification and structural transformation of the economy in a liberalized trade environment.

Mission Statement: To provide assistance for private sector, commercial and industrial activities to support the development of a modern, robust manufacturing sector driven by science and technology on a competitive basis which enables the sector to exploit domestic and international markets on a sustainable basis to generate high growth rates in the sector and contribute towards poverty reduction in the country.

Strategies for attaining the stated missions

For the realization of the mission the Ministry is pursuing an export-led growth strategy and a comprehensive domestic industrialization programme that will be achieved through the following:

- Technology Improvement Programme aimed at retooling local industries to improve their productivity and enhance their competitiveness,
- Industrial Sub-contracting and Partnership Exchange Programme aimed at facilitating local and international subcontracting and outsourcing of non-core activities to SMEs by large local companies,
- Rural Enterprises Development Programme under which all the Districts of Ghana are being assisted to develop commercially viable, flagship enterprises, which will translate into 330 business enterprises in rural communities to be jointly owned by private sector operators, District Assemblies and the Communities,
- Technology Innovation and Capital Goods Manufacture Programme that focuses on the manufacturing of machine tools, equipment and spare parts to support the Ministry's industrialisation efforts,
- Education and Training for Industrial Development Programmes aimed at linking tertiary and technical/vocational education to industry in order to create the critical manpower base for industrial activities,
- President's Special Initiatives Programme for products is a public-private sector partnership programme designed to develop new pillars of growth for the Ghanaian economy that will accelerate the development of selected products into lead export earners.
- Graduating Trade Barons into Captains of Industry Programme which is being developed to assist some of our trade barons including market queens to identify business opportunities in the manufacturing sector and re-direct their efforts into that sector,
- Establishment of Export Trade Houses that will specialise in export marketing so that producers of exportable products can concentrate on production activities to enhance supply base and improve supply response,
- Development of Marketing and Distribution Infrastructure to support the private sector to develop facilities for storage and distribution of locally manufactured products,
- Consumer Protection aimed at ensuring that consumers have access to fair priced, high quality products and to protect their health and safety,
- Establishment of a strong Database and Improved Access to Trade and Industry Statistics to improve access to market information for the enhancement of trade related activities,

- Improvement of standards and quality of products.

The ICT Deployment and Exploitation Policy Goals

- To improve the Management information Systems of the Ministry.
- To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the management and administrative functions of the Ministry through the deployment and exploitation of ICTs.
- To use ICT to identify and map out the resource potentials of the districts in Ghana and prepare them into profiles for dissemination to investors.
- To provide training to staff at all levels to attain computer literacy to enhance their efficiency.
- To deploy and utilise ICTs to collect, collate, process, analyse and disseminate external and internal trade and industrial data and information.
- To develop and enhance capacities and facilities of industries to utilise ICTs with emphasis on small and medium enterprises.
- To deploy ICTs for the development of standards and quality systems to meet production requirements for local and international markets.
- To strengthen the ICT resource capacities and facilities of vocational/technical institutions to ensure a critical manpower base for industrial activities.

ICT Deployment and Exploitation Commitments

The Ministry in implementing its stated ICT strategy directed at its major stakeholders is committed to:

- Modernise the Library -Trade Information Documentation Unit (TIDU) by introducing newer ICTs.

- Establish databases and to provide more efficient storage and retrieval of trade and industry related data.
- Establish a website on which information on Ghana's trade and industry can be accessed.
- Establish a bulletin board or chat room on the Web to promote discussion on Ghana's trade and industrial policies.
- Create a platform for dialogue with trade and industry associations and Civil Society to solicit their input into policy formation.
- Enhance electronic exchange of data and information through GCNet and other similar systems.
- Advocate the setting up of Freeports, which utilises ICTs to ensure prompt and efficient delivery of services.
- Introduce Just-In-Time techniques through ICTs to lower cost of manufacturing.
- Set up a Wide-Area Network to enhance faster communication between the Ministry and its stakeholders.
- Utilize ICTs to ensure the security and integrity of data handled by the Ministry.
- Promote the use of ICTs to encourage greater Electronic Commerce thereby expanding our domestic and foreign markets.

The Focus of the ICT Programmes and Initiatives of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and PSI

- The Ministry is committed to the implementation of programmes aimed at facilitating and utilising ICTs in trade and industry related issues.
- In line with its mission to provide assistance for private sector, commercial and industrial activities to support the development of a modern, robust manufacturing sector driven by science and technology on a competitive basis.
- The Ministry is committed to taking steps to implement programmes aimed at exploiting domestic and international markets on sustainable basis to generate high growth rates in the sector and contribute towards poverty reduction in Ghana through the deployment and exploitation of ICTs.

- The Ministry as part of the on-going government-wide initiative to improve Government administration and service delivery to the public is committed to implementing programmes and initiatives aimed at the deployment and exploitation of ICTs to facilitate and improve its administrative operations and activities as well as its service delivery to the public at large.