

Bytes for All...

Debate of the Month

5 Critical Factors for Telecentres

Surbhi Sharma is running a telecentre in Bidai, close to Bangalore. He shared his feedback on critical factors to consider before setting up telecentres and readers shared their experiences in return.

‘We have been running a telecentre called Tel-Nek in Bidadi, 40 kms from Bangalore, for the past 5 years. We have been serving 63 villages in and around the Ramanagaram taluk. Our centre was setup to curb Urban migration, provide better livelihood opportunities to women, train Children on Technology enabled learning, etc. In my opinion, the 5 critical factors to keep in mind before starting a telecentre are:

- The Community needs
- Content
- Connectivity
- Sustainability
- Inclusive policies

Courtesy: Surbhi Sharma, groups.yahoo.com/group/bytesforall_readers/message/7993

Events, Releases and Announcements

Microsoft Research Centre in Indonesia

Based on an MOU, President of Indonesia Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Bill Gates agreed to open Research centre in Indonesia. *groups.yahoo.com/group/bytesforall_readers/message/8006*

Amader Gram ICT4D Project

BFES initiated Amader Gram ICT4D Project is going to organize a knowledge sharing session in Khulna on 27th May, 2006 at 10 am at the Castle Salam Conference room (KDA Avenue, Khulna). Christine Lombardo, Information, Knowledge and Communication Research Fellow from the University of Lugano, Switzerland, will present her research findings.

Courtesy: Reza Salim, groups.yahoo.com/group/bytesforall_readers/message/8001

Forum theatre workshop seeks feedback

UNESCO supported community media initiative needs feedback on 10-day workshop about the production of Forum Theater. ‘A group of 16 youths and adolescents from different rural sites of Sitakund Upazilla under Chittagong District are now going through an intensive training at Youth Community Multimedia Centre.

Courtesy: Debobroto Chakraborty, groups.yahoo.com/group/bytesforall_readers/message/8000

REA training in Pakistan

The World Conservation Union (IUCN), Pakistan in partnership with Church World Service-Pakistan/Afghanistan (CWS-P/A) is organising an REA Training during 15-19 May, 2006 in Nathiagali, Pakistan. World renowned REA Expert Mr. Charles Kelly from Benfield Hazards Research Centre, UK will be the resource person for this training. Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment in

Disasters (REA) is a tool for identifying, defining, and prioritising potential environmental impacts that arise immediately following disaster situations.

Courtesy: Shahzad Ahmad, groups.yahoo.com/group/bytesforall_readers/message/7992

Sanskritweb.net from Germany

<http://www.sanskritweb.net> is a private website maintained by Ulrich Stiehl. The Sanskritweb has a very simple design and uses only downwards compatible PDF formats. Its content is also accessible by people who cannot afford to buy latest computer equipment.

Courtesy: Dr T. Matthew Ciolek, groups.yahoo.com/group/bytesforall_readers/message/7981

Language pack for Marathi

Available with complete installation instructions here: http://indx.cdacmumbai.in/janabhaaratii/page_gen.php?lang=en&body=/download/download_langpack.html

Courtesy: Priti Patil, groups.yahoo.com/group/bytesforall_readers/message/7969

Empowering Indic Language Computing

Microsoft’s website on Indic computing for XP and Windows products is live here: <http://www.bhashaindia.com/Community/CommunityHome.aspx>

Courtesy: Nithya, http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bytesforall_readers/message/7969

EngageMedia helps multimedia gurus

EngageMedia (<http://engagemedia.org/>) is currently in development and preparing for a public beta release. This will be a space for critical documentary, fiction, artistic and experimental works from South East Asia, Australia and the Pacific region focusing on environmental and social issues. It will create an online archive of independent video productions using Creative Commons licenses and form a peer network of video makers, educators and screening organisations. *groups.yahoo.com/group/bytesforall_readers/message/7968*

Highly useful Urdu, Hindi links

Frederick Noronha shares a combination of links about Urdu/Hindi language computing.

groups.yahoo.com/group/bytesforall_readers/message/7946

First Unicode version of Munir Keyboard

The very first Unicode version of Munir Keyboard Layout has been released at Ekushey.Org. Bangla-speaking community had a huge demand for this. You can find the Unicode version from <http://www.ekushey.org/projects/shadhinotalmunir.html>

Courtesy: Omi Azad, groups.yahoo.com/group/bytesforall_readers/message/7965

Professional Development Award

The Innovation, Policy and Science Program Area of IDRC, and the Centre’s Regional Office for South Asia seek applications from qualified



candidates for a Professional Development Award beginning July 3rd, 2006. The awardee, based at the New Delhi office, will assist the IPS Programme Area in programme development in the region, particularly focusing on questions of Science, Technology and Innovation policies vis-à-vis development challenges in the region as well as the social, economic and public policy impacts associated with new technologies, especially biotechnology and nanotechnology. The closing date for receiving applications is May 31st, 2006. http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-96472-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html

Courtesy: Miraj Khalid, groups.yahoo.com/group/bytesforall_readers/message/7961

Berkeley to host ICTD2006

The 2006 International Conference on Information Communications and Development takes place May 25 - May 26, 2006, hosted by the University of California, Berkeley School of Information. ICTD2006 is a multi-disciplinary forum for researchers designing information and communications technologies for developing regions: <http://www.sims.berkeley.edu/ictd2006/>

Courtesy: Melissa Ho, groups.yahoo.com/group/bytesforall_readers/message/7936

ICT4D

Police go hi-tech but rules restrain them

IPS officers in the state of Jharkhand, India have all received laptops in an effort to make the police hi-tech. However, the officers aren't as happy as you would expect them to be. Apparently, each laptop comes bundled with dos and don'ts so the receiver understands this is only for official purposes. These regulations have irked many cops.

Courtesy: Frederick Noronha, groups.yahoo.com/group/bytesforall_readers/message/8005

Digital mapping driving the future in China

Futuristic cars of tomorrow come loaded with digital maps which guide cars to turn or find gas stations. The Chinese have already taken to these digitally mapped cars. These maps can be accessed from vehicles and mobile phones and are an indicator of the country's future mobile lifestyle.

groups.yahoo.com/group/bytesforall_readers/message/8002

Women power email forum

Systems is a private email forum for women who are university students or working in the technical side of computing. We are a community for technical women in computing that began in 1987 as a small mailing list for women in 'systems'. It was founded by Anita Borg. <http://athena.systems.org/mailman/listinfo/systems>

Courtesy: Frederick Noronha, http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bytesforall_readers/message/7938

Kerala's Malabar opens up for computers

The government-sponsored Akshaya (Bridging the digital divide)

project in Malappuram has made the district 80 percent e-literate, becoming a model for the overwhelmingly Muslim Malaysia. Within just a year, close to half a million of the district's population became e-literate up to a basic level, learning through computer games.

Courtesy: Frederick Noronha, groups.yahoo.com/group/bytesforall_readers/message/7996 Frederick Noronha

Landmark moment for Open Office

The International Standards Organization has approved the standard file format to be used worldwide for the storage of files produced by Open Office software. Software users will be guaranteed that they will be able to use their data in any compliant software package, both now and in the future.

Courtesy: Russell John, <http://linux.org/bd>

groups.yahoo.com/group/bytesforall_readers/message/7995

Get OpenOffice.org

One week after 'World Intellectual Property Day', OpenOffice.org announces a new campaign: "Get legal - Get OpenOffice.org". A new website <http://why.openoffice.org> - explains how to escape from Microsoft Office licence costs and compliance worries - for good. Webmasters and bloggers worldwide are encouraged to display the campaign banner to help promote the campaign.

groups.yahoo.com/group/bytesforall_readers/message/7990

Embedded Operating System

Writing in the April 2006 issue of CSI Communications Aman Moudgil and Nishant Taneja present an article titled 'Overview of the Embedded Operating Systems'. Besides offering an introduction and a listing of required-features of a good embedded OS, the article also looks at some widely-used embedded OSs.

Courtesy: Frederick Noronha, groups.yahoo.com/group/bytesforall_readers/message/7997

Developing world is a Digital dump?

A large proportion of the old computers exported from advanced nations to developing countries can no longer be used and end up on informal rubbish dumps in poor countries, posing a threat to people and the environment. Each month, some 400,000 old computers and monitors arrive in Nigeria, where BAN conducted research.

Courtesy: Frederick Noronha, groups.yahoo.com/group/bytesforall_readers/message/7978

Bytes for All: www.bytesforall.net

Bytes For All Readers Discussion: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bytesforall_readers

Bytes for All Summary Archive: <http://www.bytesforall.net/Summary/>

Bytes for All discussion summary compiled by: Zunaira Durrani, Bytes for All, Pakistan