**Discuss the role of ICT in education in the realization of the national vision 2020**

ICT is central to Rwanda’s Vision for 2020, and ICT in education is one of the core pillars of the country’s National Information and Communications Infrastructure Policy and Plan, adopted in 2000. Tremendous progress has been made since then and the country continues to receive plaudits and support from its development partners. The pace of development of a national ICT infrastructure is remarkable as is the progress within the education system on disseminating computers and providing connectivity and teacher training. Moreover, there is a nationwide effort to provide universal access to both infrastructure and the Internet in order to facilitate ICT4D in the broadest sense.

ICT in education policy, along with detailed implementation strategies, are defined in each of the quinquennial NICI plans for action by the Ministry of Education – supported and monitored by the national facilitating agencies.

The sub-plan for education in NICI-2010 sets out a number of policy action items and associated planned actions that include time frames, budget estimates, and expected benefits. The planned actions, with leadership assigned to the Ministry of Education (sometimes in collaboration with other agencies), are listed below. Some of these are new, while others relate to planned actions in NICI-2005 that have been updated and revised. Others have been rolled forward from the NICI-2005 plan into the NICI-2010 plan because implementation is continuing.

* Train primary and secondary teachers on ICT in education
* Establish a national library network
* Develop new e-learning content
* Implement an educational management system (EMIS)
* Survey educational software appropriate for Rwanda and translate to Kinyarwanda
* Convert existing computer-based training and e-learning content to Kinyarwanda
* Develop programmes to promote the acquisition of computer equipment by educational institutions
* Develop a comprehensive policy on computer education in schools
* Develop a national SchoolNet to provide access to the Internet for schools, facilitate sharing of learning resources, facilitate electronic distance education within the school system, and link Rwandan schools with schools internationally
* Develop a national computer curriculum for primary and secondary schools and coordinate

its implementation

* Train a critical mass of computer literate teachers
* Develop a national programme to speed up the deployment and use of ICTs in higher education institutions (A specific component is the establishment of a Rwandan Academic Research Network that links all institutions and provides a gateway to the Internet.)
* Develop a national electronic distance education and training programme that supplements and complements campus-based education at all levels, facilitates lifelong learning, and encourages in-service training in both the public and private sectors
* Develop special ICT-in-education initiatives for academic exchanges and twinning, implementation of the SMART schools concept, and penetration of ICT into rural schools
* Establish a regional information technology training and research institute to serve Rwanda and the sub-region

The Ministry of Education has begun work on many of these action plans and in March 2006 tabled a draft ICT policy that identified the following four areas of focus:

* Developing an understanding within the system of the value of technology and the need for investment
* Developing procurement and installation strategies
* Implementing an EMIS
* Developing and managing content and integrating it into the curriculum

After implementing all these policies, the country rich on vision 2020