

Policy Coherence in the ***ICT Infrastructure Pillar*** **towards** **Knowledge Society Development** **in South Africa**

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Introduction

- ICT Infrastructure pillar of the Knowledge Society
 - the *enabler* for Education and Innovation dynamics
 - Accommodation; Electricity & power supply; Computer Hardware and Software systems; Internet / intranet connectivity
- Policy coherence in the South African context
 - Dept Communications (DoC) – *Strategic Plan 2012 - 2017*
 - Dept Science & Technology (DST) – *10 Year Innovation Plan towards a Knowledge Based Economy + ICT R&D and Innovation Strategy*
 - Dept Trade & Industry (dti) – *Industrial Policy Action Plan 2012/13*
 - National Planning Commission (NPC) – National Development Plan, vision 2030
 - **Coherence at vision level but not at implementation level**
- Knowledge Society Indicators (ITU 2011)

South Africa	2010		2008	
	Ranking	Rating	Ranking	Rating
ICT Development Index (IDI),	97	3.00	94	2.71
IDI Access sub-index	99	3.15	94	3.00
IDI Use sub-index,	96	1.04	97	0.50
IDI Skills sub-index	91	6.61	92	6.57

Aims, Objectives, Issues, Concerns

While advanced in ICT, the KS has not kept pace with global growth.

How can Knowledge Society (KS) development for South Africa be enhanced by policy coherence within the ICT Infrastructure pillar?

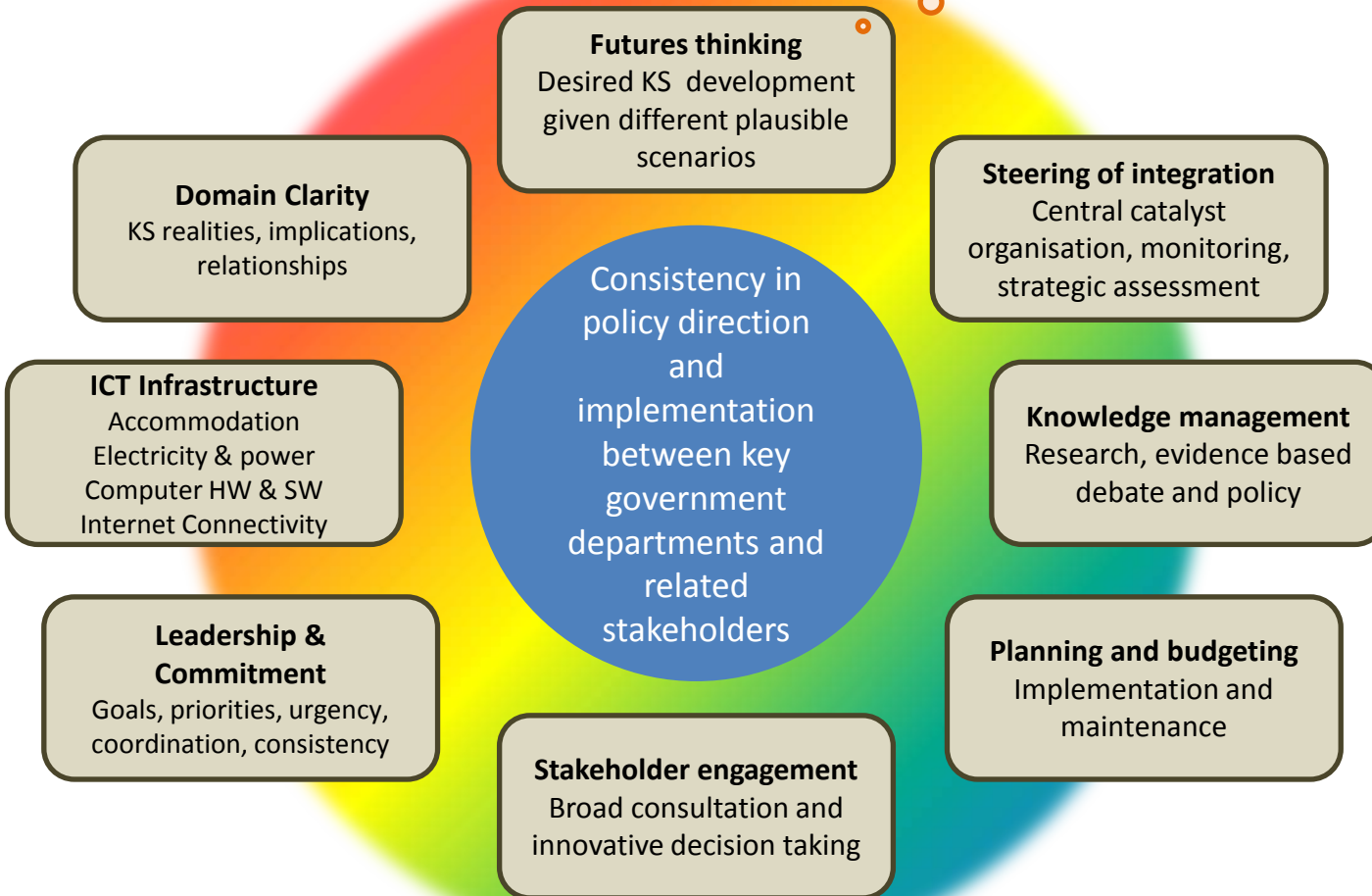
- Coherence of current policies
- State of KS in South Africa
- Context for future KS development
- Plausible scenarios for 2022
- Policy recommendations

Opportunity: *“To direct energy towards action in the service of a hopeful, exciting, ethical, future that we can help to create”.*

Hitchert, T. 2012. Africa Futures [Online]. Accessed from: http://www.thefutureoffutures.com/sample_africa-futures/ [Accessed on 8 August 2012]. The Association of Professional Futurists. Sample Chapter. 17 Jul '12.

ICT Infrastructure Policy Coherence

Is it Coherent with the Future?



DoC, DST, dti
Building a knowledge (based) economy for growth and jobs, enabled by skills, research, innovation, infrastructure and service delivery. Modernising and deploying ICT. Stimulating industry.

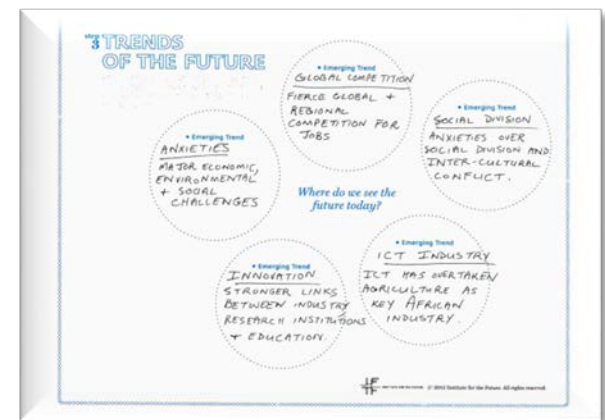
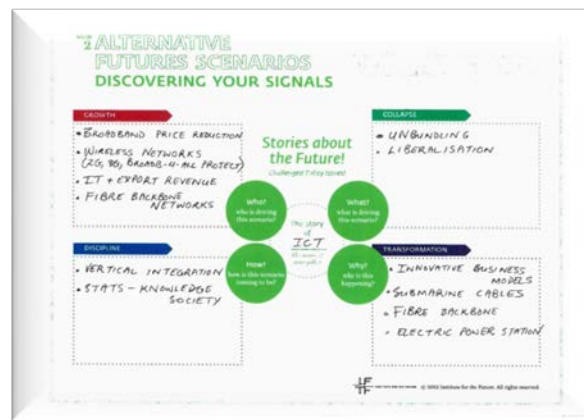
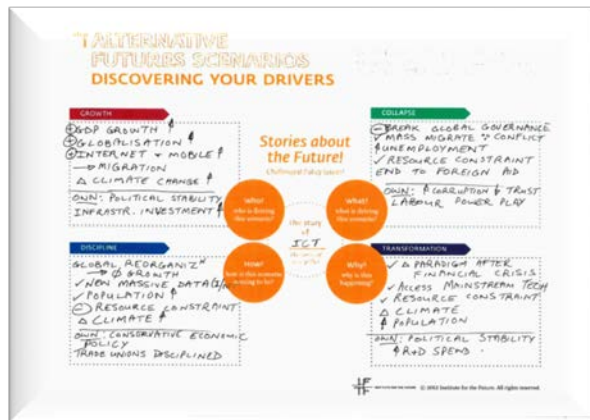
Methodology

(1) Literature review

- ICT policy analysis for coherence
- State of Knowledge Society
- Alternative Futures Thinking

(2) Context: Futures Workshop

- Archetypes scenarios: Growth, Collapse, Discipline and Transformation
- Most relevant ICT infrastructure **signals**
- National **trends** and external **drivers** that influence the South African scenarios



(3) Identify the Main Challenge

- The Fundamental Question, key tensions and what must be done for KS development in the future
- Three Main Themes for Scenario development
- Development of Alternative 2022 Scenarios

(4) Conclusions – what was achieved

(5) Recommendations – for ‘future proof’ coherence and opportunity for dedicated action

The Knowledge Infrastructure – *Digital Advantage in the midst of extreme inequality*

How will we provide broadband ICT infrastructure to this vast country in order for the benefits of the Knowledge Society to be felt equitably by every citizen while the country improves the provision of basic services such as housing, education and healthcare which is still glaringly poor for many?

- 1. Broadband for All: Beaming up the Main Street and Dusty Footpaths**
- 2. Vibrant Innovations: Stimulating entrepreneurship where hopelessness prevails**
- 3. Fast-tracking Service Delivery: From Bricks and Mortar to Digits**

Scenarios

Growth: *More of the same*

- Growing inequality
- Vibrant Entrepreneurship in cities
- Sporadic Excellence in ICT powered public service delivery
- Broadband extension driven by commercial viability



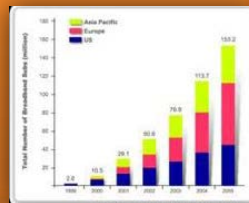
Transformation: *Opening Gates*

- Science, Innovation stimulate big ICT investment by government
- Entrepreneurship is vibrant and drives new business models and wealth
- Universal affordable broadband coverage
- E-Government transforms service delivery



Discipline: *Hedgehog*

- Limited innovation, job opportunities and entrepreneurship
- Public services not exploiting ICT
- Missed opportunities to stimulate broadband coverage in rural areas
- Government priority to control population behaviour



Collapse: *Left behind*

- Rural areas steeped in poverty and no ICT rescue in sight
- SA falls backwards in competitiveness
- Jobs rely on classical industries, and are few and far between
- Service delivery protests intensify



Conclusion

- Coherence amongst DoC, DST, and dti on KS policy exists at vision level
- SA has to significantly improve ICT access, usage and skills
- Futures Thinking Scenarios highlighted:
 - Need to strengthen stakeholder engagement
 - Opportunity for NPC to catalyse implementation of KS policy coherence
- Futures Thinking Methodology useful for discovering gaps in policy coherence

Recommendation & Further Work

- Recommendations
 - SA policy coherence should target Transformation
 - Focus on implementation of coherent vision
 - Use Ministerial Cluster on Economic Sectors & Employment to enable Stakeholder Engagement
 - Use NPC for Knowledge Management & Steering Integration across DoC, DST and dti
 - Affordable broadband for all to stimulate growth
 - Industry partnership for ICT entrepreneurship
 - E-Government services a critical success factor
- How the work could be progressed
 - NPC could adopt and refine this policy coherence strategy in implementation of its NDP 2030

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References

International Telecommunication Union (ITU). 2011. *Measuring the Information Society 2011 [Online]*. Available from: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/idi/> [Accessed on 4 June 2012]