

The APC Prizes

Recognising the use of ICTs for social justice and sustainable development around the world

The Association for Progressive Communications (APC) has been working with all sectors of civil society to harness information and communication technologies (ICTs) in ways that support development and social justice since 1990. The APC "Betinho" and "Hafkin" communications prizes recognise and document outstanding examples of how the internet is making a real difference for the world's communities today. The Gender and ICT Awards are designed to inspire women to use ICTs strategically.

APC Africa Hafkin Communications Prize

The APC Africa Hafkin Communications Prize recognises African initiatives which demonstrate the creativity of their use of ICTs (especially the internet) and the success of their work in terms of mobilising participation and building capacity. The prize is biennial and is open to people and groups from any sector of society.

Winners of the Hafkin Prize

In 2001 the prize recognised **women-led, women-informed, women-inspired** initiatives. The prize was won by the **Fantsuam Foundation** for their remarkable work providing ICT training and opportunities to rural women in Nigeria.

In 2002 the prize sought **people-centred ICT policy initiatives**. The fact that very few applicants actually even qualified under this category highlighted what APC already knew – that there is a crucial need to continue efforts to develop and support community-centred ICT policy initiatives. The winner **SchoolNet Namibia** is a volunteer-driven organisation working to see all Namibian schoolchildren get access to a computer and the internet.

The 2004/5 Hafkin Prize

In late 2004, APC launched the latest Hafkin Prize, which will be awarded to an outstanding local project in Africa using connectivity for economic development.

Connectivity is a term referring to the means by which people are connected to or are able to access communications channels such as the internet, email, computer and people networks. The prize will award community initiatives that use the internet and other digital communication networks to access markets, skills and opportunities to derive real economic benefits.

VISIT THE PRIZE SITES

APC Africa Hafkin Prize
www.apc.org/english/hafkin

APC Betinho Prize
www.apc.org/english/betinho

Gender and ICT Awards
www.genderawards.net

The Betinho and Hafkin Prizes are supported by the International Development Research Center (IDRC) and the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA).



The Gender and ICT Awards

Offered for the first time in 2003, the inaugural GICT Awards honoured innovative and effective projects that encourage the strategic use of ICTs by women for the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment.

The GICT Awards had four categories and winners, including groups from Romania, Uganda and India.

The GICT Awards were coorganised by the APC Women's Networking Support Programme (APC WNSP) and the Global Knowledge Partnership. The GICT Awards will be offered again in 2005.

The APC Herbet de Souza "Betinho" Communications Prize

The \$7,500 USD Betinho Prize is open to non-governmental organisations, community-based groups, coalitions, working groups or social movements that successfully use ICTs as an essential part of their social justice and development work. In 2003 and 2005, the prize is being offered solely in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Winners of the Betinho Prize

The prize was offered for the first time in 2000, and over 160 inspiring projects were nominated. The inaugural winner, **The Max Foundation**, is a life-saving online support network functioning in English, Spanish and Portuguese for the families of children suffering from leukaemia and host of Latin America's first online bone marrow tissue registry.

In 2001, the winner was **Women's Voices** - a Kenyan video initiative which gives women living in poverty a voice in public policy-making. The prize brought Women's Voices much-deserved worldwide attention.

In 2003, for the first time the prize was offered exclusively in Latin America and the Caribbean and over 140 projects applied. The stories from the twelve winners and finalists were translated into Spanish, Portuguese and English so that as many people as possible can learn about these outstanding ICT initiatives. There were three joint winners: **ICTs as Tools of Sustainable Development in the Cotahuasi Basin** in Peru, the **Indigenous Information Network**, Mexico and **Tiflolibros** - First Electronic Library for the Visually-Impaired Spanish-Speakers, Argentina

Coming soon! The Betinho Prize in 2005

In mid 2005, APC will be launching the 2005 prize.

Visit our website for more details or sign up to receive APC's monthly newsletter APCNews by subscribing at writing to editor@apc.org