Kiribati

**Population**: 92,000

**Schools**: 90 schools, 13 are secondary 20,000 students (85% enrollment)

**ICT Access**: Low

Approx 10% of secondary schools have at least 1 PC

**Background**

Kiribati has limited basic infrastructure such as power and telephony and ICT use has emerged only in recent years. There is little evidence of the use of ICTs in the curriculum although government has initiated and policy-formation process. Where appropriate, schools have generally taken the initiative to install ICT themselves. Support from donor agencies plays a key role (UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UNESCO, Peace Corps, AusAID, JAPAN, NZODA). Four model computer facilities in the country are USP, KGV EBS Secondary School, Moroni High School and The Technical Institute (TTI). Kiribati’s telecom provider, TSKL, is willing to consider programmes to increase schools access to the Internet. They offer discounted rates to schools in their own Internet café.

**Policy**

There is little written policy on ICT for the education for primary and secondary schools, although there is agreement with the Regional Forum Country Members policy on ICT.

The government’s policy strategy at present is to continue to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding of ICT to help students in their learning. The Ministry of Education’s curriculum development team has formed a committee to address ICT needs and develop capacity. Pilot schools and ‘champion’ teachers have been identified and the issue of ownership of the initiatives has been placed in the hands of schools and teachers that have the resources. The Ministry of Education Youth and Sports maintains an information management system to administer and store data relating to students and schools (KEMIS). Another recent initiative involves all secondary schools, the tertiary training schools and the nursing school with the Ministry of Health, which are to be provided with two computers each that connect to the Internet. The computers and the connections are provided by TSKL and schools are then charged at a relatively high rate.

**Challenges**

- Stable and reliable telecoms infrastructure
- High costs (eg., resulting in government depts. being unable to pay telecoms bills)
- Lack of skills and expertise
- Incorporation of ICT into the already crowded curriculum
Recommendations

- Build capacity in the Ministry of Education to develop an ICT for education programme
- Improve budgetary support for implementation of educational ICT programme
- Involve the broader community in ICT in schools
- Provide teachers with improved training and development opportunities.