Computers in Developing Countries

* By Mengmo Lo

What classifies a country as a developing country

5 ways computers can help

* 1. Direct job creation
* 2. Contribution to GDP growth

1. Job Creation
   1. In the US along, computer and information technology jobs are expected
   2. China had fewer than 10 million PC,s in use in 1997 and barely 1 million Internet users. In 2011, China passed the U.S.
2. Contribution to GDP growth
   1. Findings from various countries confirm the positive effect of ICT on growth.
   2. For example, a 10%
   3. A recent study, which analyzed new data on IT investment and productivity for 45 countries from 1994-2007, found that developing countries have achieved positive and significant productivity gains from IT
3. Emergence of new services and industries
   1. Numerous public services have become available online and through mobile phones.
   2. The government of Moldova is one of the first countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia to shift its government IT infrastructure.
4. Workforce transformation
   1. New “microwork” platforms, developed by companies like oDesk, Amazon and Samasource, help to divide tasks into small components that can then
5. Business innovation
   1. In OECD countries (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development)

South Africa-Smart Cape Access

* South Africa has one of the largest and most successful introductions of computers to the residents in Africa with the Smart Cape Access Project initiated in 2000 in Cape Town winning the Bill and
* They anticipated that Internet access would create much-needed jobs for citizens, it can empower people to market themselves, start their own business, or gain access to useful information.
* While the project has been plagued by slow internet speeds, long lines of waiting users, hacking and budgets, the demand for more computers remains high. Residents have used Internet access.

?Question?

* What are some other ways you think computers or technology can help developing countries?

Is IT worth investing into?

* The question of whether IT investments lead to greater productivity and economic growth

Are computers really good for developing countries?

* What’s the cost?

What’s the cost?

* Fixed costs: Equipment, bandwidth, wireless points, electrical installations/upgrading.
* Service costs: Teacher training, Teacher Support
* Recurrent costs: Maintenance, tech support, refresh

What’s the educational impact?

* Little is known about the effects of technology

Is there sufficient broadband access?

* Broadband access is a significant challenge for even middle

How does computer usage effect the youth?

* One concern is the privacy and safety of children and young people
* Unicef

Safety and privacy

* Unicef’s research revealed that one in every five children in rural areas surveyed in Vietnam had shared personal information such as their phone number or name of their school.

?Question?

* What are some concerns of computers in developing countries?