

# SCIENCE & SUMMITS

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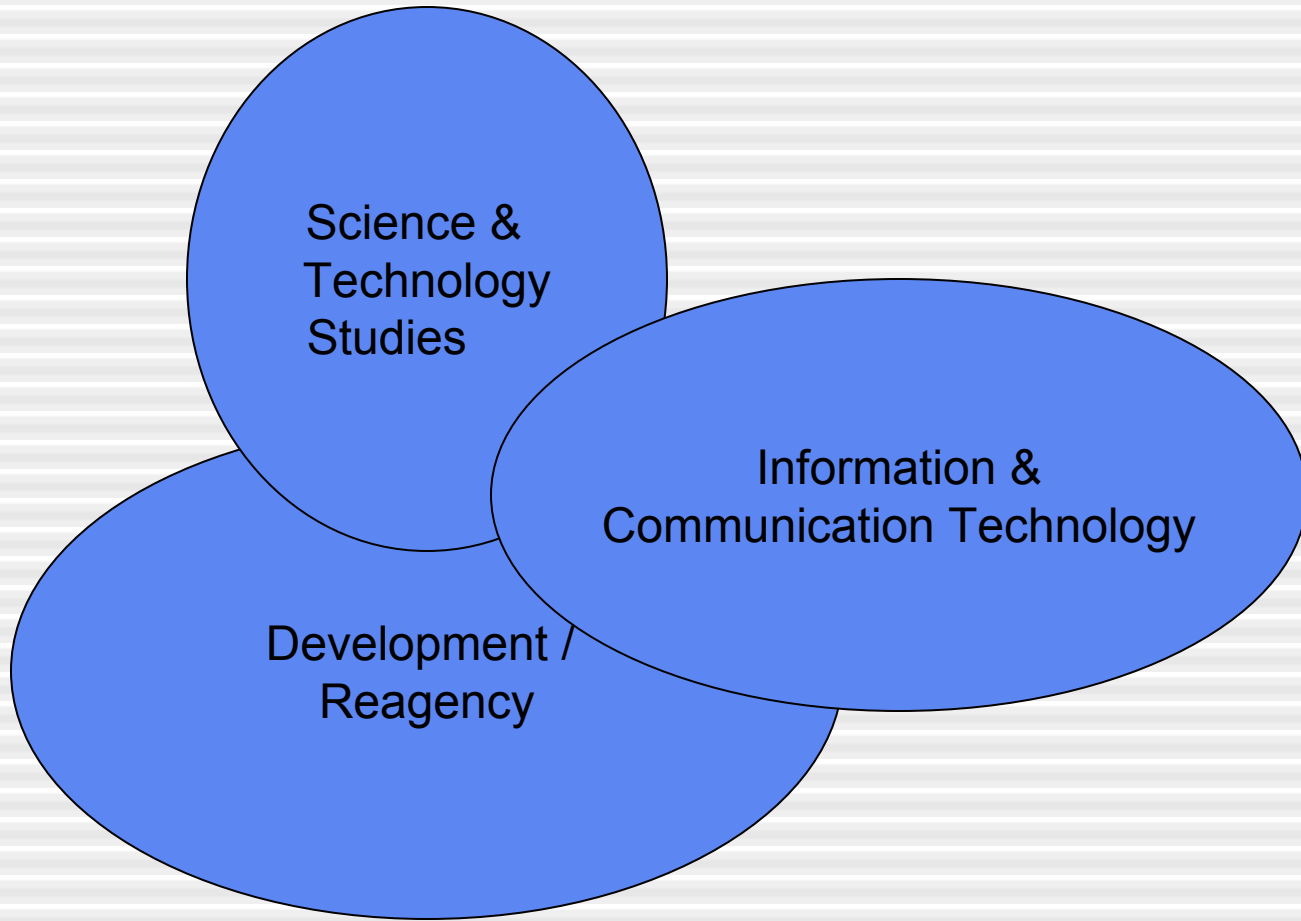
TOYOTA

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# TODAY'S PROPOSAL

- PART I: Science & Globalization
  - “STS”: Science & Technology Studies
  - Louisiana Science Project
- PART II: World Summit on the Information Society



# Internet Symbols

- Advertisement seen at Kenyan drinking spots in 2000

**LOG ON.**

**Refresh your thinking**

**Pilsner**  
**ICE**



**Downloaded**



**Refresh your thinking**

# Environmental Protection & Information Technology

- Sustainability- Rio, WSSD, & 1994 study
- ICT - 2000 study & WSIS

# LOUISIANA RESEARCH NETWORKS PROJECT

Worldsci.net

- Ghana, Kenya, & India (Kerala)
- Longitudinal 1994-2008
- NEW South Africa (Durban)
- Extension of study population to Internet Café Users, Engineering Students, & Mobile Phone Users

# Social Network Approach

- Old Concepts: 'Society' & 'Social Systems'
- New Concept: Social Networks
- Networks consist of Actors & Relations
- Focus on Relationships
- Actor-Centered versus Holistic

# Survey of National Research Systems

- 1994 'three sector' study
  - Research institutes, universities, NGOs
- Ghana, Kenya, Kerala
- Focus on social networks of scientists in agriculture & environmental areas

# Findings 1994

- ‘View From Afar’ is limited and misleading
- Inverse relation between external & internal professional ties
- Education in developed countries makes little difference to range of external professional networks
- Women are disadvantaged in subtle ways

# Collaboration & Productivity in Developed Countries

- Collaboration increases productivity
- Internet reduces problems of collaboration

# Findings 2000-2002

- In Kerala, Kenya, and Ghana, collaboration does not lead to any general increase in productivity
- Access to email does reduce research problems
- BUT difficulties are structured more by social context than by the collaborative process itself

# THE “COLLABORATION PARADOX”

- Conditions that **undermine** the relationship between collaboration and productivity in developing areas also undermine the collaborative benefits of ICTs.
- REAGENCY, not “Development”

# PART II: WORLD SUMMITS

- Acceptance by United Nations
- Series of “PrepComs”
  - Preparatory Committee Meetings
- Regional Meetings
- The ‘Big Event’ = WORLD SUMMIT

# What results?

- FORMAL: Documents Created
  - Declaration of Principles
  - Plan of Action
  - May lead to projects???
- INFORMAL: Relationships Created
  - Friendships
  - Collaborations
  - **Definitely** lead to projects!!!

# “Civil Society”

- WSSD vs WSIS
- Civil Society incorporated into the Summit process, parallel with government and business
- How should CS be ‘organized’?

# What about Science?

- Science as the ‘think tank of humanity’
- Science ‘undermines the fallacies in public beliefs’
- Science is not ‘international’ but rather ‘interlocal’
  - Science as a ‘natural partner of local communities’
- We should “TRANSMIT THE UNCERTAINTIES OF SCIENCE WITH CONFIDENCE.”

# SA & US

- Pariah States & International Obligations
- What Can Be Done?

# World Summit on the Information Society

- Two Phase Summit
- 2003 Geneva (December)
- 2005 Tunis (November)
- International Telecommunications Union in the lead role

# Tripartite Organization

- Governments
- Private Sector
- Civil Society
  - Formerly known for protests & disruption
  - Now included formally in the process

# Preparatory Committee Meetings – “PrepComs”

- PrepCom 2 Feb 2003
- Gender, Youth, Academic & Education  
Caucuses: NO AMERICANS
  - US & Information Society
- PrepCom 3 Sept 2003

# Science at the WSIS

- Geneva - CERN - Role of Science in the Information Society
- Tunis - NSF - November 2005

# Tunis: Le Palace / Carthage

- Title: Past, Present, and Future of Science in the Information Society
- Streams
  - PAST: History of Telecommunications
  - PRESENT: ICTs for Collaboration
  - FUTURE...Africa, Latin America, Asia
- Participants
  - 'I was there'
  - Scholars
  - Policy makers