

Opening the way: learning together

*Network of Latin American and
Caribbean Telecenters*



**Caribbean Community Telecenters Workshop
Santo Domingo - Dominican Republic July 20-22, 2006**



Network of Latin American and Caribbean Telecenters

What is a Community telecenter?

- A community endeavour
- In support of the development objectives of the community
- With its participation and under its control
- Using a physical space equipped with appropriate ICT resources
- Promoting the social use and appropriation of ICT
- Providing access to ICT, information and services at an affordable price
- Managed by, or at least with, the Community



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What is **somos@telecentros**?

- ✓ A collaborative Network
- ✓ Share and exchange knowledge
- ✓ Create and learn together
- ✓ About ICTs for integral human development
- ✓ Promote community telecenters development in the region and globally





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Guiding Principles & Values

- Self transformation and social transformation
- Community NEEDS driven
- Culture of support and solidarity
- Participation on equal footing
- Action, reflection, action
- Learning by doing
- Leadership enhancement
- Awareness and imagination
- Active transparency





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Our dynamic



- Created in 1999
- Regional meetings (Quito 2001, 2003 – Sao Paulo, 2004)
- National meetings (México 1, Guatemala 2, Cuba 1, Venezuela 1, Colombia 3, Ecuador 2, Peru 2, Bolivia 2, Chile 1, Brazil 2, Argentina 1)
- >2200 registered members



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Organization



- Individual & Institutional members & Individual & Institutional associates
- General Assembly
- Board of directors (7 - 3 years) + adviser(s)
- National assemblies
- Working groups
- Registered NGO



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Online Community - www.tele-centros.org



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Discussion lists



- Telecentros de América Latina y el Caribe – telecentros@tele-centros.org
- Different abilities - acceso@tele-centros.org
- Training - capacitación@tele-centros.org
- COVITALC - covitalc@tele-centros.org
- Rural Distance Education - erd@tele-centros.org
- Gender - equidad@tele-centros.org
- Management tools for telecentres - herramientatc@chasquinet.org
- Interculturality in the region - intercultural@tele-centros.org
- Exchange among school pupils - intercambio@tele-centros.org
- Indigenous people - indigenas@tele-centros.org
- Sustainability - sostenibilidad@tele-centros.org
- Linux Tigers - tigres@tele-centros.org
- Public Policies - politicas@tele-centros.org
- National Lists: **México, Perú, Guatemala, Bolivia, Colombia, Argentina, Ecuador, Paraguay, Chile, Brasil**



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Resources Center

- Support members
- Sharing based access
- Multimedia and text resources
- About 400 documents





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Chat

tele-centros.org/chat/index.php3 - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Los mensajes se borran después de 96 horas y los nombres de usuarios después de 1 minuto.

Han ingresado 1 usuario



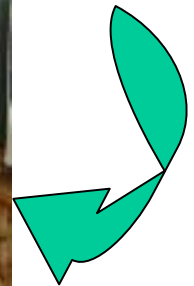
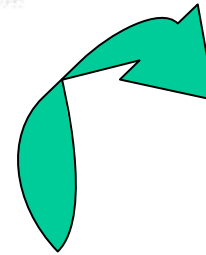
Seleccione un Salón de Chat

Salón: Consejo de Dirección

salones públicos creados por usuarios: Elija una opción

ordenar el chat: público salón:

Entrar





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Toolkits for community telecenters

- **Free software for telecenters –**

<http://tele-centros.org/tc-toolkit2.0/>



- **Public policies, ICTs and telecenters -**

<http://www.tele-centros.org/politicas/manualpoliticaspublicas.htm>



- **Disabilities, ICTs and telecenters –**

<http://www.tele-centros.org/discapitados>



- **Sustainability for telecenters –**

www.tele-centros.org/sostenibilidad/toolkit1.0.htm





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Telecentres of the Americas Partnership (TAP)

TAP represents over 10.000 telecenters throughout North, Central and South America, and the Caribbean serving over 20 million people.

Working collectively, TAP can empower millions of individuals and their families.

Members:

- Aspira Association
- Community Informatics Research Network - CIRN
- Community Technology Centers' Network - CTCNet
- Association for Community Networking - AFCN
- Fundación ChasquiNet
- Pacific Community Networks Association - PCNA
- Somos@telecentros

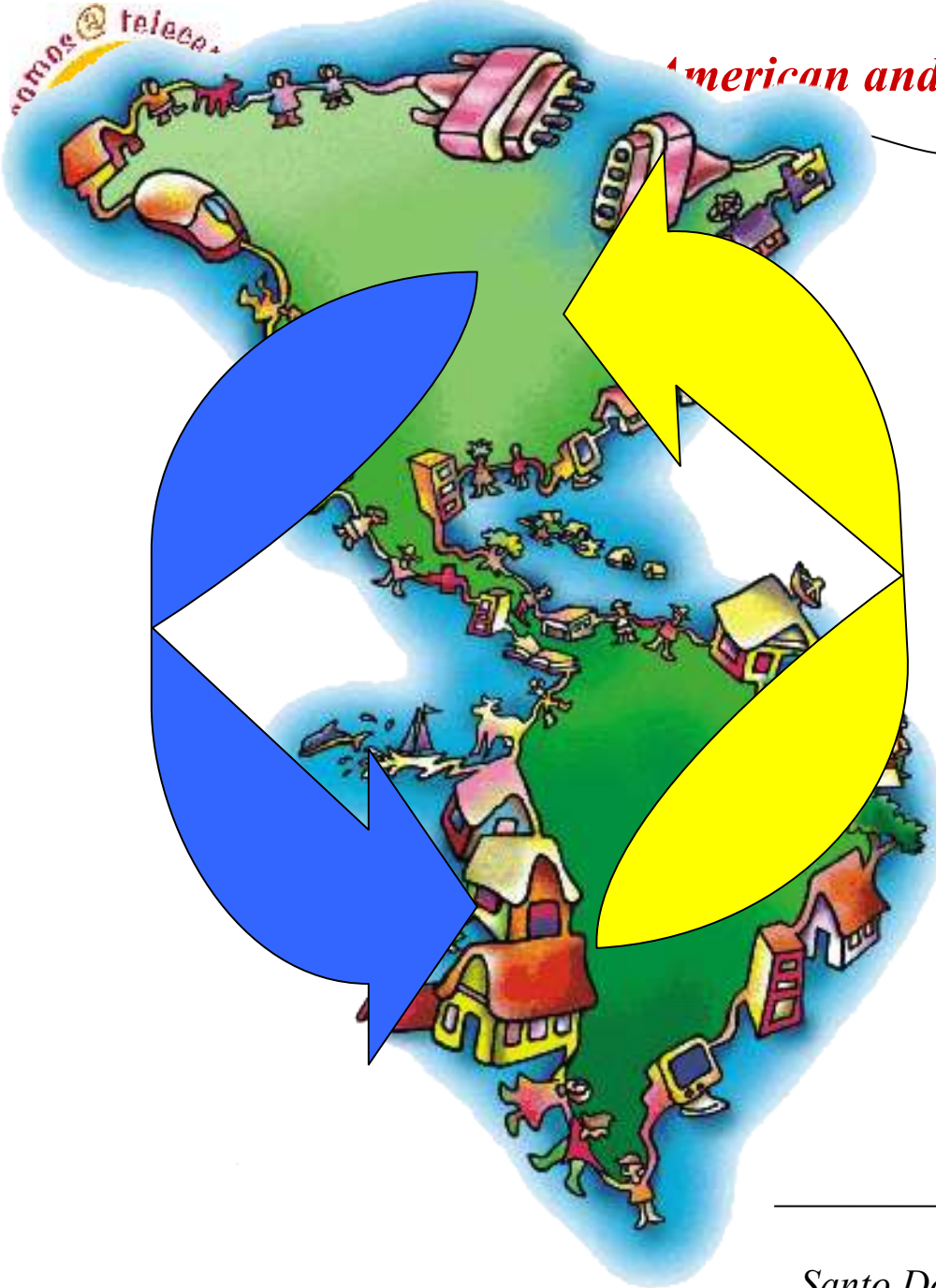




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TAP activities

- Regular board meetings
- Sharing of resources
- Web site
- Preparing joint proposals
- Undertaking joint projects
- I-Malls : An E-commerce organization for telecenters
- Exchange program : a skills offer & demand market place
- Setting up of GAT



I-Malls

I-Malls will help by extending telecenter services to their community as:

a logistics center

to enable people and small business to ship and receive products as result of their e-commerce transaction

a payment center

to enable people and small business without international credit to pay and get paid



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<http://www.pcnastream.com/exchange/paginas/inicio.php>

- ✓ A regional market place of skills' offers & requests
- ✓ Matching offers and needs
- ✓ Partners exchanging
- ✓ Partners preparing projects of skills transfer
- ✓ Projects requiring site visits selected competitively
- ✓ Process documented and outcomes shared



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Global Alliance of Telecentres



In October 2005 the European Union of Telecottages Associations (EUTA) and the Telecenters of the Americas Partnership (TAP) agreed to join forces and to establish a **Global Alliance of Telecenters for Community Development**.

This alliance assembles 20.000 telecenters throughout Europe and the Americas



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GAT's purpose

The Global Alliance of Telecenters shall...

secure the effective participation and representation of grassroots telecenter associations in ICT4Dev fora and programs

facilitate the cooperation and sharing of resources and experiences among telecentre associations

HELP GRASSROOTS TELECENTERS ASSOCIATIONS TO ACHIEVE THEIR MISSIONS!

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Why to work in network?



- Sharing knowledge
- Sharing resources
- Economy of scale
- Having a voice
- **Having one' s own voice**
- Critical mass
- Linkages
- Opportunities



Our internal challenges

- Self-organization of national assemblies (especially in large countries)
- Articulation of national and regional actions
- Combining openness with contribution and responsibility
- Need for, and cost of, multi-lingualism
- Generation of income to support “central” functions



Our internal challenges

- Sustainability strategies at all levels of the network
- Usual personal and institutional rivalries
- Time to build pro-active membership and effective leadership
- Strengthening methods and processes for the exchange of resources, experiences, ideas and knowledge in general
- Interferences from government and international agencies initiatives



Our challenges in the field

- Strengthen telecenter management capacities
- Strengthen telecenters' capabilities to partner in the formulation and implementation of ICT policies
- Sustainability strategies
- Achieving effective community participation in the design, implementation, monitoring and assessment of telecenters activities
- Inadequate & expensive connectivity
- Maintaining up-to-date vision of the local, regional and global scenes
- Interferences from government and international agencies initiatives



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TELECENTROS

UNIDOS

JAMÁS

SERAN DESCONECTADOS

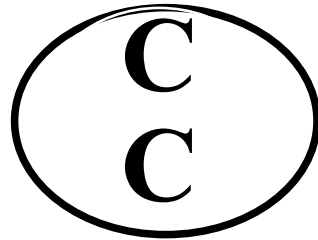


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Mesi
Thank you
Gracias
Hartelijk bedankt
Merci



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