Great Works For The 21st Century: A Critical Role for the Modern Research University









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The Copenhagen Consesus **Ten Great Global Challenges**

- u Civil Conflicts
- u Communicable Diseases
- **u** Education
- u Financial Stability

- **u** Governance
- u Climate Change u Hunger & Malnutrition
 - **u** Migration
 - u Trade Reform
 - **u** Water & Sanitation

Professor Richard Smalley Ten Great Global Challenges

- **u** Energy
- u Water
- u Food
- u Environment

u Poverty

- u Terrorism & War
- **u** Disease
- **u** Education
- **u** Democracy
- **u** Population













Great Works as an Organizing Principal

 "Use Inspired Basic Research" as a Framework for Implementation
 Energy-e.g. Nanoengineered solar cells
 Education-e.g. ICT for the Developing World
 Disease-e.g. Curing malaria with synthetic biology
 The Research University Network
 Role as the "DMZ of Research"

√Next Steps











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uThe Research University Network √Role as the "DMZ of Research" √Next Steps

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Our Best Result So Far!

Low end silicon tandem cells, 12% power efficiency
 High end multi-band gap tandems 34%
 Key considerations:

 Thermalization to band edge
 Processing methods



AM 1.5 Efficiency Power Conversion: 1.7% Short Circuit Current: 5.8 mA/cm² Fill Factor: 0.42 Voc : 0.67 V



Source: Prof. Paul Alivisatos

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Benefits and Applications

- Price discovery—rural farmers able to double incomes by discovering price of their crops in the capital city
- u Improved exports to developed country markets
- Transfer of dollars from diaspora—networked diaspora as a development resource
- Coordination of transportation and distribution (e.g. crops to markets)
- Natural disaster mitigation—early warning of floods, monsoons, etc.

ICT for Improving Market Efficiencies

"Price dispersion is a manifestation—and, indeed, it is the measure—of ignorance in the market" (Stigler, 1961)

 Badiane and Shively (1998) studied monthly maize prices in Ghana from 1980 to 1993:
 "...the estimated time to fully transmit a price shock to each of two outlying markets is about four months."



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ICT Empowers Women



"We get our freedom from the Internet, since in our society girls are not allowed to go wherever we want...the Internet takes us out to other people, places and realities...it is our way of escaping from our closed society. It is vital to us, it gives us liberty."

A young Muslim girl from Mauritania, Global Information Technology Report 2001-2002: Readiness for the Networked World





Benefits and Applications

- u A Platform for Education, Training and Consultation
- Job creation (jobs like data entry that can be shifted to developing countries—inexpensive IT workforce)
- u Reducing corruption from increased transparency (e.g. e-gov for transfer of land titles)
- **u** Entertainment
- u E-health (health information, remote consultation using digital cameras, public health networks)
- u Developing country "communities of practice"
- u Preservation and global sharing of local culture







Open, Standards-Based Global ICT Platform: Infrastructure and Basic Services

- u Very Low Cost, Operates Off the Power Grid, Designed for Intermittent Connectivity, Supports Low Literacy and Multiple Languages, Reliable in Extreme Environments, Supports Shared Access, Private and Secure
- u Must support telephony (synchronous and asynchronous) & data communication
- u Must support sensor networks (potentially millions of sensors/application)

Network access feels just like power grid access in a developed community: You simply "plug in" (wirelessly, of course!)



Light-Weight Audio SMS



What have the TIER TPC Researchers Accomplished this Summer?

- u We are working with M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Aravind Eye Hospital, and the Akshaya (e-gov) project in Kerela
- This summer, we got towers up and set up two links: one from Aravind to one of the MSSRF villages (only 3km) and a 10km link that reconnects that village with the hub
 - It had a connection that was broken, but we reused the towers and antennas
- We showed videoconferencing between the hospital and the villages (sufficient for basic telemedicine)
- u We collected 30 samples of Tamil speech for our speech recognizer
- We set up and left a proxy cache that sits in front of the VSAT (which is the only connection from the villages to the outside Internet)
 Source: Prof. Eric Brewer









Why ICT for Developing Regions Now?

- u Cumulative price-performance advances in technologies are bringing ICT within reach of the global poor
- Emergence of successful business models has spurred commercial interest in these unconventional but large markets
- Many successful pilot applications have demonstrated the positive impact of ICT on global sustainability and quality-of-life
- And many of the very best ICT researchers from throughout the world are passionate about this challenge!

Source: Prof. Eric Brewer



Systems Biology

- Systems biology seeks to uncover the design and control principles of cellular systems through
 - ✓ Comparative genomic analysis
 - Functional genomic and high-through phenotyping of cellular systems
 - v Mathematical modeling of regulatory networks and interacting cell populations.
- Systems biology builds upon our modern understanding of genetics, our latest high-throughput instrumentation and analysis tools, and advanced computer modeling to explain how simple living systems work (e.g. yeast, e-coli)

Synthetic Biology

syn•the•sis *n*. 1.a. the combination of separate elements to form a coherent whole.

- Synthetic biology seeks, through understanding, to design biological systems and their components to address a host of problems that cannot be solved using naturallyoccurring entities
- Enormous potential benefits to medicine, environmental remediation and renewable energy
- Need the ability to write a 'blueprint'



Source: Prof. Jay Keasling

What Might We Want to Design?

uEnzymes uBiomaterials uMetabolic pathways uGenetic control systems uSignal transduction pathways



u... eventually whole cells

Source: Prof. Jay Keasling

Why Do We Need Synthetic Biology?

- u Synthesis of molecules in an environmentally friendly way
- u Synthesis of complicated molecules not found in nature
 - v Designer enzymes

 Designer cells with designer enzymes or existing enzymes



- u New materials
 - v Designer soft biomaterials
 - v Designer hard biomaterials
- u Chem/Bio threat detection and decontamination
 - ✓ New hydrolytic reactions
 - v New metabolic pathways for complete degradation
 - New cells that will swim to the threat and decontaminate it

Source: Prof. Jay Keasling

Why Synthetic Biology Now?

- u Advances in computing power
- u Internet
- u Genomic sequencing
- u Crystal structures of proteins
- u High through-put technologies, including DNA synthesis
- u Biological databases
- u Repositories of cell parts (genes)













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Risk: Creation of New Risks?

u Standard Biological Parts

- Current component libraries seem below the noise level of existing conventional risk
- Open distribution of particular classes of parts may need to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

u Coordinated Fabrication & DNA Synthesis

- Engineers ordering DNA already has a modest positive impact on risk landscape.
- Coordination implies community, community in engineering also implies ethical standards and codes of conduct.







Great Works as an Implementable Vision

- Can we create a collaborative network of great research universities from throughout the world to act as "home" for such an initiative?
- Can we reach agreement with a set of national governments and international agencies to collaborate on this project?
- u Can we identify a collection of national and multinational corporations willing to collaborate on specific research and development goals?
- u As a community, can we create a common vision, a set of priorities, and a research framework for their pursuit?
- u Finally, and most importantly, can we find a source of funds sufficient to make this vision a reality?

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