Islamic Republic of Iran’s Achievements towards WSIS Action Lines

Report by
Information Technology and Digital Media Development Center

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# Table of Content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreword</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Summary</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Line 1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Line 2</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Line 3</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Line 4</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Line 5</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Line 6</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Line 7</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Line 8</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Line 9</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Line 10</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Line 11</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grounds for cooperation to promote achievements</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Foreword

This booklet describes the contribution of Islamic Republic of Iran’s towards Information Society. Especially, it covers measures, plans and achievements of Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance (C&IG) based on the WSIS Action Lines. Nearly all the subjects which are described in this booklet are related to the activities of the “Information Technology and Digital Media Development Center” (ITDMDC). Thus, some important measures such as what falls under Action Line 2, which have been done by the other organizations and ministries such as ICT Ministry are not covered in this booklet. Therefore, Iran’s measures and activities are not restricted to this text. Especially, ICT Ministry has done a lot of work to develop infrastructures and provide access to ICT for all Iranians.

We should acknowledge those who have helped us since 2006 to fulfill these measures, plans and programs, especially our colleagues in the ITDMDC. We should acknowledge Dr. Hasan Alizadeh and Mr. Sadeq Afrasiabi, the chairman and vice-chairman of the ITDMDC since 2011 and Mr. Eesa Zarepour and Mr. Mehdi Sarrami, the former chairman and vice-chairman of the organization since its establishment. We should also acknowledge Mr. Seyyed Arash Vakilian who compiled this booklet, Mr. Hossein Vaezian director of the international affairs of ITDMDC and those who translated, reviewed and published it.

Our great respect is expressed to those who work in the international organizations especially ITU, UNESCO, UNDP, UNCTAD who, as WSIS facilitators, have done a lot of efforts since 2003 to connect and gather different stakeholders from all around the world to contribute towards WSIS goals.
Executive Summary

The Islamic Republic of Iran has taken important steps in the field of content development in the information society over the past decade, especially since 2003 and after adoption of Geneva Action Lines. The issue has taken a specific custodian in the government since the “Information Technology and Digital Media Development Center” (ITDMDC) was set up in the “Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance” in summer 2006.

There have been efforts to support production of digital content through enforcement of the laws and regulations, such as the “Law on Support for Rights of Compilers of Computer Softwares”, approved in 2000 and its article of executive by-law, passed in 2004. Moreover, new laws such as the “Computer Crimes Law” (2009), the “Free Publication and Access to Information Law” (2010) and the “Regulations to Organizing and Development of Cultural Digital Activities and Media” (2010) were compiled and ratified, which helped to establish a framework for promotion of information society and confrontation against publication of illegal content which contains harmful, obscene and unethical materials. Presently, the modification of the “Media Law” and the “Law of Literary and Artistic Property Rights” are in stage of preparation by the administration and Majlis (parliament) to confront new problems and challenges and to provide necessary measures to support production and publication of digital content.

Moreover, many festivals and exhibitions, especially “the International Digital Media Fair and Festival” (IDMF) have been organized and held to provide a proper environment for showcasing and presenting digital works and products and select high quality products. Meanwhile, cultural subsidies are offered to support the production and use of precious digital products, thus upgrading the quality and usability of products and encouraging the public to use digital media.

Since 2010, “National Culture Network Project” has been set up throughout the country so as to narrow down the digital divide and inequality in access, provide “multi-purpose community public access points” and promote ICT and prepare the ground for local content production.

Though considerable progress has been gained towards WSIS goals and the specified
targets of the Geneva and the Tunisia Summits, it is still required to launch much more efforts.

**Summary of Measures, Plans and projects on the basis of the Action Lines**

**Action Line 1 – The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development**

1. Establishment of the “Information Technology and Digital Media Development Center” in 2006
2. Establishment of the “Islamic-Iranian Culture in Digital Environment Committee” in 2010

**Action Line 3 – Access to Information and Knowledge**

1. National Culture Network Project: multi-purpose community public access points
2. Holding national and provincial digital media fairs and festivals
3. Providing legal ground for access to public domain content
4. Setting up digital archive of the cultural works

**Action Line 4 – Capacity building:**

1. National Culture Network Project: Promoting ICT skills and digital literacy
2. Holding and supporting scientific seminars, specialized meetings and educational workshops in the field of digital media
3. Supporting development of ICT usage to upgrade quality of works and products in the digital media field
4. Supporting software exports

**Action Line 5 – Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs.**

A. Regulating activities in the area of digital media to guarantee confidence and security in using information and communication technology and preventing any offenses:

2. Regulation, registration, support and supervision of Iranian internet Websites
3. Implementation of the “Law on Quality of Punishment of those active in audio-visual affairs of unauthorized activities”
4. Contribution to compilation and implementation of the “Regulations to Organizing
and Development of Digital Media and Activities”
B. Confronting publication of criminal content through internet websites and Contribution to implementation of the “Computer Crime Law”
C. Upgrading knowledge of people at large, families especially to enhance security in cyberspace

**Action Line 6 – Enabling environment**
1. Support for rights of compilers and owners of content and software in digital media by implementation of the “Law on Support for Rights of Compilers of Computer Softwares”
2. Modification of copyright laws and Compilation of “Law of Literary and Artistic Property Rights” in harmony with the international copyright conventions
3. Preparation for ratification of Bern and Rome Conventions to support Author’s Rights and Related Rights
4. Preparation of new laws, regulations and by-laws to improve, support and develop digital cultural activities; especially, the “Regulations to Organizing and Development of Cultural Digital Activities and Media”

**Action line 7 – ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life: e-government**
1. Establishing websites and portal for the Ministry of C&IG and handling part of the Ministry’s dealings with people through e-services

**Action Line 8 – Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content**
1. Support for digital media activities and promotion of its usage
2. National Culture Network Project: Preparation of ground for local content production

**Action Line 9 – Media**
1. Improving and supporting activities of news agencies and electronic magazines
2. Preparation and compilation of the “bill on Media Law”

**Action Line 10 – moral dimensions of informational society**
1. Publishing the “Family Safety and Child Online Protection Guidelines” for
children, youths, parents and educators in Persian to upgrade knowledge of people at large, families especially
2. Holding international workshops to make Iranian experts, providers and administrators familiar with the experiences of other countries
3. Safe Computer and Network Project

**Action Line 11 – International and regional cooperation**
1. Participation in WIPO regional and international meetings to protect copy right in cyber space and digital media
2. Setting up relations with ITU and international experts in the field of “Child Online Protection” on behalf of Iran’s government
3. Holding international and regional exhibitions to introduce the achievements of Iran and other countries in the field of ICT and digital media, especially Iranian softwares and attempting to reduce knowledge gap and digital divide in the Middle East and Central Asia

**Grounds for cooperation to upgrade achievements:**
1. Providing a dynamic environment to produce content and products being based on local culture and identity
2. Safeguarding copyrights in the field of digital media
3. Providing access and enabling less physically capable people and deprived regions
4. Protecting family and children against unethical, harmful and Obscene contents in the cyber environments
5. Optimal selection of softwares and general application of the open source softwares
6. Confronting privacy violation by foreign softwares and systems
Report on Performance of Ministry of C&IG Based on the WSIS Action Lines

Prelude

The report includes highlights of the plans and measures that Ministry of C&IG has adopted in line with the group of 11 Action Lines, passed by the Geneva World Summit on the Information Society. Since the report has been prepared based on the Action Lines, there may have overlaps in some paragraphs. But the measures are mainly related to the third, fourth, fifth, ninth and tenth Action Lines. Moreover, the report tries to mention problems and barriers which need international cooperation such as child online protection so as to seek the ITU, UNESCO and the other international organizations’ help to tackle them.

Action Line 1 – The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development

1. Establishment of the “Information Technology and Digital Media Development Center”:

The Information Technology and Digital Media Development Center (ITDMDC) has been established at the Ministry of C&IG since 2006. ITDMDC is the specific governmental custodian for development of Digital Media in general and digital media content in particular. It has the following missions:

1. Organizing and support of the production and publishing the digital cultural, artistic and media products,
2. Development of ICT usage at the culture section,
3. Providing amendment of plans, laws and regulations in the field of digital media at I. R. Iran,
4. Capacity building and empowerment of people to use digital media,
5. Promoting and spreading the correct use of the tools based on ICT in Iran,
6. Developing ICT usage in the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance,
7. Supporting the production, publishing and exporting of digital cultural products, and
8. Organizing and regulating of digital cultural activities in the Iran.
2. Establishment of the “Islamic-Iranian Culture in Digital Environment Committee” in 2010
The administration established the “ICT and Security Committee” to harmonize and organize different stakeholders, especially the administrative bodies and to handle better ICT development in Iran. This committee handles by ICT Ministry and set up 18 specialized commissions in different era such as security, e-commerce, e-government, industry, etc. “Islamic-Iranian Culture in Digital Environment Committee” is one of those committee which is handled by ITDMDC and dedicated to regulating and supporting production, publication and use of digital content in cyberspace and empowering the public to use digital media.

Action Line 2 – Information and communication infrastructure
It is not related to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Action Line 3 – Access to Information and Knowledge
The goal of this line is facilitating entire people’s access to information and science. To address the goal, it is needed to take actions in several axes, including:
• Providing multi-purpose community public access points to facilitate accessibility of ICT for all and remove access divide.
• Provide free public domain information and open source software
Measure taken in connection with the action line:

Press conference of Dr. Alizade, Chairman of ITDMDC
1. National Culture Network Project: multi-purpose community public access points:
Since the requisite for access to information and science in the information society is universal and affordable access of the public to information and telecommunication technology, the Ministry of C&IG has prepared “the National Culture Network Project” to serve the goal. The project will be implemented, in five years to 2015 at 1,000 digital culture sites and complexes, serving as multi-purpose community public access points throughout the country, especially in such public centers as libraries and mosques. In these cultural centers, people will be provided freely with such services as a collection of internet websites and Iranian media softwares. Moreover, digital cultural works will be put on sale with special discount price out of cultural subsides. The first phase of the project was implemented up to February 2012, covering 250
centers. That phase of the project has been validated by the government in February 2010 and a credit of USD 10 million was allocated for it. After cities with more than 10,000 populations be equipped with such facilities, in the next phases necessary credits will be provided to the implementation of the project in small cities, villages and less developed regions. Within this framework of the project measures will be adopted to empower and upgrade digital knowledge of citizens and produce local content. Other aspects of the project will be explained under the headings of Action Lines 4th and 8th.

2. Holding national and provincial digital media fairs and festivals:
To promote digital media in society and facilitate its diffusion among the public, the ITDMDC has since 2007 held the fairs and festivals in Tehran and other provinces. So, while showcasing recent digital media products and works, it assisted expansion of related markets by offering special discounts using cultural subsidies. Also, since the
exhibitions are held in provincial level as well as nationally and internationally, they have drastic impact on promotion and diffusion of digital media among the public. By end of March 2012, five national festivals, two national and three international exhibitions and about 30 provincial exhibitions have been held.

3. Providing legal ground for access to public domain content:

To help public access to government information, the “Publication and Free Access to Information Law”, presented on January 2010, was adopted, thus providing necessary legal mandate for publication of non-confidential governmental information generally free of charge or at low cost. Presently, executive by-law of the law is in stage of compilation at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

4. Setting up digital archive of the cultural works:

Regarding importance of preserving and offering various value-added services for the contents referred to the Ministry of C&IG in the supervision and supportive procedures, it has put into operation a digital archive in a bid to receive related contents (books, periodicals, music, film, written arts works and so on) in digital form from the application since the beginning and also to change past contents digitally so as to make their protection easier and make operation and offering of the value-added services possible. Since 2008, digital copies of all of the books referred to the Ministry have been saved in the designed system. Moreover, more than several million copies of books published in the past years are saved in an advanced digital archive system, having the capability for recovery and use in a proper way.
Action Line 4 – Capacity building:
The Ministry has taken the following measures in this connection:

1. National Culture Network Project: Upgrading knowledge and skills:
   Generalities of the project were explained under the heading of Action Line 3. To upgrade digital knowledge in the complexes, educational workshops tailor-made to the needs of the users will be held free of charge or at low price. Moreover, trained instructors will be assigned at the site to help the users. The establishment of about 1000 digital cultural complexes also will provide a great opportunity for entrepreneurship and job creation for up to 3000 unemployed graduates. Hence, in the mid-term, users can, by this way, raise their knowledge and e-literacy professional competencies and skills. In addition, by introducing digital media production technologies and tools and putting them at the disposal of the public, the ground will be prepared for production of content and products by the interested users.

2. Holding and supporting scientific seminars, specialized meetings and educational workshops in the field of digital media:
   To promote culture, train users and enhance empower the public to use ICT, about 1800 meetings, lectures and workshops were held in Tehran and other provinces from 2007 to March 2012 by the ITDMDC or through its support. Moreover, the books and softwares relating to the program have been published.

3. Supporting development of the information technology usage to upgrade quality of works and products in the digital media field:
   The Ministry of C&IG has been trying to provide software packages to ease production of digital media. Also, the Ministry of C&IG provides or supports other hardware and software tools used by the media so as to prepare and publish cultural digital works and products, especially the tools serving solar Hijri date as the official calendar which is in use in Iran and Persian language and writing style.

4. Supporting software exports:
   Supporting the software products companies and helping them to attend such international exhibitions as Cebit, starting since 2008. The move has been institutionalized within framework of an agreement, reached between the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the Technology Cooperation Department of
Islamic Republic of Iran’s Achievements towards WSIS Action Lines

Presidential Office, the Information Dissemination High Council and the Trade Development Organization.

**Action Line 5 – Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs.**

To help citizens gain access to safe and reliable environment and to confront publication of products which contain illegal and harmful content, the following measures have been adopted:

A. **Regulating activities in the area of digital media to guarantee confidence and security in using ICT and preventing any offenses**

One of the functions of Regulation of activities in the field is confronting publication and duplication of unethical and harmful content. The other function is confronting copyright infringement.

The measures taken for promotion of confidence and security in the digital environment are as follows:

1. **Collaboration in compilation of the “Computer Crime Law”**

Regarding weakness of former laws on prohibition of cyber crimes including harmful and criminal activities in the cyber space and punishment of them, the “Computer Crimes Law” was approved by Majles in 2009. Since unveiling the “Computer Crime Law” in 2009, the Ministry of C&IG has been actively cooperating with the “Working Group for Definition of Instances of Crimes” which is established in the office of the Attorney General, as referred to in the Article 21 of the Law. In line with enforcement of this Law the Ministry participates in defining instances of criminal content and present report on offenses to the working group.

2. **Regulation, registration, support and supervision of Iranian internet Websites:**

The Ministry of C&IG has presented to the cabinet the by-law for regulation of Iranian websites. The document was passed by the cabinet in August 2006. It mandates the Ministry to provide necessary measures for registration of the identity of the Iranian internet website. To implement the said by-law, the Ministry has set up a system, which is known as “Samandehi Electronic System”. Since 2006, about 32000 Iranian internet websites have been registered through “Samandehi Electronic System”.

3. **Implementation of the “Law on Quality of Punishment of those active in audio-visual affairs of unauthorized activities”**
Due to facilitation of violation of the author’s rights of the audio-visual works and publication and duplication of unethical and harmful content in cyber space, “the Law on Quality of Punishment of those active in audio-visual affairs of unauthorized activities” was conveyed to Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, in February 2007. The Ministry has in cooperation with Ministry of Industries taken necessary measures, including issuance of permits for audio-visual works based on digital carriers and improvement of the CD and DVD duplication mills so as to prevent duplication of unauthorized content.

4. Contribution to compilation and implementation of the “Regulations to Organizing and Development of Digital Media and Activities”
Based on the Principle 138 of the “Islamic Republic of Iran Constitution” and with regards to the laws in the field of cultural activities and to regulate and support digital media activities and improve administrative affairs (registration, support and supervision) of every kind of content publication in cyber space, the Ministry of

A conference on Family Safety in Cyber space: from left Mr. Taghipour minister of ICT of Iran, Mr. Eesa Zarepour, Chairman of ITDMDC, Mr. John Carr an adviser to the ITU and British Government on online child safety, from , Mr. Hossein Sharif, Lecturer of University of Portsmouth
C&IG has presented to the cabinet the necessary by-law. Finally, it was approved and enforced at the end of 2010 by the cabinet, after revising and modifying by the experts from related ministries and organizations. There are different activities which have been done based on this regulation:

- **Registration, support and supervision over cultural institutions and companies in charge of publication, duplication and distribution of content through digital media:**
  
  To support author’s rights of producers and owners of digital works, enhance business framework in the field and confront unauthorized content publication and distribution, the Ministry issues licenses for the institutions and companies that publish software and other forms of digital content since 2010. Hence, the institutions and companies can use such facilities as tax exemption and be provided with cultural subsidies support. There are more than 200 institutions and companies which have been received related licenses until March 2012.

- It has also negotiated with the Communication Regulatory Organization (Sazman Tanzim Mogharrat va Ertebatat Radioyee) so as to establish cooperation to confront violation of the right of duplication and publication of harmful and illegal content through postal and telecommunication systems.

**B. Confronting publication of criminal content through internet websites and Contribution to implementation of the “Computer Crime Law”:**

Experts of the Ministry C&IG have since December 2009 been monitoring internet and daily identifying about several websites containing cultural criminal contents, including unethical and harmful as well as copyright infringement subjects. As the Iran’s Computer Crime Law defines adult content as illegal material, about 75 percent of the illegal cases relate to unethical content and about 15 percent of them relate to piracy. After case investigation, it has been reported to the “Working Group for Definition of Instances of Crimes” to deal legally with them.

Moreover, citizens can report websites which contain unethical and illegal content. ITDMDC has also set up a site (peyvandha.ir) to provide access to related information in the case of illegal content to the public.

**C. Upgrading knowledge of people at large, families especially to enhance security in cyberspace:**

The ITDMDC has, since 2007, been holding sessions and educational workshops
nationally and provincially in a bid to upgrade knowledge of families about opportunities and threats of digital media. There is more information about the activities in this field under Action Line 10.

**Action Line 6 – Enabling environment**

It is necessary to empower the users with information and communication skills with professional development and lifelong learning in order to prepare the suitable ground for production of the ICT based content and works. So, efforts have been made to this end by supporting the Rights of Intellectual Property in digital media and by regulating the production, publication and duplication sectors.

1. Support for rights of compilers and owners of content and software in digital media by implementation of the “Law on Support for Rights of Compilers of Computer Softwares”

To support professional products in the software industry, the Ministry of C&IG has been actively contributing to compilation of the “Law on Support for Rights of Compilers of Computer Softwares” (2000) and related executive by-law (2004). In line with this law, by March 2012, 4564 software has been registered.

Moreover, to support rights of compilers of softwares, improve market and confront publication of unauthorized contents and copyright infringement, licenses and permissions are issued for publication of all sorts of softwares. By March 2012 11427
publication licenses and permissions for softwares were issued.

2. Modification of copyright laws and compilation of “Law of Literary and Artistic Property Rights” in harmony with the international copyright conventions.

A bill to safeguard copyright of all forms of artistic and cultural works including computer softwares and digital content has been compiled by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance. Efforts have been made to harmonize the bill with the copyright conventions as well as TRIPs Agreement. The compilation has been completed in the Ministry of C&IG in 2011 and delivered to the administration. At present, the bill is reviewed and modified by an official committee consist of the representatives of the ministries and private sector. It will be sent to the Majles (Iran’s Parliament) after the approval by the cabinet.

3. Preparation for ratification of Bern and Rome Conventions to support Author’s Rights and Related Rights:

In line with attempts to promote knowledge base society and empower culture industry and prevent copyright infringement of the Iranian literary and artistic works especially through cyberspace outside Iran, the Ministry of C&IG has proposed ratification of Bern and Rome Conventions. The administration is going to send it to Majlis for final approve in 2012.
4. Preparation of new laws, regulations and by-laws to improve, support and develop digital cultural activities; especially, the “Regulations to Organizing and Development of Cultural Digital Activities and Media”

As described in the Action Line 5, to support digital media activities and increase content production on the ground of information and telecommunication technology, the “Regulations to Organizing and Development of Cultural Digital Activities and Media” has been approved by the cabinet in 2010. This regulation contains necessary measures for improvement and development of digital cultural activities and media. These supportive measures will be in operation from July 2011.

Action Line 7 – ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life: e-Government

1. Establishing websites and portal for the Ministry of C&IG and handling part of the Ministry’s dealings with people within framework of the e-services:

Automatization of the Ministry’s services to the extent that all the affairs would be handled through the internet without need to personal reference of the applicants, is one of the subjects attended to in the Ministry since 2006. In 2008, the process for issuance of publication permission has been turned into an electronic service. Under the system, all the procedures from issuance of publication permission are handled in an automatized form at secured internet service. The publishers also can send the book file through internet without personal reference only by entering special username specified for each publisher. Publishers will hence be able to see all the events relating to the book in the cartable created for them. The infrastructure system is very important for book digital archive.

Action Line 8 – Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content

1. Support for digital media activities and promotion of its usage:

The ITDMDC has since 2007 been holding national digital media festival to select and introduce high quality digital works. Then, by allocating target-oriented cultural subsidies to selected works, supports them. The practice helped promotion of application of digital media by people, especially seminaries and university students and pupils. From 2007 to March 2011, about four million dollars was allocated to the issue and about 10000 software, websites and the other digital works and products were directly or indirectly supported.
2. National Culture Network Project: Preparation of ground for local content production

Another function of National Culture Network Project, which was outlined under the headings of the third and fourth Action Lines, is preparation of the ground for production of the local content. Since under the project, about 1,000 digital cultural complexes will be set up throughout the country up to 2015, people will in any part of the country use the facilities and educational equipment available to produce their favorite contents. Then the content will be published within framework of national network.

Action Line 9 – Media

Due to the fact that, the development of digital media is one of the main missions of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, it has made a lot of efforts in this field. However, in this booklet each activity has been written under the most relevant Action Lines.

1. Improving and supporting activities of news agencies and electronic magazines:
“The amendment to the Press Law” was conveyed in January 2010 to improve electronic news agencies and promote their activities. The Ministry has based itself on the amended document dealt with improvement of activities of electronic news agencies. Presently 20 electronic news agencies are active, ninth of which dealing with specialized domains such as “the Women News Agency” (IWNA).

2. Preparation and compilation of the “bill on Media Law”

The completion of the draft of the “bill on Media Law” was finished in the Ministry C&IG in 2011. The bill covers part of necessary legal framework for the media in general and the digital media in special. At present, the bill is reviewed and modified by Majles (Iran’s parliament) and it is determined to be approved before 2015.

Action Line 10- Moral dimensions of information society

1. Publishing the “Family Safety and Child Online Protection Guidelines” in Persian, English and Arabic to upgrade knowledge of people at large, families especially

Having been impressed by the ITU Guidelines to protect children in the cyberspace, the ITDMDC has published three books for children, youths, parents and educators
in this field in 2010 and 2011. It works on guidelines for the industries and policy makers. These guidelines are compiled on the basis of the culture and situation of Iran. It is decided, that these guidelines are published and distributed in large scale with the cooperation of ICT Ministry and the other related organizations.

To promote people’s awareness about challenges of the cyberspace the ITDMDC has supported to produce about 150 minutes educational animation which is set to broadcast during 2012.

2. Holding international workshops to make Iranian experts, providers and administrators familiar with the experiences of the other countries

The ITDMDC invited renowned international experts in the field of child online protection on October 2010 and October 2011. Several workshops were held for the Iranian experts, service providers and administrators to make them familiar with the methods which have been used by the government and private sector in Europe and
North America to protect children in the cyber space.

3. Safe Computer and Network Project
ITDMDC has specified a day as “Clean Computer Day” during International Digital Media Fair and showcasing the achievements on October 2010 and October 2011. These events were held with the presence of the ICT Minister and Culture Minister, International and Iranian experts, Iranian COP activists and the media.

In addition, regarding the need for empowering people, especially families, to prevent access to harmful and obscene content in the digital environment, especially through web, a comprehensive project is getting prepared to provide all the users with capabilities of supervision on received information and prevent access to harmful information such as pornography. Among parts of the project reference should be made to the parental control with the capability to process images and texts, helping parents to provide their children with a safe and reliable digital environment.
Action Line 11- International and regional cooperation

1. Participation in WIPO regional and international meetings to protect copyright in cyberspace and digital media:
   Since 2010, Ministry of C&IG has actively participated in WIPO regional and international meetings such as India and Sri Lanka symposiums. These symposiums were held to discuss on challenges for copyright in cyberspace and the experts from WIPO and Asian countries exchange their knowledge and experiences. In addition the Ministry has close relation with WIPO headquarter to improve literary and artistic property rights, especially in cyberspace.

2. Setting up relations with ITU and international experts in the field of “Child Online Protection” on behalf of Iran’s government
Due to the fact that one of the main missions of the ITDMDC is provision of safe environment for the families, it has started to communicate with ITU Child Online Protection work group. Therefore, the ITDMDC, on behalf of Iran’s government, began to contact with ITU experts and its advisors to find a framework for fruitful cooperation.

3. Holding international and regional exhibitions to introduce the achievements of Iran and other countries in the field of ICT and digital media, especially Iranian softwares and attempting to reduce knowledge gap and digital divide in the Middle East and Central Asia:

The International Digital Media Fair (IDMF) is one of the most important measures regarding the promotion of technical level as well as the quality of digital media content in Iran. The ITDMDC holds the IDMF every year on October in Tehran, capital of Iran. This Fair is the greatest event in the field of digital media content and digital cultural & artistic products in Iran and one of the most important events in this field in the Middle East. By holding this Fair in Iran, lots of suitable opportunities are available for the participants to contact with their customers easily. It is also an opportunity for Iranians to become familiar with the works of the other countries.

On January 2011, the Ministry of C&IG alongside the other administrative bodies holds an exhibition in Syria to introduce Iranian software and digital media as well as the other cultural works to Syrians. Also, the Ministry holds Iran’s Culture week in Tajikistan and Azerbaijan to introduce Iran’s cultural works including digital media products.

**Grounds for cooperation to promote achievements**

1. Providing a dynamic environment to produce content and products being based on local culture and identity

Children and Youth are playing video games during IDMF 2010
One of the problems caused by digital divide is users’ incapability to produce local information. In another words, the frequency of receiving information from internet websites is much higher than production of information by the users. In Iran such a problem is caused due to weakness of the information technology understructure, ineffectiveness of regulations and strategies for supporting intellectual properties of the producers and lack of the digital literacy of users. So, Iran welcomes proposals and projects of other countries, organizations and personalities for capacity building, empowerment of user, professional development and lifelong learning for enhancing user’s cognitive and communication skills, especially local population to turn their science to digital content and orientation to creation of works and products based on ICT.

2. Safeguarding copyrights in the field of digital media
Despite efforts made for improvement of activities of digital media, extensive violation of intellectual property in the field is one of the most important challenges facing booming occupation and qualified content and software production in Iran. Hence, practically, talents are oriented to profit making domains such as network security from the field of content production and software. Though the Ministry has been trying to implement related laws and promote attention to the issue, the achievements at the scale intended have not yet been met. So, the Ministry welcomes proposals and help of other countries and organizations to tackle the problems.

3. Providing access and enabling less physically capable people and deprived regions:
Due to high number of Iranian population and scarcity of their land in an extensive country, and also due to
lack of enough attention to the needs of special less capable people, little research and practical works have been done in the case. Especially regarding the fact that considerable portion of Iranian people have lost poor body organs in the wake of war, natural incidents and catastrophes, the need is felt for providing special information in the case. So, the UNESCO and other organizations activities and plans can be promising in this connection, rather due to the UNESCO plans.

4. Protecting children against unethical, harmful and Obscene contents in the cyber environments:
Growing use of communicational devices and diffusion of the information and communicational technology into society, have made children vulnerable to harmful and corrupt contents. This is especially true in cases when parents are less informed of the issue and are not familiar with due threats. That’s a very serious challenge. Despite government’s efforts to counter the websites and other products releasing and propagating such kind of content, more and more corrupt contents are daily put at the disposal of children by internet and mobile phones. So, Iran welcomes any sort of help in this concern by countries, organizations and individuals, being reach for mutual cooperation.

5. Optimal selection of softwares and general application of the open source softwares:
Due to economic problems and the US sanctions, more interest and motivation is shown, especially by related experts, in Iran than other developing countries for open source softwares. But, few comprehensive or purposeful measures have yet been adopted to generalize such softwares. Moreover, relatively free access to all the professional softwares has been lowered, thus making the public less motivated and eager to use the softwares in the best possible manner. Therefore, a proper ground has been provided for the Ministry’s cooperation with UNESCO to propagate open source softwares.

6. Confronting privacy violation by foreign softwares and systems:
Unfortunately, Iran has over recent years been witnessing extensive violation of privacy and security frameworks through communicational networks, especially internet. The privacy of the users is violated and their information is used without
the people’s permission by foreign organizations and individuals, especially the organizations supported by the US. To confront the assault, international cooperation is needed.
provincial Digital Media Exhibition in Qom

Educational workshop

Family training session during IDMF 2010
ITDMDC stand in Iran's pavilion in CEBIT 2011

Digital Media Complex in Tehran

ITDMDC stand in Iran Technology Exhibition in Syria