

# Thematic Discussion: Digital Convergence & making use of ICT

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# Challenges facing ICT development In GCC

- Public awareness involvement.
- Finding institutional Support and financing for ICT Researches and studies.
- Security and Privacy Issues.
- The increasing dependence on outsourcing, results into Lack of local programming experience and capabilities.

# Challenges facing ICT development In GCC

- Problems of assigning third party to build institutional electronic systems (Buying the product), resulting into making Institutions acting as Consumers (end users) rather than providers.
- Lack of benchmarking with other countries' solutions.
- Using ICT to Develop e services in Health, Education and Governmental services to citizens & organizations.
- Need for Marketing strategies for Grabbing end users of available E-services

# Recommended Solutions

- A local needs assessment must be conducted as a basis for ICT projects identified in this joint efforts.
- ICT Joint Projects must be a result of a mutual interests, objectives and demand of all related stockholders and project providers.
- Institutions should have inward reflection to maximize their to maximize their leverage with their collaborators
- Establishing multimedia labs to boost creativity and better develop content.
- Increase the efforts of establishing basic needs e-services like: E-health, E-education & E-Gov.

# Recommended Solutions

- Use the advantages of common areas between some GCC Countries such as language, culture ...etc as a key element for planning for projects.
- Provide a friendly and easy to adopt platform for software development which should also serve as a learning environment.
- Increase efforts to find ways of develop self independency in managing and programming electronic systems. Which can be done by increasing international collaborations with regards to ICT. For example: developing free & open source.
- Most of these issues are currently being undertaken in EU and bilateral exchanges where both parties will benefit should be encouraged

**Thanks for Attention**