Handout # 9: Final Project

There are four types of projects for this assignment:

1) Case Study: MIT-based program – Since many programs at MIT do not have the benefit of receiving detailed case study analysis, you can choose to pair up with a program that is being implemented at MIT so that information collection is possible. Some examples of programs are:

   a. OpenCourseWare (OCW)
   b. Africa Internet Technology Initiative (AITI)
   c. Middle Eastern Education through Technology (MEET)
   d. China Educational Technology Initiative (CETI)
   e. iLabs
   f. LiNC
   g. D-Lab (or specific projects within D-Lab)
   h. Other PSC-related projects (i.e. CommuniTech)

2) Case Study: Other ICT-related program: You are free to choose a program to evaluate that does not have any ties to MIT, but you must clear your idea with Prof. Miyagawa and Manish before pursuing your project. There is a very simple reason for this: many projects have already been analyzed multiple times, and we do not want to re-invent the wheel!

3) In-depth analysis: For some of you, it may be difficult to find a project that fits the above criteria. Therefore, for special cases, the course staff will accept another type of exercise to fulfill the final project requirement: An in-depth analysis of any topic covered in the course (i.e. the relationship between ICTs and entrepreneurship, ICTs and healthcare, ICTs and international governments, etc.). Note that this is only for special circumstances, and you must receive permission from the course instructors.

4) Fieldwork Project Addendum: If you have secured funding or want to use this opportunity to enhance your fieldwork project, we are leaving this approach as an option. This must be approved by the course instructor, however.

We strongly encourage everyone to choose option # 1, since we want to pilot the idea of working with an MIT partner to analyze their work in this field for future versions of this course.

Case Study Analysis (Options # 1 and # 2)

In tonight's class, we will be discussing four prominent, international ICT-related projects. The presentations you will hear are based on detailed analysis by interested stakeholders in the "ICT for development" movement (i.e. World Resource Institute, infoDev, etc.)

Similarly, our recommended final project for this course asks for you to do the same: choose an ICT-based project, and evaluate its mission, goals, implementation, etc. You will have the chance to study both its successes and failures. You will be asked to draft a report (minimum 10 pages) that clearly and persuasively outlines your analysis on the project in question. This is not your only option, though (see next page).

For this option, please refer to the reading for tonight's class. In it, there is a section entitled "Case Study Methodology." We will follow the framework outlined in this document, which consists of the following sections:

1) Overview – the "who," "what," "where," "when," "why," and "how" of the project in question.

2) Impact Review – an outline of the major impact/results of the project.

3) Impact Analysis – a detailed look at the following fives issues, and how contributed to the achievements of the projects:

      a. Partnership
      b. Target Groups
      c. Capacity Building
      d. Technology
      e. Finance

4) Lessons Learned Analysis – a focused description of the challenges faced during implementation, key factors and issues that helped development in the targeted region, and the future outlook of the project.

5) Beneficiary Feedback – a "story box" that encapsulates feedback from case study beneficiaries on how the project impacted them.

Format

Once again, you will have the option of breaking up into teams for this assignment. In order to write exceptional final projects, you will need to work with your colleagues and in some cases, community partners.

You are free to divide into groups. Although we are allowing you to pair up with anyone, we highly recommend that you try to work with new people (i.e. not your fieldwork

project group.) Again, there is a simple reason for this: you will eventually have to work with all different types of people when you leave MIT. This is just another step in preparing you for the real world!

Deadline

This assignment is due on Tuesday, December 6th and 7:00 PM. It should be submitted via the MIT Server.