

Tefera Waluwa on ICT in Ethiopia

The Ethiopian Minister of Capacity Building believes that ICT will continue to be crucial to the country's economic progress.

Tefera Waluwa

The first thing myself and my office do is to learn from other countries. The most important move must be to develop the human resource. Professionals in IT and every citizen needs to be able to use the potentials of IT. If we don't do this, we know we cannot survive.

Networking Academies are important strategic moves in this human resource development. Three, four years back, our farmers, far away from urban centers, did not have any communication to urban centers, or even to their own neighbors.

I can tell you, there is a remote place in Ethiopia, probably the second highest mountain in Africa. There is no access at all, of any sort. There is no air strip, there is no car road, nothing is there except that you have to walk for several days on foot or on horseback to get there. And now that remotest place is connected all over the world, be it Internet, video conferencing, or telephone services. In the globalized world, nowadays, we thought without information communication technology, utilization, we felt no country can survive.

Our vision is every aspect of Ethiopian life must be IT assisted. With a mind wide open, anything is possible today, and into the future.

© 2009 Cisco Systems, Inc. All rights reserved.