



Colnodo
Colombian NGO Association for
Communication Via E-mail



Local Experiences,
International Potential
Web4Dev Conference

www.colnodo.apc.org

Washington DC, May 2005

www.colnodo.apc.org



Mission

Empowering and supporting groups and individuals working for peace, human rights, development and protection of the environment, through the strategic use of Internet.



About Colnodo

One of the first Internet Services Providers in Colombia that since 1993 provides services to more than 500 social organizations in Colombia. Colnodo is the only non-for profit ISP in Colombia.

- Is a member of the Association for Progressive Communications- APC (www.apc.org).
- At national level is member of the National Confederation of NGOs (www.ccong.org.co)



About Colnodo

Supports the operation of the Sustainable Development Network (Undp initiative) and the Colombian Development Gateway (Development Gateway Foundation initiative) in Colombia.



Supporting Grassroots NGOs

En Febrero de 1997, el proyecto titulado **Proyectos Piloto de Redes Comunitarias en América Latina**, fue presentado por la Asociación para el Progreso de las Comunicaciones - **APC**, ante el Centro Internacional de Investigaciones para el Desarrollo de Canadá - **CII/IDRC** en Montevideo, Uruguay. Este proyecto contaba con dos componentes: uno en Ecuador (a ser ejecutado por **ECUANE**) y otro en Colombia, que denominamos **UNIDADES INFORMATIVAS BARRIALES - UIBs**, y ha sido ejecutado por **COLNODO**.

Las Unidades Informativas Barriales son centros de acceso a Internet ubicados en zonas urbano-marginales de Bogotá, administrados en su totalidad por Organizaciones Comunitarias de Base. Ofrecen acceso a las nuevas Tecnologías de Información y Comunicación - TICs, a sistemas y servicios de información en línea sobre la localidad y sus instituciones.

Funcionan en las localidades de:

- **Bosa - Fundación Kerigma**
- **Suba - Fundación AVP para el desarrollo social**
- **San Cristóbal - Fundación Pepaso**

Unidad de Comunicación Local

Crónica de una muerte anunciada en Bosa
Yina Martínez | 10/24/2002 |

Hoy en día se ven muchos casos, en que por falta de empleo o dinero ocurren casos en que por desesperación, o tal vez malos pensamientos llegan a un punto de destrucción en tan solo un día. Este es el caso de Guillermo Osorio donde se ve reflejada la humildad por lo que tiene que pasar la gente con bajos recursos y gracias a esto, tienen que humillarse; cometiendo actos impuros, como robo, asesinatos; por conseguir con que mantener a su familia.

MAS TITULARES

- **Crónica de una muerte anunciada en Bosa**
- **Tu fuerza y amor por una mujer**
- **Un amor inesperado**
- **IPANICOL, sus funciones final de quimica.**
- **El grupo de futbol femenino juega incompleto fuera de Bogotá.**
- **Un día de estudio, lluvia y alegría**
- **Los espejos del tiempo?**
- **Se mantienen los ojos en el cielo**
- **Partir del colado un suelo a una pesadilla**

- Neighborhood Information Units (Telecenters) and Youth Information Peace Network.

- www.uibs.colnodo.apc.org
- www.rij.org.co



■ ■ Supporting Grassroots NGOs



- Neighborhood Information Units provides (1996):
 - Internet access to local community.
 - Promotes local services and content.
 - Support to develop new initiatives for community access (Telecenters).
 - Training in the strategic uses of Internet with emphasis on peace conflict resolution, specially oriented to young people.
 - Usage of online education services (i.e. How to write on the Internet).
 - Support to women networking online.



Supporting Grassroots NGOs



Corporación
Transparencia
Colombia



- Internet for accountability at municipal level.

www.municipiostransparentes.colnodo.apc.org

Intended to:

- Fight against corruption.
- Provide Majors with a tool that supports accountability processes.
- Provide local communities with tools to access to information related to their local governments.
- Allow community to participate in decision-making processes.

www.colnodo.apc.org



Supporting Grassroots NGOs

Information systems

Peace process and empowering local communities using
Content Management Systems - CMS (Action Applications):

- Portal para el Desarrollo avanza, www.avanza.org.co.
- Red de Desarrollo Sostenible, www.rds.org.co.
- País Rural, www.paisrural.org
- Red de Gestores Sociales, www.rgs.org.co
- Banco de Buenas Practicas para Superar el Conflicto.
www.saliendodelcallejon.pnud.org



Supporting Grassroots NGOs

Information systems (cont.)

- Red Prodepaz. www.redprodepaz.org
- Alianza Educación para la Paz.
www.educacionparalapaz.org.co
- Red de Información Juvenil para la Paz, www.rij.org.co
- Red de Veedurias. www.veeduriamedellin.org
- Fedevivienda, www.fedevivienda.org.co

These sites share the same CMS and can easily exchange information and provide RSS feeds and email alerts.



■ ■ Key issues/recommendations

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- At design level
 - Accessibility. Sites are developed taking into account web standards (Web Accessibility Initiative) to guarantee access to information. Separate data from design using CSS. This way multiple operating systems can access information. CSS permit to configure print formats avoiding printing menus, headers etc.
 - Technical design oriented to provide information using other media helping isolated communities to access to information (design sites in a way that will be easy to distribute on CDs with microweb applications).



■ ■ Key issues/recommendations



- At user level
 - Clear information about what your organization can offer (i.e. Target groups, funding opportunities, etc).
 - Human responses in local languages to specific needs (not webmaster@organization.org)
 - Access to information in their own language (i.e. Databases provides information just in English but with other languages interfaces).
 - Provide information in thematic areas to facilitate navigation (dynamic pages).



■ ■ Key issues/recommendations



- At user level (cont.)
 - Email alerts and RSS feeds to keep your audience inform of new content on websites.
 - Provide with new information tools that presents in a better way information (i.e. Geographic Information Systems)
 - Support to better understand Internet issues using basic language (i.e. Fight against child abuse online).



■ ■ Key issues/recommendations

- All information Systems we provide are based in Free Open Source Software: An opportunity to developing countries to create local technical knowledge.



APLICACIONES DE ACCIÓN DE APC



What we are working on

- Mobile phones and Internet services. I.e. In Colombia there are more than 10.4 million mobile phones (24% of population) compared to 4 million people (9% of population) with internet access. How to get to these people using this existing national wide network?, simple email new content alerts systems can be easily implemented.
- Challenge: To Integrate mobile devices to Internet information systems in an efficient way in developing countries.





Thanks!

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