



KM Workshop # 6:

**The Last Mile of Knowledge Networking:  
Including Poor and Historically Disadvantaged Groups**

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Consultant

Zbigniew Mikolajuk first highlighted the need for remote communities and disadvantaged groups for access to different types of knowledge. Citing different cases and examples from Mindanao, Philippines; the Himalayas; Sri Lanka; India; Pakistan; and Nepal, he emphasized the advantage of integrating traditional and local knowledge concepts with modern forms of knowledge management. There is an advantage of local producers developing such systems and bodies of knowledge given their familiarity with local concepts, problems and issues, and solutions. A concrete example, Solanta experience on honey bees production, was presented.

Discussion Points

1. *In using computer technology to remote areas, is it possible to establish connections?*  
There are many ways to establish connection. The way the telecommunications companies use connections is one way. You can also use a CD-Rom for electronic connection. The idea here is inclusion. If 80% of the people in the community have no electronic connection, then you can find a way of how to get the information to them.
2. *Using your program on Honeybees, how are people accessing the program?*  
This program is just an experiment to show how a tool can be used in the villages in Afghanistan. You can establish a tele-center or like an audio-center, where a few computers are managed. The idea is to have the extension workers bring the technology to the communities.
3. *Do you need special computers for that? What are the costs?*  
Again, I have to clarify that this is still in an experimental stage; a work in progress. My hope is that a big institution, maybe ADB, can adopt this and make the change work.