ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My friends and colleagues facilitated my transition into the environment of knowledge networks and convergent communications for development. For example Kofi Anani informed me about the Global Knowledge for Development (GKD) Listerv, which was part of the activities leading up to the Global Knowledge summit held in Toronto, Canada, in 1997 (dubbed GK’97), and Aket Adzimahe helped me to purchase and install my first computer and I am deeply indebted to them for these invaluable gifts, and to the GKD community and Janice Brodman for the depth of substance and friendships that ensued.

I was fortunate that I found an article written by John de la Moth and Paul Dufour in 1995 on globalization and science and technology policy at a time that I could effectively make use of the lessons acquired in shaping my interests. This lesson, combined with my formal education and career activities in the industrialized nations of Belgium, Canada, and Japan, and as a child of an African village, Woadze in the Volta Region of Ghana, increased my understandings about knowledge creation and utilization in the industrialized communities as contrasted with the situation in my indigenous home of origin and similar communities. As a testament to the efficacy of virtual knowledge networks, my participation in a virtual think tank on identifying critical technologies for developing nations, organized by the Volunteers in Technical Assistance (VITA, Washington, DC) and moderated by Caroline Wagner of Rand Corporation, translated into meeting Caroline, Paul, Maurice de Maurivez, and others during a science and technology policy forum in Ottawa just after the conclusion of that electronic forum. All these activities enriched my themes and teams in the subject area; I am grateful for these opportunities and indebted to Caroline, Paul, and Maurice.

I needed to be reminded less about the situation in Africa regarding innovations in science and technology and the means of livelihoods. When I observe that rural African’s hunt for mushrooms from the wild-like diamond gems, or grate vegetables on rocks, it is because I have lived them; when I state that rural African women sometimes give birth on farm roads, it is because I know of such cases in my Ghanaian village. A significant part of my values derive from this village of 800 people, and influenced my search for understanding and actions about poverty, atavism, knowledge deficits, and the opportunities that the new communications present. I am therefore appreciative of the informal institutions and people who socialized me in the indigenous knowledge system.

I found the GKD Listerv very nourishing: I learned about what opportunities may exist for communities such as mine to prosper through knowledge networks; I tested my ideas in the GKD community and gleaned information from several contributors at various sessions around the globe. With this background prepara-
tion, I met people and institutions of great repute that in turn introduced me to others, and I have been able to participate in several conferences around the world, which focussed on knowledge solutions for knowledge-deprived communities; and my network chain grew. For all this, I am pleasantly indebted to a number of people and institutions, therefore, let me just say ‘thank you’ to all.

The University of Guelph, where I had earned my doctorate earlier and had returned to in some research capacity, gave me the opportunity to harness my activities and networks as the International Program for Africa, and I am grateful to the architects of that opportunity—Professors Rob MacLaughlin, Clarence Swanton, and Alistair Summerlee. Following my participation in the second Global Knowledge conference in 2000, this time held in the South (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia), I applied on behalf of my program to join the Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP), and was admitted and further enriched by those in the knowledge for development business. I am particularly thankful for the roles the GKP membership committee, Joan Hubbard, Nalan Yuksel, Deena Philage, Brenda Juntenen, Rinalia Abdul Rahim, Kwan, and others have played in giving me the opportunity to represent my perspectives and to interact with others. Through my activities in the Global Knowledge Partnership, I was able to identify the groups that could impact my program’s deliverables, and have benefited in that direction. I am grateful to Roger Dumelie and Tony Zeitoun, both of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA, Ottawa), for the chance to study some aspects of the governance of knowledge societies; to Gerolf Weigel and Walter Fust and their teams at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC, Bern) for supporting my overview and analysis of some of the major connectivity and knowledge for development schemes that impact the Africa region; and to the Acacia initiative of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC, Ottawa), particularly to Gaston Zongo, for enabling my input into the RuralCom’99 deliberations in Cotonou, Benin.

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I am thankful to other global institutions, which gave me the opportunity to make contributions and to learn from others on their panels devoted to the subject area. For example, the World Bank Institute sponsored my participation in the GK II forum; the International Telecommunication Union sponsored my presentation during the Bamako 2000 conference in Mali; the International Food Policy Research Institute sponsored my participation in a roundtable they convened in Washington, DC to discuss the subject. I also benefited tremendously from SDC sponsorship to participate in a workshop on nurturing knowledge communities organized by Helvetas in Bern, where I heard Stephen Denning’s statement that these days, you either share knowledge or you perish, and where I learned from others; Esther Oettli and Marc Steinlin also taught me a great deal about the use of Geographic Information Systems in community resource management and development options. I am grateful for these opportunities. I am equally appreciative of the help that I received from the Indigenous Knowledge program of the Africa Region of the World Bank, particularly to Nic Gorjestani and Reiner Woytek.

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It is my fervent hope that all the help I have received in developing the themes I now espouse can be translated into practical outcomes in my village of origin and similar communities, which are the principal impact areas of this book, and add to the pool of knowledge about telecommunications and the prosperity and security of the developing world.

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**REFERENCE**