Foreword

One of the factors responsible for the inequalities in access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) between developed and developing countries, is the lack of appropriate textbook that will take into cognizance, the peculiarities of developing countries. Thus, most ICT books available to readers in developing countries are written from an environment different from the local environment. This lacuna is being filled by this book.

This book entitled “Handbook of Research on Information Communication Technology Policy: Trends, Issues and Advancements”, has focused on the most important aspect of ICT as far as developed and developing countries are concerned, which is ICT policy. ICT policy is the best strategy for addressing the issues of divergence of internet access between developed and developing societies, the gap between information rich and information poor in each nation and also the difference between those who do and do not use digital resources for e-government and e-governance. ICT policy is the engine that drives access to ICT in a country because it commits government to the development of ICT infrastructure in each country.

This book addresses global issues, and includes chapters which present the state of ICT policy in developed countries like Belgium, Canada, Netherlands, Turkey, UK and USA, and developing countries like India, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia as well as African countries.

This book addresses a variety issues that ICT policy is expected to cover. They include: managing the transition process of analogue to digital, convergence of the old media to the new media, e-governance, electronic records management, gender empowerment and development, ICT security, knowledge management, liberalization of telecommunications, cybercafés, etc.

The editor of this book, Dr. Esharenana E. Adomi, of the Department of Library and Information Science, Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria, must be commended for initiating this rich resource, which will be useful to all categories of readers including students of higher institutions and professionals in all types of information organizations. It is particularly hoped that government policy makers and ICT experts will find this book useful in formulating and drafting the ICT policies of their countries.

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