

Ed. note: The following is taken from a series of slides related to the Humanitarian Technology Challenge (HTC), a new partnership between IEEE and the United Nations Foundation to identify relevant technological challenges that humanitarian aid workers face in the field and then tap into the innovation and solution-building capacity of IEEE's members to provide focused solutions to all or some of the challenges. The HTC Kick-Off Conference scheduled for 2008 will bring together representatives from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), IEEE Members and Volunteers, Corporations, Philanthropic Foundations and User Gateway NGOs (organizations that can help implement the solutions) to set the challenges and the approaches to solving the challenges. This is only a sampling of the slides presented to our society presidents, but will give you an introduction and some insight into this important activity

*Many of the activities planned also relate to the very important work of the broader organization, **Engineers Without Borders**, the engineering analog to **Doctors Without Borders**, the recipients of the 1999 Nobel Peace prize. You can read more about both their US and international activities at <http://www.ewb-usa.org/> or <http://www.ewb-international.org/>, respectively, or contact Prof. Bernard Amadei, EWB-I Executive Director, E-mail: amadei@colorado.edu, Tel:1-303-929-8167. The NPSS liaison to the IEEE-UN Humanitarian Technology challenge is Ray Larsen, larsen@slac.stanford.edu or +1 650 926-4907.*

Humanitarian Technology Challenge

A collaboration between the IEEE and the UN Foundation

November 2007

Russ Lefevre, Chair, TAB New Technology Directions Committee

Mary Ward-Callan, Managing Director, Technical Activities

An unprecedented opportunity for a focused collaboration to develop technology-based solutions to some of the most intractable problems facing the world – particularly in

Closer to home

Instead of loving
your enemies,
treat your friends
a little better.

Ed Howe

The devil is in the details

Amid the pressures of great events, a general principle gives no help.

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel

- developing regions
- Led by the UN Foundation and IEEE
 - Participants should include:
 - Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
 - User Gateway NGOs, e.g. WHO, Red Cross, UN
 - Governments of developing countries
 - Corporations
 - IEEE Societies and Councils
 - Including Individuals from industry and academia
 - IEEE Sections

HTC PROJECT GOAL

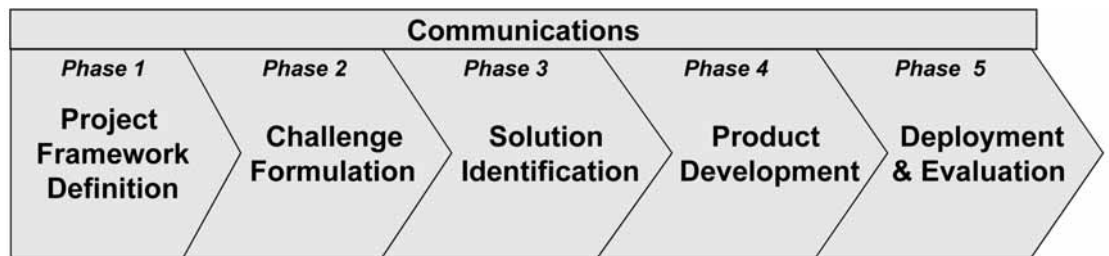
- Bring together humanitarian organizations, first responders, technical experts (practicing technologists, professionals, and academi-

- cians), companies, philanthropic groups to address some critical humanitarian-based world problems
- Initial emphasis:
 - Public Health (healthcare)
 - Disaster Response/Management

IEEE PERSPECTIVES

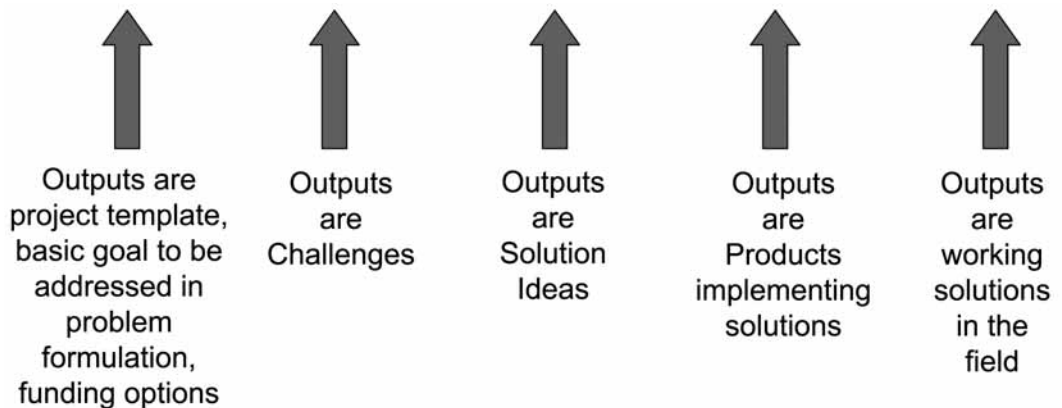
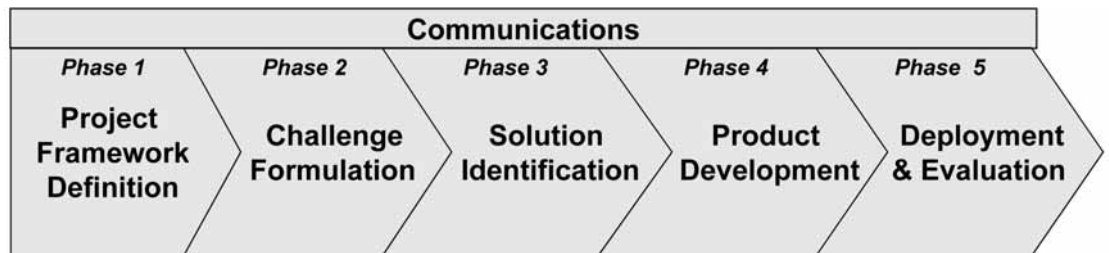
- Bring a more systematic approach to applying technology to help solve world problems. Drive innovation in a directed way
- Trial and Refine "Challenge/Problem Methodology." Refine repeatable methodologies for addressing challenge oriented, large scale efforts
- Focus on problems needing technology solutions
- Use systems engineering expertise to clearly

PROPOSED PROJECT FRAMEWORK



We are here: in framing stage

KEY OUTPUTS FROM EACH PHASE



Fatalist

We'll jump off that bridge when we come to it.

Lester B. Pearson

- scope problems
- Identify technology based solutions
- Solutions should have a component of sustainability to ensure long-term management given the environmental, cultural, structural, political and socio-economic conditions where they will be deployed. Emphasis is on complete, repeatable, and deployed implementations.
- Engage younger population in these endeavors by providing a web based experience to solicit best ideas from large population in open forums
- Inclusion of potential funders, NGOs, technologists, implementers, and deployers

PHASE 1

Project Framework Definition

- Define general approach and project framework
- Draft first pass project plan
- Identify and select possible sponsors
- Develop participation agreements ("public" and "private")
- Arrange funding, Seek
 - internal IEEE funding (initiative or reallocation)
 - IEEE Foundation has committed to support Conferences events
 - UN Foundation has committed to support Challenge Formulation
 - Vodafone has committed to support UNF Challenge Formulation & events
 - other sources (TBD)

[milestone] Sponsorship and funding defined

- Assign full-time project manager
- Create Steering and Partnership Committees
- Build partnerships with "user gateway" orgs acting as implementation brokers
- Refine project plan

COMMUNICATIONS

- Socialize project objectives and schedule
- Solicit Society, Council, TAB participation
- Solicit focused participation in Conferences
 - Initial communication announcing challenges and project to IEEE audiences & public
 - "The Institute" article (target June print issue)
 - "IEEE Spectrum" article (target April online edition)
 - Targeted invitation to participate /

register

- Final reminder
- Solicit general participation in online, virtual discussions
 - Initial communications announcing project and invitation to participate
- Announcements of events: Conferences, Workshops, Results
- Publicity ads for general public, government, etc.
- Reminders / marketing messages -- periodically through project duration
- Communications to stakeholders: corporations, foundations, other funders
- Communications assistance to sponsors
- Promotion of results

STATUS

- Idea investigation between UN Foundation and IEEE completed
- General framework for project proposed
- Partnership between UN Foundation and IEEE defined – event-related MOU completed and signed in November
- Funding solicited
 - UNF approved, Vodafone funding approved
 - IEEE NIC Phase I Initiative approved, preparing Phase II
 - 2008 HTC Conference funded by IEEE Foundation, 2009 pending
 - Interest from other groups is substantial
- First meeting with NGOs to begin problem space understanding was completed, identified some needed changes to project plan
- Additional Focus Groups with NGOs are being planned
- Draft project plan completed in Microsoft Project
- Steering Committee being launched
- Soliciting Society (incl. Council) Partnership Group

IEEE'S ROLE IN HUMANITARIAN ENDEAVORS

- Engineering and the condition of the world are intimately connected
- IEEE tenets:
 - Advance global prosperity
 - For the benefit of humanity
- Humanitarian activities of increasing interest to IEEE volunteers
 - Ex: IEEE Committee on Earth Observation/GEOSS

Who's that?

Politics doesn't make strange bedfellows – marriage does.

Groucho Marx

Misogynist? No!!

I used to go missing a lot: Miss Canada, Miss United Kingdom, Miss World...

George Best