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FUTURES OF TECHNOLOGY IN AFRICA



Mobile Phone Expansion







Bandwidth Explosion



Jan 2009

Sep 2010

2015 (e)



Source: manypossibilities.net

AfriLabs: Cheetahs in action



Sample trends

Mobile Money

- The advent of mobile money payment systems has reduced monetary transaction costs significantly.
- Previously unbanked people and areas are now included in the monetized economy.
- Middle class consumers profit from new business models, that were previously not feasible.



Data availability

- Data on African countries often very unreliable, if not unavailable.
- Mobile technology has begun to change Africa's data landscape.
- Reliable information (such as an accurate map of all FMCG retail outlets in a region or country) is now within reach at rapidly declining costs.





Ups and downs

- According to the CCK, internet penetration has increased from 22% to 35% in Kenya within just 12 months.
- 1 22% among the poor in Kenya have earned money through their mobile phone.
- A Higher connectivity accelerates economic growth according to case studies from several African countries and regions.
- Theoretically, African businesses are now part of a global marketplace and intellectuals more embedded in a pan African and global discourse.
- ↓ Free services, such as Facebook-0 browsing and free Wikipedia access drive the growth.
- ↓ "Better you miss to eat (Laughs), at times you miss to eat and you have credit."
- ↓ Scams using ICT tools are increasing.
- ICT has exacerbated outbursts of violence, such as Kenya's post-election violence or food riots in Mozambique.
- **4** Authoritarian regimes use ICT to control the population or specific population groups.



Technology Meets Society







- Trunk roads
- Near urban roads
- Regional networks
- Seaports
- Trunk railroads
- Aviation hubs





Access to Energy (share of population)



Electricity



Source: World Energy Outlook 2013

Electricity Production Capacity (Watt per capita)





Source: World Energy Outlook 2013

Electricity Production Capacity (Watt per capita)





Source: World Energy Outlook 2013

Technology Trends





Food for Future Thought

- Financial transaction costs come down.
- Information transaction costs come down.
- Infrastructures improve.
- Capacities improve.
- No sector and no actor will be unaffected.
- Data quantity and quality will improve.
- Big data will not stay away from Africa.



- The IT revolution is not driven by programming code, but by entrepreneurs understanding its potential.
- Technology will exacerbate other developments for better and for worse.







