

## INVITATION

# LAUNCH OF GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY WATCH 2009

***Access to online information and knowledge  
- advancing human rights and democracy***

Monday November 16 6.30pm

Lobby next to the SIC Restaurant  
Sharm El-Sheikh International Congress Centre  
Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

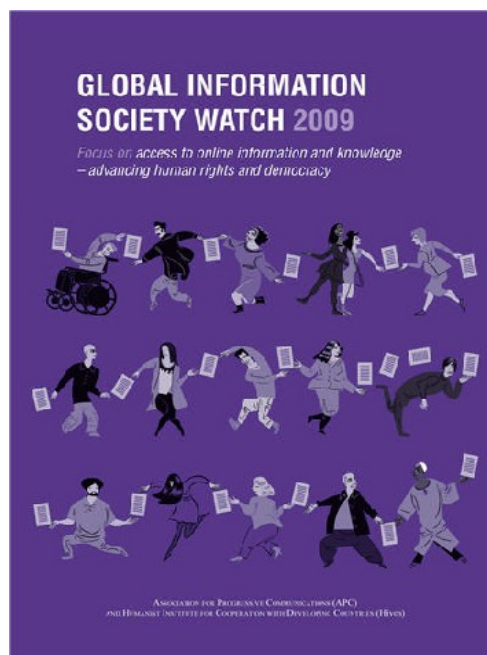
The Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and the Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries (Hivos) invite you to the launch of the third edition of GISWatch.

The report unpacks the key issues impacting on access to online information and knowledge, including discussions on intellectual property rights, knowledge rights, open standards and access to educational materials and libraries.

The report also offers an institutional overview and a reflection on indicators that track access to information and knowledge. 48 country reports --ten more than last year-- analyse the status of access to online information and knowledge in countries as diverse as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Mexico, Switzerland and Kazakhstan, while regional overviews offer a bird's eye perspective on trends in North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East, South Asia and Europe.

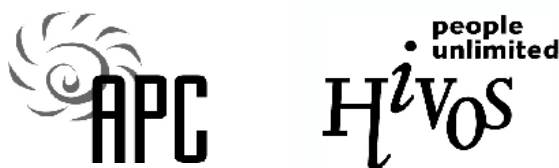
For the first time there is an innovate section that visually maps global rights as seen through the lens of Google searches, as well as a visual analysis of Twitter messages sent out during the recent Iranian political crisis.

Print copies will be distributed at the launch.



“GISWatch has taken up the difficult and incredibly important task of understanding the converging issues of freedom of expression, access to knowledge and information and digital rights in a global, comparative context. Many of these issues have come to the fore in policy conversations in the past decade, but researchers, advocates and policy-makers have lacked a framework for mapping and comparing them globally. Now they have one.” – **Joe Karaganis, Social Science Research Council**

“I particularly liked the measuring section. The knowledge economy needs indices that are both qualitative and quantitative. Keeping human rights and human development central in the indicators gives ‘soul’ to the measurement. This in my view is one of most balanced access to information publications in the post-WSIS period.” – **Dr Buhle Mbambo-Thata, Executive Director, University of South Africa (UNISA) Library Services**



Global Information Society Watch 2009  
will be available online from November 16 at  
[www.GISWatch.org](http://www.GISWatch.org)