Historical overview of international development

Week 1 – Understanding ICT for Development I
Outline

- Legacy of colonialism
- After the 2nd World War
- 50s – 60s – divided worlds
- 70s – divided worlds – debt crisis
- 80s – 90s – emerging worlds
- 2000 – new technologies -parallel worlds
- 2015 – what comes next?
Legacy of colonialism

- The end of colonialism did not bring true independency
- The end of colonialism did not mean the end of capitalism
  - Unequal structures – division of labour, capitalist world market
Legacy of colonialism

- The paradox of Independency – freedom from the oppression of foreign states – political and economic
- Ideas of development were not rejected – but political independence was seen as necessary condition for more rapid and comprehensive national development
- The post-colonial developmentalism inherited, adapted, reproduced, and even reinforced many of the ideas and methods of colonial doctrines of development – what it means to be modern and how to become one
- ”poverty, ignorance and disease”
After the 2nd World War
1950s and 1960s

- Post-war optimism
  - Full employment
  - Low inflation
  - Economic growth = modernity
  - Import substitution industrialisation
"…There has been a combination of some take-offs, mainly in East Asia, and some severe cases of economic retrogression, mainly in Africa. Thus the polarisation that has taken place has done so within the Third World…”

(John Toye 1987, p. 15)
80s – 90s – emerging worlds

- Neoliberal ideas in World Bank
- Structural development projects
- Emerging economies of the East Asia
80s – 90s – emerging worlds

- Alternative understandings of development established themselves in the development discourse
- NGOs emerged as an alternative to state agencies
- Human Development Report 1990, HDI
2000 – new technologies – parallel worlds
2000 also introduced the Millenium Development Goals:
Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger,
Achieving universal primary education,
Promoting gender equality and empowering women,
Reducing child mortality rates,
Improving maternal health,
Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases,
Ensuring environmental sustainability, and
Developing a global partnership for development.
2015 – what comes next?

- After the Millenium Development Goals
- Global challenges
- Sustainable development or resilient development or no development?
- What is the role of ICT in all this?
A high level UN panel – a report

- 1. Leave No One Behind.
- 2. Put Sustainable Development at the Core.
- 4. Build Peace and Effective, Open and Accountable Institutions for All.
- 5. Forge a New Global Partnership.