

Economy Corporation **THE CLINTON GLOBAL INITIATIVE**

On September 27th 2007, Cisco Systems CEO John Chambers announced at the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) that Cisco would partner with four nonprofit organizations to support Information and Communications Technology strategies to help alleviate poverty in five sub-Saharan Africa countries. In particular, Cisco's funds will improve access to basic human needs, including education, health, housing, and economic opportunities, in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, and Rwanda.

The four partners in the initiative include One Economy, Habitat for Humanity, Teachers without Borders, and Inveneo. Each partner organization has experience working internationally with complementary areas of expertise, thus creating a multi-faceted, comprehensive approach to community development in the 21st century.

With support from our CGI partner NGOs, One Economy will begin the process of mapping out self-help community portals for each of the five countries. These community portals will pro-

vide local residents with information and local resources on a variety of topics, including health, money management, employment opportunities, microenterprise development, and education.

Initial country reports have been composed, focusing on demographics, the composition of the economy, Internet use and infrastructure, government ICT initiatives, and housing. Upcoming visits to each of the countries will allow OE to gauge the nature of the NGO system and begin the process of selecting local NGOs to assist with the project implementation. In addition to building consensus within the target communities around One Economy's approach, these local NGOs will help identify the major issues facing local residents and will

ultimately help create local content for our community portals. By the end of the year, One Economy will deliver web portals to communities in two of the five countries, with plans to develop portals for the other countries over the coming years. OE will also provide a capacity building toolkit to local NGOs who will help sustain the project indefinitely.

