The Africa Internet Technology Initiative: A Unique Model for Self-Learning Using OCW

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Presentation Outline

- Introduction To MIT-AITI
- MIT-AITI and OCW: A
    Healthy Collaboration
- MIT-AITI's Self-Learning Initiative:
    Summer 2004 Program Results
- Future Plans for OCW in the AITI
    Program
- Conclusion and Questions

What is MIT-AITI?

- Student-run initiative at MIT

- MIT students teach IT-related classes to high school and university students in Africa during the summer

- Interactive programming and entrepreneurship curriculum

Goals

- Increase utilization of IT in African schools

- Develop a long-term technical and cultural relationship between MIT and African institutions

- Provide MIT students with community service opportunities for their strong engineering backgrounds

A Fourth Goal

To actively support the advancement of free knowledge and tools in the African community

- This goal has been achieved through the following initiatives:

  i. Teaching Open-Source Technologies (i.e. Unix OS)

  ii. Fostering a community for independent learning

      (i.e. OCW website)

Pilot: 2003

- Piloted self-learning initiative in Kenya
- 2 AITI students assisted 10 Kenyan self-learners
- Used Internet (OCW), text books, other students as resources

Best Practices

- Daily reporting to AITI team
- Providing CDs to students
- Selecting motivated students

Worst Practices

- Too theoretical
- Web resources not broad enough
- Lacked creative aspect

Expansion: 2004

- The self-learning program was expanded to Ethiopia and Ghana in 2004

- Top 25% of students were asked to participate in the self-learning track

Best Practices

- Introduce self-learning idea
- More student control
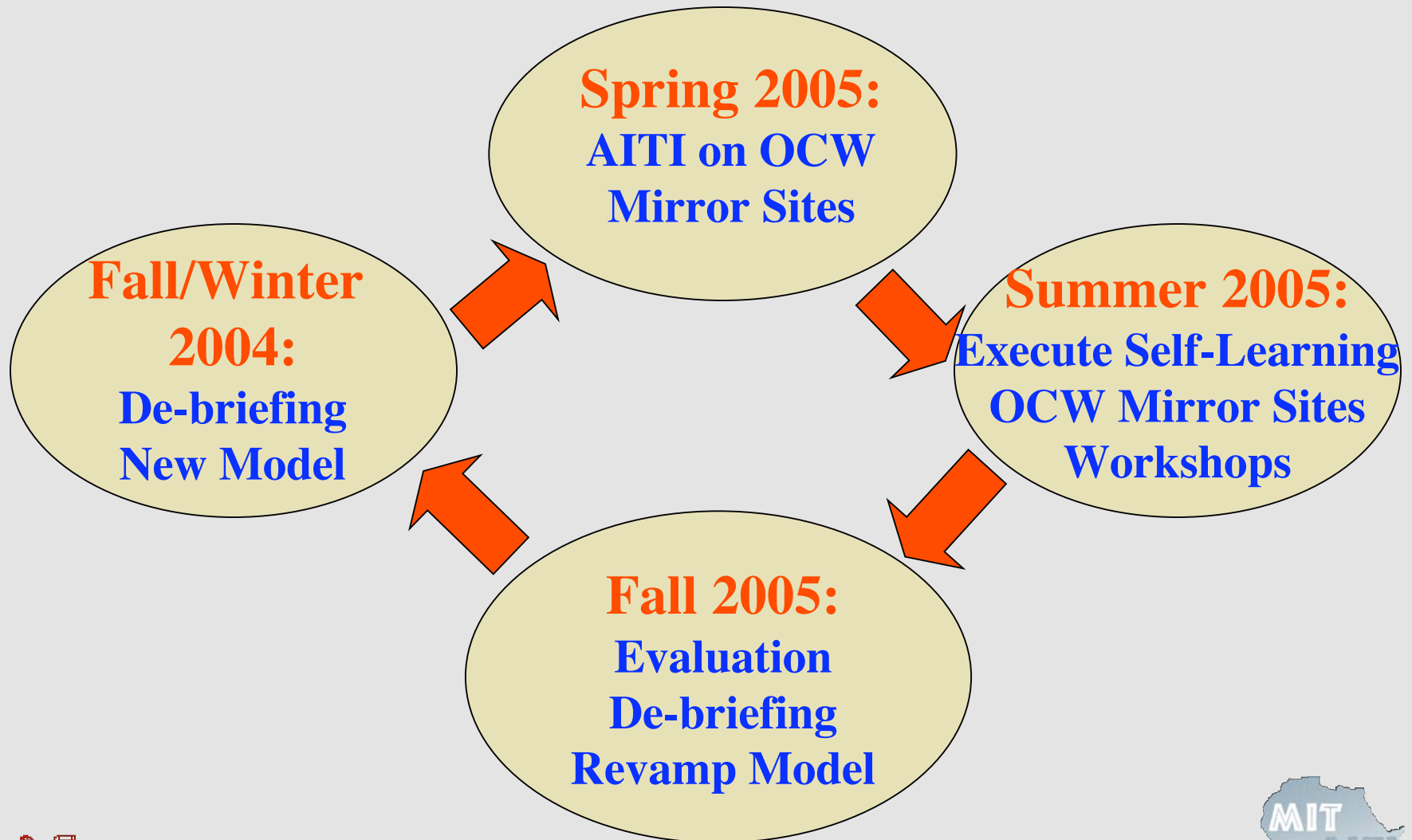- Motivated students with demonstrated performance

Worst Practices

- Poor resource assessment
- Selecting 'experienced' students
- Selecting OCW track early
- Not outlining benefits

MIT-AITI & OCW: 2005

Spring 2005:
AITI on OCW
Mirror Sites

Fall/Winter 2004:
De-briefing
New Model

Summer 2005:
Execute Self-Learning
OCW Mirror Sites
Workshops

Fall 2005:
Evaluation
De-briefing
Revamp Model

Lessons Learned

- Students thrive in the program if ample resources are available

- Self-learning is a crucial skill with many applications

- Self-learning model can make the impact of AITI more sustainable

Program Sponsorship

Mentors:
- Professor Paul Gray
- Professor Richard Larson

Foundations
- Engineering Information Foundation (EIF)
- Lord Foundation

Government
- Educational Development Center (EDC)

Companies
- Africa Online, 3Com

Departments
- Dean for Student Life
- Dean for Graduate Students

Private
- Kate and Baty Gordon, Professor Paul Gray, Professor Joshua Cohen

Support from MIT

LINC – Professor Richard Larson

Office of the President and the Provost

Office of the Chancellor

Dean for Graduate Students

Dean for Student Life

Edgerton Center

Public Service Center (PSC)

Academic Computing Service

Questions

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