Wikimedia in Developing Nations

A Proposed Agenda for the Wikimedia Movement

by

Members of the Chapters Conference, Berlin 2010

Preface

- This presentation is a very concise **summary** of issues identified and methods proposed during the working group session.
- If the WM movement would embrace this proposed agenda, the next steps would be **elaboration** of issues (incl. examples) and methods (incl. links to resources), and **prioritization** of tasks for WMF and chapters.

The Wikimedia Vision

Imagine a world in which every single human being can freely share in the sum of all knowledge. That's our commitment.

Issues in Developing Nations

The following issues hamper fulfilment of the Wikimedia Vision in developing nations:

- weak volunteer culture
- weak rule of law / oppressive government
- weak infrastructure (roads, Internet, etc.) + Usability
- illiteracy; native languages sometimes non-written
- weak Wikimedia brand / awareness (of existence; non-profit-nature; editability; free content / public domain)
- low value placed on education & culture

Proposed Methods

- **Weak volunteer culture**
  - outreach: Educate about volunteerism
- **Weak rule of law / oppressive government**
  - culture-sensitive inter-chapter aid, avoid distraction by politics; sidestep political and religious conflicts using diversity of chapters
  - support chapter-like activities where no chapters exist
- **Weak infrastructure**
  - regional and local conferences and events
  - usability innovation / improvement (e.g. mobile devices)
  - offline Wikipedia + updates

Proposed Methods (cont.)

- **Illiteracy / non-written native languages**
  - outreach to existing organizations – offer them WM content, make them aware of availability
  - commission writing/translating core content for smaller languages
  - create audio content / read wikipedia entries over radio
  - PediaPress: print wikipedia and wikisource materials, distribute hardcopy through allied organizations

Proposed Methods (cont.)

- **Weak awareness of Wikimedia**
  (of its existence, its non-profit nature, its editability, free content, and the public domain)
  - Outreach: educate about these concepts; leverage existing organizations and their apparatus to disseminate info about WM
  - Conventional advertising: TV advertising supremely effective in e.g. Latin America
  - Increase visibility of WM brand and WM core values in the WM projects themselves and all derivative material (e.g. printed material)
  - foster pride among WM volunteers
  - foster a multi-faceted Wikimedian identity (not just editing)

Proposed Methods (cont.)

- **Low value placed on education & culture**
  - outreach to education systems; offer lessons and instruction materials about the **value** of WM and its **values**.
  - outreach to cultural institutions; offer education about WM, collaboration opportunities, joint efforts.
  - outreach to governments; offer education about WM, offer to liberate government content, show educational/cultural value; ally with governmental education/culture efforts

New Chapters

- The group considers fostering the creation of the following chapters (in descending order) **key** to making progress on the Wikimedia mission:
- **Middle East**: Egypt; Iran; Turkey
- **Asia**: Malaysia; Pakistan
  - Bootstrap through India, Indonesia, & Philippines
- **Latin America**: Mexico; Venezuela; Brazil
- **Africa**: South Africa; Kenya; Nigeria; Morocco

Mailing List and Contact

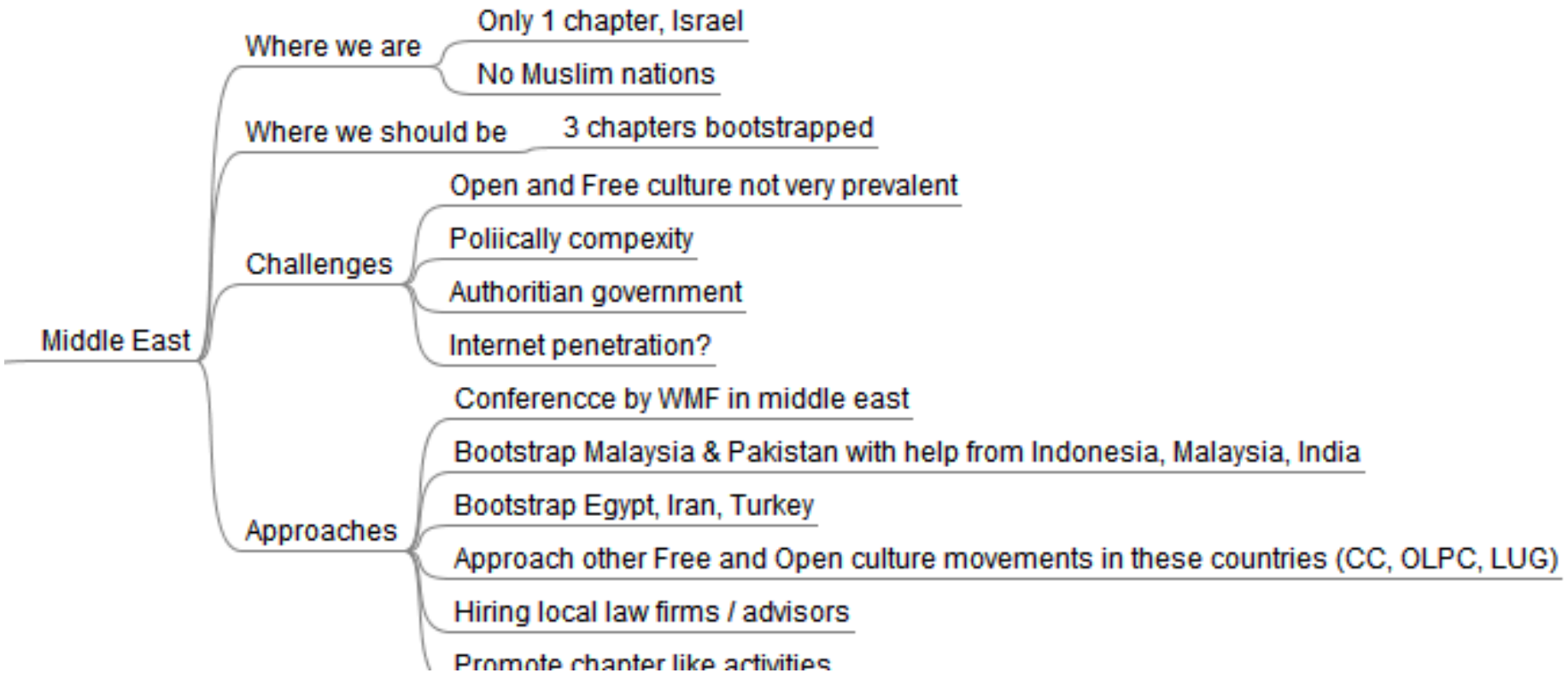
- The group proposes the creation of a dedicated mailing list open to all Wikimedians interested in promoting the Wikimedia Vision in developing countries.
- In the meantime, Asaf Bartov <asaf.bartov@gmail.com> is coordinating the group of interested people.

Diagrams

The following slides offer a visual diagram of the group's discussion, prepared in real time during the group's session

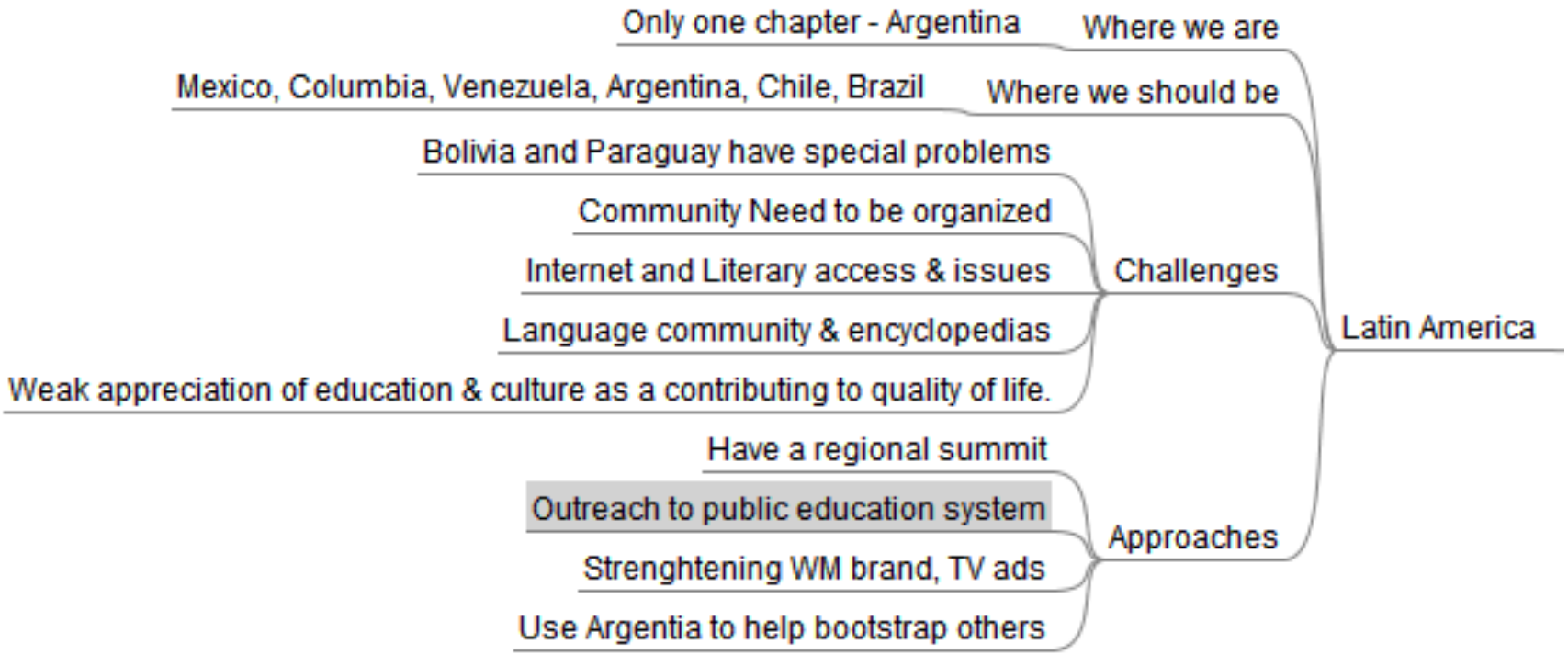
Middle East

Analysis & Recommendations



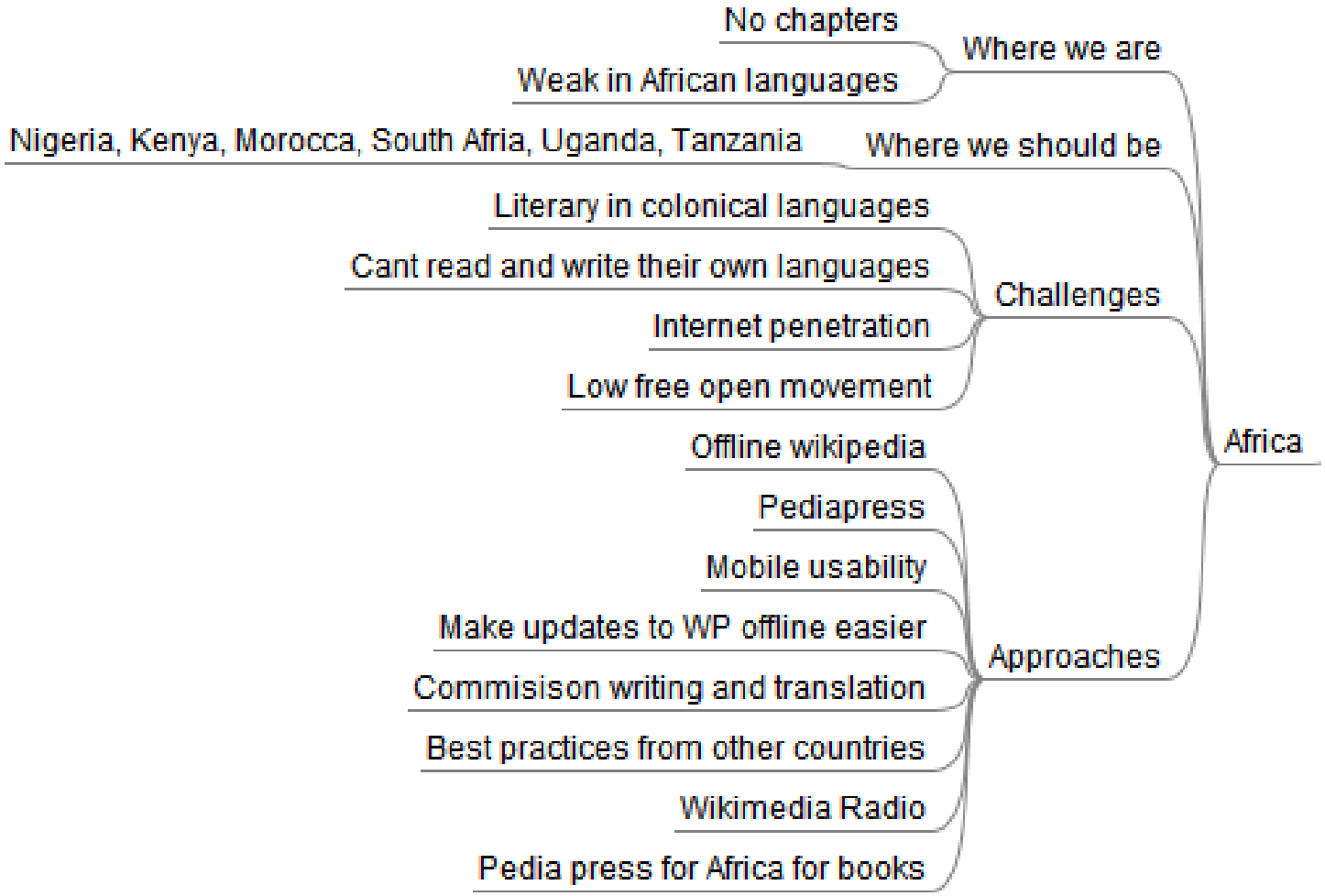
Latin America

Analysis & Recommendations



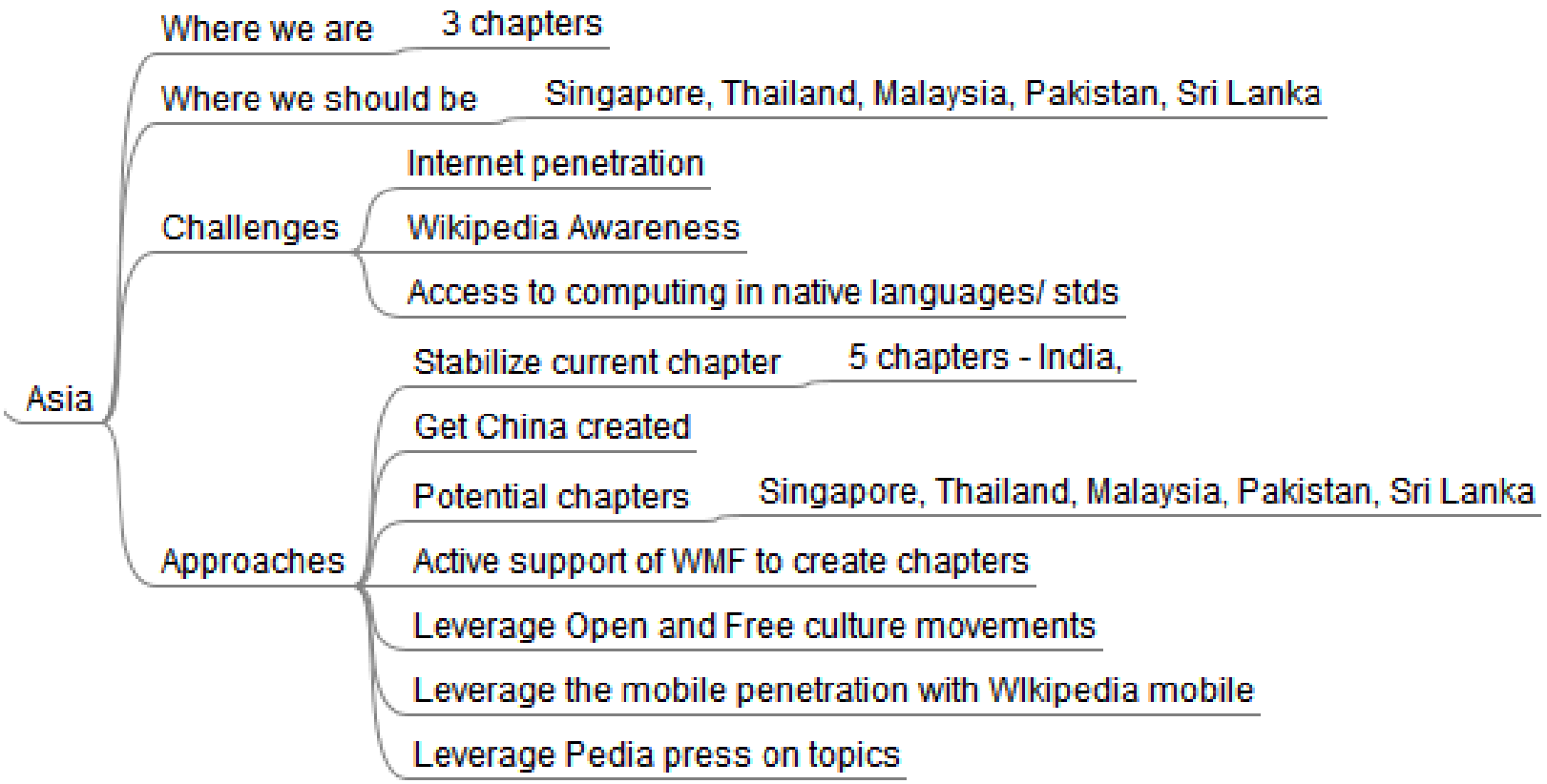
Africa

Analysis & Recommendations



Asia

Analysis & Recommendations



Working Group Participants

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- Alexandre Hannud Abdo Solstag (Brasil)
- Asaf Bartov (Israel)
- Damian Finaol (Venezuela)
- Galileo Vidoni (Argentina)
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All feedback very welcome!

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