LESSON 2   Can the internet 'unlock' Africa's human resources?

Teaching activities	Learning outcomes	Resources
Starter *Different types of resource* An investigation of the different types of resource (natural and human) and the consequences of Africa's over-reliance on natural resources. **Main activities** (1) *Technological leap-frogging* Students investigate the meaning of "leap-frogging" and consider the example of some African people moving from having no telephone or internet capability whatsoever to having mobile telephone connectivity with fast broadband internet access. Two contrasting case studies of technological leap-frogging are examined at different geographical scales: firstly, the arrival of broadband internet in east Africa; secondly, new local connectivity for villages in Ghana. *(2) Changing Kenya* Recent internet and mobile development in Kenya are explored. It is a nation where more than half the population now have a mobile phone subscription. Some Nairobi "success stories" are explored as case studies, including Kencall call centres and the Nairobi iHub. **Plenary** *Is the least connected continent "leap-frogging" to success?* Based on what they have learned, students examine two contrasting future predictions for Kenya - and discuss which seems more likely (and their reasons for thinking so).	Students: • learn that over-dependence on natural resources can sometimes jeopardise economic development, leading to the belief than human resources must not be neglected; • identify reasons why some people technological leap-frogging offers the potential to unlock the value of Africa's human resources at varying scales; • investigate examples of some of the technically-led changes that are currently underway • think critically about whether technology offers a "silver bullet" solution for Africa's problems	*This lesson is fully supported with the following resources*: (1) A magazine-style case study article covering the main themes covered by this lesson (Word / pdf) (2) Plenary activity *Word* document ("Which way forwards for Kenya?") (3) Mobile phones in Kenya extra reading: http://www.geographyinthenews.rgs.org/member/newscasestudies/article/default.aspx?id=1158 (4) Lecture given by Erik Hersman (Nairobi iHub): http://www.21stcenturychallenges.org/focus/erik-hersman-ushahidi-afrigadget-ihub/ (5) Lecture given by Herman Chinery-Hesse (SOFTtribe): http://www.21stcenturychallenges.org/focus/herman-chinery-hesse-thesofttribe/ *External links* Nairobi iHub: http://ihub.co.ke/pages/home.php