Use of iPod Technologies in International Development
– Current Uses, Challenges, & Opportunities

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Introduction
Computer technologies and hand-held devices offer increasing opportunities for training and development. iPod technologies allows content (both audio and video) to be portable. Given that the device is small in physical size, yet allows large storage capacity – potential applications for this technology in international settings are numerous. Podcasting allows an easy method of sharing digital media (Athavaley, 2005). Podcasting can be compared to radio in that it allows authors to easily post and share series of digital audio files. This media can be listened to or viewed on a computer or a handheld device such as the iPod. Adoption of iPod technologies is rapidly spreading across university and agency settings as indicated by university participation in iTunesU (a central location for universities to post media), government participation in podcasting, and news agencies such as Pambazuka News posting podcasts on a regular basis. However, locating appropriate content for use and/or creating content to be shared can be a challenge.

Purpose and Major Points to be Shared
The poster will visually depict how iPod technology, including podcasting, has been and can be used in international training and development settings and offer a concise summary of challenges and opportunities based on a review of literature, interviews, and a review of Internet sites offering content for use on these devices. Information to be shared includes: Websites with
useful resources for those involved in international development; research summaries documenting current use of iPod technologies; instructions on how to create content using best practices for iPod delivery; applications of the technology; and challenges associated with the technology given diverse settings.

Conclusions and Educational Importance

Advancements in technologies offer tremendous opportunities and challenges for those working in educational settings both domestically and internationally. Portable technologies, such as the iPod, offer incredible new ways to provide training to diverse groups across the globe that can further international development. While many institutions are simply recording lectures from formal classroom settings for dispersion and use on iPod devices, this approach is often not the most effective. Demonstrations and expert interviews are two examples of media that may be beneficial for international training and development. The educational importance of this poster focuses on three distinct areas: 1.) a description of the current use of iPod technologies in international development, 2.) a summary of potential opportunities, applications, and challenges for iPod use in international settings, and 3.) articulation of “best practices” in creating quality educational content for iPod use. Recognition and understanding of new technologies is critical in advancing the efforts of those working in international development. This poster seeks to inform those working in international development of current and potential applications of iPod technologies.

Keywords: Technology, elearning, training, best practices, iPod