

UNeGov.net Initiative

2nd Network-Building Workshop on

Electronic Governance in Developing Countries

Bethlehem, Palestine, 21 November 2005



Welcome Address:

Speaker: Brother Daniel Casey

DC: Welcome to Bethlehem University! As Saleem said, my name is Brother Daniel Casey. I am the Vice Chancellor, newly appointed, as of July 1. Every day is a new day. I am delighted to welcome you to the Network Building Workshop in Electronic Governance in Developing Countries.

I think I am the oldest one here, in years. So, I lived before television, mobiles, faxes and stereos. There was radio when I was a boy. Just in the short course of my lifetime, the marvels of the human mind have created all of these wonders of technology, which is just a blessing to men and women all over the world, when I think of communication in years past and where we are now.

We welcome you. I am sure it is a challenge - in Palestine, as you will find out now, we face daily challenges. I have to rush out now: we have ten students in Gaza, and they have spent two years learning Occupational Therapy. And we really need to get them here, so wish me luck. I wanted to experience the checkpoints with the students and the faculty. So I went through in a car, I went through in a bus and I walked through in the last few days each way. It is very, very difficult. I have a meeting with the military government this morning. I don't know what will happen, but at least you have to make the effort to do something. So we welcome you to the University. We have a wonderful University. Students and faculty are happy to be here, and on most days things go very well. But like most human institutions we have challenges, most of which we meet, and some days we have to delay them to the next day to solve the problem. But our students are learning and our teachers are teaching and doing research. So let me welcome you and I will meet you at lunch. Have a good morning!