

# The Prospects and Barriers of E-Commerce Implementation in Tanzania

George S. OREKU<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>TIRDO, P.O.Box22440, Dar es salaam, Tanzania  
Tel: +255783992020 Fax: + 255222666034, Email: [gsoreku@tirdo.org](mailto:gsoreku@tirdo.org)

<sup>2</sup>North-West University, Vaal Triangle Campus, Vanderbijlpark, South Africa, 1900  
Tel: +27(0)169103261, Fax+27(0)169103271  
E-mail: [george.oreku@gmail.com](mailto:george.oreku@gmail.com)

Fredrick J. MTENZI

Dublin Institute of Technology, Dublin 8, Ireland  
[fred.mtenzi@dit.ie](mailto:fred.mtenzi@dit.ie)

Al-Dahoud ALI

Al-Zaytoonah University, Jordan  
E-mail: [aldahoud@alzaytoonah.edu.jo](mailto:aldahoud@alzaytoonah.edu.jo)

## ABSTRACT

The Internet and mobile phones has brought about the emergence of virtual markets with four primary distinct characteristics, which are real-time, shared, open and global in the world. The growing rate of ICT utilization particularly the Internet and mobile phones has influenced at an exponential rate, online interaction and communication among the generality of the populace. The shortcomings notwithstanding, most people are connected through their cell phones, home PCs and others through corporate access and public kiosks. The patronage of the Internet allover the world is monumental and has remained on the increase from inception. However, with the enormity of businesses on the Internet, Tanzania is yet to harness the opportunities for optimal financial gains.

This study is exploratory in nature as it attempts to unveil the prospects of e-commerce implementation, participation, motivation and opportunity to the countries like Tanzania. The paper proposes to investigate the ability of consumers to purchase online, the available motivation to do so, and the opportunities for Internet access. Findings revealed that Tanzanians have the ability to participate in e-commerce, but there is need for improved national image to bring in the element of trust and discipline within, and before the international communities. Furthermore, there is need to encourage public and private initiatives in the provision of the basic infrastructures for improved motivation and opportunities for e-commerce implementation. Currently, consumers source for information online but make purchases the traditional way.

Key Words: E-commerce, E-payment, ICT, Web presence and Internet access.

## 1. The E-Commerce Phenomenon and Country profile.

Tanzania has an area of 945,000 sq km (365,000 sq miles) and a population of about 40 million.

Dar es Salaam is the commercial capital and home to many government institutions and diplomatic missions. There are about 120 ethnic groups on the mainland, although none exceeds 10% of the population, as well as minority Asian

and expatriate communities. Tanzania's economy relies heavily on agriculture, which accounts for nearly half of GDP and employs 80% of the workforce. Tourism is growing in importance and ranks as the second highest foreign exchange earner. Mineral production has grown significantly in the last decade and provides over 3% of GDP and accounts for half of Tanzania's exports [14]

The study has shown that the use of ICT equipment is still low in Tanzania compared to other countries in the world but it is growing at a staggering pace. According to the World Bank data in the last decade for instance, the penetration rate of personal computers has increased by a factor of 10, while the number of mobile phone subscribers by a factor of 100! Extrapolations until the year 2009 suggests that the penetration rates of personal computers lies around 19.5 computers per 1000 people, which corresponds to an installed base of 850'000 units in 2009.

The results of this study have further shown that the average distribution sales of new computers are 50% to government; 40% to the private companies and 10% to private households & small businesses while the survey from second-hand dealers showed that second hand IT equipment are mainly sold to private households & small businesses. The average life of new computers was found to be 4 years in government and private sector and 8 years in private households and small businesses while the average life of second hand computers was found to be around 5 years.

Based on the results of this survey and some key development statistics for Tanzania, it was estimated that about 200,000 computer units reached their end-of-life in 2009. Future computer mass flow trends as one of the ecommerce tool based on linear and exponential growth indicate that the potential of eCommerce implementation is still hindered with many factors as it is depicted in details on this presentation.

Despite the spectacular dot-com bust of a few years ago, the Internet has markedly changed the way we do business, whether it's finding new streams of revenue, acquiring new customers, or managing a business's supply chain. E-commerce is mainstream — enabling businesses to sell products and services to consumers on a global basis. As such, e-commerce is the platform upon which new methods to sell and to distribute innovative products and services electronically are tested.

The Web's influence on the world's economy is truly astonishing. The business world knows that the Web is one of the best ways for business

such as manufacturers to sell their products directly to the public, brick-and-mortar retailers to expand their stores into unlimited geographical locations, and for entrepreneurs to establish a new business inexpensively.

Thus, it is important that the executive in the 21st Century know 1) where technology stands in the business processes of his or her company, 2) how technology relates to the company's strategies, 3) how rapidly technology changes and evolves, and 4) how the company and its business partners will respond to the changing technology.

In the high flying 1990s, many people jumped on the e-commerce bandwagon after reading the many highly publicized dot-com "success" stories. Admittedly, most were written to raise the entrepreneurial blood pressure. What many forgot, though, was the old adage: If it looks too good to be true, it probably is. They didn't use their innate intelligence and failed to proceed with caution.

Nonetheless, the ascendancy of e-commerce has expanded the business environment so that even a small start-up can compete with well-established business names and product brands. Yet, when you consider joining the e-commerce commerce community, keep in mind that selling products and services on the Web presents a unique set of challenges. This paper will help you in identifying and realizing on those challenges with respect to Tanzania scenarios.

There are challenges on what already in place, including a national payment system, local credit cards, and a legislative framework appropriate for e-business. These are challenges that need to be addressed urgently. Most significantly, the legal framework does not provide adequate safeguards to create an environment of trust for e-business transactions to take place. Consequently, financial institutions are not able to set up provisions for supporting e-transactions for their own, and each other's clients. However the use of traditional marketing mechanism is also one of the constraints facing Tanzania participate in e-commerce.

The evidence from literatures also supports that the hype and promise of e-commerce has been well recognized, but the fact is, it has not been realized at the rate which policy documents and

government claim. There are very limited ICT developments in Tanzania with less than three people in every 100 people having access to ICT infrastructure [1].

**2. Literature review**

It is conceived that e-commerce is a phenomenon of developed country and new technology generally put challenges for developing countries that lack the requisite capabilities, as well as the economic and financial resources to cope with the developed countries. Especially internet presents both opportunities for economic and social development, and a threat to further increasing the gap between developed and developing countries [2].

The experience of most developed countries shows that price and availability of the telecommunications infrastructure are clearly associated with competition and market access [3]. Tanzanian Government has withdrawn import duties from computers and computer related peripherals. Due to the withdrawal of duties prices of computers and related products have become affordable to general communities. This to some extent has increased the use of computer for general purpose though effective applications of computers are still underutilized due to particularly government policy. However, it is revealed from recent survey that nearly 90% of the computers are Dar es Salaam based and there is little scope for decentralization of these PCs to different regions of Tanzania [4].

Very few standard IT institutions are providing high quality IT Education in Tanzania, but the costs are very high and consequently remain beyond the reach of general people. Some IT related private institutions opened and started to offer it courses but again they are centered around big cities such as Dar es salaam, Mwanza and Arusha. These institutions suffer from lack of coordination and quality course materials, and inadequate technical facilities. In course of time, eventually situations have been improved as the government withdrew duties on Computers. At present there are more than 50 ISPs operating in the country including the government initiatives of putting in place the fiber optical connecting the whole country [4].

Different patterns have been found in studies about the extent to which firms in developing countries embrace the internet. In Brazil, telecommunication infrastructure is not considered a barrier for e-commerce, and financial services sectors have widely adopted the internet approach [5]. In Nigeria, e-mail was the prime aspect of the internet system and business people used email mostly for the purpose of communication [6]. Low level of IT education was recognized as the underutilization of internet system in many developing countries. In Hongkong low e-shopping compatibility, e-shopping inconvenience, e-transaction insecurity, and low internet privacy, together with orientation toward social interaction and poor awareness on the part of the consumers, translate into supply-side hurdles [7].

It is found from various studies that in developing countries e-commerce has hindrances in the arena of cultural habit and business and technology infrastructures as well [8].

Various studies identified a number of factors that facilitate or limit internet-based businesses. The enablers are availability of information, access to price information, accessibility, and convenience. These are the factors that would benefit the online business. On the other hand, the limiters which inhibit the escalation of internet business include lack of trial, lack of interpersonal trust, lack of instant gratification, high shipping and handling costs, customer service issues, loss of privacy and security, lack of a stable customer base, and poor logistics. Oinas recommended in his paper that online companies serving ultimate consumers need to build competency in retailing, handling payments, and distribution, among other crucial business functions [9].

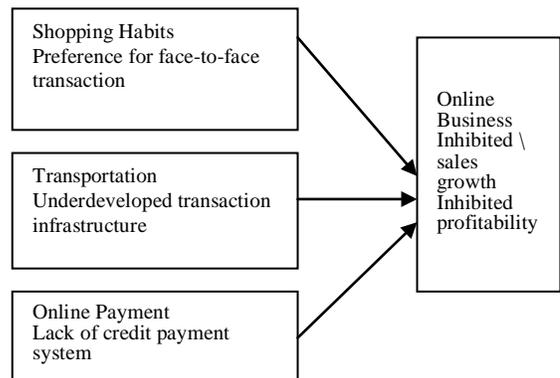


Figure: 1.Barriers to Online Business

Among other barriers many traditional middlemen are trying to preserve existing barriers and create new ones as a way to prevent online competition. In the developed countries these barriers already prevented many firms practicing e-commerce from selling directly to consumers and severely limit the ability of consumers to buy things.

### **3. Major Barriers of e-Commerce Development in Tanzania: Customers' Perception**

E-commerce is ubiquitous and thus anyone can transact at any time from any place. On-line commerce has enabled customers to overcome the handicaps of time and space. However, despite the rapid and demonstrated uptake of e-commerce techniques, there is still very limited detailed evidence about how individual corporations in developing countries are using e-commerce to improve their business activities and what the effective costs and benefits are of using those techniques (*Digital Opportunities for Development*). Despite the fact that e-commerce has endless opportunities, it is evident that numerous barriers inhibit the successful uptake of e-commerce. One point of this presentation is to revealing the existing and prospective barriers to e-commerce and devising their solutions in the context of Tanzania.

### **4. Study Methodology**

The study methodology followed to complete the study is on the basis of primary and secondary data. Secondary data were collected from relevant papers, daily newspaper, IT magazines published in paper form and electronic form as well. Primary data were collected from three stakeholder groups namely, vendors (merchants), financial institutions, IT institutions and the consumers (mostly SMEs). A critical analysis was done to determine the barriers that hinder the effective implementation of e-commerce in Tanzania.

### **5. Context: Tanzania**

According to International Telecommunication Union (ITU) report, 520,000 Internet users as of June, 2009, 1.3% of the population, according to

2010 ITU report. There are around hundreds of formal and informal IT training centers and numerous computer shops. Although ICT had been announced as a thrust sector in 2003 year no substantial and clear-cut IT policy has been followed since then. Still legislation towards electronic signatures, practical laws to protect intellectual property rights and relevant financial structure to facilitate electronic transaction are yet to be formalized. The entry into the global economy is effectively blocked because of inadequate ICT infrastructure and human resources, and non-existing compatible electronic environment to the rest of the world, lack of coordination among different stakeholders. However, the member of IT users in Tanzania is increasing rapidly.

### **6. Technical Limitations to e-commerce**

- Lack of sufficient system security, reliability, standards and communication protocols
- Insufficient telecommunication bandwidth
- The software development tools are still evolving and changing rapidly
- Difficulties in integrating the internet and e-commerce software with some existing application and data base
- The need for special web servers and other infrastructures, in addition to the network servers (additional cost)
- Possible problems of inter operability, meaning that some EC software does not fit with some hardware, or is incompatible with some operating systems or other components

### **7. Non-Technical Limitations to e-commerce**

- Cost and Justification
- Security and privacy
- Lack of trust and user resistance
- Channel conflict
- Other limitations factors are such as lack of touch and feel online etc

According to the study conducted by Oreku et al., in [10] e-Commerce readiness in Tanzania is not advancing because of

- Poor physical and network infrastructures
- Inadequate human resources
- Absence of required rules
- Low level of computer literacy
- Widespread poverty etc.

One of the main bottlenecks of e-commerce in Tanzania is e-payment system operation, which suffers from lack of convertibility of e-currency. The balance in any e-cash account is not convertible like cash without the help of any intermediating third party. Furthermore, it attracts special hardware arrangement.

### 8. Study findings

The study collected and analyzed primary data about existing and prospective inhibitors from customers. The study has identified six critical factors namely: lack of security, lack of privacy, lack of experts,

		Lac_of_sec	Lac_of_pri	Lac_of_inf	Lac_of_exp	Comp_ill	Inap_law
N	Valid	200	200	200	200	200	200
	missing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mean		2.9900	2.4500	2.7000	2.8500	2.3500	2.1500
Median		3.0000	2.0000	3.0000	3.0000	2.0000	2.0000
Std.dev		1.1904	1.1904	1.1298	1.1723	.9550	.8551

The mean score of the variable lack of security shows that the average people to some extent agree about the fact that it has substantial contribution to the obstacles of e-commerce. The mean score of the lack of experts, computer illiteracy, and inappropriate laws indicates that the average respondents agreed that these variables have impact on the development of e-commerce in Tanzania.

### 9. Regression model:

In this study, the dependent variable “inefficient e-Commerce” which indicates ineffi\_e\_Commerce and independent variables were: (a) “inappropriate laws indicates as inap\_law” (b) “computer illiteracy indicates as comp\_ill”, (c) “lack of experts indicates as lac\_of\_exp”, (d) “lack of infrastructure indicates as lac\_of\_inf”, (e) “lack of privacy indicates as lac\_of\_pri”, (f) “lack of security indicates as lac\_of\_sec”.

Table 2: Model Summary

model	R	R Square	Adjusted R square	st. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics					Durbin Watson
					R Square Change	F Change	df 1	df 2	Sig. F Change	
1	0.294 <sup>a</sup>	0.087	0.082	0.44018	0.087	18.764	1	198	0	
2	0.301 <sup>b</sup>	0.091	0.081	0.44033	0.004	0.864	1	197	0.354	
3	0.353 <sup>c</sup>	0.124	0.111	0.43315	0.034	7.583	1	196	0.006	
4	0.36 <sup>d</sup>	0.13	0.112	0.43296	0.005	1.174	1	195	0.28	
5	0.368 <sup>e</sup>	0.135	0.113	0.43263	0.006	1.299	1	194	0.256	
6	0.4 <sup>f</sup>	0.16	0.134	0.42749	0.025	5.691	1	193	0.018	2.011
a) Predictors: (Constant), inap_law										
b) Predictors: (Constant), inap_law, comp_ill										
c) Predictors: (Constant), inap_law, comp_ill, lac_of_exp										
d) Predictors: (Constant), inap_law, comp_ill, lac_of_exp, lac_of_inf										

e) Predictors: (Constant), inap_law, comp_ill, lac_of_exp, lac_of_inf, lac_of_pri
f) Predictors: (Constant), inap_law, comp_ill, lac_of_exp, lac_of_inf, lac_of_pri, lac_of_sec
g) Dependent variable: ineffi_e_Commerce

The model summary contains six models. Model 1 refers to the first stage in the hierarchy when only inappropriate law is used as a predictor. Model 2 refers to the second stage in the hierarchy when inappropriate law and computer illiteracy are used as predictors. Model 3 refers to the third stage in the hierarchy when inappropriate law computer illiteracy and lack of expert are used as predictors. Model 4 refers to the fourth stage in the hierarchy when inappropriate law, computer illiteracy, lack of expert, and lack of infrastructure are used as predictors and so on.

In the column labeled R are the values of the multiple correlation coefficients between the predictors and the outcome. When only inappropriate laws is used as predictor, this is the simple correlation between inefficient e-commerce system and inappropriate laws (0.294), when inappropriate laws and computer illiteracy are used as predictors the simple correlation between inappropriate laws and computer illiteracy (0.301) and so on for other predictors.

The next column gives a value of  $R^2$  which is a measure of how much of the variability in the outcome is accounted for by the predictors. For the first model its value is 0.087, which means that inappropriate law as predictor accounts for 8.7 per cent of the variation in the dependent variable inefficient e-commerce. The values of second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth models increase to 9.1%, 12.4%, 13%, 13.5%, and 16%. The adjusted  $R^2$  gives some idea of how well model generalizes and ideally it would like its values to be the same or very close to the value of  $R^2$ . The difference for the final model is a fair bit (0.160-0.134=0.026 or 2.6%). This means that if the model were derived from the population rather than a sample it would account for approximately 2.6% less variance in the outcome. The Durbin-Watson statistic informs about whether the assumption of independent errors is tenable. The closer to that the value is, the better, and for these data the value is 2.011, which is so close to 2 that the assumption has almost certainly been met.

Table 3: ANOVA

Model		Sum of Square	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	3.636	1	3.636	18.768	.000 <sup>a</sup>
	Residual	38.364	198	.194		
	Total	42.000	199			
2	Regression	3.803	2	1.902	9.808	.000 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	38.197	197	.194		
	Total	42.000	199			
3	Regression	5.226	3	1.742	9.285	.000 <sup>c</sup>
	Residual	36.774	196	.188		
	Total	42.000	199			
4	Regression	5.446	4	1.362	7.263	.000 <sup>d</sup>
	Residual	36.554	195	.187		
	Total	42.000	199			
5	Regression	5.689	5	1.138	6.079	.000 <sup>e</sup>
	Residual	36.311	194	.187		
	Total	42.000	199			
6	Regression	6.729	6	1.122	6.137	.000 <sup>f</sup>
	Residual	35.271	193	.183		
	Total	42.000	199			
a) Predictors: (Constant), inap_law						
b) Predictors: (Constant), inap_law, comp_ill						
c) Predictors: (Constant), inap_law, comp_ill, lac_of_exp						
d) Predictors: (Constant), inap_law, comp_ill, lac_of_exp, lac_of_inf						
e) Predictors: (Constant), inap_law, comp_ill, lac_of_exp, lac_of_inf, lac_of_pri						
f) Predictors: (Constant), inap_law, comp_ill, lac_of_exp, lac_of_inf, lac_of_pri, lac_of_sec						
g) Dependent variable: inefficient e-Commerce						

The next part of the output contains an analysis of variance (ANOVA) that test whether the model is significantly better at predicting the outcome than using the mean as a 'best guess'. Specifically, the *F*-ratio represents the ratio of the improvement in prediction that results from fitting the model (labeled 'Regression in the table'), relative to the inaccuracy that still exists in the model ('Residual' in the table). This table is again split into six sections: one for each model.

The regression model is much greater than the inaccuracy within the model then the value of *F*

will be greater than 1 and SPSS calculates the exact probability of obtaining the value of *F* by chance. For the initial model the *F*- ratio is 18.764, which is very unlikely to have happened by chance ( $p < .001$ ). For the second model the value of *F* is 9.808, which is also highly significant ( $p < .001$ ). The value of *F*- ratio of third, fourth, and sixth models are 9.285, 7.263, 6.079, and 6.137, which are also highly significant ( $p < .001$ ). we can interpret these results as meaning that the final model may count as significant to predict the outcome variable.

Table 4: Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	1.360	.084		16.114	.000
	inap_law	.158	.036	.294	4.332	.000
2	(Constant)	1.395	.092		15.119	.000
	inap_law	.184	.046	.342	4.022	.000
	comp_ill	-.038	.041	-.079	-.930	.354
3	(Constant)	1.245	.106		11.768	.000
	inap_law	.183	.045	.340	4.075	.000
	comp_ill	-.065	.041	-.136	-1.578	.116
	lac_of_exp	.076	.027	.193	2.754	.006
4	(Constant)	1.165	.129		9.050	.000
	inap_law	.181	.045	.337	4.027	.000
	comp_ill	-.065	.041	-.135	-1.566	.119
	lac_of_exp	.077	.027	.196	2.794	.006
	lac_of_inf	.029	.027	.073	1.084	.280
5	(Constant)	1.084	.147		7.355	.000
	inap_law	.179	.045	.333	3.985	.000
	comp_ill	-.060	.042	-.125	-1.449	.149
	lac_of_exp	.078	.027	.200	2.849	.005
	lac_of_inf	.024	.028	.059	.867	.387
	lac_of_pri	.035	.031	.078	1.140	.256
6	(Constant)	.988	.151		6.539	.000
	inap_law	.166	.045	.308	3.705	.000
	comp_ill	-.050	.041	-.105	-1.224	.222
	lac_of_exp	.059	.028	.151	2.100	.037
	lac_of_inf	.024	.027	.060	.893	.373
	lac_of_pri	.018	.031	.041	.593	.554
	lac_of_sec	.065	.027	.169	2.386	.018

The next part of the output is concerned with the parameters of the model. The first step in the hierarchy included inappropriate laws and although these parameters are interesting up to a point, it is more interested in the final model because this includes all predictors that make a significant contribution to predicting relationship between predictors and inefficient e-Commerce in Tanzania. It will actually look only at the lower half of the table (Model 6).

In multiple regressions the model takes the form of an equation that contains a coefficient (b) for each predictor. The first part of the table gives us estimates for these b values and these values indicate the individual contribution of each predictor to the model.

The b values tell us about the relationship between inefficient and each predictor. If the

value is positive it can tell that there is a positive relationship between the predictor and the outcome whereas a negative coefficient represents a negative relationship. For these data predictors have positive  $b$  values indicating positive relationships. So we see that the more inappropriate law the more inefficient will be the state of e-Commerce and affect outcome if the effects of all other predictors are held constant.

Each of these beta values has an associated standard error indicating to what extent these values would vary across different samples, and these standard errors are used to determine whether or not the  $b$  value differs significant from zero. Therefore, if the t-test associated with a  $b$  value is significant (if the value in the column labeled sig. is less than 0.05) then that predictor is making a significant contribution to the model. For this model inappropriate law = 3.705,  $p < .01$ , lack of experts = 2.100,  $p < .05$  and lack of security = 2.386,  $p < .05$  are significant predictors of inefficient e-Commerce. From the magnitude of the t-statistics we can see that the inappropriate law had more impact than lack of experts and lack of security.

The standardized beta values ( $\beta$ ) are all measured in standard deviation units and so are directly comparable: therefore, they provide a better insight into the 'importance of predictor in the model the standardized beta values for inappropriate laws (.308), computer illiteracy (-.105), lack of experts (.151), lack of infrastructure (.060), lack of privacy (.041) and lack of security (.169). It reveals except for computer illiteracy all other variables are positive. Therefore, interestingly the computer illiteracy is not a good predictor of inefficiency of e-Commerce in Tanzania.

## 10. Recommendation for solution to the problem

Since Tanzania is developing country and private organizations are not organized enough to provide with IT infrastructure Government should initiate programs to reduce the barriers. Establishing a task force at the government level to coordinate the activities related to ICT of different stakeholders. As a long-term investment government should invest in basic and higher education to reap the real benefits of ICT [13].

An effective telecommunications infrastructure to facilitate export oriented IT services is to be taken as a must at the moment. Government should subsidize utility expenses for IT companies and declare tax holiday for IT and IT education enterprises. Level of English education is to be upgraded to the communication skills of the human resources Tanzanian skilled professionals who are working abroad can be encouraged to return to the country and/or collaborate with Tanzanian entrepreneurs.

E-Payment system is one of the main hindrances to e-commerce. Most of the IT activities particularly transactions with other countries require e-payment system badly. For example a single Paypal would be a great aid to solve the problem. But, we are not in the Paypal list where, even Bhutan is on the Paypal's list.

- Reducing Consumer Reluctance for Online Shopping
- Careful selection of products to offer in the virtual stores in terms of nature and price of the products
- Product standardization
- Educating consumers about the ease and benefits of online shopping.
- Considering the value that the customers consider while delivering goods about the benefits the consumer gets from possessing and using a product and the associated costs for acquiring the product [11].
- Substantially enhancing transaction security and product quality, showing the customers that the company cares and shares about buyers' well-being is instrumental to enhancing customer loyalty [12] and to help them understand that virtual shops are safe and legitimate.
- Building effective distribution channels namely postal service, direct delivery, third party delivery, and alliances with other established companies.
- Removing any obstacles that hinder the effective methods of both online and offline payment systems.
- It is imperative that the WTO support barrier-free e-commerce and the WTO rules and disciplines are applied, and where necessary adapted, to ensure effective

execution of e-commerce. Adopting and implementing the WTO Information Technology agreement on financial services and the WTO agreement on basic Telecommunications are essential for international business relating to e-commerce (Worldwide Coalition Calls for WTO Policy Agenda to Enhance Growth of E-Commerce)

## 11. Conclusion

Despite a few stumbles, the future is bright for e-commerce. The 20th Century, shaped by the Industrial Revolution, became the age of the automobile and the television. The 21st Century, shaped by the Technological Revolution, is the age of globalization. The Internet massively impacts all aspects of business. In the 21st century, e-business is no longer an option for businesses; it is a necessity.

In the study the authors intended to examine the existing and prospective barriers to e-commerce to the successful operation of e-commerce in Tanzania and suggest some strategies to overcome these barriers. Companies that market to Tanzania customers on the internet need to devise some unique ways to overcome the constraints that suit indigenous environment.

Today, e-commerce is an ever-expanding consumer industry. For an e-commerce site to succeed it must understand its customers' mindset. Although price is always an issue, it is rarely the primary motivator for buying a product online. Customers are looking for convenience, and/or products they can't find elsewhere. Vendors should not wait until the removal of the current obstacles in the online business environment. The effort is to be exerted towards the development of appropriate e-commerce model that is suitable for the products being marketed. The business model has to encompass the three major factors: attracting potential customers, timely delivery, and comfortable payment methods.

Tanzania is an agricultural country. The country should take the approaches to e-commerce holistically and would exert efforts to the proper utilization of ICT particularly, agricultural e-Commerce.

Small websites that cater to niche markets have the best chance of prospering. That is, as long as you take care to ensure that your customers' shopping experiences aren't marked with too many potholes. The Entrepreneurs can come together to let companies and government know that they won't tolerate the artificial barriers that limit choice and raise prices. They can work with industries, professional associations together and realize the promise of e-commerce and not to blocking it.

The e-commerce innovation programme will build capacities in Tanzania to small and medium ICT enterprises to make a business with ICT utilizations. Ecommerce innovation aims to encourage the growth of Tanzanian ICT industries and SMEs, particularly in selected regions, Dar-es salaam, Arusha, Mwanza, Morogoro and southern regions through three main actions: Strengthening and improving security models for ecommerce in Tanzania in banking systems, fostering SMEs groups use of ICT and supporting innovative local applications i.e. websites sustainability and Single government institution managed portals development.

## 12. References:

- [1] Jose Angelo Faria "Tanzania should embrace e-Commerce", says UN official, retrieved on 6th December 13, 2010 <http://www.i4donline.net/news/news-details.asp?newsid=1449>
- [2] Paulo B. Tigre, "E-Commerce Readiness and Diffusion: The Case of Brazil", I-WAYS, Digest of Electronic Commerce Policy and Regulation, 26, 173-183, 2003.
- [3] Sachs, J. D., Readiness for the networked world: A guide for developing countries. Cambridge, MA: Center for International Development, Harvard University 2000.
- [4] Furuholt, Bjørn "A Rural-urban digital divide? Regional aspects of Internet use in Tanzania." Proceedings of the 9th International Conference on Social Implications of Computers in Developing Countries, São Paulo, Brazil, May 2007.

- [5] Tigre, Paulo Bastos, "Brazil in the Age of Electronic Commerce", *The Information Society*, 19:1,33 — 43,2003.
- [6] Linus Osuagwu, "Internet Appreciation in Nigerian Business Organizations", *Journal of Internet Commerce*, 2 (1), 29-47, 2003.
- [7] Cheung, Michael T. and Ziqi Liao "Supply-Side Hurdles in Internet B2C E-Commerce", *IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management*, 50 (4), 458-469, 2003.
- [8] Yu, Jun "B2C Barriers and Strategies: A Case Study of Top B2C Companies in China", *Journal of Internet Commerce*, 5:3, 27 — 51, 2006.
- [9] Oinus, Paivi (2002), "Towards Understanding Network Relationships in Online Retailing", *International Review of Retail, Distribution, and Consumer Research*, 12 (3), 319-335.
- [10] George S. Oreku et al, State of Tanzania e-readiness and e-commerce: Overview, *Information Technology for Development*, Volume pages 302–311, autumn (Fall) 2009.
- [11] Armstrong, Gary and Phillip Kotler *Marketing: An Introduction* (6th ed.). New Jersey: Prentice Hall,2002.
- [12] Srinivasan, Srini S., Rolph Anderson, and Kishore Ponnnavolu , "Customer Loyalty in E-commerce: An Exploration of Its Antecedents and Consequences", *Journal of Retailing*, 78 (1), 41-50. 2002.
- [13] Dilruba Khanam, Mohiuddin Ahmed, Sohrab Husain Khan, "E-Banking: An Emerging Issue of Developing Country Like Bangladesh", *Pakistan Journal of Social Sciences*, Grace Publication, 3 (3):, 2005526-529
- [14] Mary Materu-Behitsa and Bitrina D. Diyamett "Towards Evidence-based ICT Policy and Regulation" Volume Two, Policy Paper 11, 2010