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***ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA***

*Meeting of the Partners for Information and Communication  
Technologies in Africa (PICTA)*

*6 March 2002  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*

## **PICTA Activity Update Report**

# PICTA Activity Update Report

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## African Connection\*

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Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies) : *Sectoral applications (e-commerce, health, education, etc.)*  
Summary of the Activity (ies):

*It is an African initiative and platform to facilitate, harness and be a catalyst for improvement of connectivity within and between African countries, and between Africa and the rest of the world so as to make Africans equal partners and active participants in the knowledge age and global information society. The primary aim is to add value to existing initiatives and programs, facilitate collaboration and synchronization and disseminate information and best practices. The AC acts as a platform that fosters synergy and facilitates the creation of larger markets. It serves as a forum for discussing and addressing the myriad challenges of connectivity and development of a formidable information industry in Africa. The AC programs seek to reach out to all stakeholders in Africa and their ICT development and investment partners.*

*African ministers responsible for communications developed the African Connection Blue Print in 1998 and restructured PATU into ATU in 1999. The AC was subsequently adopted by the ATU Plenipotentiary Conference as a special independent program under ATU governed by a ministerial Board of Trustees. The AC program was endorsed by the OAU Summit in 2000 and has recently been adopted under NEPAD as a “technical back-stop” for the planned e-Africa Commission. A small secretariat to kick-start the initiative was created in November 2000 hosted in South Africa.*

*The initiative was based on the need to address in a focused, synchronized and collaborative manner all issues that determine the accelerated achievement of total connectivity in Africa where the latter is defined to include harmonized and facilitative policies and regulatory frameworks; physical, technological and pricing connectedness of ICT; ICT applications and content; and all areas of ICT (ie. telecommunications, broadcasting and information technologies). The initiative was also based on the need to harness and promote the development of shared vision for ICT and Digital Opportunities for Africa. It will promote the acceptance and development of ICT in all African communities as a cross-cutting tool for all human activities, and as a sustainable avenue for enhancing Africa’s inclusion in globalisation.*

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\* Newly included institution  
June 27, 2002

## Key strategies

*Consensus building activities through workshops, on-line interventions and information dissemination through the AC website, positive intervention and sourcing of resources for various country and regional programs, execution of pilot projects for scoping and scaling, and contributions to institutional development at country, sub-regional and regional levels.*

*Some areas of activity to date including workshops and projects to:*

- *Collect, disseminate and promote best practices and lessons from worst practices in ICT for Africa*
- *Develop, disseminate and promote use of various toolkits (e.g. licensing of new services/technologies, USA/Rural Connectivity, e-cities, etc) and*
- *Develop and promote innovative funding schemes especially for SMME development and participation in ICT*
- *Coordinate, synchronize and promote rural and other connectivity initiatives*
- *Participate in developing, dissemination and promotion of best practices in HRD and Capacity Building (e.g. Harmonized Curriculums and Networking)*
- *Develop the AC web site as continental information base*
- *Promote the creation of private sector partnerships forums with other regions of the world*
- *Facilitate dialogue and interaction in African local content development*
- *Mobilize partnerships between public, private and civil society sectors within Africa*

**Partners:** SADC (SATCC & TRASA), ECOWAS/WAEMU, UNECA, COMESA, ATU, WORLD BANK, INFODEV, EU, DFID, SWISSFUND, DBSA, HARVARD, MIT, MARKLE FOUNDATION, USAID, WEF.

## African IT Exhibitions & Conferences (AITEC)\*

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June 27, 2002

Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies) : *Sectoral applications (e-commerce, health, education, etc.)*  
Summary of the Activity (ies):

*AITEC has offices in the following countries: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Nigeria, Ghana and UK, with agents or representatives in several other countries. The organisation is focussed on publishing and exhibition and conference organisation for ICT professionals throughout English-speaking Africa. It is seeking a partner to undertake the same work in Francophone Africa.*

*AITEC has been publishing Computers in Africa magazine since 1987 and in March 2002 is relaunching it as "Computers + Telecommunications in Africa" in order to cover the full range of ICT development in Africa. (Information on content and editorial team attached.). AITEC's extensive exhibition and conference programme in 2002 will include: The African IT and Telecommunications Software & Services Showcase to be held in London in July as a platform for emerging leading-edge African ICT enterprises to promote themselves to European customers, partners and investors.*

*The annual African Computing & Telecommunications Summit (ACT 2002) is being held in Durban in August and will include the following main elements: The African National and Regional ICT Policy Forum, to be held in association with Bridges.org, the African ISP Uskills Forum, aimed at providing an in-depth education programme for the continent's ISPs, covering technical, business and strategic issues to empower Africa's ISPs to develop effective Internet connectivity across the continent, the African Open Source Software Forum, in association with the Linux Professionals' Association of South Africa*

### **Main communication strategies:**

*Via Computers and Telecommunications in Africa magazine, direct, via the Internet (e-mails and web site) and through direct contact with partners and clients via each of our offices.*

*Partners: Bridges.com, SA Balancing ACT, UK Shearwater Training, UK (Telecommunications training) Strategis, USA (Market research) Global VSAT Forum (VSAT Research and education) Department for International development (DfID), UK (research)*

### **Key points:**

- To advance knowledge and professional standards among Africa's ICT professionals*
- To increase competitiveness and excellence among Africa's ICT enterprises - and among international suppliers active in the region*

### **Cisco Systems, Inc.**

### **Contact Information**

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Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies) : Sectoral applications (e-commerce, health, education, etc.)  
Summary of the Activity (ies):

*In a unique partnership with ECA and InfoDev/World Bank, Cisco has established a Cisco Networking Academy Program at the Information Technology Centre for Africa located in the United Nations Conference Centre, ECA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Through the end of 2002, a total of 52 women will be selected from across Africa to attend a residential training program - an ICT "incubator." The IT training course is a comprehensive 280 hour curriculum that trains students how to design, build and maintain computer networks - preparing them for an industry standard CCNA certification. Employing an e-learning model, the Networking Academy Program delivers web-based educational content, online testing, student performance tracking, hands-on labs and instructor training support. Additionally, through the ECA African Centre for Women, the course participants take part in training on gender and development, entrepreneurship and management for African women and information in Africa awareness. Upon completion of the program, the women are expected to return to their own countries with enhanced opportunities to gain employment in the IT area, start their own business, serve as role models for women in Africa and hopefully take on leadership roles in the development of ICT's on the continent.*

**Partners:** UNECA, InfoDev/World Bank

### **Future plans**

The Cisco Networking Academy Program exists in 133 countries, including 28 Least Developed Countries. To learn more about the program please visit the website: [www.cisco.com/edu](http://www.cisco.com/edu) and for more on the LDC Initiative: [www.cisco.com/edu/lhci](http://www.cisco.com/edu/lhci)

### **Development Broadcasting Unit - Malawi\***

#### **Contact information**

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Website: [www.rfd.org.uk](http://www.rfd.org.uk)

Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies) : Sectoral applications (e-commerce, health, education, etc.)  
Summary of the Activity (ies):

*The project started in September 1999, with the aim of establishing a sustainable framework for a broadcast dialogue about civil rights and citizenship in Malawi. The main activities of the project have been:*

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\* Newly included institution  
June 27, 2002

*i) to establish a network of Radio Listening Clubs (RLCs) who are supported through training and mobilisation activities to generate content for a 50 part radio series called 'Kanthu N'Khama'. The 30 minute weekly programme consists of three main segments: "Village Voice" in which the RLC presents through drama, music, poetry and prose, a priority problem the members have identified after community consultations: the village voice is an invitation to a service provider to fill the gap; this is played to the appropriate service provider who is then invited to visit the community. The second segment is a recording of the "Dialogue" that takes place between the service provider and the community, facilitated by the DBU facilitators, where a plan of action is agreed. The third segment is an "action update" recorded by the RLC of progress made to date: lack of progress (and steps taken to get action) as well as successful project outcomes are broadcast. This process is then edited for a national audience with a message that is meant to increase the practice of good governance and accountability by communities and service providers.*

*ii) The project has also implemented a number of additional activities including training in rural animation techniques and c'tion planning modelsto strengthen capacity within Malawi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) for development concerned programming and community access. Thus the creation of the DBU as a repository for such cap acity within the institution.*

### **Main communication strategies:**

*The idea was to create democratised structures at three levels:*

- Institutionally within the MBC (the unit is part of the MBC structure) by providing the broadcaster with capacity for locally generated material*
- Community-level through the RLCs and their organisation by providing them with hardware and opportunities to participate in national information flows. Access to & managment of their own ICT has also been an important catalyst for increasing the assertiveness of the c'ty.*
- Nationally by broadcasting case studies for other service providers & communities to emulate and so agitate for policy change. In this way, using ICT for a multitiered impact.*

**Partners:** *Implemented by Radio for Development a UK based consultancy in collaboration with the Malawi Broadcasting Corporation & supported by DFID. There is also an advisory panel of 12 made up of civil society and government stakeholders.*

### **Key points**

*The rationale for the project lay in the ratification of the Communications Bill in 1998 which paved the way for the state broadcaster, MBC, to operate in accordance with democratic principles, including the participation of civil society in determining the content of broadcast material. RfD aims therefore to work with MBC to democratise their communication structures. The structures will provide the corporation with a sustainable resource through which community-generated programmes will be produced. This will encourage a participatory, needs-based approach to communication and support democratic development through creating effective dialogue between civil society, the media and politicians.*

*The DBU through its first project (the Civic Education programme) has provided 30 communities with leadership and participation management skills, basic rights training and basic radio production skills which has led to more than 200 dialogues between these communities and about 60 service providers drawn from the public and private sector and civil society at large. In approximately 60% of cases these dialogues have resulted in the extension of service or an amendment in policy. The more than 100 radio programmes produced and broadcast by the DBU so far has also led to the establishment of a further 35 self-initiated RLCs across the country.*

## **European Commission \***

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Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies) : Policy awareness Summary of the Activity (ies):

*The European Commission monitors the European Development Fund (EDF) which is the single largest Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) fund on earth. It is mainly the transport sector and rural development that benefits from the EDF.*

*It should be feasible to fund projects in traditional sectors like health, governance, medicine, etc. that make use of advanced technologies so that Africa can step in the new economy. However any application should be tailored according to the real needs in Africa.*

### **New approaches to telecom policies**

- *programs for the development of information society in south Mediterranean countries, and for the development of telecom policies;*
- *Call for proposals published in the official journal;*
- *South mediterranean and EU ICT actors;*
- *the first project covers pilot projects in application of ICT to education, e.commerce, health, multimedia, industrial innovation (EUR 65m);*
- *The second project covers ICT policies (EUR 2.5 m) ([antony.knott@cec.eu.int](mailto:antony.knott@cec.eu.int))*

### **ICT program with UNECA**

1. *Support for ICT Scan and NICI plans in selected SSA countries. (EC contribution about EUR 1.2 m). Steering committee of the Scan project consists of EC, UNECA and IDRC. Project aims at establishing a network of ICT policy institutes in focus countries.*

**Partners:** Info-DEV, IICD, ITU, DIFD

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\* Information updated  
June 27, 2002

**Future plans:**

When the benefits can be proven have more ITC in the projects of the traditional sectors.

**International Development Centre (IDRC) – Acacia****Contact Information**

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Areas of PICTA Activity (ies) in the past year : *Policy awareness, Sectoral applications (e-commerce, health, education, etc.)*

Summary of the Activity (ies): *Extensive ICT involvement in Southern, East and West Africa.*

**Partners :** Many other organizations

**Future plans**

Will continue ICTs for development programming through Acacia for at least another 4 years.

**International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD)****Contact Information**

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Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies) : *Sectoral applications (e-commerce, health, education, etc.)*

**Summary of the Activity (ies):**

*The International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD) assists developing countries to realise sustainable development by harnessing the potential of information and communication technologies (ICTs). The driving force behind IICD activities is that local 'change agents' themselves identify and develop proposals for realistic ICT applications – local ownership forms the essential basis for sustainable socio-economic development. Acting as a catalyst, IICD's three-pronged strategy is mainly delivered through a series of integrated Country Programmes. First, IICD facilitates ICT Roundtable Processes in selected developing countries, where local stakeholders identify and formulate ICT-supported policies and projects based on local needs. Second, working with training partners in each country, Capacity*

*Development activities are organised to develop the skills and other capacities identified by the local partners. Third, IICD draws on its global network to provide information and advice to its local partners, also fostering local information exchange networks on the use of ICTs for development. The best practices and lessons learned are documented and disseminated internationally through a Knowledge Sharing programme. In support of these activities, IICD invests in the development of concrete partnerships with public, private and non profit organisations, thus mobilising knowledge and resources needed by IICD and its local partners. Country Programmes are currently being implemented in Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Jamaica, Mali, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.*

**Partners:** Burkina Faso, Delege National a l'Informatique Cenatrin (Delgi), University of Bobo Dioulasso University of Ouagadougou (<http://www.zcp.bf>) Zongos Consulting and Productions

### **Ghana**

Centre for Information and Communication Technology (CICT) (<http://www.cict.org.gh>)  
Environmental Protection Agency EPA (<http://www.epa.gov.gh>)  
Internet Society of Ghana (ISOG) (<http://www.isoc.gh.org>)  
Ministry for Food and Agriculture (MOFA) (<http://www.mofa.gov.gh>)  
Ministry for Health Policy, Planning Monitoring and Evaluation  
Ministry of Communication  
Rescue Mission Ghana  
University Cape Coast  
University of Legon

### **Mali**

Sotelma (<http://www.sotelma.ml>)  
ANAIIS Mali (<http://www.anais.org/Fr/pays/mali/index.html>)  
Cenafob  
Datatech  
Ministry of telecommunications  
Ministry of Culture

### **Tanzania**

ISSAM International (<http://www.issaminternational.co.tz>)  
Business Care Services (BCS)  
Computing Centre Community Tele-Center Limited  
Finance and Enterprise Development Associates Ltd. (Feda)  
Mwanza Information & Technology  
National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)  
Safima Co ltd.  
Tanzania Traditional Energy Development and Environment Organisation (TaTEDO)  
University of Dar es Salaam

### **Uganda**

Institute of Teacher Education Kyambogo (ITEK) (ITEK) <http://www.parliament.go.ug>  
Computer Society  
Internet Society Uganda (ISOC-Uganda)  
Rank Consult ltd.

Uganda Debt Network  
Uganda Online  
WorldLinks <http://www.worldbank.org/worldlinks>

## **Zambia**

Information Dispatch <http://www.dispatch.co.zm>  
Firstnet  
Ministry of Education (BESSIP)  
Royal Netherlands Embassy  
New Millenium Corporation  
Coppernet Solutions Ltd <http://www.coppernet.zm/>  
TEVETA  
Zambia National Farmers Union <http://www.zambiz.co.zm/assoc/znfu.htm>

## **Future plans**

On IICD website <http://www.iicd.org> <<http://www.iicd.org/>> you will find the plans for these countries.

## **International Telecommunications Union (ITU)\***

Name of the Project: study on ICTs for development in Africa.

*In the framework of the preparation of the World Summit on the information Society (WSIS), the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) is undertaking a study on information and Communication Technologies for development whose objective is to assess the current activities conducted so far, the future prospects at the country level and at different African Regional and Sub- regional organizations' levels, and whose findings are expected to:*

- *input to the African Regional Preparatory meeting to the summit (World Summit on Information Society, Geneva, December 2003) scheduled to take place in Bamako, 28-30 May 2002*
- *help make recommendations on the mechanisms of co-operation, collaboration and information sharing that ensure synergy where relevant and an optimal use of the resources of the various initiatives, projects and interventions, while avoiding duplications.*

*The report is expected to be ready by the end of Mars 2002.*

**Name Of The Project** : Multipurpose Community Telecentre for Refugees

**Country:** Tanzania, Area: Ngara, K9 and Lukole Camp

**Partners** International - ITU, UNESCO, World Space Corporation (in kind)  
Volunteers in Technical Assistance (in kind),  
UNHCR

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National	-	Tanzania Telecom Company Ltd. (TTCL), Tanzania Communication Commission (TCC),
National Executing Agency	-	Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH).
Current Status	-	Project being finalized

Contact is being maintained with UNHCR in Addis Ababa in order to have the same kind of MCT in Ethiopia.

### **Key Points**

*These projects/initiatives are as a result of the need for universal access, extension of telecommunication using the existing infrastructure, involvement of the private sector in extension of the services offered, new technologies and services application, explore the possibility of wireless IP based services and application of ICTs.*

### **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa**

#### **Contact Information**

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Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies): *Monitoring and evaluation – SCAN-ICT*

#### **Summary of the Activity (ies):**

*The Scan-ICT project is a project aiming at building capacity in Africa to collect, organize and analyze information on the diffusion and utilization of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in various sectors of the national economy. The data collected is believed to feed into decisions on ICT investments. The Scan-ICTs employs a methodology consisting of various indicators developed based on the themes and strategies identified by the African Information Society Initiative (AISII) to develop the information and communication infrastructure of the continent, e.g., infrastructure, sectoral applications, human resources, etc. Activities include: selecting one or more sectors for study, planning the baseline study, collecting data, organizing data, analyzing data, preparing the national scan profile of the sector. The Scan-ICT process is also expected to test and verify the methodology in use and refine existing indicators and add new ones. Six countries, namely, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, Morocco, Senegal and Uganda, have been selected to undertake baseline studies and publish a national Scan profile.*

**Partners:** *International Development Research Center (IDRC) of Canada, the European Union, and the Norwegian Agency for Development (NORAD).*

### **Future plans**

Participation in the e-readiness assessment project of the InfoDev (World Bank)

### **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa**

#### **Contact Information**

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Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies): Policy awareness - National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI)

#### **Summary of the Activity (ies):**

*The National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) development process is aiming at assisting member States in defining a national Information and Communication strategies and policies to give directions to the harnessing and integrating the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to facilitate the socio-economic development of countries in Africa. Activities in this project include: needs assessment, conducting sensitization and high level policy workshops, preparation of the draft plans, holding validation workshop, preparation of the policy document, setting up co-ordination and implementation organs, and Candidates for assistance include: Central Africa Republic, Djibouti,*

**Partners:** The funds to support current project activities come from the European Union (EU).

### **Future plans**

Plan includes bringing more countries onboard.

### **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa**

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Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies): Monitoring and evaluation – World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)

### **Summary of the Activity (ies)**

- *To develop an African capacity in the protection of African traditional knowledge, electronic commerce, and global communications.*
- *To disseminate pertinent information on the central role of intellectual property rights (IPRs) in development, and to ensure better protection of IPRs to contribute to economic development.*

**Partners:** World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)

### **Future plans**

- Joint advocacy and advisory services to encourage an enabling policy environment for e-commerce activities in Africa
- Collaborating in the promotion and development of the NICI plans, policies and strategies in Africa
- Cooperating in the deployment and delivery of WIPONET components and services in Africa.
- Designing and assisting in implementing jointly, with the Information Technology for Africa, training programmes for different target groups on intellectual property related themes.

## **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa**

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Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies): Infrastructure development and Internet connectivity - French Cooperation

### **Summary of the Activity (ies):**

- *Improving ECA Web/Internet presence and activities*
- *French expert in ICT to develop ECA's web resources*
- *Developing the French Web Site of the Economic Commission for Africa*
- *Enriching the ECA Web Site with francophone contents on development projects undertaken in French speaking African countries.*

**Partners:** French Cooperation

**Future plans**

- Developing and strengthening web resources of ECA's Sub Regional Development Centers to promote information on regional integration
- Capacity building in the Information Technology Center for Africa's (ITCA) training programs

**United Nations Economic Commission for Africa**

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Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies) : Policy Awareness, Infrastructure development and Internet connectivity , Sectoral applications (e-commerce, health, education, etc.), Monitoring and evaluation

**Summary of the Activity (ies):**

*Under the framework of strengthening the African voice in international fora, ECA is one of the main players in fostering African debate on development issues. The "Global Compact with Africa" as drafted by ECA, is exemplary in this respect. It contains an innovative agenda for development cooperation in the future. It will be further refined in order to serve as an operationalization of the "New African Initiative", as adopted by the OAU-summit in Lusaka of July 2001. Promoting ICTs for development is one of the key programme within both the "Global Compact for Africa" and the "New African Initiative".*

**Partners:** Government of Netherlands

Future plans

Implementation of some of the AISI programmes and activities as a component of the "Global Compact with Africa" and the "New African Initiative"

**United Nations Economic Commission for Africa  
Information Technology Centre for Africa (ITCA)**

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Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies) : Sectoral applications (e-commerce, health, education, etc.)

**Partners:** India, Japan, Korea, UNCTAD

### **Future plans**

A study tour for selected businessmen from different African sub-regions to visit the Asia-Africa Investment and Technology Promotion Centre (AAITPC) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in-house e-commerce software development and show casing. Networking of African Trade Points.

### **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Information Technology Centre for Africa (ITCA)**

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Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies): Policy awareness

### **Summary of the Activity (ies):**

*ECA has awarded a scholarship for 26 African women for a training course on **Internet Networking Technology** at its Information Technology Centre for Africa (ITCA). This is a two batches program for Anglophone and Francophone African women. The first batch which was launched on 2nd August 2001 is for Anglophone women and will be followed by the Francophone on February 2002.*

**Partners:** InfoDev, Cisco Systems Inc., The republic of Korea, USAID, OPEC

### **Future plans**

Train 20 Francophone African women on Internet Networking Technology

### **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Information Technology Centre for Africa (ITCA)**

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Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies): Policy awareness

**Summary of the Activity (ies):**

*To help Ethiopian journalists play a catalytic role in the use of ICTs for development endeavors in Ethiopia, ECA organized ICTs and Internet awareness training for Ethiopian journalists under the title ICT applications and its future for media.*

**United Nations Economic Commission for Africa  
Information Technology Centre for Africa (ITCA)**

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Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies): Policy awareness

**Summary of the Activity (ies):**

*Following requests from several African Ambassadors based in Addis Ababa, ECA organized a series of training workshops on ICTs and Internet use for the benefit of African Ambassadors at its Information Technology Centre for Africa (ITCA).*

**Partners:** USAID, The Republic of Korea

**Future plans**

- Train the Ambassadors on additional ICT topics
- Train first counselors
- Train heads of UN agencies and development organizations based in Addis Ababa

**United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)**

**Contact Information**

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Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies) : Policy awareness, Infrastructure development and Internet , connectivity , Sectoral applications (e-commerce, health, education, etc.), Monitoring and evaluation

## **Summary of the Activity (ies) :**

*UNESCO through its intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP), together with ECA, is a lead agency on the United Nations Special Initiative for Africa (UNSI) programme cluster on Harnessing Information Technology for Development (HITD). The cluster deals with the promotion of information and communication technologies for socio-economic development for Africa and is closely tied to the African Information Society Initiative (AISI), launched in 1996 as an action framework approved by ECA Conference of Ministers for elaboration and implementation of National Information and Communications Infrastructure (NICI) plans in Africa.*

*The Regional Information Society Network for Africa (RINAF) is a framework for cooperation within UNESCO's intergovernmental Information For All programme which was initiated in 1992 to strengthen the capacity of the public sector and the civil society in Africa to exploit information and communication technologies for development. RINAF is working to include all societal sectors including rural, isolated and other disadvantaged communities. 43 African countries are now participating in RINAF through national focal points.*

*Some of the major "Digital Divide" bridging initiatives underway in Africa within the UNESCO programme are: Infoethics, Learning Networks for African Educators, E-governance for African municipalities, Community telecentres and multimedia centres, Endogenous applications and public domain content, and Capacity building and human resource development.*

**Partners:** Among others DANIDA, ITU, UNDP, World Bank

## **Future plans**

For the future RINAF has identified a number of priority additional action areas for regional cooperation: RINAF Virtual Multimedia Academy, RINAF Web site design competition, RINAF Distance Education Project, RINAF PC recycling project

Additional Comments: For these four UNESCO RINAF projects funds are needed: RINAF Virtual Multimedia Academy, RINAF Web site design competition, RINAF Distance Education Project, RINAF PC recycling project

## **United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)**

### **Contact Informaion**

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Major Area of PICTA Activity (ies) : Research

**Summary of the Activity (ies):**

*The UNRISD Infotech programme studies the implications of the digital revolution for developing countries. It publishes papers and books on the evolution of global IT policies, and the likely impact of these changes on development options. It also sponsors new research by Third World scholars and activists on the way new information technologies are being integrated into their economies and societies. For more information see [www.unrisd.org/infotech](http://www.unrisd.org/infotech)*

**Partners:** The UNRISD Infotech programme usually works with individual consultants. Its primary funding has come from the Minister for Development Co-operation of The Netherlands.

**Future plans**

During 2001, UNRISD is completing a two-year research project on Information Technologies and Social Development in Senegal. Drawing on the experience gained during this project, the Institute plans to launch similar research efforts in other Third World countries.

Two books are currently in preparation: The Beginners' Guide to Global Media Governance (Rowan and Littlefield/UNRISD, paperback, 2001); and Les NTIC et le développement social au Sénégal, Khartala/UNRISD, 2002). Others will follow. Over a dozen papers and essays have also been published by the UNRISD Infotech programme and/or are available online. Six to eight more will be published in the coming year, including some commissioned specially for the World Summit on the Information Society.