



PICTA Bulletin is a monthly publication that provides information on activities of members in the partnership, as well as offers news on ICT-related activities in Africa. This bulletin is also available at:
<http://www.uneca.org/aisi/picta/PICTAbulletin>

NEWS: PICTA Members.....

Rwanda reviews its 2001-2005 NICI plan. The workshop took place from 27 to 28 June 2005 in Kigali, Rwanda with the main objective of undertaking a comprehensive stock-taking exercise to review the implementation of the NICI-2005 Plan. The workshop also looked at modalities to implement the Rwanda e-Government strategy including challenges and opportunities within the overall framework of the reform of the Rwandan civil and public service. Based on the outcome of the stocktaking exercise, ECA is going to prepare a comprehensive NICI-2005 Plan Implementation Review Report to serve as a basis for the development of the NICI-2010 (NICI-2) Plan. It is also acknowledged that the methodology developed for undertaking the review process and the Review Report itself could serve as a 'best practice' model for other African countries embarking on the NICI process to learn from and adopt. More:

<http://www.uneca.org/aisi/nici/rwanda/NICI-2005PlanImplementationReview.htm>

Gambia stakeholders' consultation on Information Society. The consultation workshop was organized as a response to a request for awareness raising and training by the Parliament of The Gambia, in line with the recommendations of the third and fourth meetings of the Committee on Development Information (CODI). The workshop resulted in enhanced awareness on Information Society issues, including the Gambia NICI processes and documents; better understanding of the roles of stakeholders such as parliamentarians, media and the private sector in the implementation of the national policy and plan; and networks were established with plans of action and clear understanding of how their contributions fit into the overall NICI coordination structure. More:

<http://www.uneca.org/aisi/GambiaWS/index.htm>

Scan-ICT Phase II launched. ECA and the Government of Finland organized a workshop that was held from 30 June to 2 July 2005 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to launch the second phase of Scan-ICT. The workshop reviewed the set of core indicators, which were adopted by the second African Regional Preparatory Conference for the WSIS, held in Ghana in February 2005. Lessons were learnt from participants of the first phase of the project and partners involved in developing ICT indicators at regional and international levels. The methodology toolkit and the core indicators that were developed for the implementation of Scan-ICT phase II were discussed and guidelines for implementation of the project at country level defined. Participants agreed upon a timeline for implementation of the project starting from now to December 2006. The role of National Statistical Offices (NSO) and other stakeholders in sustaining the process at national level was discussed. Participants noted that the national coordination mechanism needs to be determined based on specific conditions in the respective countries. Participants were drawn from Cameroon, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Swaziland, Tunisia, and regional/international organizations such as ITU, UNCTAD, and UNESCO. More:

<http://www.uneca.org/aisi/scanictp2ws.htm>

Empowering Niger Stakeholders for building an inclusive Information Society. The workshop was organized by ECA as a follow-up request from the National Assembly and the Government of Niger for stakeholders, including parliamentarians, media and private sector actors. Two workshops, one for parliamentarians and another one for media and the private sector took place in Niamey from 1 to 3 June 2005. The workshop resulted in increasing the awareness of stakeholders on NICI and the WSIS processes, and a better understanding of ICTs to address the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to fight poverty. The workshop also created awareness on implementation mechanisms such as the e-Policy Resource Network (ePoINet) and the need for creating ICT4D networks of stakeholders and an ICT Committee within the Parliament. Each group is developing strategic Plan of Action to advance the NICI/WSIS

implementation.

<http://www.uneca.org/aisi/nigerws/>

More:

Information Society WSIS Tunis 2005
(<http://www.wsis.org>).

More:

<http://www.certification.tn/Conference/PKITunisia2005/programme.htm>

Dgroups Phase 2 to be launched. The Dgroup workshop took place from 6 to 7 June 2005 at Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Participants were drawn from Bellanet, Hivos, Worldbank, DFID, KIT, IICD, SNV, INASP, and CTA. Dgroups has had a strong history of supporting online collaboration since it was first established in February 2002, and it continues to grow with interest from other organizations. The workshop reviewed some of the general needs and opportunities, and included some new ideas related to the way the partnership currently operates. The workshop defined some of the minimum requirements for continuation of Dgroups & the Partnership for the future, including the technical and overall management and the decision making process. Recognizing that there is huge potential for expanding the scope of work done by the Partnership to support online networking, participants reached agreement that Dgroups is ready to enter into a Phase 2, following re-defined vision and mission statements, a re-organized management and governance structure, and a new partnership agreement. More: Mark Faul (mfaul@bellanet.org)

Fourth Meeting of WGIG. The WGIG held its fourth meeting from 14 to 17 June 2005, and finalized its report, which will be submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The report will be presented to all stakeholders at a meeting in Geneva on 18 July. The WGIG met in closed sessions from 15 to 17 June at the Château de Bossey in Céligny, Switzerland. In conjunction with its last meeting, the WGIG held open consultations at the International Telecommunication Union in Geneva. For more on the record of the proceedings of the WGIG consultations: <http://www.wgig.org/>

African and Arab Regional Conference on "Electronic Transaction Security, Digital Signature and PKI". The conference took place from 20 to 22 June 2005 in Tunis, Tunisia, organized by the National Digital Certification Agency under the aegis of the Tunisian Ministry of Communication Technologies, in collaboration with ECA and the Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie (INTIF). The event allowed participants and experts from the region, to familiarise themselves on digital signature and PKI (Public Key Infrastructure) technology, and learn more about digital signature deployment and discuss the strategy and actions to foster PKI deployment in the region. It was also held in preparation for the World Summit for the

Second regional e-Government stakeholders consultative workshop. The workshop took place from 27 to 29 June 2005 in Nairobi, Kenya as a follow-up to the first workshop held in Dar Es Salaam from 17 to 19 November 2004, which agreed on the need for the development of a regional e-Government strategy for the East African Community (EAC) and also on the initial priority areas for the implementation of e-government flagship applications. The workshop was intended to further involve stakeholders in consolidating and sharing views regarding the strategic priorities for e-Government and in spelling out the scope for implementation of initiatives within the sub-region. Close to 80 participants from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, South Africa and Canada, EAC and ECA attended the workshop. Participants commended ECA for launching the initiative with EAC and welcomed the involvement of the Canadian ePolicy Resource Center (CePRC). The CePRC announced a contribution of 500, 000 USD for the implementation of the programme. As security is a real concern, a workshop on the theme is planned for 2006. The third consultative workshop will be held in Uganda later this year. More: Mohammed Timoulali (mtimoulali@uneca.org).

Commonwealth Action Programme for the Digital Divide in Malta. The Commonwealth Action Programme on the Digital Divide (CAPDD) held its Coordinating Committee meeting in Malta in June. The Coordinating Committee agreed that member countries and regional / pan-Commonwealth agencies should be consulted on programmes and projects that would facilitate the CAPDD. This process would then enable the Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) to ensure that the CAPDD would be actioned after the November 2005 meeting. As such, a Commonwealth-wide call was issued for programme and project proposals. More: <http://www.cto.int>

APC-Africa-Women: GenARDIS small grants awarded. The GenARDIS small grants fund was initiated in 2002 by CTA, IICD and IDRC, to support work on gender-related issues in ICTs for ACP agricultural and rural development. Ten winners of the € 5000 one-time grants have just been announced. The fund is coordinated by APC-Africa-Women. More: http://www.cta.int/about/genardis2_winners.htm

Access to information as a prerequisite to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): an African perspective - debate on Radio Nederland. The debate took place last 26 May in The Hague as part of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process in the Netherlands and aimed to raise more awareness of the use of Information and Communication Technologies in Africa. Both challenges and successes are highlighted. Participants of the debate were Hon. Dr. Johnson Nkuuhe, Member of Parliament of Uganda and Ms. Aida Opoku-Mensah from ECA. Both of them are also members of IICD's International Advisory Board. It was organised by NCDO, IICD, OneWorld.nl, Hivos and RNW. Besides via radio, the debate was also broadcasted via the website of Radio Nederland Wereldomroep (RNW). More: Summary of the radio programme (<http://www2.rnw.nl/rnw/en/features/development/050617agl?view=Standard>) OR the full transcript of the radio programme (<http://www2.rnw.nl/rnw/en/features/development/050616agl?view=Standard>).

OTHER NEWS

e-Nigeria 2005. The just concluded e-Nigeria 2005 conference held from 28-30 June 2005 was on the theme ICT Deployment for Sustainable Development in Nigerian Rural Areas. One particular highlight of this event was the amount of ICT activities being undertaken by some administrations in some of Nigeria's 36 states. In Kano state, an Office of Special Advisor has been created on Information and Communication Technology, tasked on sensitization on ICTs, development of infrastructure and connectivity and drafting of an e-strategy at the state level. In the western part of Nigeria, Oyo state there have been e-learning initiatives in secondary schools introduced by the state government, including the recently launched Wesley College of Science e-learning programme (www.wescosibadan.com). There are also major e-Government initiatives underway and the Oyo State Government has recently established a committee for the articulation of ICT policy for the state (www.oyostate.com). Other states at the forefront of promoting ICTs include Bayelsa, Plateau and Osun. More: <http://www.enigeria.org/> Vincent Olatunji (volatunji@nitda.gov.ng).

African community radios go on line. (AMARC Africa) -- Five African community radio stations have opened their Web portals to the world, and more will follow their lead as part of a project that seeks to strengthen radio broadcasting on the continent, the World Association of Community

Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) in Africa announced on 22 June 2005. More: <http://africa.amarc.org/>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

11 - 15 July 2005, International ICANN Meeting, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg. The meetings are open to any interested person. ICANN encourages broad participation in its bottom-up consensus-development process. Meetings can be in person, through webcast and remote participation opportunities, and/or by joining one of the various ICANN-related mailing lists. More: <http://www.icann.org>

11 - 12 August 2005, World Youth Development and ICT (WYDI 2005) Conference, Arusha, Tanzania. This conference is being organised with a theme of "Young People Creating Global Culture". The event aims at bringing together more than 250 young professionals, community leaders, non-governmental organisation (NGO) leaders, university students, ICT professionals, among others. More: <http://www.wydi2005.tk/>

31 August - 2 September 2005, World Information Technology Forum (WITFOR) 2005, Gaborone, Botswana. The Forum is hosted by the Government of the Republic of Botswana, in collaboration with the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP). WITFOR is a state-of-the-art, high-level international forum, aimed at ICT policy-makers and practitioners. More: <http://www.witfor.org/>

7 - 8 September 2005, 2005 PICTA Meeting, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Zulu saying "Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu" or "A person is a person through other people" provides the inspiration for the meeting's theme of Networking Development in Africa. This year the core PICTA partners are putting extra effort into strengthening PICTA as an arena for collaboration among the key institutions involved with ICT and Knowledge for Development in Africa. The meeting will discuss experiences of the 2003 PICTA meeting in Tunis, which used the Open Space methodology to facilitate the creation of a range of collaborative project ideas, a number of which have come to fruition since then. The meeting will be held prior to the GKP Africa meeting (Sep 9 - 10) in the interest of giving participants greater opportunity to combine attendance. More: <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/picta/picta05.htm>

9 - 10 September 2005, GKP Africa Meeting, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The main theme of the

meeting is "Deepening Regional Networks and Linking Them with Global Networks for Greater Impact". The workshop will be oriented towards giving participants training in participatory facilitation methods for face-to-face meetings, linked with the use of ICTs such as WIKIS in order to help produce outputs as the meeting is taking place. The special methodology that will be used for this workshop is currently being prototyped in Canada by IDRC with the sponsorship of Telecenter.Org. IDRC has confirmed the availability of the chief facilitator for the GKP Africa workshop (Allen Gunn), with funding from Connectivity Africa. More: <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/picta/picta05.htm>

19 - 30 September 2005, Third Meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the Tunis Phase of WSIS, Geneva, Switzerland. The third meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the Tunis Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS PrepCom-3), will be held in Geneva, Palais des Nations, from 19-30 September 2005. PrepCom-3 will be a critical step in the preparatory process for the Tunis Summit, which will take place in Tunis from 16-18 November 2005. PrepCom-3 will consist of two full weeks of negotiations on all issues related to the output of the Tunis Summit. This meeting will have to forge consensus on the final document(s), which is/are to be adopted by Heads of States and Governments at the Tunis Summit. More: <http://www.itu.int/wsis>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW AISI VIDEO: ECA has produced two video programmes to showcase successful examples of ICT for development activities in four countries: Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Ghana. This video constitutes part of the ICT4D outreach activities and was undertaken within the framework of the African Information Society Initiative (AISII). Supported by the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), the video programmes, "Africa Goes Digital" and "The Challenges of ICT for Development" highlight challenges and opportunities of the Information Society in Africa, and demonstrate real life experiences to this effect in these countries. The productions are currently being distributed to African TV stations. More: Atsuko Okuda (aokuda@uneca.org).

Development Gateway Award finalists announced. Efforts of the six nominees range from using radio and satellite for Tsunami recovery to rural banking. The Development Gateway Award recognizes the most exemplary

contribution in the field of ICT for development during the last 10 years. The award focus is ICT's impact on social and economic development. More: <http://www.developmentgateway.org/award>

NEW VIDEO: "Make ICT Training Work For You" introduces multimedia resource for non-profits. Commissioned by APC, media specialists c2o/Toy Satellite designed and produced "Make ICT Training Work For You", an introduction to the ItrainOnline's Multimedia Training Kit (MMTK). The MMTK provides trainers in telecentres, community media organisations and the development sector with a structured set of materials to help make that jump between new and traditional media or train in a new skill area. The MMTK is a joint project of the APC, Bellanet, IICD, INASP, Oneworld.net and UNESCO. Download the video and other resources utilised in the making of the video: <http://www.toysatellite.org/mmtk/>

PICTA Bulletin is a monthly information sharing service designed to keep members informed of each other's activities in the area of ICTs in Africa.

Please send relevant information, stories or exchanges you may want to share with other members to atemtime@uneca.org for inclusion in subsequent issues of the PICTA Bulletin. If you have any comments and/or suggestions, please contact:

*Aida Opoku-Mensah
Officer-in-Charge
Development Information Services
Division, Economic Commission for Africa
P. O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Phone: 251-1-511167
Fax: 251-1-510512
E-mail: aopoku-mensah@uneca.org*