



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.....

2005 PICTA-GKP meeting. The 2005 annual PICTA meeting will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 7 - 8 September 2005 under the theme 'Networking Development in Africa'. This year the core PICTA partners are expected to put extra effort into strengthening PICTA as an arena for collaboration among the key institutions involved with ICT and Knowledge for Development in Africa. To achieve this goal the annual meeting will be joined by GKP Africa members and held as a PICTA-GKP event. The participation is expected to initiate a non-donor/donor interaction and provide a good opportunity for cooperation rather than duplication. The PICTA-GKP meeting will be followed by a network facilitation training workshop from 9 - 10 September 2005.

More: <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/picta/>

Swaziland holds national debate on inclusive Information Society. Stakeholders in Swaziland, including government officials, media, academia, women, civil society and youth held a national debate on building an inclusive Information Society in the Kingdom, as part of the National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) formulation policy. The debate began at a two-day workshop which ended July 15 and organized in collaboration with the Government, under the framework ECA-Government of Finland "Cooperation in the Development of the Information and Communication Technologies in Africa". ECA has organised similar stakeholders workshops in Niger and The Gambia. More:
<http://www.uneca.org/apps1/newsfromdivisions/News.asp?cmd=view&articleid=259>

E-discussion: Engaging the African private sector on Information Society issues. An electronic discussion list for private sector and the information society was launched on 12 July 2005 as an initiative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in collaboration with Africa Practice the AISI. The discussion aims to

create a platform for African private sector actors to share experiences and knowledge in order to help develop innovative approaches to their needs and to establish a dialogue with public and other stakeholders in devising and implementing the WSIS plan of action at country and regional levels. The list is expected to discuss various issues until 5 October 2005. More: Thierry H. Amoussougbo (tamoussougbo@uneca.org)

Final Report of the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) released. United Nations Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan transmitted the Final Report on 14 July 2005 to the President of the Preparatory Committee of the World Summit on the Information Society, Ambassador Janis Karklins, and the WSIS Secretary-General Mr Yoshio Utsumi. The WGIG was set up by the Secretary-General of the United Nations after the first World Summit on Information Society in 2003 failed to reach an agreement on the governance of the Internet. More: http://www.itu.int/wsis/documents/doc_multi.asp?lang=en&id=1660|1661|1662|1663|1664

Dakar Declaration of the Local Collectives on the Information Society (AFISLC). Participants of the African regional Forum of the Local Collectives on the Information Society (AFISLC) organised by the Regional Council of Dakar, Senegal from 13 - 15 July 2005 called for an equitable Information Society. This was made in the Dakar Declaration adopted on 15 July 2005 in Dakar, Senegal. They also called on the mayors and presidents of local authorities to actively participate in the second World Summit of Cities and Local Authorities on the Information Society to be held in Bilbao, Spain from 9 - 11 November 2005.

More: http://cresp.sn/forumdakar/index_eng.htm#

Website of the Africa Youth ICT4D Network Launched. The African Youth and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D) Network - AYIN- is a pan-African and an all-inclusive platform for African youth input into the African Information Society agenda. With a vision of "a networked generation of young Africans empowering themselves and contributing to the continent's active participation in the Information Society", the network is set to move youth inclusion to the next level as far as the

Information Society is concerned. AYIN was launched on the 4th of February 2005 at the second African Regional meeting for the World Summit on the Information Society (Accra 2005.) More: <http://www.ayinetwork.org/>

Uganda's Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry launches website and database. The Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry (MTTI) has been in the process of improving information flow within the ministry, as well as between the ministry and its affiliated institutions. To achieve this, a documents database (intranet) has been developed and its website redesigned (www.mtti.go.ug) to meet the existing needs. This will benefit the tourism, trade and industry sectors in the country by availing information to its users in an efficient way. The activities of improving the management of information flow have been facilitated by IICD in collaboration with the Government of Uganda within the Information Flow Management and Networking (IFMN) project. More: <http://www.iicd.org/articles/iicdnews.2005-08-01.5146146048>

Ethiopian Customs go digital. A four-month capacity building training workshop for Ethiopian Customs Authority officials as part of ECA's efforts at strengthening ICT applications in socio-economic sectors of African countries has just been launched in Addis. The workshop is taking place at the Information Technology Centre for Africa (ITCA). The training modules, which have been customized to the Ethiopian contexts, include sessions on establishing and maintaining information networks, database management and GIS tools for surveillance and enforcement. Participants expected to benefit from this programme include Addis Ababa-based officials and Customs officers from various ports of the country. This initiative is a result of an official request to ECA from the Government of Ethiopia to build the capacity of its Customs Authority to effectively implement and maintain an UNCTAD software product, known as ASYCUDA, which is a computerized management system. The system handles manifest, customs declarations, accounting procedures, and transit and suspense procedures. More: <http://www.uneca.org/disd/>

OTHER NEWS

Uganda hosts regional ICT policy body. Uganda has been chosen to host the Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA) to enhance regional participation in international ICT policy processes. CIPESA, a programme of the Cape Town-based bridges.org aims to support governments, civil society organisations, and other actors within the East and Southern Africa

region to participate in international and regional decision-making processes on a wide range of ICT issues. More: <http://www.cipesa.org/>

Africa Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-06. The Civil Society Forum of the Africa Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC) met and discussed the role of the civil society among others in achieving the MDGs and also towards the next WSIS meeting in Tunis. The Pre-Event for the African Civil Society took place from 1 - 3 July 2005 in Abuja, Nigeria. The Forum was timely as it offered the African Civil Society the space to address issues and challenges of the African information society. On the other hand, civil society entities got educated on the World Summit on the Information Society as well as the other issues in the Africa Information Society Initiative - AISI. More: <http://www.ncc.gov.ng/ITUWorkshop/itu-arp/civilsociety.html>

African ISP Association Selects Regional Carriers. The Association of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in Africa announced the two successful bids in response to its call for proposals to provide direct Internet connections between African countries. One of the winning bids came from Transtel, one of the largest private telecommunication network operators in the southern hemisphere and a division of Transnet Limited. The other was a joint bid from Africa Online, a pan-African ISP, and Sky Vision, a leading provider of international Internet services over satellite and terrestrial fibre optic systems. More: http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-84656-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

11 - 12 August 2005, World Youth Development and ICT (WYDI 2005) Conference, Arusha, Tanzania. This conference is on the theme "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 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>

13 September 2005, AISI Media Awards at the Highway Africa Conference, Grahamstown, South Africa. The September event will cover the following awards: The AISI/GTZ Media Awards 2005, AISI/IDRC Media Awards 2005, AISI/IICD Media Awards 2005 and the AISI/OSIWA Media Awards 2005. Entries for the AISI/GKP/SDC Media Awards 2005, a category under the 2005 AISI Media Awards programme aiming at recognising journalists reporting on the WSIS process and Africa, will continue to be received until 30 September 2005 with the award being given during the second phase of the WSIS scheduled to take place in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005. More: <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/mediaaward.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

WSIS-Gender Caucus e-discussion: Gender issues in the Tunis Phase. The WSIS Gender Caucus is organizing an email-based discussion to identify the relevant issues and develop methods and strategies for integrating gender perspectives into the WSIS deliberations at PrepCom3 in September and the Tunis Summit in November. This discussion, organized and moderated under the Electronic Networking Project component of the WSIS Gender Caucus, will be for a period of three weeks, from July 25th to August 13th 2005. To join this discussion list just send a blank email to mailadmin@genderwsis.org. For more information about the Gender Caucus, visit the WSIS Gender Caucus website, www.genderwsis.org

Call for Contributions to Prepcom 3. All governments and stakeholders have been invited to continue making contributions for PrepCom-3. Contributions can be sent by email to: wsis-contributions@itu.int

Launch of a book on Gender Digital Divide in Francophone Africa. In preparation of the African Woman Day 2005, the Gender and ICT Network (a joint initiative ENDA-ART-OSIRIS) launched the book "Fracture numerique de genre en Afrique francophone: une inquietante realite" (Gender digital divide in Francophone Africa: a harsh reality". This book is published by ENDA and presents the results of research undertaken, since two years in six countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal), with the support of the International Development Research Center (Canada). Free copies of the book (in French) can be downloaded at: <http://www.famafrique.org/regentic/indifract/fracturenumeriquedegenre.pdf>

Call for Abstract - World Congress on Communication or Development (WCCD). The Communication Initiative (The CI) is one of three organisations - with The World Bank's Development Communication Division and FAO and the support of the Government of Italy - co-hosting and organising the World Congress on Communication for Development [WCCD] to be

held in Rome, Italy on March 15/16/17, 2006. Abstracts and proposals for papers and other innovative ways to present relevant knowledge and experiences in this field at The Congress are invited on the following broad topic areas For more information contact Chris Morry of The Communication Initiative at: cmorry@comminit.com

E-debate on “Intellectual property rights: issues for Africa in the information society,” 20 July – 21 August 2005. The goal of this four-week long email discussion is to raise awareness of critical issues around intellectual property rights (IPR) for Africa, to provide an overview of the existing legal processes and tools, to discuss alternatives to the current situation, and to facilitate exchange and collaboration between individuals and organisations working in this field. Based on the discussion, a short summary report -- including a number of recommended activities -- will be prepared in English and French. To subscribe, please visit http://www.cipaco.org/article.php3?id_article=74&lang=en, or send an email to Ken Lohento (klohento@panos-ao.org) (West and Central African participants) or to Anthony Mugeere (anthony@bridges.org) (East and Southern African participants). Northern African participants are encouraged to use any of the subscription methods above. For more information: http://www.cipaco.org/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=34&lang=en

APC e-Governance Resources. This page collects news, information, resources, events, and the names of organisations working in E-Governance: http://africa.rights.apc.org/index.Shtml?apc=21865se_1

Call for Papers. Information Technologies and International Development (ITID), now in its second year, is a scholarly journal focused on the intersection of information and communication technologies and economic and social development. It is a peer-reviewed, international, multi-disciplinary quarterly designed for researchers and practitioners from the engineering and social sciences; technologists; policy makers; and development specialists. ITID is edited at the University of Maryland and Georgia Institute of Technology and published by The MIT Press. Information Technologies and International Development publishes material on the subject, broadly defined, of information and communication technologies and the developing world. The editors are soliciting full-length research articles as well as shorter research reports. Detailed instructions for authors are available online at <http://mitpress.mit.edu/itid>

Latest issue of iConnect Africa out. The quarterly web, print and email service produced by ECA and IICD aims to raise awareness in the wider African development community regarding the possibilities offered by ICTs in development. It reports on activities that form part of the Africa Information Society Initiative (AISII) and Building Communication Opportunities (BCO) initiative. iConnect Africa draws content from its partners, links resources and expertise and encourages collaboration. The August 2005 (Vol 2, No. 1) has just been produced with features on ICTs and education, perspectives on stakeholder activities as well as news items on various trends around the continent. More: <http://www.uneca.org/aisii/IConnectAfrica/index.htm>

African ICT Achievers Awards, Executive Business Forum. To increase the Corporate Social Investment (CSI) component of the African ICT Achievers Awards, the programme now incorporates an Executive Business Forum, which complements its existing pillars, designed to promote ICT investments, capacity building and innovation on the African continent. The executive business forum will act as a common vehicle, where decision makers can discuss efforts to bridge the digital divide and promote the interests of youth and women in ICT sector. The executive business forum will be held on the 31st of October 2005, at Gallagher Estate in Gauteng, South Africa. This year, the CSI component has been increased to facilitate the development of winners. To nominate individuals, NGOs' and organizations worthy of being recognized as an African ICT Achiever, please revert to www.ictachievers.co.za or simply call 011 603 1600.

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:

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