



*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 Meeting.** The annual PICTA meeting will be held from 7 to 8 September 2005 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. 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 in the interest of giving participants greater opportunity to combine attendance. More:  
<http://www.uneca.org/aisi/picta/picta05.htm>

**GKP Africa Meeting.** The meeting will take place from 9 to 10 September 2005 following the annual PICTA meeting. 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>

**Winners of the 2005 AISI Media Awards to be announced.** The winners of the 2005 AISI Media Awards will be announced at the Award Ceremony scheduled to take place on 13th September 2005 during the annual Highway Africa Conference that will be held from 12 to 14 September 2005 in Grahamstown, South Africa. The AISI Media Awards were introduced in 2003 to encourage more informed coverage of the information society and ICT for development issues in Africa as part of

ECA's Information Society Outreach and Communication Programme. The Awards are aimed at individual journalists and media institutions based in Africa that are "promoting journalism which contributes to a better understanding of the information society in Africa. The 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. More:  
<http://www.uneca.org/aisi/mediaaward.htm>

**AISI/GKP/SDC Media Awards 2005 will be announced in Tunis.** The AISI/GKP/SDC Media Awards 2005, a special category under the 2005 AISI Media Awards programme, aims at recognising journalists reporting on the WSIS process in relation to Africa. Entries 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>

**Journalism instructors receive training on the information society.** Journalism instructors from training institutions based in Francophone Africa participated in a five-day workshop on Media and the Information Society. Held from 8-12 August 2005 in Yaounde, Cameroon, the training was the first in a series of "training of trainers" workshops organized by ECA to integrate Information Society issues in journalism training institutions. Participants were drawn from the University of Yaounde II, l'Ecole Supérieure des Sciences des Techniques de l'information (ESSTIC) Cameroun, l'Institut Supérieur de l'Information, et de la Communication (ISIC) Morocco, Centre d'Etude des Sciences, des Techniques de l'Information (CESTI) Senegal, Centre de Formation, de l'URTNA (Ex-CIERRO) Burkina Faso and West African News Agency Development Center (WANAD) Benin. The workshop was co-sponsored by ECA, the Government of Cameroon and the German Government's development agency Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ). More:  
[http://www.uneca.org/eca\\_resources/news/081505disd\\_dna.htm](http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/news/081505disd_dna.htm)

**ECA participate in the Second Pan-African Youth Leadership Summit.** The Summit took place from 18 - 23 August 2005 in Ifrane, Morocco. The Summit is designed to help the next generation of leaders

face the tremendous development challenges of the 21st century. Regional Summits are being organized through collaboration between the UN New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace, the United Nations system, the UN Development Programme, and the Global Peace Initiative of Women, with the support of governments and private sector partners. The aim is to help young leaders develop initiatives that promote progress towards the MDGs, and to provide a global platform for the voices of leaders of the next generation. Under the theme "Providing a global platform for Africa's next generation of leaders," the Summit brought together more than a hundred young leaders and representatives of youth organizations from across Africa, including those involved in sports initiatives, along with representatives from previous Summits in other regions, to exchange ideas and experiences, network and develop proposals on pushing the MDGs agenda forward and enhance the Declaration agreed on by young African leaders last year in Dakar. ECA participated in this edition and sponsored the participation of the West Africa coordinator of the Africa Youth Network in the Information Society. More: Thierry Amoussougbo ([tamoussougbo@uneca.org](mailto:tamoussougbo@uneca.org)).

#### OTHER NEWS..... OTHER NEWS.....

**African women media professionals claim their space on the Internet.** Feminia, an African women's network of media professionals, has created and launched its own virtual environment. The website [www.feminia.org](http://www.feminia.org) is a platform for publication and exchange of articles, programmes, experiences and knowledge about women's issues, discussions, training and effective networking. Topics that are dealt with include: women at the top, defying traditions, gender mainstreaming, the price women pay in times of war in Darfur, HIV/Aids and the vulnerability of girls, interviews with e.g. 'Bayam-Sellams', Cameroonian market women who are driving forces behind the countries economy. The Feminia website is the result of a 5-day 'Internet Production Pathway Course', held in July in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The course was organized with help from Radio Netherlands Training Centre (RNTC), a Dutch center of excellence for media and development, attached to Radio Netherlands. Contact: Madeleine Memb & Léontine Babeni ([feminia2@yahoo.fr](mailto:feminia2@yahoo.fr) OR [membmadeleine@yahoo.fr](mailto:membmadeleine@yahoo.fr) OR [lbabeni@yahoo.fr](mailto:lbabeni@yahoo.fr))

**New Book: Information and Communications Technology for Sustainable Development: Defining a Global Research Agenda.** The book draws, in large part, on the two workshops held in Washington, DC, and Bangalore, India, in 2003 and 2004, with support from NSF, United Nations, the Worldbank, and Indian government agencies/departments. More: [http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~rtongia/ict4sd\\_book.htm](http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~rtongia/ict4sd_book.htm)

#### **Software Freedom Day – September 10, 2005.**

KnowledgeHouseAfrica is organizing the second annual Software Freedom Day, which shall take place at the Lagos Digital Village, 46 Coattas Street, Ebute Metta, Lagos on Saturday, the 10th of September 2005. Software Freedom Day (SFD) is a global grassroots effort to promote the use of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS). The goal is to raise public awareness of the benefits of using high quality FOSS in education, government, at home and in business. The non-profit organisation Software Freedom International provides guidance in organising SFD, but volunteer teams around the world organise their own SFD events to impart their own communities. This year SFD is the second of its kind and it is also significant because this year marks the 20th anniversary of Free and Open Source Software. KnowledgeHouseAfrica is a youth-led Nigeria based non profit organisation which serves as the coordinating team for SFD activities in Africa and is also at the forefront of championing and promoting Free and Open Source Software in Nigeria. More: <http://maitri.ubuntu.com/softwarefreedomday/wiki/index.php/KnowledgeHouseAfrica>

#### **Gambia launched a new e-Government website.**

As part of the e-government programme and in collaboration with Gamtel the government of Gambia launched a new website [www.yegoo.gm](http://www.yegoo.gm). It has a free e-mail services for Gambians and any one who would like to subscribe. It has forums for discussion and plans are afoot to create local content. The site also carries national and international news. The important thing about the free e-mail services is to decongest the international gateway thereby creating more capacity. This is because most Gambians use hotmail or yahoo and with joker freemail services traffic is kept within the country. Over one thousand people have subscribed within Gambian and outside. More: Lamin Sawo ([lsawo@hotmail.com](mailto:lsawo@hotmail.com)).

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**4 September 2005, Cameroonian Civil Society consultation on the Commonwealth Action Plan for the Reduction of the Digital Divide, Yaoundé, Cameroon.** The Commonwealth Foundation and ANAIS.AC are organising a consultation to discuss the Commonwealth Action Plan for the Reduction of the Digital Divide (CAPDD). This event coincides with the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation 2005 Forum to be held in Yaoundé from 5 - 6 September at which Commonwealth Ministers with responsibility for information and communication technologies will review the CAPDD. The main objectives of the consultation are to share information on how Cameroon civil society, in partnership with the Commonwealth CSOs can work together to implement recommendations in the CAPDD; Identify strategies and opportunities for

strategic partnerships between national, regional and Pan-Commonwealth CSOs; and to reflect on increased engagement between Cameroon CSOs and Commonwealth Agencies. The outcomes of the consultations will inform the Commonwealth, ICTs and Development report that will be submitted to Commonwealth Heads of Government in Malta in November 2005. Contact: Olivier Nana Nzépa ([anais\\_ac@yahoo.fr](mailto:anais_ac@yahoo.fr)).

**5 – 6 September 2005, CTO Forum 2005, Yaounde, Cameroon.** Organised in partnership with the Government of Cameroon, the CTO will host this unique gathering of opinion leaders and decision-makers in response to the growing need for access to ICT in emerging markets in the Commonwealth and beyond. The CTO Forum 2005 is open to all stakeholders, and is aimed at bringing together the international community to discuss and find solutions to the challenge of accelerating access to basic communication services to all. It is part of the CTO's agenda to help bridge the digital divide in its member countries and beyond. More: <http://www.cto.int>

**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. 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. More: <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/picta/picta05.htm>

**12 – 14 September 2005, Highway Africa Conference, Grahamstown, South Africa.** The theme of the 2005 Highway Africa conference is on "Reinforcing journalism in the Information Society", and it will explore issues related to good journalism and the Information Society, and seek to assist in overcoming the challenges. The programme includes a unique mix of plenary and keynote presentations, panel discussions and hands-on workshops where delegates acquire practical skills and expertise. The event is simultaneously an arena for academic discussion and research, a venue for presenting media and government strategy, a forum for journalists

networking, and an occasion for professional skills transfer. The conference also features the Highway Africa Awards and the 2005 AISI Media Awards. More: <http://www.highwayafrica.ru.ac.za>

**14 – 16 September 2005, Millennium Summit + 5, New York, USA.** The Millennium+5 Summit is expected to undertake a comprehensive review of the progress made towards the United Nations Millennium Declaration, including the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) and the global partnership required for their achievement. In addition, the event will review the progress made in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes and commitments of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields. More: <http://www.un.org/ga/59/>

**13 September 2005, Roundtable on "Innovation and Investment: Scaling science and technology to meet the MDG's", UN Millennium Hotel, New York, USA.** To ensure sustainability and follow to the UN ICT Task Force's and Millennium Projects contributions to Science Technology and Innovation (STI) and ICT in the context of development a high-level, multi-stakeholder roundtable is proposed immediately before the MS+5 at the United Nations in New York, on the morning of Tuesday September 13th. It will comprise of two roundtable sessions of the same 30-50 participants who would take part in and react to both sessions, with two keynote presentations - a challenger and a respondent - in each session. The first session will concentrate on the challenge at hand in scaling up innovation and investment in the area of science, technology and ICT to meet the MDGs. The second session would concentrate on the response to that challenge. The session chairs would comprise the chair of the UN ICT Task Force and the Director of the Millennium Project working with two professional moderators. More: <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org>

**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. The event 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>

**21 - 23 September 2005, Computing & Communications for Business in West Africa: International Exhibition & Conference 2005 (AITEC 2005), Homowo Conference Centre, La Palm Royal Beach Hotel, Accra, Ghana.** Incorporating -LIVE! ON AIR 2005 – the 1st broadcasting, entertainment & consumer electronics expo. Faced with a plethora of ICT activity in Ghana during the first quarter of the year, AITEC has fast-forwarded its flagship event to a new date for the 9th AITEC West Africa ICT Conference and Exhibition 2005. Along with the new date goes an upgraded venue and a back-to-back event for the long established, international event which attracts exhibitors and visitors from Europe, the USA and the Middle East. The AITEC 2005 Conference will feature about 15 ICT success case situations presented by practicing executives addressing challenges, drawbacks, legal issues, lessons to share dealing with theme: “Business Process Re-Engineering with ICT”. More:  
<http://www.aitecafrica.com/events/2005/WestAfrica/index.htm>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**“UNESCO Digital Arts Award 2005” – Call for participation.** Young artists from around the world are invited to take part in this year’s award devoted to the theme of “City and creative media”. Organized in collaboration with Art Center Nabi, the Award would be delivered to non-realized project proposals in order to embrace a wider audience of creators, who have the innovative artistic ideas but not necessarily the means. The call specifically aims at encouraging young emerging artists to cultivate new forms of expressions using new media and technology in reflecting on how urban spaces and city environments could be transformed into creative outlets. The submission deadline is 14 September 2005. All project proposals should be submitted online at the official website of submission, where participants will also be able to find further detailed information (description of sub-themes, general guidelines, submission criteria, etc). All submissions should be in English. The total prize money is US \$10,000, which would be divided into and given to more than one laureate, in some cases a group of artists. In addition, the Nabi center (Seoul, Republic of Korea) is organizing a “special honorary mention” category to the Award, targeting realized projects that could be re-embodied within the urban context of the city Seoul. The award-winning projects would be

selected by an international jury, assembled on this occasion, representing the five geo-cultural regions (Africa, Arab States, Asia/Pacific, Europe/North America, and Latin America/Caribbean). More:  
<http://portal.unesco.org/digiarts>

**Communication for Social Change Award. Nominations Due 1 November 2005.** The Communication for Social Change (CSC) Award is an annual award of \$2500 given to an individual or organisation for contributions to the theory and/or practice of communication for social change. Major theoretical contributions, and applied communication practices that are illustrative of frontline change and long-term sustainable development will be considered for this award. More:  
<http://www.unesco.org/webworld> OR  
<http://www.uq.edu.au/journ-comm/index.html?page=31906&pid=2569>

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*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](mailto: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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