



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

Walter Fust Returned as Chair of GKP EXCOMM for 2006/2007. Elections for the Chair of GKP EXCOMM 2006/2007 recently concluded via a virtual election process. As the only nominee, who has the full support from all EXCOMM members, Walter Fust was returned as Chair of GKP EXCOMM for another term. The GKP Secretariat congratulates Mr Fust on his re-election and looks forward to working with him for another two years. More: http://www.globalknowledge.org/gkps_portal/newsmaster.cfm?&menuid=2&action=view&retrieveid=207

Invigorating the ICT- educational sector. Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative (GeSCI) and the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD) have recently established collaboration in the area of ICT for education. This partnership unites two distinctive organisations with a joint interest in expanding development efforts that utilise ICTs within the education sector. The eventual aim of this partnership is to implement cross-country sector collaboration on complementary development efforts that utilise ICTs. This partnership aims to disseminate lessons learned in other African countries, for the benefit of all. Sharing knowledge and experience is a core part of both partners ideology and forms an integral part of this partnership. Full use will be made of IICD's long-established local information networks while its unique monitoring and evaluation system will closely monitor a joint ICT policy process in Namibia. IICD will also collaborate in the application of GeSCI's e-learning tools – the Total Cost of Ownership Calculator (TCO) and E-LAN, a web based tool for assessing educational content. More: <http://www.iicd.org/articles/iicdnews.2006-03-27.6160238989>

Learning to working together: civil society, the private sector and ICT advocacy in Africa. For nearly three years the Catalysing Access to ICTs in Africa programme (CATIA) has worked towards strengthening the context for the vibrant adoption and use of ICTs in Africa. The programme has been set up

with nine components, each with its particular advocacy aim, in countries as diverse as Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Senegal. As components have found, the private sector is crucial to the success of their interventions. To document its experience in engaging the private sector, CATIA has produced Bootstraps, slingshots and angels, an article that looks at the successes and challenges the programme has had over the past two-and-a-half years. The article is the result of interviews with CATIA participants from both civil society and private sector backgrounds. More: <http://www.catia.ws>.

NEWS: ECA Activities

ECA commended at AU African ICT Ministers Meeting in Cairo. On behalf of member states and stakeholders, ECA presented over 80 project proposals to experts ahead of a meeting of African ICT ministers in Egypt. The presentation focused on implementation of the African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE), which has been adopted by the African Union as Africa's roadmap on ICT for development over the next 10 years. ECA proposed convening a Resource Mobilization Conference to discuss funding and implementation of the proposals and made recommendations on follow up and evaluation mechanisms. This event was held as a result of the January 2006 Khartoum Summit, which called on the African Union Commission to organize the first conference of African ministers responsible for ICTs. The meeting concluded by issuing a declaration which recommended institutionalising the Conference of ICT Ministers as the policymaking and overall governance body for ICT in the framework of the African Union. The meeting also adopted the outline of a proposed structure as the basis for the Conference and its related committees. Forty-two countries participated in the conference, including 15 ministers from Gambia, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Tunisia, Senegal, Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Burundi, Nigeria, Lesotho, South Africa and Mauritania. More: Makane Faye (mfaye@uneca.org).

News Agencies building an inclusive Information Society in Africa. Officials and journalists of West African news agencies, editorial staff of the Cameroon Daily newspaper, Mutations, and the Zambia News Agency, as well as officers of the West African Union of Journalists (WAUJ) met in Cotonou for a workshop jointly organised by the West African Newsmedia and

Development Centre (WANAD), ECA and GTZ. Following presentations and discussions, the participants acknowledged the importance of ICTs as tools for accelerating economic growth that are capable of contributing effectively to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and poverty reduction strategies. The workshop participants made a number of recommendations for implementation by WANAD, ECA, other partners, and News Agencies. More: Thierry Amoussougbo (tamoussougbo@uneca.org).

ECA hosts meeting on Cartography and Remote Sensing. The ad hoc committee of the African Organization for Cartography and Remote Sensing (AOCRS) held its third meeting at the ECA from 11-13 April 2006. AOCRS is an intergovernmental institution established under the auspices of the former Organization for African Unity (OAU) and ECA in 1989 through the merger of the African Remote Sensing Council (ARSC) and the African Association for Cartography (AAC). It is based in Algiers, Algeria and has 23 member States, namely: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Togo and Uganda. The objectives of AOCRS are to promote, encourage, coordinate and harmonize member States policies in the field of surveys, mapping and remote sensing (understood in their widest terms, nowadays referred to as Geoinformation). As such, AOCRS, along with the regional centres in Nairobi and Ile-Ife, works closely with ECA in implementing geoinformation activities and serving on working groups of the geoinformation subcommittee of ECA's Committee for Development Information (CODI). More: <http://www.uneca.org/disd/news/04132006dnadisd.asp>

WSIS follow-up conference urges better use of government information. The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) follow-up conference held from 27 - 30 March 2006 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia concluded with a resolution to promote access to and encourage more effective use of government information for democratic and economic development in Africa. The four-day conference, hosted by the ECA, also briefed participants on the upcoming Sub-Saharan Africa high-level colloquium on Information Literacy and Lifelong Learning. The colloquium, with initial sponsorship from Botswana, Ethiopia and Ghana, will be organized by the ECA with the IFLA Africa Section and UNESCO, and will feed into a larger global colloquium in 2008. The conference agreed on a clear action framework to implement the recommendations of WSIS relating to libraries, archives and other information services at the local, national and pan-African levels. This will compliment efforts already underway by the ECA Library through the African Virtual Library and Information Network (AVLIN). More: Abraham Azubuike (aazubuike@uneca.org).

The EAC workshops on Cyber Laws and e-Justice, and Information Security. The East African Community (EAC) convened two Stakeholder's Consultative workshops on Cyber laws and e-Justice and on Information Security from 25 - 28 April 2006 in Kampala, Uganda. The workshops were organized as a follow-up to the recommendation of the second e-Government stakeholders meeting held in June 2005 in Nairobi, Kenya, where cyber laws and e-Justice were identified as key cross-cutting issues that need to be in place for the successful implementation of e-Government applications in East Africa. The two-in-one workshop aimed at creating awareness, sensitization and advocacy on the significance of cyber laws and e-Justice, and the impact of their continuing absence in the East African region; and also to promote development of an appropriate legal and policy framework for e-government promotion in the region. The workshop is organised by the EAC and supported by ECA and the Government of Canada through the Canadian e-Policy Resource Centre (CePRC). Some of the recommendations made include that EAC should ensure necessary coordination intended to harmonize regional and national legal frameworks in order to create an enabling environment for the successful implementation of the e-Government and e-Commerce programmes, and the EAC, in collaboration with Partner States, should strengthen the institutional collaboration with multilateral and bilateral agencies including ECA and CePRC to support the national and regional e-Government and e-Commerce initiatives. More: <http://www.eac.int> Contact: Mohammed Timoulali (mtimoulali@uneca.org).

OTHER NEWS..... OTHER NEWS.....

Uganda Telecentre Bwindi Forest: Finalist in Stockholm Challenge 2006 + WSIS Challenge Award – CTPH. The telecentre project in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park was nominated as an "Environment" Finalist in the Stockholm Challenge 2006 and WSIS Challenge Award! Three projects from Uganda were short listed in this Global and Africa region competition for the best ICT projects. Lawrence Zikusoka, Founder and Director of ICT for Development Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH) said, "none of these achievements would have been made possible without generous commitment and support towards ICT, conservation and development for rural communities living around protected areas in Africa from our strategic partners." He further said "this year we plan to "scale up" the telecentre model into other national parks in the region and hope we can work together with enabling partners to achieve very similar positive results in areas of high biodiversity value. More: <http://www.ctph.org>

ICT knowledge sharing workshops for rural communities in Uganda. I-Network Uganda (Information Network) which is supported by IICD

(International Institute for Communication and Development) has partnered with DENIVA (Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations) also based in Uganda to carry out ICT4D knowledge sharing workshops in the rural regions for the rural communities in five Districts namely: Kabale (West), Kampala Central, Apac (North), Mbale (East) and Kalangala (on Ssesse Islands). Partnerships of this nature will become the norm for I-Network as it looks towards sustainability and growth more so strengthening the network in all angles. More: <http://www.iicd.org/articles/iicdnews.2006-04-20.1514980113>

Zimbabwe: Advocacy drive around new bill. (Source: Kubatana.net). Zimbabwe's civic and human rights website, Kubatana.net, has circulated the country's new draft Interception of Communications Bill. The bill - which has not yet been gazetted - is being circulated to facilitate wide discussion around its contents and application. More: <http://www.kubatana.net>

West Africa set for major tariff reductions? (Source: Vanguard). With more people in rural Africa getting access to telecommunication, indications have emerged that calls within the West African Sub-region will be treated as local calls. That's at least going by plans by different regional governments in the region. The Executive Vice-Chairman of the Nigerian Communications Commission, NCC, Ernest Ndukwe who dropped this hint during the Telecom Consumer Parliament held last month in Lagos, noted that such common tariff has become necessary for the purpose of harmonization of ICT regulation and standards across Africa. "Calls within the West African Sub-region should be treated as local calls. Plans are underway as meetings are being held by different regional governments to actualise a common tariff. More: <http://www.vanguardngr.com>

Botswana's President Mogae pleads with Namibia to join WAFS fibre project to get friendly access to sea. Botswana President Festus Mogae extended an invitation to his Namibian counterpart Hifikepunye Pohamba to participate in the WAFS undersea fibre project. Perhaps Namibia needs encouragement as although it invested in the SAT3 fibre, it failed to provide enough investment for a landing station. As a result, it now pays either for satellite transit or expensive transit fees via South Africa. Mogae, who is in the country on a state visit announced that Botswana is seeking to expand its connectivity by participating in several initiatives including the West African Fesoon Systems (WAFS). The WAFS project aims to connect countries along the western coast of Africa from Nigeria to Namibia. Participation of both Namibia and Angola is very critical as this project qualifies a country for two landing points," Mogae told Pohamba. More: <http://www.balancingact-africa.com/news/current1.html#internet>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

4 – 6 May 2006, ICT Africa Investment Summit 2006, Kigali, Rwanda. The theme is "Strategies for sustainable development of ICT infrastructure in Africa", and the Summit will take place at the Intercontinental Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda. The Summit is an annual forum where African stakeholders in the ICT sector gather together to address issues that are critical to securing increased investments in the broadcasting, IT and telecommunications infrastructure – and service delivery – in Africa. The Summit also highlights the investment opportunities in the sector and identifies options for accelerated development of the ICT infrastructure in Africa. For further information contact: titi@cyberschuul.com

7 - 12 May 2006, AfNOG workshop on Network Technology, Nairobi, Kenya. The African Network Operators' Group (AfNOG) workshop on Networking Technology will be held in conjunction with the 7th AfNOG meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, in May 2006. The workshop aims to offer advanced training to people who are in the process of developing and enhancing an Internet-connected network with regional and international connectivity. The target audience includes senior and mid-level technical staff of commercial Internet service providers (ISPs), academic networks, government networks, or NGO networks. This workshop builds on the experience of previous AfNOG workshops held annually from 2000 to 2005 in six different African countries, and also the Internet Society's INET workshops, held annually from 1993 to 2000 at eight locations around the world. The workshop's instructors are an international team with many years of experience operating large networks and teaching about network operations. More: <http://www.afnog.org/afnog2006/workshop/>.

8 – 9 May 2006, GKP International Forum on Cross-Sector Partnerships "Creating Prosperity through Innovation: ICT at work in development", Colombo, Sri Lanka. The Forum will engage invited leaders from business, civil society and government to both share innovations with ICT for development (ICT4D) and build new innovative partnership-based initiatives using ICT to create prosperity. The programme will consist of keynote addresses from leading experts in ICT4D, plus a series of breakout sessions. Topics to be addressed in the sessions will include case studies of innovation using ICT4D; new technology applications in developing countries; opportunities to meet partners and build new solutions; new financing strategies; and experiences of successful cross-sector partnerships in the South Asia region and beyond. The GKP Annual Meeting 2006, for GKP Members only, will be held on 10 May 2006 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. More: <http://www.globalknowledge.org/am/>

9 – 11 May 2006, Global Symposium on Promoting the Multilingual Internet, Geneva, Switzerland. ITU and UNESCO are convening the Global Symposium

on Promoting the Multilingual Internet as a follow-up of Phase 2 of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). The Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted at the Tunis Phase of WSIS, highlights the importance of multilingualism for bridging the digital divide. It identifies ITU as taking the lead role in the implementation of information and communication infrastructure (WSIS Tunis Agenda Action Line C2), ITU/UNESCO for access to information and knowledge (WSIS Tunis Agenda Action Line C3), and UNESCO for cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content (WSIS Tunis Agenda Action Line C8). The symposium will examine issues highlighted in paragraph 53 of the WSIS Tunis Agenda. In addition the event will review technical solutions and current experiences, identify open issues and discuss a roadmap for further steps to promote multilingualism in the Internet. More: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/worksem/multilingual/index.html>

10 – 12 May 2006, National and Sectoral Strategies for e-Government Workshop, Gaborone International Conference Centre, Gaborone, Botswana. Organised by the Commonwealth Network of Information Technology for Development (COMNET-IT) in collaboration with the Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology, Government of Botswana, this Pan-SADC e-Government workshop is being delivered as part of the on-going EU assisted initiative IST-Africa (www.ist-africa.org). The workshop will provide participants with opportunities to exchange ideas, knowledge and experience on e-Government with each other and the resource persons facilitating the workshop. More: Kishore Naran (knaran@gov.bw) or Robert Spiteri Staines (robert.spiteri-staines@gov.mt).

16 – 17 May 2006, 10th West Africa Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) Conference and Workshop, Accra, Ghana. In order to build on the capacity of both private and public sector in developing strategies for knowledge management using ICTs, AITEC Ghana in partnership with the Ministry of Communications, Ghana is organizing the 10th West Africa ICT Conference and Workshop. The theme of AITEC 2006 is "Using ICT as a Tool for Information & Knowledge Management". AITEC 2006 offers delegates a unique education, skills learning, coaching and networking opportunity for all participants. AITEC 2006 Conference will be addressed by experts drawn from key sectors of the ICT industry with the appropriate practical insight addressing a wide range of topics, issues and case studies. More: <http://www.aitec-africa.com>

17 – 21 May 2006, ICTe Africa 2006, Nairobi, Kenya. Organised by NEPAD Council, ICTe Africa is a continental event for the presentation of technologies appropriate to development of ICT in Africa and for the discussion of a broad range of challenges and potential relevant solutions. The 2006 conference will feature presentations on next generation networks,

infrastructure projects, Internet applications/solutions, rural telephony, ICT policies, ICT financing and solar energy for powering rural networks. The event will also feature professional development courses in fiber optics, broadband access, VoIP and other emerging technologies. By working in collaboration with Global Fairs TT-MESSE, NEPAD Kenya, Africa Telecommunications Union (ATU), IEEE Communication Society (COMSOC), NEPAD Council expects to attract Industry leaders, policy makers, financiers, leading engineers and scientists from Africa and the rest of the world. More: <http://www.nepadcouncil.org/ICTeAfrica2006/index.html>

19 – 20 May 2006, African Internet Forum, Nairobi, Kenya. The African Internet Forum provides an annual platform for ISPs, telecom operators, Internet users, developers, regulators, policy-makers and development agencies to share knowledge on the strategic and business issues related to the Internet's development in Africa. More: <http://new.aitecafrica.com/>

24 – 26 May 2006, eLearning Africa 2006 (eLA), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The 1st International Conference on ICT for Development, Education and Training focusing on the theme "Empowering Africa Through eLearning" will take place at the UN Conference Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. "eLearning Africa", a conference to be held annually in Africa, intends to become the African eLearning capacity building event and – at the same time – a forum for all stakeholders engaged in the planning and implementation of technology supported learning and training on the African continent. Organized by German-based ICWE and Hoffmann & Reif Consultants, the event is supported by the Ethiopian Ministry of Capacity Building, Ministry of Education, ECA, SchoolNet Africa, and the European Commission. More: <http://www.elearning-africa.com>

19 – 20 June 2006, Inaugural meeting of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. As a follow up to the recent decision of the UN Secretary-General, the inaugural meeting of the Alliance will be held in Kuala Lumpur, organized in collaboration with the Government of Malaysia. The meeting will launch the Global Alliance and will provide an opportunity to initiate discussions among stakeholders and potential partners on the principal theme of the Alliance: "Advancing the Millennium Development Goals through ICT and Innovation: Setting the Framework", as well as to define priority issues to be addressed by the Alliance and on optimal modalities of its work. More: <http://www.unicttaskforce.org/>

22 – 23 June 2006, e-FORUM 2006, Skhirate, Morocco. The main themes of the annual forum of electronic administration, e-Forum 2006, will include e-government national programs, services to citizens,

services for the simplification and modernization of the administration, the best environment to enable government, benchmarking of the governmental initiatives, and technological solutions. More: <http://www.virtualis-net.com/eforum/>

23 – 25 June 2006, iCommons Summit, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. With participation by commons communities from Creative Commons, Wikipedia, Science Commons, Ubuntu, A2K and others, this year's annual Summit is set to be one of the most exciting events for creative and knowledge commons pioneers from around the world. The Summit is structured around three major themes: 1) Tools: Developing effective, relevant tools to assist other creators, authors, scientists and researchers to develop and showcase their creativity and innovation, 2) Policy: Strategies to ensure international, regional and local policy fora that are conducive to the development and nurturing of the commons, and 3) Practice: Learning from the experience of others to develop effective models for the development of open content in societies around the world. The goals of iCommons are to build the Summit into a launch-pad for global cooperation around commons projects and to provide an open, creative space for practitioners to learn from best case practices and to showcase new ideas. More: <http://www.icommons.org/summit>

synoptic models; short in-class activities; assignment questions; and practice-based exercises. More: <http://www.sagepub.co.uk>

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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ANNOUNCEMENTS/RESOURCES

A guidebook on "Supporting Women's ICT-Based Enterprises". The guidebook provides practical guidance on how to advocate, initiate and improve IT sector micro-enterprises for women in developing countries. It includes case and story evidence, best practice advice sheets, and frameworks for analysis and evaluation. The "Women's ICT-Based Enterprise for Development" project is coordinated by the University of Manchester's Institute for Development Policy and Management. The project is funded by the UK Department for International Development as part of its "Knowledge and Research" programme. More: <http://www.womenictenterprise.org>

New book on e-governance: Implementing and managing e-Government. This book provides comprehensive coverage of the e-government issues faced by public officials, managers and consultants. Divided into two sections, the first draws on international examples to guide readers through crucial e-government management issues such as the management of strategy and projects; quality; people, money and policies; and dealing with political and ethical challenges. The second section focuses on the implementation of e-government systems. It explores activities such as feasibility studies, system analysis, system design, construction and marketing. The key features of this textbook include case studies drawn from across the globe; instructive diagrams and