



*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 .....**

##### **SchoolNet Africa moves Secretariat to Senegal.**

SchoolNet Africa (SNA) will move its Secretariat from South Africa to Senegal under the auspices of the Groupe pour l'Etude et l'Enseignement de la Population (GEEP) - an African non-governmental organisation (NGO) hosted by the Faculté des Sciences et Technologies de l'Education et de la Formation (School of Education) of the Cheikh Anta Diop University. The new Secretariat will be led by Ms. Nafissatou Mbodji from Senegal and Mr. Amr Hamdy from Egypt who commenced as the new Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director respectively, in June 2006. Outgoing Chair, Mr Eric Yankah from Ghana says "SNA has emerged from a difficult period with its organization, its network of practitioners and its programs to reach greater numbers of African learners and teachers strongly intact. This is testimony to the resilience of civil society networks and the dedication of the champions who are passionate about their continent. With these ingredients, we can only grow from strength to strength. From the seeds we germinated from Cape Town through Addis Ababa in 1999 to Okahandja in 2000, champions and practitioners on the ground have shown the power of collaboration, of pressing on with an idea and of action backed by supportive partners". More: <http://www.schoolnet africa.net>

**EASSY Declaration signed by Southern and Eastern Africa Ministers.** *Source: Highway Africa News Agency.* Government ministers from Southern and Eastern Africa have signed a declaration on the East Africa Submarine System project known as EASSY. The declaration signed in Johannesburg in early June commits fifteen countries to this project, which is expected to see the construction of infrastructure to ensure cheap broadband access for countries on the eastern side of Africa (from Mozambique to Sudan). The construction of the undersea cable is expected to be completed by the first quarter of 2008 according to one of the signatories, Kenyan Deputy Minister David Were. The represented countries were Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius,

Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Somali Republic, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The major highlights of the declaration are that it proclaims an open access model (meaning anyone can join in as an investor in the project); it commits countries to developing and signing a protocol on the policy and regulatory framework for the EASSY project. The project is expected to cost 300 million USD excluding additional costs of in-country infrastructure. More:

<http://www.eafricacommission.org>

##### **Reflections on the GKP international Forum 2006.**

The recent International Forum 2006 themed "Creating Prosperity through Innovation: ICT at Work in Development" was another example of GKP's highly regarded events focused on knowledge sharing and partnership building in the ICT4D arena. More: <http://www.globalknowledge.org>

##### **GKP Strategy 2010 Programme Framework Information Release.**

A GKP Strategy 2010 Programme Framework was endorsed by GKP Members at the Annual Members' Meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 10 May 2006. Documents relating to this Programme Framework are now made available for GKP Members, and comprise a briefing document, which is a clarified version of the document recently presented at the Annual Members' Meeting; and a presentation, which accompanies the briefing document. GKP Secretariat welcomes feedback and queries. More:

<http://www.globalknowledge.org>

##### **Global alliance outlines work to solve information technology needs of the poor.**

After two days of meetings in Malaysia involving over 700 experts from around the world, the United Nations initiative to foster information and communication technologies (ICT) in developing countries has established a framework for their activities. The Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development adopted the Kuala Lumpur Vision, outlining the principles of the Alliance's future work. Pledging to overcome the social and digital divides between developed and developing world, the Vision promotes policies and partnerships that can help create an "arc of digital opportunity." More:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=18949&Cr=information&Cr1=technology>

**Harambee and AYIN study launched.** As one of the activities of PICTA, the African Youth Network in the Information Society (AYIN) will undertake a study on "Policy and strategies to involving Youth in building an inclusive Information Society" under the PICTA project entitled "Harambee". The Harambee project is intended to assist the project proponents to both support specific networks and communities and to help the proponents themselves increase their respective capacities to support their existing partner networks and communities more generally. APC, ECA and Bellanet are the coordination partners to give guidance etc. The initial Focus Networks and communities identified for project support through Phase-1 include APC-Africa-Women, Capacity Building for Community Wireless Connectivity in Africa, Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET), ARN represented by ANACLAC, Constitution and Reform Education Consortium (CRE-CO) and African Youth ICT4D Network (AYIN). Each network has submitted project proposal validated by the coordination committee. More: Thierry Amoussougbo ([tamoussougbo@uneca.org](mailto:tamoussougbo@uneca.org)).

**ECA organizes a training course on Internet Governance for African policymakers.** To build capacity in the area of Internet Governance and the debates on the issue, ECA, in the framework of the UN Development Account, is launching a series of training courses on Internet Governance for African policy-makers, supported by the Diplo Foundation of Malta, the Canadian e-Policy Resource Centre (CePRC) and ICANN. Approximately, 35 African Anglophone Permanent Secretaries, Directors and Advisors will participate in the course. There will be representation from Angola, Cameroun, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The training will develop skills and knowledge required to participate meaningfully in the global debate on Internet Governance and ICT for Development, in particular the use and exploitation of the Internet achieve the MDGs. A second course will be delivered during the second half of the year for Francophone member States. Online courses will be available before the end of the year. It is expected that at the end of the course, African policymakers would acquire knowledge to facilitate their participation in the debate on ICT for Development at the national, regional and international levels, including meaningful contribution in the newly established Internet Governance Forum and the Global Alliance on ICT and Development, both created by the UN Secretary General at the request of member States. More: Makane Faye, ([mfaye@uneca.org](mailto:mfaye@uneca.org)).

**Editors and media house directors held Information Society workshop.** ECA in collaboration with the Government of Cameroun, the Central African ECA Subregional Office, the Media

School of the University of Yaounde II and Ecole Supérieure des Sciences et Techniques de l'Information et de la Communication (ESSTIC) held a workshop on the theme, 'Involving editors and directors of media houses in building the Information Society,' from 28-30 June 2006 in Yaounde, Cameroun. Following the workshop, it is expected that the media will be empowered to meaningfully contribute to the implementation of the National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) policies and plans in various countries of the Central African sub-region and be more involved in pushing forward the recommendations adopted by policymakers and other stakeholders during a workshop on "ICT Policies, Access and Regulation", which was held in Douala from 7-9 June 2006. The workshop is a follow-up of the regional media training of trainers workshop that was held for Francophone media training institutions in Yaounde, Cameroon in August 2005, where participants focused on integrating ECA's AISI media training modules in institutional curricula. Co-sponsored by ECA, and the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), the workshop also re-examined the media training modules. Approximately thirty participants from Cameroun, Gabon, Chad, Congo, Republic of Central of Africa (RCA), Equatorial Guinea, and Sao-tome & Principe attended the workshop. More: Thierry Amoussougbo ([tamoussougbo@uneca.org](mailto:tamoussougbo@uneca.org)).

**ECA and Egypt to work on African Leadership ICT (ALICT) programme.** In line with Egypt's commitment to boost the development of the ICT sector in Africa, it is proposing the development of ALICT aiming at enhancing leadership skills in African countries for promising ICT professionals. The idea behind this proposal was first introduced by Egypt during the conference of Ministers responsible for ICTs of the African Union, first ordinary session held in Cairo from 18 – 20 April 2006 and was well received by member States representatives. Based on the initial proposal, Egypt organized a workshop from 6 - 7 June 2006 that brought together African experts from a number of countries and organizations to share experiences in the conceptual development and formulation of the ALICT programme. The workshop's main objective was to encourage experience sharing and solicit inputs in order to formulate a challenging and robust programme that addresses the main priority issues in the ICT sector in Africa with a focus on leadership and regional cooperation. Participants at the workshop were from Mali, Mozambique, Mauritania, Kenya, Ghana, Egypt, and representatives from AU and ECA. More: Eskedar Nega ([enega@uneca.org](mailto:enega@uneca.org)).

**ECA organized a workshop on ICTs, regulation and public and community based access for francophone Central African countries.** The workshop supported by Industry Canada, Government of France, Agence Internationale de la Francophonie and ECA was held in Douala, Cameroon from 7 to 9 June 2006. It was aimed at facilitating a multi-stakeholder dialogue in order to

strengthen access related public policies in National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) plans and strategies in Central Africa. Over 50 representatives of local authorities associations, NICI focal points, regulators, cyber café managers parliamentarians, civil societies, private sectors and women entrepreneurs from Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Republic of Congo, Sao Tome & Principe and Burundi attended the workshop. The workshop was concluded with recommendations on developing ICT policy, legal and regulatory frameworks; accelerating skills development; and ensuring women access to ICT. The same kind of workshop was held in Dakar, Senegal from 17 to 18 October 2005, for West African countries. More: Makane Faye ([mfaye@uneca.org](mailto:mfaye@uneca.org)).

**Gender and e-Government workshop.** ECA, the Government of Tunisia, and the Canadian ePolicy Resource Center (CePRC) jointly organized a workshop on gender and e-Government held from 19-20 June 2006 in Tunis, Tunisia. ECA sponsored about 25 participants from francophone African countries. The event was broadcasted on the local media. The two working sessions of the event were organized under the themes: gender mainstreaming into ICT applications and gender applications and e-Government. It was noted that there is gap between the gender machineries and the NICI focal points in terms of understanding the concepts of and linkages between gender and ICTs. There is a plan to organize a similar workshop for the Anglophone countries, which might take place either in South Africa or Botswana. More: Eskedar Nega ([enega@uneca.org](mailto:enega@uneca.org)).

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

**WIPO Director General Pledges Support for Initiatives to Enhance Intellectual Property in Morocco.** The Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Dr. Kamil Idris, pledged the Organization's continued support in enhancing the intellectual property (IP) system in Morocco during talks with Moroccan Minister of Justice, H. E. Mr. Mohammed Bouzoubaa, in May 2006. In a meeting in Geneva, the Director General and the Minister of Justice discussed the strategic importance and relevance of intellectual property for development and explored ways to further strengthen cooperation between WIPO and Morocco. Dr. Idris applauded the Government of Morocco for its commitment to the use of the IP system as a tool for economic, social and cultural development. He said that Morocco had made great advances in modernizing and boosting its intellectual property capacity and infrastructure in recent years and was a model for the region. He referred in particular to Morocco's use of information technology to facilitate public access to the Moroccan legal system. A consequence of this important development, he said, was that it offered users of the IP system better

access to IP legal texts and easy access to information relating to commercial IP disputes. The Minister of Justice, outlined the importance of IP to Morocco, particularly within the context of the country's comprehensive multi-sectoral development strategy. He referred to the Ministry's role in promoting Morocco's national development goals through the modernization of its national legal framework and improved access to and delivery of legal services, including in the field of intellectual property. More: <http://www.wipo.int>.

**NTIA call for comments: Take a stand on Internet Governance.** In advance of renewing the current agreement between the U.S. Department of Commerce and ICANN, the U.S. government's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has asked for public comments about its supervision of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). This is an important opportunity for public participation in the reform of ICANN and Internet governance. The Internet Governance Project urged everyone to provide opinions on how ICANN is working and how it can be improved be known. Comments are due by July 7, 2006. More: <http://internetgovernance.org/comment.asp>

**AMARC Africa Round Table Community Radio & its Social Impact: Removing Barriers, Increasing Effectiveness.** The World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) is organizing the Round Table "Community Radio Social Impact: Removing Barriers, Increasing Effectiveness", the third in a series of regional roundtables. The Roundtable will be hosted by the Institute for Media and Society (IMS), an held in Abuja, Nigeria, on the 5th of July 2006 and will bring together community radio practitioners, advocates, NGO and Donors in order to assess the social impact of community radio in Africa. The key topics to be discussed include review of Community Radio in Africa, impact assessment of Community Radios, and evaluation of the effectiveness of AMARC. The AMARC Africa Roundtable is part of the worldwide ongoing evaluation of the CR movement being implemented by AMARC in all its regions that will culminate in the AMARC 9 World Conference to be held in Amman, Jordan from 11-17 November. AMARC is an international non-governmental organization founded in 1983, serving the community radio movement in over 110 countries, and advocating for the right to communicate at the international, national, local and neighbourhood levels. More: <http://www.amarc.org>

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**10 – 11 July 2006, GKP Africa Regional Meeting, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.** This is a regional meeting of GKP Members in Africa in a workshop style. The objective of the meeting is to brainstorm and strategise on the formulation and implementation of

GKP Africa's 2006/2007 work programme. More: Eskedar Nega ([enega@uneca.org](mailto:enega@uneca.org)).

**13 – 15 July 2006, ICT Governance and post WSIS strategies in West and Central Africa, Saly, Senegal.** The aim of this workshop is twofold and will consist in assessing engagements in ICT policies priority issues in West and Central Africa (universal access, regulation, convergence, etc.) by the various stakeholders, and by the CIPACO project of the Panos Institute West Africa, in particular, and contributing to the preparations of African stakeholders for the Internet Governance Forum (Athens, November, 2006). The workshop will bring together about 40 key stakeholders, from the two regions, coming from the private sector, government, civil society and regional and international institutions. It will consist of three thematic days. The first two days will be dedicated to the review of the way priority issues have been dealt with and to the African participation in the WSIS. The third day will lay the focus on the Internet Governance Forum. The workshop is organized with the support of the DFID (CATIA programme), APC (Association for Progressive Communication) contribution and the collaboration of the network African Civil Society on the Information Society (ACSIS) and the Association of African Internet Service Providers Associations (AfrISPA). The "PIWA-Information Society" prize giving ceremony takes place in the framework of a project on media supported by the IDRC. More: [http://www.cipaco.org/article.php3?id\\_article=833&lang=en](http://www.cipaco.org/article.php3?id_article=833&lang=en)

**18 – 22 July 2006, Harvesting ICT4D Training Materials, Accra, Ghana.** A four-day itrainonline workshop where participants will deepen their knowledge of how to design, develop and adapt effective training materials geared to the needs of learners from civil society and the public sectors in their own countries. During the workshop, participants will a) discuss and document how to find, adapt, and localise training materials - Collectively work on a "Train-the-Trainer" course module that reflects their shared expertise; and participate in the establishment of the Itrainonline Community of Trainers, an international online community devoted to the exploration of ICT4D training issues. More: Saskia Harmsen: [sharmsen@iccd.org](mailto:sharmsen@iccd.org)

**21 – 23 July 2006, Conference on IT and Economic Development (CITED) - Reaching Out for Technology Enabled Development, Legon, Ghana.** CITED is a community outreach effort of the Ghana Information Institute. The Institute strives to further knowledge and expertise in the field of information technology enabled economic development. The first in the series of events, CITED will move around the world to locations that have traditionally be left out of the "usual" circuit of conferences and discussions. The Information Institute has partnered with the University of Ghana to organize the Conference. CITED is an innovative meeting of the minds - all individuals and institutions

involved in the economic development of organizations, societies and countries. University of Ghana offers facilities for CITED 2006. More: <http://www.information-institute.org/cited/>

**23 – 28 July 2006, Knowledge Societies for All: Media and Communication Strategies, Cairo, Egypt.** Organized by International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR), the conference will help establish insights into the multiple dimensions of the issues and strategies that are related to the "digital divide" and other barriers to sustainable growth, use and development of information and communication technologies and mass media. Plenary speakers and other conference participants will bring critical insights to issues relating to the role of the mass media and networked communities in contributing to, or challenging, democratic processes in a globalizing world. More: <http://www.aucegypt.edu/conferences/iamcr/main.htm>

**5 – 7 August 2006, ASIA–AFRICA Business Forum 2006 "Bridging the Trade Divide", Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.** The primary aim of the Asia Africa Business Forum is to increase trade and investment flows into Africa and to encourage a transcontinental exchange of knowledge and expertise. AaAfBF contributes to the ongoing efforts to foster stable and sustainable economic growth and development in on both sides of the continental divide within a South-South framework. The event encourages technology transfers, privatization, joint ventures, franchising, sub-contracts, manufacturing contracts, financial investments, equipment provision and inter-regional trade. One of the targeted sector is ICTs. More: [http://www.cipaco.org/article.php3?id\\_article=819](http://www.cipaco.org/article.php3?id_article=819)

**21 – 23 August 2006, Third annual African VoIP Forum, Lagos, Nigeria.** With its unique combination of conference presentations and training workshops, the African VoIP Forum, to be held at Muson Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos over 21-23 August 2006, offers a high-powered educational opportunity for Africa's ISPs, telecom operators and corporate VoIP users. The main topics include the impact of VoIP on African voice markets, maximising international connectivity via a virtual service provider, and successful revenue generating VoIP deployments in high-growth markets - lessons from Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition, a series of workshops on VoIP related issues are organized. More: <http://www.aitecafrica.com>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/RESOURCES

### 2006 AISI Media Awards Announced!

The deadline for application to the 2006 AISI Media Awards is 15 August 2006. The Award winners will be announced in September 2006. 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. More:

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

**Global Prize for IT Benefiting Youth in Developing Countries - Call for Nominations for US\$100,000 Development Gateway Award**

The Development Gateway Foundation is calling for nominations for its US\$100,000 prize for outstanding achievement in the use of information and communication technologies to improve lives in developing countries. Sponsored in part by Intel Corporation, this year's Development Gateway Award is focusing on initiatives that empower or improve the conditions of youth. The award launched recently at the United Nations' World Urban Forum III, at a special reception for youth participants following the close of the World Youth Forum. More:

<http://www.developmentgateway.org/award>

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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 [atertime@uneca.org](mailto:atertime@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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