



*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 .....

**Sustainability cases show that ICTs can enhance development.** Case studies of 12 development projects examined how NGOs are seeking to mediate ICTs to their wider, non-connected communities. Prepared by Gamos for the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the research shows that ICTs can enhance development projects. The research has not conclusively proven that an ICT activity directed at increasing income for the poor can, on its own, generate cost recovery inclusive of set-up and replacement costs, i.e. achieve economic sustainability. However, the studies do indicate that this is beginning to happen, and that the prospects for the future are encouraging. More importantly the case studies clearly show elements of institutional and social sustainability. They also show significant developmental impact, and there are indications that ICT activities can be regarded as cost effective. The cases highlighted factors that were a hindrance to the success of the ICT activity and factors that contributed to the successful implementation. More: <http://www.iicd.org/articles/iicdnews.2006-10-02.9354276233>

**ICTs for agricultural livelihoods: Impact and lessons learned from IICD supported activities.** A new book by the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD) highlights the lessons learned and achievements of IICD and its partners in using ICT4D to support agricultural livelihoods. The projects described in this booklet were carried out by IICD and its partners over a six-year period and provide examples of the many ways in which ICTs contribute to poverty alleviation in the agriculture sector. By sharing its experiences in this booklet, IICD aims to contribute to a better understanding of the opportunities of employing ICTs and their contribution to reaching the Millennium Development Goals in the agricultural sector. The 76-page booklet is available online in PDF format. Printed copies are available upon request. More: <http://www.iicd.org/articles/booklet-impact-agric>

**GKP's 3rd Global Knowledge Conference (GK III).** The Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) announced that GK III would be held from 11 - 13 December 2007 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the theme

"Emerging People, Emerging Markets, Emerging Technologies". Over 2,000 leaders, practitioners and policy-makers in Knowledge for Development (K4D) and Information & Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D) from Government, business and Civil Society from all over the world are expected to attend the conference. GK III will also be the first global follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process. It is targeted to make the future, bridge differences and strengthen effort to achieve a global Knowledge Society, showcase and share creative and empowering solutions, build multi-sectoral K4D and ICT4D collaborations, and add value to the global Knowledge Community. Special thematic parallel events include "Youth - Spearheading the Future", "Governance - Devising the Future", and "Gender - Equalising the Future". More: <http://www.globalknowledge.org>

#### NEWS: ECA Activities .....

**African Journalists receive Information Society awards.** At the 2006 AISI Media Awards, ECA and its partners honoured eighteen winners and finalists for reporting on the effective use of ICTs in development on the continent. The awards ceremony was held during the annual Highway Africa Conference that took place from 11 - 15 September 2006 in September in Grahamstown, South Africa. The conference was attended by over 500 journalists from over 40 countries and is dubbed "the biggest annual media event in Africa". The 2006 AISI Media Awards programme, now in its fourth year is aimed at supporting African media to create greater awareness on the role of ICTs in socio-economic development, as well as supporting their use by African media. "African journalists are key actors in the Information Society, which requires a multi-disciplinary approach to reporting. This in turn means linking ICTs to Africa's development challenges in areas such as health, education, governance commerce or trade," said Ms. Aida Opoku-Mensah, Officer-in-Charge of ECA's ICT and Science & Technology Division (ISTD). She added, "The increasing number of entries each year signifies a maturing of ICT reporting in Africa, ranging from Algeria to Cameroon and Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia." The partners involved in the AISI Media Awards include German Technical Corporation (GTZ), International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Institute for Information Communication and Development (IICD) and the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA). More: <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/mediaaward.htm>

**"Africa on the Road to Athens".** The African Preparatory Meeting on Internet Governance was

held from 18 – 21 September in Cairo, Egypt on the theme “Africa on the Road to Athens”. The meeting resulted in a communiqué addressing a number of issues on Internet Governance covering technical, political, legal, social and economic aspects. It was attended by Government officials, private sector, academia, civil society and the international organizations operating in Africa. The meeting highlighted the significance of capacity building at all levels, including access to the Internet as well as security, diversity and openness of the Internet. The meeting recommended the annual convention of an African Internet Governance Forum (AIGF). It also recommended the establishment of national taskforces and national strategies for Internet Governance. Participants highlighted the importance of concerting African efforts and coordinating African stances on all levels to address common challenges ahead. More: Makane Faye ([mfaye@uneca.org](mailto:mfaye@uneca.org)).

**Sub-regional ICT strategy for Central Africa underway.** ECA is cooperating with the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS-CEEAC) for the development of an ICT strategy for Central Africa. The strategy aims to provide a framework for the harmonization of national ICT strategies and plans, and contribute to building the Information Society in the sub-region. ECA, through its sub-regional offices in Central and East Africa as well as the ICTs, Science and Technology Division (ISTD), has engaged a consultant to develop the strategy in the sub-region based on consultations with various stakeholders. A workshop is planned for October 2006 to discuss on the draft strategy document. More: Mohammed Timoulali ([mtimoulali@uneca.org](mailto:mtimoulali@uneca.org)).

**ICT4D media Campaign launched in the Gambia.** In strengthening the role of journalists in participating in the implementation of the National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) policy and the e-Government strategy in the Gambia, ECA is supporting the Gambian ICT4D Media Network campaign. At the launching ceremony which was held on 29 September 2006 in Banjul, Ms. Neneh MacDouall-Gaye Secretary of State for Communication Information and Technology, said that “the main objective of the ICT4D Media Network is to create a conducive and enabling environment to involve the media in reporting, simulating debates, raising awareness on the potential of ICT through the production of radio and TV broadcasting programs, and newspaper articles, as tools for development and achieving the MDGs.” The Secretary of State reaffirmed that the Gambian Government would create the enabling environment to allow stakeholders’ effective involvement in building an inclusive Information Society in the country. Focal points within the Ministry have been appointed to deal with each ICT4D network to promote collaborative framework between stakeholders. ICT4D Youth Network bureau and representatives from other

Ministers attended the launching. More: Thierry Amoussougbo ([tamoussougbo@uneca.org](mailto:tamoussougbo@uneca.org)).

**ARAPKE discussed at the Digital Solidarity Agency (DSA) meeting.** ECA presented the African Regional Action Plan for Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE) at the DSA meeting that took place from 11-14 September 2006, Lyon, France. The DSA was established following the first phase of the WSIS to promote and coordinate implementation of Digital Solidarity Fund projects and projects undertaken by the French decentralized cooperation with developing countries, including Africa. Some of the recommendations of the meeting include exchange of information on ARAPKE projects implemented at the local level, use of African experts for implementation of ARAPKE projects, and methodological support to local authorities to implement the projects. In addition, a meeting was proposed every 2 or 3 years during the Lyon-Dakar rally to ensure a continuous and sustained virtual and physical campaign on ICT for development in support to the implementation of the African Digital Agenda. The rally would culminate with the African Union ICT week. More: Makane Faye ([mfaye@uneca.org](mailto:mfaye@uneca.org)).

**First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Conference of Ministers in Charge of Communications and Information Technologies.** The African Union Conference of Ministers in Charge of Communications and Information Technologies, held in Cairo in April 2006 adopted a structure for implementing its decisions. It was in this context that The Minister of ICT of Egypt, as Chairperson of the African Ministerial Conference, convened the First Meeting of the Steering Committee in Cairo from 17-18 September. Furthermore, a Working Group was established on the African Regional Action Plan for Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE) to facilitate implementation of the Action Plans. ECA was unanimously elected as Chair of the Working Group, participants agreed on the selection criteria for ARAPKE projects and a resource mobilization workshop is planned for December 2006 in Cairo, Egypt. More: Makane Faye ([mfaye@uneca.org](mailto:mfaye@uneca.org)).

**Development of a Legal Framework for e-commerce in ECOWAS.** Based on a request from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine (UEMOA), ECA has commissioned a study on the development of a legal framework for e-commerce in West Africa supported by the Global ePolicy Resource Network (ePol-NET). The report presents an analysis of the situation in some countries, and makes recommendations for the development of a harmonized legal framework for ICTs in the sub-region. A review workshop is planned for November 2006. More: Mohammed Timoulali ([mtimoulali@uneca.org](mailto:mtimoulali@uneca.org)).

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

**WIPO release on proposed broadcasting treaty: Negotiations on the protection of broadcasting organizations enters final phase.** A key committee of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) agreed on 14 September 2006 to convene a diplomatic conference from July 11 to August 1, 2007 to update the rights of broadcasting organizations. The objective of this diplomatic conference, the last phase of treaty negotiations, is to conclude a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations, including cablecasting organizations. Updating the IP rights of broadcasters, currently provided by the 1961 Rome Convention on the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations, began at WIPO in 1997. A growing signal piracy problem in many parts of the world, including piracy of digitised pre-broadcast signals, has made this need more acute. More: Media Relations and Public Affairs Section ([publicinf@wipo.int](mailto:publicinf@wipo.int)).

### **Slow start for African fibre traffic despite EASSy.**

A recent report on African satellite markets from Balancing Act strikes a cautious chord on the building of the East African Submarine Cable System (EASSy). EASSy, with its fibre cable system set to commence operations in 2008, its backbone running the length of Africa, and its cabling crossing national borders, must surely be set for immediate success, as fibre traffic takes off on a steep growth curve? According to the report from Balancing Act, we will have to wait up to five years to witness an increase in traffic of this nature and scale. Balancing Act sets the scene for its arguments by reminding the telecommunity that approximately 80% of Africa's voice and data traffic is carried by satellite. This figure is in turn likely to fall as the continent embraces fibre. Enter SAT3, Africa's in-place fibre link, at present carrying pretty much all the non-satellite traffic. Balancing Act estimates that current plans and favourable pricing adjustments to SAT3 will mean that the 20% of traffic which is presently non-satellite will rise to 30% and no more in the next three years. More: <http://www.balancingact-africa.com>

### **Nigerian Government Gives IT Training to Women.**

The Office of the Special Adviser to the Kano State Governor (Women Affairs) in conjunction with the Office of the Special Adviser on Education and Information Technology has commenced an IT training for women. The objective of the programme is to make women computer literate so that they will not be left out of the information society. The training has been embarked upon as part of the implementation of the State's ICT policy. Fifty women took part in the two-week long training. <http://www.citad.interconnection.org>

### **FOSSFA 's call to African Heads of State, African Policy Makers, and all Africans on Software**

**Freedom Day - September 16, 2006.** The Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa (FOSSFA), on the occasion of the Software Freedom Day, made a call to support open and free content so as to reap the benefits that FOSS can bring to Africa's development. The call reiterated that the FOSS model emerges as a powerful model for African development in contemporary Africa where knowledge and skills are scarce. It argued that a FOSS model incorporating open content would allow the creation of knowledge and ideas in forms that allow instant and free distribution and adaptation. Its benefits include security, local support, local capacity development, reductions in costs, innovation and creativity, economic independence, and sovereignty. The statement said that "free access to public information and the ability to interact with government as citizens, businesses, or other organisations without impediment - whether in terms of cost or in terms of freedom - should be an essential value. It is clear that the use of open standards, open formats, and FOSS best supports that endeavour. Governments should avoid proprietary standards, formats, and software in order to avoid restricting this free access." More: <http://www.fossfa.net>

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### **10 – 12 October 2006, the second Connecting Rural Communities Conference, Abuja, Nigeria.**

Organised by the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO), the event will be hosted by the Nigerian Ministry of Communications. This is the second in a four-event series, which focuses on the development of ICTs and in particular the progress, which is being made in connecting rural communities. The agenda will cover several topics essential to enhancing company's understanding of the market, including latest regulatory initiatives for promoting ICTs in rural areas; marketing strategies to drive rural revenues; best practice case studies of successful rural communications projects; an overview of the variety of current and upcoming ICT technologies for connecting rural communities; how ICTs can be used to deliver e-health, e-education, e- agriculture, e-government and e-commerce to rural areas; future financing mechanisms for setting up rural communications; Governments' plans to expand rural ICT access; and developments on mobile and satellite communications.

<http://www.cto.int/crafrica06/>

### **16 – 20 October 2006, Workshop on the formulation and the implementation of the ICT policies in Africa, Dakar, Senegal.**

As a follow up to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), ECA, l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), the USAID, the NetTel@Africa network as well as the governments of the UK and Canada (through E-Policy Resource Network (ePol-NET) in collaboration with the Ministry of telecommunications and new technologies of

Senegal, are organizing this workshop under the theme "formulation and implementation of ICT policies in Africa". The workshop is organised for French-speaking African countries. It constitutes the second of a series of four seminars being held in various regions of Africa. Participants include the representatives of Governments, regulators, institutions in charge of implementation of national ICT policies, operators and service providers, associations of the consumers, private sector, civil society, research institutions, development partners, etc. More: Makane Faye ([mfaye@uneca.org](mailto:mfaye@uneca.org)).

**26 – 27 October 2006, "ICT4All Forum Tunis+1". Hammamet, Tunisia.** The Forum is organized by the Government of Tunisia under the High Patronage of His Excellency the President of the Republic, Mr. Zine El Abidine BEN ALI, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), on the occasion of the first anniversary of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, which took place in Tunis in November 2005. The Forum will address issues related to ICT investment in Africa, including enabling environment for ICT development, e-strategies in Africa, trends of FDI in ICTs, the role of TNC through partnership, and opportunities for investment in ICTs. The Forum will be attended by policy makers, officials and potential investors. More: Thierry Amoussougbo ([tamoussougbo@uneca.org](mailto:tamoussougbo@uneca.org)).

**31 October – 2 November 2006, The West Africa Satellite Communications Summit, Abuja, Nigeria.** The Summit aims to answer the question "Does broadband satellite make sense for West Africa?" and members of the 'Leadership Insights Panel' will each present their perspectives relating to this vitally important question. The Summit is dedicated to promoting and provisioning the dialogue surrounding the deployment of satellite-based communications solutions across the region. More: <http://www.gvf-events.org/1.html>

**16 – 18 November 2006, The Fifth African Development Forum (ADF V), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.** ADF V will be held on the theme "*Youth and Leadership in the 21st Century*". The Forum is organised by the ECA jointly with its strategic regional partner, the Africa Union and in collaboration with other stakeholders in African development. ADF is a multi-stakeholder platform for debating, discussing and initiating concrete strategies for Africa's development. The Forum initiated in 1999, has already been held four times with very good concrete outcomes including the initiation of a programme to support national ICT policy formulation and implementation in Africa. The objective of ADF V is to give meaningful expression to the recognition of youth as a development asset and to deepen strategies at the regional and national levels for translating the potential of youth as a development asset into practical benefits for Africa's democratic, gender-equal, peaceful and rights-based

development, in line with the objectives of the African Union Youth Charter, NEPAD and internationally agreed development goals including MDGs. As a parallel event, the ICT, Science and technology Division (ISTD) will organize a session on "*ICT and Youth entrepreneurship*" on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2006. The breakout session will look at the issue of creating the enabling environment for realizing the potential of young people as leaders through ICTs and to examine how adequately prepared countries are to harness ICTs for youth employment and entrepreneurship. In addition, ICT social enterprise, youth career guidance strategy in Africa will also be addressed. An online discussion is underway in preparation for the Forum. More: Thierry Amoussougbo ([tamoussougbo@uneca.org](mailto:tamoussougbo@uneca.org)).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/RESOURCES

**Harambee: Reinforcing African voices through collaborative processes - Call for applications for small grants.** The Harambee Project, conceived by the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), Bellanet and the ECA, and funded by Connectivity Africa and Hivos, is designed to support increased capacity among a range of Africa-based networks and communities to coordinate and facilitate the interactions of their respective constituencies. The project coordinators are announcing a small grants facility (SGF) to provide a number of sectoral-based networks and communities in Africa with funding for the development of greater collaborative capacity. The SGF will provide a one-time grant of up to 5,000 USD per network for a maximum period of six months. A network applying for the SGF must be a recognized legal entity or hosted by one. Preference will be given to networks with an institutional base in Africa. Applicants are required to submit, by email, a brief Concept Note (1-2 pages) by 13<sup>th</sup> October 2006. The concept note should include the name of the applicant organisation and/or network, contact information, title of the proposed activity, description of the problem/issue the proposed activity will address, outline of the proposed activity including a description of how a small grant of up to \$5000 USD would be used, beneficiaries and impact of the project and the expected duration of the activity. Concept notes will be evaluated and selected applicants will then be invited to submit a more detailed proposal (5-6 pages). Announcement of grant awards will be made on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006 and implementation of activities will commence in January 2007. More: [http://wikis.bellanet.org/harambee/index.php/SGF\\_Call\\_for\\_Applicants](http://wikis.bellanet.org/harambee/index.php/SGF_Call_for_Applicants)

**"IMARK digitization and digital libraries" is now available in French.** The Information Management Resource Kit (IMARK) released the second IMARK module in French entitled "Numérisation et création de bibliothèques numériques" which offers 31 lessons concerned with the creation of digital libraries and the preservation of materials in digital format. Also

included are lessons covering copyright issues, electronic formats for text and images, metadata and subject indexing, as well as a comprehensive overview of the creation and management of digital documents. The module was developed by Cirad, FAO, UNESCO and CTA. IMARK activities are coordinated through a Steering Group whose members include the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), FAO, the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (Cirad), the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). More: <http://www.imarkgroup.org> OR <http://www.itrainonline.org>

**The Millennium Development Goals in Africa: Progress and Challenges.** This document is a status report on progress towards each MDG in Africa and offers a review of the challenges impeding progress and details proposals for member states and their citizens to overcome these challenges. This report also offers practical policy advice on how Africans in government, business, civil society and other sectors can work together to accelerate progress. More: <http://www.comminit.com/africa/materials/ma2006/materials-2999.html>

**Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Small Enterprise in Africa: Lessons from Botswana (by Richard Duncombe and Richard Heeks).** This report investigates what role new information and communication technologies (ICTs) can play in small enterprise development in Africa. Drawing on field research in Botswana, the project analyses the information and communication needs of a variety of enterprises and assesses opportunities for ICT application. More: <http://www.comminit.com/africa/strategichinking/st2003/thinking-655.html>

\*\*\*\*\*

*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:*

*Aida Opoku-Mensah  
Officer-in-Charge  
ICTs, Science & Technology Division (ISTD),  
Economic Commission for Africa  
P. O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Phone: 251-11-5443562  
Fax: 251-11-5510512  
E-mail: [aopoku-mensah@uneca.org](mailto:aopoku-mensah@uneca.org)*