



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

GKP Launches e-Bulletin Service for Members.

The Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) launched its inaugural issue of the GKP e-Bulletin. Through this e-Bulletin, GKP Secretariat aims to share within the network updates on collaborative efforts and that of GKPS in strengthening GKP's position as the leading international multi-stakeholder network advocating Knowledge and ICT for Development. Commencing as a monthly service, the e-Bulletins will be complemented by regular alerts and announcements. Ongoing GKPS global communication and marketing activities will draw on e-Bulletin inputs. More: <http://www.globalknowledge.org> Contact: Justine Chew (cmu@gkps.org.my).

NEWS: ECA Activities

ICT Policy and Regulation workshop concludes in Dakar.

As a follow up to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), ECA, the Canadian e-Policy Resource Centre (CEPRC), the e-Policy Resource Network (ePol-NET), NetTel@Africa network and the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) in collaboration with the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and New Technologies of Sénégal, convened from 16-19 October 2006 in Dakar a workshop under the theme "Development and implementation of ICT policies in Africa: Strengthening the capacity of stakeholders". The workshop, which was mainly targeted at French-speaking African countries, was the second of a series of four seminars being held in various sub-regions of Africa. Over fifty participants from seventeen countries, including representatives of Governments, regulatory institutions and agencies in charge of implementation of national ICT policies, operators and service providers, private sector, civil society, and research institutions. The workshop concluded with recommendations on the need to put in place favourable regulatory mechanisms in African countries to enable access for all to an inclusive Information Society, strengthening of existing cooperation networks, capacity building of regulators

and policymakers, and ensuring inclusion of women. More: Makane Faye (mfaye@uneca.org).

ICT 4ALL Forum, Tunis+1: ICT Investment in Africa.

The Forum, convened from 26 - 27 October 2006 in Hammamet, Tunisia on the theme "ICT 4ALL, Tunis+1: ICT investment in Africa", was organised as a follow-up of the Geneva Plan of Action, the recommendations and decisions of the Second phase of WSIS, which were included in the "Tunis Commitments" and the "Tunis Agenda for Information Society". It was organised by the Government of Tunisia through the Ministry of Communication Technologies, in collaboration with the Tunisian Union for Industry, Commerce and Handicraft, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and ECA. The Forum brought together more than 60 participants from ten African countries, including five Ministers as well as representatives of regional and international organizations, domestic and international private sector actors and civil society organizations. It aimed at contributing to the discussion on policy and strategy to channel domestic and foreign investment in knowledge economy development in Africa. As outcomes of the Forum, participants called for more collaboration between African countries and development partners to share best practices in the ICT sector for better synergy; improving the policy, legal and regulatory framework for investment and growth at national and sub-regional levels; providing incentives for private investment, guarantees and risk mitigation; improving public and corporate governance, promoting innovation and entrepreneurship. To ensure better follow-up, participants suggested the establishment of a Forum as a periodic knowledge-sharing framework to debate on ICT for Development on the continent. More: Thierry Amoussougbo (tamousougbo@uneca.org).

Stakeholders' strategic meetings on networking and partnership for building the Information Society in Uganda.

ECA has been assisting the Government of Uganda in the development of e-Health policy and e-Government strategy. Stakeholder groups, which were involved in the two processes, continued to play a critical role in implementing various ICT4D activities. As a follow-up, stakeholders' meetings were organised from 12-13 October 2006 to develop a strategy to build stakeholders' capacity and create a network to support ICT development in Uganda. The groups include the ICT4D Media Network in Uganda, the Women of Uganda Network

(WOUGNET), I-NETWORK Uganda, the ICT Committee in Parliament, the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), Bellanet Africa, Data Solutions International Limited in Mukono, and the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology. Stakeholders agreed to establish a consultative mechanism to ensure synergy between their various activities, which need to be in line with the national policy framework. The Government and Parliament will work together for the establishment of a better policy dialogue framework to ensure the effectiveness of stakeholders' participation in building the Information Society in Uganda. More: Thierry Amoussougbo (tamoussougbo@uneca.org).

Africa participates in the Canadian Government Technology Exhibition and Conference (GTEC) for the second year. ECA, in collaboration with the Canadian ePolicy Resource Centre (CePRC) and under the Global ePolicy Resource Network (ePol-NET), facilitated the participation of over 54 e-Government and ICT Policy makers from 25 African countries in the Canadian Government Technology Exhibition and Conference Week (GTEC) 2006. GTEC Week, which was held from 23 – 27 October 2006 in Ottawa, Canada. The Canadian GTEC event, launched in 1993, is recognized as Canada's most significant forum on the use of technology to improve government services and operations. The Officer-in-Charge of the ISTD, Ms. Aida Opoku-Mensah who represented ECA at GTEC and Ms Wendy Ace, Executive Director of CePRC, announced the launch of GTEC Africa to be held in the second quarter of 2007. The event aims to showcase African successes in the use of IT to promote e-Government for service delivery to citizens. More: <http://www.uneca.org/disd/news/1030200601dnadisd.asp>

First session of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). The First session of the IGF took place from 29 October – 02 November 2006 in Athens, Greece. Africa was represented by high officials, including ministers from Egypt, Senegal and The Gambia and senior experts on Internet policy and technology issues. The Forum re-emphasised that rules governing appropriate enabling legal, policy and regulatory frameworks that preserve openness are the key founding principles of the Internet. Measures related to cybersecurity, and how collaboration between stakeholders can improve trust and confidence to combat phishing, viruses and other forms of cybercrime as well as spam and issues related to information and network security were put in place. Strategies to build a multilingual Internet to promote multilingualism in the cyberspace and development of local content to facilitate access to populations from developing countries were identified. ECA will be working in member States as part of the NICI process to strengthen policies and strategies on cyber-security as part of IG activities at the national

level. The first IGF was attended by over 1,200 participants. The 2nd IGF will be held in 2007 in Brazil, the 3rd session will be held in 2008 in India, while the 4th IGF will be organized by Egypt in 2009. In addition, ECA organized the meeting of the African Group on 1st November at 17H00 under the chairmanship of the Egyptian Minister of Communication, to exchange views on IG issues and discuss the way forward. More: Makane Faye (mfaye@uneca.org).

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

Government of Ghana to adopt e-Governance programmes. The government of Ghana is considering adopting an e-governance programme as a mechanism to promote lateral and horizontal collaboration among the Metropolitan/Municipal/District Assemblies (MMDAs) to bring information to the citizenry and businesses. This is to improve efficiency, productivity, speed and comfort in the provision of services to the general public following government's ambition to use ICTs as a catalyst for poverty alleviation. This was disclosed by the Deputy Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Environment, Mr. Kofi Poku-Adusei. He further said that government had recognized that good governance and decentralization depend on easy access to quality and timely information, which forms the base of value-added decision-making at all levels of governance. Government is encouraging the District Assemblies and their decentralized structures to procure both off-line and on-line facilities for their staff, he added. More: <http://www.i4donline.net/news/news-details.asp?catid=6&newsid=5953>

Libya to provide laptops to all schoolchildren. The government of Libya reached an agreement with One Laptop Per Child, a non-profit United States group developing an inexpensive and educational laptop computer, with the goal of supplying machines to all 1.2 million Libyan schoolchildren by June 2008. The project, which is intended to supply computers broadly to children in developing nations, was conceived in 2005 by a computer researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Nicholas Negroponte. His goal is to design a wireless-connected laptop that will cost about \$100 after the machines go into mass production next year. For its \$250 million investment, Libya will receive 1.2 million computers, one server per school, a team of technical advisers to help set up the system, satellite internet service and other infrastructure. More: <http://penplusbytes.blogspot.com/>

Rwanda: Landlocked Country May Soon Become Top ICT Hub in Africa. (Source: AllAfrica.com) All public schools in Rwanda are expected to join the information super-highway by the end of next year. Already, half of the primary and secondary schools

have embraced the new technology, which has been given priority by the Government under its 2020 vision programme. Out of 2,300 primary schools, 1,138 have at least one computer each, with 400 secondary schools fully equipped and 39 of them having wireless Internet access. The Rwandan Government has supplied the 400 schools with 4,000 desktop computers and 4,000 power units (UPS), in addition to training 2,000 teachers in basic computing. The on-going programme includes tertiary and university students, and is part of a national IT policy to make the tiny Great Lakes nation, which is still recovering from the 1994 genocide, a force to reckon with globally. More: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200610310255.html>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

14 – 15 November 2006, IT Africa Congress: Seizing opportunities, overcoming challenges, welcoming innovation, Johannesburg, South Africa. Organised by the Marcus Evans Congresses, the event brings together IT leaders from around the globe to discuss and network on the latest trends and challenges faced in the IT field. It will serve as a platform for executives to establish better understanding of the direction and advantages of technology. This will be accomplished through 6-streamed conference and a structured exhibition by a selection of the major players in the IT service provider industry. More: <http://www.itafrica-congress.com/>

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 16th 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).

20 – 24 November 2006, Telecentre Leaders Forum (TLF) Africa, Port Novo, Benin. Organised by the Telecentre.org, over 60 telecentre practitioners, network leaders, researchers and development partners from all over Africa will attend with representation from Asia and Latin America telecentre networks. The objectives include bringing together leading telecentre practitioners, network leaders and researchers as a strategy to building functional relationships and lay foundation for an African telecentre network. It also aims at providing an opportunity to review on-going telecentre.org interventions in Africa, share inspiring stories, and explore network opportunities and services to strengthen telecentres. The TLF-Africa is part of telecentre.org strategy to hold a regional event every year following a global convening for this case, following the Telecentre Leaders’ Forum held at WSIS in Tunis 2005. A pre-event discussion featuring key areas of interest to telecentre family was organized from October 23 to November 3, 2006. More: <http://www.telecentre.org/en-tc/node/19053>

27 – 29 November 2006, NEPAD e-Governance workshop Phase 2, Johannesburg, South Africa. Organised by NEPAD e-Africa Commission, this workshop is a follow-up session to the first workshop which was held from 7-9 July 2006. The first workshop identified and prioritized eighteen themes. Out of these themes, eight were selected by NEPAD and will be elaborated during phase 2 workshop in order to develop the NEPAD e-Governance strategic plan. The summary of the July workshop can be found at: http://www.pstgconsulting.com/clients/NEPAD_e-Governance_Workshop_Report.pdf

29 November – 01 December 2006, Wireless Broadband East Africa Forum: Technologies and Strategies to Evolve Optimised Networks, Nairobi, Kenya. AITEC, in collaboration with leading suppliers of wireless broadband technologies, is hosting the Forum, which aims to provide practical business and technology briefings to empower resellers, service providers and users. The Forum will provide participants with answers to crucial technical and business questions. Key Forum topics include strategic overviews of current and future technologies, evolving networks to 3G, key strategic issues in migrating networks to IP, etc. More: <http://new.aitecafrica.com/node/252>

4 – 5 December 2006, UNCTAD Expert Meeting "Using ICTs to achieve growth and development",

Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting is organised in support of the implementation and follow-up of WSIS. The main objective of the event is to provide a discussion forum for Government representatives, experts, business people and academia on the potential of harnessing ICTs for economic and social development. During this two-day event experts will examine the latest empirical evidence on the way ICTs impact on the productivity and growth of firms, industries and countries with a view to identify how developing countries can best benefit from the information economy. Additionally, the analysis of recent trends in trade in ICT-enabled goods and services, labour markets and employment in the ICT sector, including outsourcing and offshoring to developing countries will help experts in formulating their future ICT strategies. Confirmation to participate is expected before 17 November 2006. More: <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Meeting.asp?intitle=miD=3876&lang=1> and <http://www.unctad.org/ecommerce>

ANNOUNCEMENTS/RESOURCES

eCommerce Guidebooks Available!

Two guidebooks on e-commerce for small enterprise have recently been completed. Each guidebook provides information on best practices in e-commerce and a set of case studies from developing countries. One guidebook - for entrepreneurs includes additional material on selection of e-commerce. The other - for enterprise support agencies - includes additional material on how to support e-commerce in small enterprise, include case studies of agency strategy. If you would like to access a soft copy of the guidebooks and other relevant reports, please use the project web site: <http://www.ecomm4dev.org/handbooks.htm>

Fellowship for AfriNIC-5

AfriNIC is offering a few fellowships to its members to attend the upcoming meeting to be held from November 27th to December 1st 2006 in Mauritius. The fellowship is reserved to people from small organisations actively involved in Internet Operation or ICT Policy in their countries and the community and who can positively and actively contribute to IP address management awareness in the AfriNIC region of service. Applications can be sent to fellowship@afriNIC.net More: <http://www.afriNIC.net/meeting/afriNIC-5/>

Toolkit 1: Capitalising on Local Knowledge - Methodological Overview & Case Studies, by Noel Oettle and Bettina Koelle

This Toolkit is designed to give decision-makers in government and donor agencies an overview of the concept of community-to-community knowledge exchanges, as well as practical approaches to their

use in developmental processes and programmes. The volume contains case studies from Africa that aim to illustrate the successes achieved with the approach as well as the challenges faced during implementation. More: <http://www.comminit.com/africa/materials/ma2006/materials-3054.html>

Toolkit 2: Capitalising on Local Knowledge - Guidelines for Implementation, by Noel Oettle and Bettina Koelle

This Toolkit is designed to provide practical guidance in designing and implementing community-to-community exchange visits. It is intended for practitioners and service providers who wish to implement knowledge exchange processes. It is also aimed at students and development professionals who would like to better understand how the methodology is implemented. More: <http://www.comminit.com/africa/materials/ma2006/materials-3055.html>

Second Call for "Commonwealth Connects" Projects

The Steering Committee of Commonwealth Connects announced that the Second Formal Call for Projects has commenced to enable Commonwealth countries, NGOs, and academic institutions to submit projects that can help bridge the Digital Divide. More: <http://www.commonwealthconnects.net/comcon/>

New APC Policy Issue Papers in English and French. In the occasion of the Internet Governance Forum, the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) is launching three new papers on key ICT policy and Internet rights issues. These include:

1) CONVERGENCE: The importance of convergence in the ICT policy environment, by Kate Wild. This paper looks at the meaning and importance of convergence and considers some of the challenges to implementing it, along with strategies for overcoming them. It also provides a global perspective on regulating convergence and broadband from ITU and then it looks at experiences in North America and Europe as well as regional and country approaches in Africa. More: http://rights.apc.org/documents/convergence_EN.pdf (English) http://rights.apc.org/documents/convergence_FR.pdf (French)

2) OPEN ACCESS: Lowering the costs of international bandwidth in Africa, by Mike Jensen. This paper was commissioned by the APC as part of the Catalysing Access to ICTs in Africa initiative and to contribute to APC's efforts to promote open access to ICT infrastructure in Africa. According to the author, a variety of factors are responsible for the lack of access to bandwidth in Africa, but the biggest cause

is the high cost of international connections to the global telecommunication backbones. More: http://rights.apc.org/documents/open_access_EN.pdf (English)
http://rights.apc.org/documents/open_access_FR.pdf (French)

3) WSIS: Whose information society? Developing country and civil society voices in the World Summit on the Information Society, by David Souter. This paper summarises a study of developing country and civil society participation and influence in WSIS that was commissioned by the APC. As well as analysing participation, the study looked at the impact of WSIS on international ICT decision-making in general and makes recommendations to all main actors about how future decision-making might become more inclusive of developing countries, nongovernmental actors and their concerns. More: http://rights.apc.org/documents/wsis_EN.pdf (English)

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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