



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 announces the Stockholm Challenge GKP Awards 2007. GKP announces a new award in collaboration with Stockholm Challenge, focusing on importance, relevance and value of Multistakeholder Partnerships for development efforts in 4 areas - Culture, Economic Development, Education and Public Administration. Applications open 1 Jan 2007. More: <http://www.globalknowledge.org>

GKP at ICANN's 27th International Public Meeting. GKP explored more concrete forms of engagement with ICANN at the São Paulo meeting in December 2006, where the international non-profit corporation responsible for assigning domain names and addresses of the Internet was conducting the final stages of its consultation process for its 2007–2009 Strategic Plan. More: <http://www.globalknowledge.org>

GTP represented in UN Steering Committee on Global Alliance for ICT and Development. The Joint Program Manager of the Global teenager Project, Ms. Titi Akinsanmi has been selected as a member of the first ever United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development (UN-GAID). The Steering committee is charged with executive oversight and guidance and contributes to the strategic direction of the UN-GAID. Ms. Akinsanmi has been involved in the Information Society and the two phases of the WSIS since 2001 taking a leading role in implementation and leadership of Youth engagement with the process. Ms. Akinsanmi's presence on the UN-GAID SC boosts the profile of the GTP and of its strategic partner the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD), as well as bringing the project and its successes to the direct attention of the policy makers, donors and government people who are usually the people at these committees. More: http://www.iicd.org/articles/GTP_UN_Steering_Committee

New Director at IDRC. In January 2007, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) welcomed Michael Clarke, the new Director of the

Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D) program area. Clarke takes over for Richard Fuchs who moved to Singapore in October 2006 to assume his new duties as IDRC's Regional Director for Southeast and East Asia. Clarke received his PhD in Parasitology from the University of Guelph, and has also studied at York and Stanford Universities. He has held successive academic appointments at the universities of Guelph, Victoria, Western Ontario, and Ottawa. Over the past 15 years, Clarke has also served in progressively senior roles in the management and direction of ICT programs as they relate to development, particularly in the areas of curriculum development and medical education. He is a founder of the Canadian health and clinical medicine journal, Open Medicine www.openmedicine.ca. More: <http://www.idrc.ca>

NEWS: ECA Activities

GKP Africa Resource Mobilization Workshop. The GKP Secretariat and ECA as the Coordinator of GKP Africa organised a resource mobilization workshop for GKP Africa members from 23 – 24 January 2007 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The objective of the training workshop was to substantively review GKP Africa members' project proposals for seed funding in the framework of the GKP Africa Action Plan. Resource persons from the GKP Secretariat facilitated the training. A total of nine GKP Africa members attended the workshop. Participants discussed guidelines for submitting projects for seed funding, and reviewed the project proposals submitted so far. The workshop provided participants with a forum to exchange experiences and lessons. More: Eskedar Nega (enega@uneca.org).

ECA, ECOWAS and UEMOA to chart a legal framework for ICT development in West Africa. A workshop organised by ECA in collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) was held from 19 – 20 December 2006 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The workshop brought together ICT experts, lawyers, trade specialists and economists on the most effective legal framework for ICT development in the region. Discussions focused on how to put in place an enabling legal environment for e-commerce and for an enhanced cyber crime control. Two studies commissioned by ECA served as the basis for discussion. Funded by the Government of Finland and by the Canadian e-Policy Resource Center

(CePRC), the two studies dealt with a harmonized legal framework for e-commerce and a harmonized legal framework on ICT in general respectively. In this regard, participants reviewed the recommendations, the set of priorities and the proposed roadmap. In his opening remarks, Mr. Joachim Tankoqno, Minister of Posts, Communications and Information Technology, Burkina Faso paid tribute to ECA's repositioning exercise for taking into account African countries "needs to harnessing ICTs for poverty reduction, for the achievement of MDGs and for a global knowledge economy." This workshop is part of a process involving ECOWAS and UEMOA. The two institutions signed a memorandum of understanding with ECA two years ago to set up collaborative arrangements for the adoption of a common regulatory framework on ICTs for West Africa, as a way of attracting foreign direct investments. A Follow up Committee composed of ECA, ECOWAS, UEMOA, BCEAO in addition to the Host country (Burkina) and the Chair of ECOWAS/UEMOA organs (Niger) will coordinate the follow up and implementation of the workshop recommendations. The final outputs on the legal framework for ICTs in West Africa are expected by May 2007. More: Makane Faye (mfaye@uneca.org).

R&D Bulletin by AISI Academia Research Network (ARN) Cameroon group working on Electronic Rural School in Cameroon local language. The Bulletin is sponsored by PICTA project called "Harambee" a joint initiative of ECA-APC-Bellonet. The bulletin aims at sharing R&D activities in the Information Society with Academia Community and ICT partners. For a copy of the Bulletin as well as further information, contact Thierry Amoussougbo (tamoussougbo@uneca.org).

ECA-CEEAC-CEMAC Workshop on ICT Strategy for Central Africa. The workshop was held in Douala, Cameroon from 24-25 January 2007, organised by ECA in collaboration with the Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC) and the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC). Participants from public and private sectors, civil society, media and the RECs, discussed the draft strategy document prepared by the ECA. Participants agreed on the revisions and the process for the adoption of the strategy by CEEAC and CEMAC organs. Participants also adopted a declaration containing recommendations addressed to the stakeholders, in order to implement the strategy at national and sub regional levels, and urged the two RECs to establish cooperation mechanisms for the development of the Information Society in the sub region. More: Mohamed Timoulali (mtimoulali@uneca.org).

Harambee Workshop. The Harambee Project, conceived by the ECA, APC, and Bellanet under the framework of PICTA, and funded by Connectivity Africa and Hivos, was designed to support increased capacity among a range of Africa-based networks and communities to coordinate and facilitate the

interactions of their respective constituencies. A workshop was held in Kampala, Uganda from 12 – 16 January 2007, which brought together members of the Harambee Coordination Committee, Network Coordinators from the first phase, and successful small grant concept note applicants for the second phase. The aim was to review phase I and discuss on the way forward for the implementation of the second phase. Participants made concrete recommendations to improve the implementation of the second phase of the Harambee project. More: Thierry Amoussougbo (tamoussougbo@uneca.org). OR http://wikis.bellanet.org/harambee/index.php/Main_Page

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

WIPO Press Release on Traditional Knowledge and Traditional and Cultural Expressions. A key committee of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), agreed upon a new approach to their work on intellectual property and traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs) (also termed 'expressions of folklore'). The Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) adopted two lists of issues that it agreed would be the focus of its future discussions. These sets of issues represent a way forward for discussion as they provide a systematic approach to the fundamental policy choices that member States will have to make in developing or enhancing protection of TK and TCEs. More: <http://www.wipo.int/tk>

Towards an African e-Index: SME e-Access and Usage. Research ICT Africa! (RIA!) has published a new chapter in their e-Index research. At the end of 2006 the report Towards an African e-Index: SME e-Access and Usage Across 14 African countries was published. The SME e-Access and Usage survey was carried out across 14 African countries between the last quarter of 2005 and the first quarter of 2006. The report explores the impact of ICT on private sector development, and how ICT can contribute to a vibrant SME sector and economic growth in the context of developing economies. The countries covered included Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. More: <http://www.regulateonline.org/content/view/903/32/>

SANGONeT attempting a rescue of poorly performing telecentres. APC member SANGONeT features in a recently released report titled South Africa: Rescue Attempt On Poorly Performing Telecentres. In this report released by South Africa's major business-oriented daily, Business Day, strong criticism of telecentres is advanced. "Of 133 telecentres set up by the Universal Service Agency, many are underused, entirely dysfunctional or have

turned into private businesses benefiting the people appointed to run them," it says, before explaining that "Sangonet, a body that helps development agencies use IT in the communities they serve, is driving the telecentre overhaul." More: <http://blog.apc.org/en/index.shtml?x=5053903>

2007 ICANN Nominating Committee Issues Formal Call for Statements of Interest. ICANN's Nominating Committee invites Statements of Interest from the Internet community as it seeks qualified candidates to assist in ICANN's technical and policy coordination role. Interested individuals are invited to submit a Statement of Interest to this year's Committee for the following positions: Three members of the ICANN Board of Directors Two members of the Council of the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) One member of the Council of the Country-Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Three members of the At Large Advisory Committee (ALAC). ICANN's Nominating Committee (NomCom) is an independent committee tasked with selecting a majority of the members of ICANN's Board of Directors and other positions within ICANN's Supporting Organisations. More: <http://nomcom.icann.org>.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

3 – 5 February 2007, GKP EXCOM and Membership Committee / Regional Coordinators' Meeting, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. More: <http://www.globalknowledge.org>

12 – 14 February 2007, The 10th Interagency Round Table on Communication for Development, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Round Table will focus on the theme "Achieving the Millennium Development Goals". The objectives include increasing UN interagency joint collaboration, increasing awareness within and among UN agencies about communication for development (discuss challenges, achievements, obstacles, required solutions), and introducing mechanisms to harmonize communication for development programming approaches internationally (engage active focal points at international and country levels, reinforce commitment of respective agency HQs, promote the round table and invite wide participation of other UN agencies). More: http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=21347&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

13 – 15 February 2007, Expert Group Meeting on Information and Communications Technology Indicators Adoption and Data Collection: Use of ICT Indicators in Education & E-Government, The Cabinet -- Information and Decision Support Center, Cairo, Egypt. The meeting is jointly organized by UNESCWA, UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), the Knowledge Management Branch/DPADM/UNDESA, and the Cabinet -

Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC) of Egypt. The meeting will consider the proposal of UIS for a core list of indicators for measuring the use of ICT in education for possible endorsement and adoption into the Partnership list of core ICT indicators. It will also consider proposals for ICT indicators related to e-government and regional readiness, thus paving the way for establishing a preliminary regional list to start collecting data for these indicators, as well as provide a venue to involve interested stakeholders in a preparatory meeting to debate the challenges and opportunities for progress of e-government in the region. The meeting will bring together decision makers, ICT experts, statisticians, and researchers in the field of measurement of indicators in education and e-government, from UNESCWA and other Arab countries, regional and international organizations, including members of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, and academic and research institutions. More: <http://www.escwa.org.lb/wsis/meetings/13-15feb07/main.html>

19 – 23 February 2007, Association of Regulators of Information and Communications for Eastern and Southern Africa (ARICEA) Fourth Annual General Meeting, Kigali, Rwanda. The main focus areas are draft policy guidelines such as numbering, domain names, consumer protection, type approval, IP telephone; policy and regulatory framework; digitalisation; content; frequency spectrum; trade in communications; study visits; interconnections; and future activities development and implementation. More: <http://www.aricea-comesa.org/>

7 – 9 March 2007, Joint ECA- ITU-UNCTAD Regional Workshop on Information Society Measurements in Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting is sponsored by ECA, ITU and UNCTAD under the framework of the international Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development. The purpose of the meeting is to address challenges related to Information Society measurements in the African region, present possible solutions and identify technical assistance needs. The workshop will also review progress made with regard to the implementation of Scan-ICT Phase II and attempt to enlist more National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in the process. The workshop builds on the work by the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development and the Scan-ICT project, and aims to advance the availability of comparable data on ICT in the region. A preliminary list of core indicators for e-Government will also be discussed. More: Makane Faye (mfaye@uneca.org).

26 – 28 March 2007, Communications Regulators' Association of Southern Africa (CRASA) annual general meeting, Windhoek, Namibia. CRASA's 10th Annual General Meeting, the supreme decision making body of CRASA, will be meeting in Windhoek, Namibia from the 12th to 16th March 2007. The main objectives include receiving country reports from

members, specialist committee reports, updates on activities of the Association, approving CRASA Action Programme, and receiving, approving and adopting audited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2006. More: <http://www.crasa.org/>

28 – 30 May 2007, eLearning Africa 2007 - Building Infrastructures and Capacities to Reach out to the Whole of Africa, Nairobi, Kenya. The second International Conference on ICT for Development, Education and Training, aims to reflect on the efforts of African countries in setting up their national and regional information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructures to create access to education, training and services for all. It will also look at how Africa is providing the capacities for all stakeholders to efficiently exploit the huge potentials advanced telecommunications technologies offer for the benefit of Africa. More: <http://www.elearning-africa.com>

ANNOUNCEMENTS/RESOURCES

TIGA Awards – 2007. ECA and the Canadian e-Policy Resource Center (CePRC) are pleased to announce the First Technology in Government in Africa (TIGA) Awards. The aim is to encourage the use of ICTs in the delivery of public services, which remains a major challenge for African governments, affecting millions of Africans, mostly rural citizens. The deadline for the 2007 TIGA Awards is 15th February 2007. Entries can be made in four categories including public service delivery to citizens/communities, improved health services through the use of ICTs, improved educational services through the use of ICTs, and Public Private Partnership (PPP) in economic and financial eServices delivery. More: <http://www.uneca.org/disd/events/2007/tiga/main.html>

VoIP or the Voice Infrastructure Freedom - Building communication alternatives in Developing Regions. A new guide to support the spread of low-cost communications in the poorest parts of the world. This free guide to Voice over IP, available in four major languages, is an effort to disseminate the use of telephony over the Internet in developing regions. The 40-page guide targets both technical and non-technical readers. The booklet "VoIP-4D Primer, Building Voice Infrastructure in developing regions" is written by IT +46, a Swedish consultancy company focusing on innovative usage of IT technology in the developing world. The work has been supported by the Acacia Initiative of the International Development Research Centre of Canada and the contribution of several translators and reviewers. More: <http://voip4d.it46.se>

Balancing Act's Forthcoming Publications. Balancing Act's forthcoming reports in 2007 include new reports like Africa's Mobile Companies: Key Business Opportunities and Challenges and updated

reports like African Voice and Data Bandwidth Forecasts. Some of Balancing Act's updated reports like African Broadband, Triple Play and Converged Markets and African Internet and Telecoms Markets have been changed to make them more useful as the markets themselves change. Balancing Act says that all of its reports now contain data sets that have been specifically gathered for its reports from its own surveys. Alongside this core data it provides informed analysis. More: <http://www.balancingact-africa.com>

IViR Study on The Recasting of Copyright for the Knowledge Economy. The IViR Study on The Recasting of Copyright for the Knowledge Economy that was submitted to the European Commission in November 2006, is now available online. More: <http://www.ivir.nl/index-english.html> or http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/copyright/studies/studies_en.htm

DiploFoundation Capacity Building Training Programme 2007 – Call for Applications. DiploFoundation, in cooperation with various partners, is currently accepting applications for the 2007 Internet Governance Capacity Building Training Programme. This programme is designed to improve Internet Governance (IG) related knowledge and skills for participants mainly from developing countries and to facilitate community building among individuals with different national, cultural, and professional backgrounds. The programme offers 135 places for young professionals from diverse stakeholder backgrounds in IG related fields and is open to individuals from all around the world. Participants from developing countries are eligible to receive full scholarship support. The programme includes an online training phase, a research phase, and capacity building fellowships awarded to a number of successful participants in the programme. Fellowship opportunities include internships with partner organisations and attendance at IG related meetings, including the Internet Governance Forum later in the year. The deadline for applications is 10 February 2007. More: <http://www.diplomacy.edu/ig/igcbp/>

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 atentime@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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