



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 Members requested to submit proposals for activities or events at GK3. Members are invited to submit proposals for conference panels, workshops, and associated events at GK3, a GKP Event on the Future themed "Emerging People, Emerging Markets, Emerging Technologies". More: <http://www.GKPEventsontheFuture.org>

IICD connectivity model presented at World Bank conference. A new connectivity model based on shared connectivity developed by the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD) received positive feedback from various Latin American and Caribbean public, private and grass-root organisations at the conference 'Connecting the Future: Strategies to Reduce Telecommunications Access Gaps' co-organised by the World Bank in Lima, Peru November 2006. The conference was an initiative of the World Bank, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and Regulatel (an organisation that represents 19 South American regulators). IICD was invited to share their experiences on the implementation of telecentres in Bolivia. The result is an alternative connectivity model based on the experiences gathered using telecentres; until this time the most suitable solution for connectivity were not satisfying. This alternative, a Community of Networks, is based on shared connectivity, which means that a group of local actors unite to make connectivity more affordable and therefore make access to the Internet and information feasible. The new model was successfully tested in Bolivia and Ecuador and can be replicated in Africa and Latin America, as well as Asia. More: <http://www.iicd.org>

Partnership's Core ICT indicators endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission. In March 2007, the UN statistical Commission endorsed the core list of indicators on ICTs, which was developed by the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development. UNCTAD presented a report on ICT Statistics on behalf of the Partnership during the Commission's recent session in New York. The report informed of

the significant progress made by the Partnership to improve the availability of internationally comparable statistics on ICT and to define a core list of ICT indicators. Chief statisticians from around the world congratulated the Partnership for its work and for being an example of successful cooperation between international organizations. The Commission encouraged countries to use this core list of ICT indicators in their data collection programmes, and encouraged the Partnership to assist countries in their capacity building efforts for the collection of ICT data. The Commission acknowledged that ICT is a rapidly evolving area, and encouraged the Partnership to continue work to improve and update the list of indicators, especially in view of measuring the use of ICT in education, in government, the contribution of ICT to economic growth and social development, and barriers to use of ICT. Members of the Partnership include, ITU, UNCTAD, OECD, UNESCO, World Bank, Eurostat, and the five UN regional Commissions including ECA. More: http://new.unctad.org/templates/Page_847.aspx

NEWS: ECA Activities

African Network of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) launched. More than fifty representatives from African Governments, Civil Society Organizations, Private sector actors, Academia and International Organizations took part in the launch and first meeting of the African Regional Network of the UN Global Alliance for ICTs and Development (GAID) on Friday 23rd March 2007. The meeting adopted the creation of a Steering Committee composed of three facilitators from Academia, Government and CSO representatives from West, Central and North Africa sub-regions to steer the African GAID Network with the assistance of ECA, which hosts the secretariat. The launching took place alongside the African Civil Society Forum, jointly organized by CONGO, the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and African Union (AU), from 22-23 March 2007, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The launch will be followed by on-line discussion of the GAID Africa structure and modalities of action to be drafted by the identified steering committee. More: Thierry Amoussougbo (tamoussougbo@uneca.org).

ECA supports Mozambique in the areas of ICTs, Science and Technology. An ECA delegation held discussions with Mozambican authorities in Maputo from 19 – 21 March 2007 on consolidating a joint work programme to support the implementation of the Mozambique Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy (MOSTIS) following the official request received from the Government of Mozambique. After initial discussions between H.E Prof. Venancio Massingue, Minister of Science and Technology of Mozambique and the Executive Secretary, ECA, the areas identified for joint collaboration include building capacities in e-commerce and e-security, establishing an ICT Excellence Center/Science Park, developing STI indicators, and joint STI capacity building activities. After working visits to the various S&T institutions in the country, and consultations with the respective authorities, a joint Plan of Action for implementation with support from ECA and its partners is being finalised. Afework Temtime (atemtime@uneca.org).

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

Egypt: NEPAD e-schools officially launched. The Egyptian Minister of Education, Dr Yousry Al-Gamal, has officially launched the NEPAD e-Schools Demonstration (Demo) Project at Al-Haddain Secondary School in El Behaira Governate, Egypt. The project is a joint venture of the Egyptian Government, HP Consortium, ORACLE Consortium and NEPAD e-Africa Commission. Egypt is the sixth country to launch the project after Uganda, Ghana, Lesotho, Kenya and Rwanda. It is also the first North African country to launch the NEPAD e-Schools. The NEPAD e-Schools Project is led by the NEPAD e-Africa Commission - the NEPAD Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Task Team responsible for developing the NEPAD ICT Programme and implementing related projects. The project focuses on providing end-to-end ICT solutions that will connect schools across Africa to the NEPAD e-Schools Network and the Internet. Solutions also include the provision of content, learning material and the establishment of health points at schools. More: <http://www.pambazuka.org/en/category/internet/40235>

Kenya sets up ICT advisory body. A new Parastatal has been set up to spearhead development of ICT in the country. The Kenya Information and Communications Technology Board will advise the government on all relevant matters on development, co-ordination and promotion of ICT industries in the country. President Mwai Kibaki authorised setting up of the new Corporation through an order in a Kenya Gazette supplement dated March 2 this year. Kenya Information Communications and Technology Board Order details how the board of the corporation would be instituted and function. The corporation will be expected to promote — both locally and internationally — opportunities for investment in ICT

and also appoint agents within and outside the country to carry out defined functions. It will also facilitate and manage ICT products and services, and industrial incubation and technology parks. The development comes at a time when the government is promoting large-scale communications infrastructure capable of delivering efficient and affordable services as a critical prerequisite for economic growth. It is also seen as part of a broader strategy that seeks to make the country the regional ICT hub by 2010 and create employment. More: http://www.eastandard.net/hm_news/news.php?articleid=1143966148

South Africa- Information Society and Development (ISAD) Plan. After consultation with all stakeholders in government, South Africa finalised the National Information Society and Development (ISAD) Plan, which was approved by Cabinet on 7th February 2007. The Plan emanates primarily from the dynamic global impact of ICTs, and is informed by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Plan of Action, based on the advice of the Presidential International Advisory Council (PIAC) and the development challenges facing the country. The ISAD Plan indicates that the transformation of the South African Economy from an Industrial Economy to an Information based Knowledge Economy will be driven through ten main pillars. The pillars and priority focus areas further serve as a guideline for the provinces to develop their Provincial ISAD Models. The National Institutional Mechanism under development is aligned to the current structures of government, and Information Society initiatives across the three tiers of Government i.e. National, Provincial and Local. More: Rodwyn.Grewan@pnc.gov.za

Zambia launches ICT Policy. The Zambian Government has finally launched the national Information Communication Technology (ICT) policy. President Mwanawasa, at the launch said the national ICT policy would mainly address the development of three sectors namely telecommunications, information technology and broadcasting which were important pillars for general growth of Zambia's economy and to bridge the digital divide amongst Zambians. President Mwanawasa said bridging the digital divide amongst Zambians would entail transforming Zambia into an economy based on information and knowledge supported by consistent development of and pervasive access to ICT by all citizens by 2030. More: <http://www.times.co.zm/>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

5 – 6 April 2007, Research and Development in the Information Society: Identifying Information Society socio-economic impact indicators in Tunisia, Tunis, Tunisia. ECA, in collaboration with the Government of Tunisia through the National

Statistic Council and the Academia Research Network (ARN) working on Information Society Indicators will jointly organise a forum on: *"The Information Society socio-economic impact indicators and the Knowledge Economy"*. The ECA ARN team working on the Information Society indicators is examining socio-economic impact indicators in the Information Society by using Tunisia as a case study. So far, the team has successfully established a collaboration framework with existing statistics bodies including, the National Statistics Council, the National Institute of Statistics, the Statistics Training Institution and other specialised bodies and has successfully identified for a pilot phase a core group of socio-economic impact indicators. The workshop aims at reviewing the work of the research team and provide an implementation framework. The national Council of Statistics will use this opportunity to launch a permanent group of statisticians and ICT experts to coordinate the Tunisian Knowledge Economy's continuous data collection, analysis and dissemination process. More: Thierry Amoussougbo (tamoussougbo@uneca.org).

11 – 13 April 2007, Knowledge Management Capacity for African Research Institutes and Networks: Western Africa Workshop, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The Global Development Network (GDN) in cooperation with the Centre d'analyse des Politiques Economiques et Sociales (CAPESES), African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and the World Bank Institute (WBI), is organizing the 3rd in its series of sub-regional workshops across Sub-Saharan Africa entitled "Knowledge Management Capacity for African Research Institutes and Networks: Western Africa Workshop". Representatives of government, non-profit, private and university-based African research institutes and networks were invited for the workshop. The workshop aims at strengthening the operations of West African research institutes and networks by exposing them to knowledge management concepts, tools and approaches, and helping them to develop Action Plans to enhance their organizational capacity. This workshop comes as a follow-up to previous workshops held in Cairo, Egypt in February 2005, in Kampala, Uganda in June 2006, and in Johannesburg, South Africa in November 2006. More: <http://www.gdnet.org/middle.php?oid=1177>

23 – 26 April 2007, First International Conference on Research Challenges in Information Science, Ouarzazate, Morocco. The First International Conference on Research Challenges in Information Science (RCIS) aims at providing an international forum for scientists, researchers, engineers and developers from a wide range of information science areas to exchange ideas and approaches in this evolving field. More: <http://www.farcampus.com/rcis/index.php>

23 – 26 April 2007, Combating Cybercrime in the SADC Region, Cape Town, South Africa. Organised by the Centre of Specialisation in Public Administration and Management (CESPAM), this four-day Executive Training Programme will deal with issues and good practices necessitated by the rise of cybercrime. These include the legal infrastructure to regulate the safe flow of information and secure transacting; specific provisions to deter cybercrime; computer forensics to ascertain criminal responsibility and – more important – to prevent crime; issues of security; best practice in systems management and standards; governance of the Internet; capacity-building within the policing, judicial and IT-support functions for managing this new socio-economic phenomenon; and combating the rise of cybercrime. The event is sponsored by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany through its aid agency (GTZ). More: <http://www.cespam.net>

24 – 26 April 2007, Digital Africa (DA07) - The 5th Annual Digital Africa Summit, Cape Town, South Africa. The Digital Africa Summit is an opportunity for all those involved in the state of ICT in Africa to come together and discuss, dissect and demystify the issues surrounding ICT. Now in its fifth year, The Digital Africa Summit (DA) has developed into the place for executive level delegates to discuss their issues with solution providers and consultants. More: <http://www.worldsummits.com>

29 April – 5 May 2007, The Fifth Meeting of the Committee on Development Information (CODI V), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Committee on Development Information (CODI) is one of the seven subsidiary bodies of the ECA, providing ECA with policy and technical guidance for the sub-programme "Harnessing Information for Development". The theme of CODI V is *"Employment and the Knowledge Economy in Africa"*. The meeting will explore the institutional foundations and policy dimensions of employment in the Knowledge Economy, and illuminate fundamental policy choices that member States have to make in developing or enhancing knowledge-centric employment in African economies. Reports and discussions will focus on the following sub-themes: a) ICT and the Knowledge Economy: innovation, productivity and expansion of opportunities for entrepreneurship and employment, b) Enhancement of employability through access to information and knowledge in libraries and other information services, c) Geo-information dimensions of employment policies in the Knowledge Economy, d) Indicators and measurement challenges in Employment and the Knowledge Economy; and e) Employment in the information sectors, including ICT industries, geomatics and information services. More: <http://www.uneca.org/codi/>

9 – 11 May 2007, IST-Africa 2007 Conference & Exhibition, Maputo, Mozambique. Part of the IST-Africa Initiative, which is supported by the European

Commission under the Information Society Technologies (IST) Programme, dubbed as IST-Africa 2007 is the second in an Annual Conference Series bringing together delegates from leading commercial, government & research organisations, to bridge the Digital Divide by sharing knowledge, experiences, lessons learnt & good practice. Hosted by the Government of Mozambique and technically co-sponsored by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), IST-Africa 2007 focuses on Applied IST research in the areas of ICT for Networked Enterprise, Infrastructure, ICT for Environmental Risk Management, eGovernment and eDemocracy, Technology Enhanced Learning and Skills, ICT for Inclusion, eHealth and International Cooperation. More: <http://www.ist-africa.org/conference2007>

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) infrastructure 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 potential advanced telecommunication technologies offer for the benefit of Africa. More: <http://www.elearning-africa.com>

ANNOUNCEMENTS/RESOURCES

e-Governance - The Case of DistrictNet in Uganda. In this report, IICD presents and evaluates an e-governance programme in Uganda. The programme, DistrictNet, tries to provide transparency at the local government level and to improve the provision of public information through the implementation of ICTs. DistrictNet started in 2002 and is on-going. The achievements of the programme are presented and evaluated according to the criteria of the three domains of e-governance and their impact on government processes. On the basis of this evaluation, IICD elicit lessons that can be used to guide similar programmes at the local government levels in the developing world. More: <http://www.iicd.org/articles/DistrictNetUganda>

"Knowledge, Power and Dissent" – a new publication from UNESCO. The publication subtitled "Critical Perspectives on Higher Education and Research in Knowledge Society", explores the relationship between the knowledge society and higher education. As part of the Education on the Move series, it seeks an understanding of how to ensure sustainable human development. More: http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=23840&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Programme Design for Regional Capacity Building in Africa: The case of CATIA (Catalysing Access to ICT in Africa). This paper discusses challenges faced by the CATIA programme. It also presents general lessons learned that could be applied to the planning and implementing of any complex programme, particularly those seeking to build regional capacity in Africa. More: <http://www.catia.ws/>

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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