



PICTA Bulletin is a monthly publication that provides information on activities of members in the partnership, as well as offering news on ICT-related activities in Africa. This bulletin is also available at: <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/picta/PICTAbulletin>

NEWS: PICTA Members

GKP Africa preparatory meeting for GK III. The regional preparatory meeting for the third Global Knowledge Conference (GK III) took place from 5 – 6 June 2007 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso as the pre-event to the ICT best practices Forum that was held from 7 – 9 June 2007 organised by Microsoft in collaboration with the Government of Burkina Faso, ECA, and ADB. Ms. Eskedar Nega, Programme Officer of ECA's ICT, Science and Technology Division (ISTD) and Coordinator of GKP Africa briefed participants about the background and objectives of organizing the event to better prepare Africa for the global event – GK III. She further noted that ECA, as the coordinator of the regional node of GKP, is actively engaged in mobilizing various stakeholders in Africa around the themes of the GKIII– Emerging People, Emerging Markets and Emerging Technologies. The event was organized with the aim of creating greater awareness by various stakeholders such as GKP Africa members, media, civil society, government, youth, etc about the themes. In this way it was possible to come up with concrete recommendations as well as documenting best practices in the region. Over 56 participants drawn from 19 countries attended the meeting, and the outcomes of the discussions will feed into GK III. More: <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/gkpa-gk3PrepMeeting.htm>

ICT Best Practices Forum for West and Central Africa. Microsoft, in collaboration with the Government of Burkina Faso, the African Development Bank, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, organised the ICT Best Practices Forum for West and Central Africa, from 7 to 9 June 2007 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The Regional ICT Best Practices Forum served as a practical way for high-level officials from the different regions in Africa to share their specific experiences and demonstrate practical examples of successful technology solutions in their respective countries. They will also allow for such solutions to be more easily replicated (particularly given the skills shortfall in the region), and encourage an increase in

technology investment overall. More: <http://www.ictbestpractices.net/>

GKP Celebrates a Decade of Partnership Excellence. GKP is 10 years old in 2007! To celebrate 10 years of Knowledge Sharing and Building Partnerships, a number of activities will be announced in the coming months, culminating with the GKP 10th birthday party for Network Members in December 2007. More: <http://www.globalknowledge.org>

GKP Releases its Annual Report 2006. The GKP Network's 48-page Annual Report for 2006 is now available for download. Featuring the word "Vision" in Braille on the cover, it contains an excellent insight into what GKP is, does and the people and organisations behind this global multi-stakeholder partnership promoting Knowledge and ICT for Development. More: <http://www.globalknowledge.org>

IICD highlights the importance of ICT for poverty reduction. On Saturday June 30, 2007, IICD signed an agreement in cooperation with Hivos, OneWorld Netherlands, Atos Origin, Inter Access and Logica CMG, which outlines the importance of ICT-enabled development (ICD4D) and knowledge-based partnerships based on the eighth Millennium Development Goal (MDG). Prince Bernhard van Oranje, member of the Board of IICD signed on behalf of IICD and its partners. More: <http://www.iicd.org/>

Regulators and Industrialists address ICT infrastructure gap in Africa: ICT seen as catalyst for overall development. A two-day forum on Telecommunications/ICT Regulation in Africa (FTRA-2007) was held from 6-7 June 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya. Organized by ITU in collaboration with the Communication Commission of Kenya (CCK), the Forum brought together African regulators and industrialists to share experiences and develop new approaches for ICT infrastructure-sharing and low-cost solutions in an effort to expand access to information and communication technologies (ICT) across the continent. The aim of the Forum, held for the eighth year running, was to stimulate the development of Africa's ICT infrastructure for important business, government and consumer applications and services that will, in turn, support employment and economic growth in the region. In particular, the regulators and industry participants examined options for sharing infrastructure. To

complement the work of FTRA-2007, the Public and Private Sector Partnership Forum in Africa was held 4–5 June 2007. It was organized by ITU and its African Working Group on private sector issues in collaboration with CCK. It was noted that FTRA-2007 will help lay the groundwork for the upcoming Connect Africa Summit to be held in Kigali, 29–30 October 2007. More: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/afr/>

New online tool charts cyber security standards developments: Essential guidance for cyber security architects. ITU has developed an online tool to keep track of crucial work on ICT security standards through a single access point. For the first time, ICT security vendors, service providers, developers, researchers and the public will now have security standards at their fingertips, with one common user interface. The guide, called the ICT Security Standards Roadmap, brings together information about existing standards and work in progress by the world's key standards developers. It is a collaborative effort between ITU, the European Network and Security Information Agency (ENISA) and the Network and Information Security Steering Group (NISSG). The standards are in a searchable database format with links to their sources. The launch follows the announcement in May 2007 by ITU Secretary-General Dr Hamadoun Touré, of the ITU Global Cyber Security Agenda. The Global Cyber Security Agenda is an ambitious two-year plan to curb cyber crime. More: http://www.itu.int/newsroom/press_releases/2007/NP07.html

NEWS: ECA Activities

Second Meeting of the fifth African Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC-5). Since 1997, five committees have been established (ATAC I, II, III, IV and V). ATAC V held its first meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 12 - 14 December 2006. The meeting made recommendations to organize a retreat to further discuss the work programme of the repositioned DISD into ISTD (ICT and Science & Technology Division) of ECA in order to provide appropriate advice on implementation. Accordingly, a retreat was organized in Maputo, Mozambique from 30-31 May 2007 back to back with the e-Government and Gender workshop organized by ECA and Industry Canada. As a way forward, the meeting developed a matrix to map out activities on ICT, Geoinformation and Science and Technology for ECA's activities in the coming years. ATAC members discussed the vision, goals and objectives of the African Information Society Initiative (AISI) and found them more than relevant and up to date as a framework for spearheading development of the knowledge economy in Africa. They recommended its continuous use and asked the Chairperson of ATAC V to prepare a statement to this effect. More: <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/atac5secondMeeting.htm>

Anglophone African countries call for sharing experiences in addressing gender mainstreaming in ICT strategies. A workshop on Gender and e-Government, which took place in Maputo, Mozambique for Anglophone countries from 28 to 30 May 2007, was the second of its kind in Africa. Over thirty participants from eighteen Anglophone countries attended. The first workshop was held in Tunis, Tunisia in June 2006 for Francophone countries. In a message delivered on behalf of Ms. Wendy Ace, Director of Canadian ePolicy Resource Centre (CePRC), participants were informed of Canada's efforts in addressing gender mainstreaming issues, as well as its support to African countries in similar areas. The workshop concluded by coming up with a framework for a pan-African Action Plan for Gender and e-Government. The ECA and CePRC under the Global ePolicy Resource Network (ePol-NET), the Mozambican Ministry of Science and Technology, and the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) organized the workshop. More: <http://www.epolafrica.org/gender-ict/>

Experts assess Ghana's e-trade progress. A two-day roundtable to review a study on ICTs, trade and economic growth in Ghana was held from 25 – 26 June 2007 in Accra, Ghana. The roundtable was aimed at reviewing a country study conducted by a team of local consultants in the framework of the ePolicy Resource Network (ePol-NET), as well as the ICTs, Trade and Economic Growth Initiative supported by the Canadian government. The consultants made presentations on key findings and recommendations of the country study. The study identified areas such as Business Process Outsourcing (BPOs) as well as outsourcing ICT services as key strategic areas to be developed further so as to exploit the full potential of ICTs for Ghana's economic growth. Some 30 participants attended the roundtable, including two deputy ministers, the ICT private sector, representatives from ministries, research and academic institutions, and members of the National ICT Committee. More: <http://www.uneca.org/istd/news/070625ghana.asp>

Workshop held to boost ICT, STI awareness in Ugandan parliament. Boosting parliament's role in promoting ICT was the theme of a two-day workshop held in Entebbe, Uganda from 15-16 June 2007, facilitated by ECA's ICT, Science and technology Division (ISTD). Over 45 MPs and staff from the Ugandan parliament took part in the event on the theme "The role of Parliament in promoting ICT, Science, Technology and Innovation (ISTI) for development". The workshop was organized in the context of ECA's e-Policy Resource Network for Africa (ePolnet) (<http://www.epolafrica.org>), which was set up with support from the Canadian government to provide expertise, guidance and advice to African countries in implementing national e-strategies. The workshop served as a platform for developing action plans for these two committees. It increased the understanding of committee members

on their role in supporting ICT, Science, Technology and Innovation for development in Uganda. Participants suggested that "innovation" be added to the name of the S&T Committee. They resolved to lobby the government for the creation of an STI policy and the appointment of a separate minister. More: <http://www.uneca.org/istd/news/070619uganda.asp>

ICT significantly impacting Egyptian economy. An ECA-sponsored study on the relationship between ICT and economic growth has revealed significant impacts on the Egyptian economy, according to Egyptian researcher Dr Nagwa El-Shenawy. She was presenting the findings of the study, financed by the Government of Canada under the Global ePolicy Resource Network (ePol-NET). The report, presented to stakeholders from the ICT and trade sectors in the country, found that the contribution of Egypt's ICT sector exceeds three percent of GDP. During the roundtable discussion, participants called on the Egyptian Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) to conduct an awareness campaign on the Egyptian e-signature law, as 37% of the surveyed enterprises still cited the lack of a legal framework as one of the difficulties faced in rolling out e-commerce in Egypt. Participants also stated the importance of using mobile communication as a potential tool for trade. More: <http://www.uneca.org/istd/news/070615Egypt.asp>

West African countries urge ECA to continue work on e-commerce. Participants in a West African regional workshop on e-commerce have called on ECA to continue its assistance to member states in this important area. The workshop, held within the framework of the African Information Society Initiative (AISII) from 11-12 June, was jointly organized in Niamey, Niger by ISTD and the ECA sub-regional office for West Africa. The workshop brought together regional ICT experts to discuss the policies and regulatory framework for the promotion of e-commerce, review obstacles to its expansion, exchange experiences and chart a roadmap for a Public Private Partnership on e-commerce in West Africa, in cooperation with ECOWAS and UEMOA. During the two days, the ICT experts and economists - mainly from ministries of finance and economic development, sub-regional institutions and UN organizations - exchanged information and discussed best practices in order to come up with recommendations to put in place a sustainable e-commerce programme for West Africa. More: <http://www.uneca.org/istd/news/070615e-commerce%20.asp>

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

New Report Monitors Political Will To Make The Information Revolution Reality For All. A new watchdog report (Global Information Society Watch report) monitoring promises made by governments and the United Nations to ensure that information

technology is used to benefit millions of people was launched in Geneva on May 22. It notes that the fruits of the information technology 'revolution' are unevenly distributed between countries and within societies. The gap is not only "digital". The reasons for the inequalities are complex but, claim the editors of the report from the Association for Progressive Communications and the Third World Institute, "experience shows that the status quo prevails unless citizens actively demand change from their governments". They say a 'Global Information Society Watch' is necessary to make governments and international organisations accountable. The report - the first in a series of annual reports - looks at the information and communication technology (ICT) policy at local and global levels and particularly how policy impacts on the lives of people in developing countries. Studies of the ICT policy situation in twenty-two countries from four regions are featured. In Africa they include Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda. The report concludes that when it comes to ICTs for development, there are some conspicuous similarities between countries. The report also includes provocative, analytical essays on five international institutions (including the ITU, ICANN and the World Intellectual Property Organisation) questioning the extent to which they allow all stakeholders to participate in their processes. More: <http://www.GlobalsWatch.org>

Kenya: Regulators tread a well-worn path. Regulators and industry players in the ICT sector have identified the development of sound Information and Communication Technology (ICT) regulation as key to Africa's development agenda and said that ICT development should be regarded as a catalyst for overall development. During a two-day forum on Telecommunications/ICT Regulation in Africa (FTRA-2007), held mid-June in Nairobi, participants agreed that ICT has a chance of leapfrogging the continent regarding its developmental strategies. The forum was organized by the global ICT regulator, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in collaboration with the Communication Commission of Kenya (CCK). It brought together African regulators and industrialists to share experiences and develop new approaches for ICT infrastructure-sharing and low-cost solutions to expand access to ICT across the continent. More: <http://hana.ru.ac.za/>

EASSy breaks fresh ground. The East African Submarine Cable System (EASSy) has concluded interconnection agreements with three cable systems to carry traffic between Africa, Europe and Asia. It has also included the Comoros in its planned fibre network, to which 29 African entities are party. The cables are SAFE/SAT3, SEA ME-WE and FLAG, according to John Sihra, the coordinator of EASSy and a director with Tanzanian operator ZANTEL. The SAT3/WASC cable runs from Portugal, through Spain, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Angola to South Africa. SAFE

begins in South Africa, runs to La Reunion, Mauritius, and on to India and Malaysia. FLAG covers the Indian sub-continent and is extending to the Middle East and North Africa, while SEA ME-WE runs in the Middle East and North Africa. Sihra and other members of the EASSy steering committee ended a three-day meeting in Kampala, Uganda on June 8 to finalise legal paperwork for the interconnection deals and the inclusion of the Comoros, among others. They also harmonised the various legal documents they had drawn up since they signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in December 2003. More: <http://fibreforafrica.net/main.shtml?x=5078490>

New report on mobile telephony in Africa. Mobile GSM operators in sub-Saharan Africa are rapidly covering most populated areas with telephone services. A new report by SIDA makes an inventory of existing transmission backbones in 18 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, and discusses issues related to solutions for improved utilization of such networks. More: <http://eldis.webcrossing.com/docs/SidaBackbonefinal.pdf>

Policy options: WIPO and broadcasting. This document is a development analysis of the proposed WIPO Treaty on the Protection of Broadcasting and Cablecasting Organisations by the South Centre. The objective of the research paper is to help developing countries and other stakeholders, especially in the South, understand and critically review the various proposals for such a treaty and decide on policy options for the way ahead. More: <http://www.southcentre.org/publications/researchpapers/ResearchPapers9.pdf>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

17 – 18 July 2007, African Incubator Network Regional Workshop, Accra, Ghana. The focus of the West African Regional Workshop for AIN will be to develop a collaborative pan-African network of incubators and other business development service providers; facilitate the provision of appropriate knowledge to support the development of innovative small enterprises; and promote incubation as a successful tool for the growth of small businesses. More: Eric M.K Osiakwan / Annette Banson (ain@busyinternet.com).

17 – 18 July 2007, Third SANGONeT "ICTs for Civil Society" Conference and Exhibition, Johannesburg, South Africa. SANGONeT will host its third annual "ICTs for Civil Society" Conference and Exhibition from 17-18 July 2007 at the Wanderers Club in Johannesburg. The theme of this year's event is "Applications for the Development Sector". The event coincides with SANGONeT's twentieth anniversary, and will reflect on the progress that South African NGOs have made over the past 20 years in adopting and integrating ICTs in their work.

The conference programme will be informed by the findings of the "State of ICTs in the South African NGO Sector" research project that SANGONeT is implementing in conjunction with World Wide Worx. The conference will also be used to showcase specific ICT experiences and expertise of local NGOs, thus creating an environment for peer learning and support. The conference will cover various strategic ICT issues relevant to the work of the NGO sector, including online fundraising, monitoring and evaluation, building online communities, open source migration, open content, mobile applications, ICTs and HIV/AIDS, ICT procurement and community access to ICTs. The winners of the South African NGO Web Awards 2007 will be announced at the gala dinner on 17 July 2007. More: <http://www.sangonet.org.za/conference2007>

2 – 4 September 2007, ICT-Learn 2007 Conference, Cairo, Egypt. Organised by the Human and Technology Development Foundation (HDF) the upcoming HDF International Internet Education Conference ICT-Learn 2007 will be held in Cairo Egypt from 2-4 September 2007. The theme will be 'Learning Anytime ... Anywhere'. The Forum will draw approximately 500 participants of whom 100 are from across Arab Region and internationally. Participants are innovators, decision-makers and leaders in distance education, using leading-edge technology to deliver cutting-edge programs. The Forum will showcase strategies for accessible, effective and innovative education; quality assurance in education; technical and vocational education and training to achieve access for all; and pedagogical implications of electronic delivery of education. More: info@hdf.org.eg

24 – 26 September 2007, Global Forum on youth and ICTD, Geneva, Switzerland. The Global Alliance for ICT and Development will be holding its Global Forum on Youth and ICTD: Youth and ICT as Agents for Change, in Geneva on 24-26 September. The Forum will provide opportunities to showcase work and programmes in the area of ICT and Youth. The Market Place is one of the official Forum sessions offering the opportunity to organizations and individuals to show their youth-oriented projects, present initiatives/case studies/slide shows, or demonstrate innovative applications of technology with the aim of raising awareness, sharing experiences, acquiring new partners and/or members, and finding potential sponsors. More: <http://www.un-id.org/en/node/655>

ANNOUNCEMENTS/RESOURCES

Deadline for the 2007 AISI Media Awards is 15 August 2007. ECA and its partners are pleased to announce the 2007 AISI Media Awards. The deadline for the 2007 AISI Media Awards programme is 15th August 2007. Entries can be made in the following categories: 1) The AISI-SDC-GKP Media Awards

2007 – Radio, Print, Television/Video, and Multimedia/Web Media; focusing on “Emerging People”, “Emerging Technologies”, and “Emerging Markets” in Africa, 2) The AISI-IDRC Media Awards: Reporting on ICT Research and Innovation as well as Reporting on ICT Policy, and 3) The AISI-IICD Media Award on Local Content Applications, and Local Content. More:
<http://www.uneca.org/aisi/mediaaward.htm>

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Global Young Social Entrepreneurs' Competition.

The Global Young Social Entrepreneurs' Competition runs in all regions of the globe. Applications from Egypt are particularly encouraged, as country-specific funding has been made available in addition to the general competition funds. Winners will also be sponsored to attend the Young Social Entrepreneurs' Forum at the 3rd Global Knowledge Conference (GK3), a GKP Event on 'Emerging People, Emerging Markets, Emerging Technologies' that will bring 2000 participants to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 11 to 13 December 2007. GKP runs the Youth Social Enterprise Initiative (YSEI), a programme dedicated to young social entrepreneurs that offers support in the four key areas of knowledge, networking, mentorship and financing. <http://www.ysei.org> OR <http://www.globalknowledge.org>

The Stockholm Challenge GKP Awards 2007 is a new prize, launched by Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) and the Stockholm Challenge. It is designed as an integral part of the Stockholm Challenge 2008 and will open in four of the six ICT4D categories: Culture, Economic Development, Education and Public Administration. The Stockholm Challenge GKP Awards 2007 opened on 1 January 2007 and are accessible both from the GKP Portal and the Stockholm Challenge web site. **The Awards will close for entries on 31 August 2007.** The twelve selected finalists, three in each category, will be sponsored to attend the 3rd Global Knowledge Conference, An Event On The Future, in Kuala Lumpur from 11-13 December 2007 in order to exhibit their projects, to network and to be celebrated as finalists and possibly winners during the Stockholm Challenge GKP Awards 2007 Ceremony. The winners will also be sponsored to participate in the Stockholm Challenge Week and the Stockholm Challenge Award Night in May 2008. More: <http://www.stockholmchallenge.se/> OR <http://www.globalknowledge.org>

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: