



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

Connect Africa Summit adopts five goals to bridge the digital divide in Africa. The Connect Africa Summit which took place in Kigali, Rwanda, on 29 - 30 October 2007, ended with the adoption of five goals to bridge the digital divide in Africa. The Summit, which was held under the patronage of the President of Rwanda, Mr. Paul Kagame, was attended by over a thousand participants from 54 countries, including six Heads of State and Governments. Forty-three countries in Africa were represented, including 23 at the Ministerial level. Twenty leading companies also participated along with Development Banks, International organizations and other stakeholders. The UN Under Secretary General for Economic Affairs, Mr. Sha Zukang, represented the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Mrs. Lalla Ben Barka, the Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA, represented the Executive Secretary, Mr. Abdoulie Jannah. The following five Connect Africa Goals were adopted at the end of the Summit:

- Goal 1: Interconnect all African capitals and major cities with ICT broadband infrastructure and strengthen connectivity to the rest of the world by 2012.
- Goal 2: Connect African villages to broadband ICT services by 2015 and implement shared access initiatives such as community telecentres and village phones.
- Goal 3: Adopt key regulatory measures that promote affordable, widespread access to a full range of broadband ICT services, including technology and service neutral licensing/authorization practices, allocating spectrum for multiple, competitive broadband wireless service providers, creating national Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) and implementing competition in the provision of international Internet connectivity.
- Goal 4: Support the development of a critical mass of ICT skills required by the knowledge economy,

notably through the establishment of a network of ICT Centres of Excellence in each sub-region of Africa and ICT capacity-building and training centres in each country, with the aim of achieving a broad network of inter-linked physical and virtual centres, while ensuring coordination between academia and industry by 2015.

- Goal 5: Adopt a national e-strategy, including a cyber security framework, and deploy at least one flagship e-government service as well as e-education, e-commerce and e-health services using accessible technologies in each country in Africa by 2012, with the aim of making multiple e-government and other e-services widely available by 2015.

To help achieve these goals, many participants announced major commitments on the occasion of the Connect Africa Summit, totalling approximately US\$55 Billion. The meeting was organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the African Union, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the World Bank Group, the United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Telecommunication Union (ATU) and the Global Digital Solidarity Fund. More: http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/news/2007/main071106ConnectAfrica.htm

Connect Africa Summit: Capacity Building, Applications and Services. During the two-day Summit, delegates participated in a series of interactive sessions, debating issues related to the themes of broadband ICT networks, rural connectivity, capacity building, applications and services, and the enabling environment. ECA and GAID were in charge of the panel on "Capacity Building, Applications and Services". The objective of the Connect Africa Summit was to mobilize the human, financial and technical resources required to bridge major gaps in ICT infrastructure across the continent, with the aim of supporting affordable connectivity and applications and services to stimulate economic growth, employment and development throughout Africa. In doing so, the Summit also aimed to help accelerate the implementation of the connectivity goals of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and in turn, support the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa, building on and reinforcing existing activities, such as the African Information Society Initiative (AISI), the NEPAD Short

Term Action Plan on Infrastructure and the African Regional Action Plan on Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE). To prepare for the Summit, ECA in cooperation with the Canadian e-Policy Resource Centre (CePRC) and in partnership with the African Union, the Internet Society, ICANN and the Open Society for Southern Africa, organized two parallel workshops respectively on "Regulation and Public Access" and "Internet Governance" on 24-25 October which were attended by over 100 policymakers and stakeholders from member States. The workshops adopted a series of recommendations, which were tabled at a Ministerial Meeting of African Governments held on 26 October. More:

http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/news/2007/main071106ConnectAfrica.htm

UNESCO and Library of Congress sign agreement for World Digital Library. UNESCO and the US Library of Congress will join forces to build a World Digital Library, following the signing of an agreement by Abdul Waheed Khan, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, and the Librarian of Congress James H. Billington, at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 17 October 2007. The World Digital Library initiative will digitize unique and rare materials from libraries and other cultural institutions around the world and make them available free of charge on the Internet. These materials include manuscripts, maps, books, musical scores, sound recordings, films, prints and photographs. The World Digital Library initiative has been designed to promote international and inter-cultural understanding, increase the quality and diversity of cultural content on the Internet, and contribute to education and scholarship. Under the terms of the agreement, the Library of Congress and UNESCO will cooperate in convening working groups of experts and other stakeholders to develop guidelines and technical specifications for the project, enlisting new partners, and securing support from private and public sources. A key aspect of the project is to build digital library capabilities in developing countries so that all countries and all regions can participate and be represented in the World Digital Library. The project pursues work already undertaken by UNESCO's Memory of the World programme which seeks to preserve documentary heritage. More: http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=25521&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

New Chairman of ICANN Elected Unanimously. Peter Dengate Thrush, a New Zealand lawyer, has been elected unanimously as the new Chairman of the Board of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. Peter practices civil litigation, specializing in intellectual property, competition, and Internet law. He has been involved in ICANN since its inception. As a member of the Boston Working Group, he provided comment in 1998 on the early drafts of the ICANN bylaws, and he co-chaired one of

the pre-formation meetings of the Intellectual Property Constituency in Wellington, New Zealand. He has been President of InternetNZ, a leader of the country code Top Level Domain (ccTLD) community in the formation of the ccNSO, and was selected as a Board member after an international vote of ccTLD managers in the ccNSO in December 2004. He is currently on the President's Strategy, Board Finance, Board Governance, and Executive committees. The Board also unanimously re-elected Roberto Gaetano as Deputy Chair. Gaetano was selected by the 2006 Nominating Committee to serve as a Board Member. More:

http://www.icann.org/documents/vint_cerf/lttf.htm

NEWS: ECA Activities ECA Activities

Participants call for a scaling up of policy implementation activities. Over forty African policymakers and other stakeholders reached consensus on the need to move from policy development to implementation as most countries had developed policies which remained unimplemented for various reasons. The participants urged the ECA and its partners to continue supporting this process to ensure that benefits from the Information Society are realized. This was one of the major outcomes of a two-day expert group meeting organised by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in the framework of the Global E-policy Resource Network (e-PolNet) in partnership with the Canadian e-Policy Resource Centre (CePRC) and the Open Society for Southern Africa (OSISA). It is organised under the theme "National ICT Policies: Regulation and Public and Community-based Access" for Eastern, Western and Southern English-speaking African Countries and is being held at the Alpha-Palace Hotel in Kigali, Rwanda from 24-25 October 2007. This meeting is the third of its kind in Africa jointly organized by ECA and its partners, following two previous meetings in Douala, Cameroon and Dakar, Senegal for Francophone participants. The current meeting is unique in that the delegates will also have the opportunity to participate in two major events: the "Consultation on Internet Governance" to be held on 28th and 29th of October 2007 as a preparatory meeting to the Rio IGF Conference and the "Connect Africa Summit", which will be held on 29th and 30th of October 2007. Participants include representatives of local authorities, NICI focal points, regulators, cyber café managers, ISPs, civil society, private sector, women and youth entrepreneurs, the key players in the formulation and implementation of access related ICT policies and strategies. More: http://www.uneca.org/istd/news/2007102601_dna_istd_en.asp

Development of a Rural Electronic Schools Model in African Languages (ERELA), in primary school in Cameroon. Teaching and learning of local language in Cameroon educational systems have

started 25 years ago under the initiative "Operational Research Program for Language Education in Cameroon/Programme Opérationnel d'Enseignement des Langues au Cameroun (PROPELCA)", led by the National Association of Cameroonian Language Committees (NACALCO). More than 38 national languages have been successfully taught in primary schools. The NACALCO team, composed of more than 15 university lecturers, is conducting the ERELA implementation in the Primary Schools of Obout and Metsah Villages. The global objective of the ERELA project is to experiment, during a period of three years, a computational teaching and learning program of two Cameroon national languages in the two villages. The computer-based language learning systems have been implemented in the two villages and are used for language learning and teaching and for teachers and the community training in ICT. The project, supported by the Government of Finland, is in the framework of the ECA Academia Research Networks (ARN) launched to support R&D in African Universities for purposes of enhancing the role of academia (academics and institutions) in building Africa Information Society. More: Thierry Amoussougbo (tamoussougbo@uneca.org).

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

Civil society calls for new governance to make Internet accessible to Africans. Civil society calls for new governance to make Internet accessible to Africans. Convened by the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) on the 28th of October 2007, civil society groups have called for new forms of corporate governance to develop the ICT infrastructure in Africa. These new forms should "ensure the interests of all stakeholders, but above all, the interest of African consumers and citizens," the statement insists. The Kigali statement by African civil society delegates, academicians, researchers, consumer interest groups, and Internet service providers is made in light of the Connect Africa Summit that took place in Kigali from 29 – 30 October 2007. The African civil society welcomes the continued investment but asserts that it needs to be further encouraged through the implementation of a stable policy environment that protects the public interest. The statement recommends twelve improvements to stimulate the development of Internet and ICT infrastructure. Among them, it calls for governments to support the harmonisation of policy and regulation to develop and implement cross border connectivity. This means giving equal priority to the deployment of national backhaul networks and international access networks. The statement encourages governments to commit to supporting the development of national data, citizen-centred services and applications by themselves becoming key providers of content and implementing initiatives that attract organisations engaged in content and application development that improve access to education and healthcare. The joint statement was

issued on behalf of the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), the Open Society Institute for West Africa (OSIWA), Collaboration for ICT Policy in Eastern and Southern Africa (CIPEA), the Kenyan ICT Action Network (KICTANet), the African Internet Service Providers Associations (AfriSPA), and the Rwanda Research and Education Network (RERN). More:

<http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=5262405>

East Africa: Reform taxation laws on Telecommunications.

In a report released by Deloitte, East African mobile operators lose a third of their revenues to governments by way of taxes and other government tariffs. The Deloitte study suggests that if Rwanda for example goes on to impose the proposed 10 percent excise tax on mobile telephones, it would have the second highest tax rate in Africa, behind Uganda. The 2006 - 2007 Deloitte study dubbed, 'Taxation and the Growth of Mobile Phone in East Africa' indicates that taxation of mobile consumers in East Africa continues to soar and that it is now almost twice the 17.4 percent global average. The study, the second of a series commissioned by the global trade association for mobile phone operators, in collaboration with GSM Africa says that East Africans pay taxes of between 25 percent and 30 percent on mobile phone services, compared with an average of 17 percent across Africa. According to this study, 2006 saw the mobile industry accounting for a 5 percent of Kenya's GDP, 3.5 percent of Rwanda's GDP, 4.6 percent of Tanzania's GDP and 3.6 percent of Uganda's GDP. In 2006, the mobile industry's GDP contribution in East Africa ranged between 4 percent and 5 percent and the industry employed around 500,000 people in all the four East African countries. Other highlights from this study show that while 70 percent of East Africans have access to mobile networks, only 12 percent are connected. It also says that with only 100,000 mobile payphones in East Africa, mobile services account for more than 93 percent of the total telecom. More: <http://www.pambazuka.org/en/category/internet/44217>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

13 – 15 November 2007, Regional Conference on "Sharing experience on best practices in ICT services for persons with disabilities", Cairo, Egypt. This is the first Conference in the Arab Region organised by ITU, in cooperation with the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) on "Sharing experience on best practices in ICT services for persons with disabilities". The Conference will take place in Cairo, Egypt, 13 -15 November 2007, under the auspices of the Ministry of ICT of the Government of Egypt and H.E. the Minister Dr. Tarek Kamel. The Conference is open to administrators, policy makers, regulators, and all industries involved in the development of dedicated

ICT for persons with disabilities in addition to physicians and doctors from the Medical Sector. The main objective of the Conference is to create a global awareness on the importance of accessibility by all, including persons with disabilities, to ICT. More: <http://www.ituarabic.org/2007/Disabilities/index.htm>

20 – 21 November 2007, ICT4All Forum Tunis+2 on PPPs in ICTs, Hammamet, Tunisia. At the occasion of the Second anniversary of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society held in Tunis in November 2005, the Tunisian Government, in partnership with the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development, Global Alliance for ICT and Development, The African Development Bank, and Tunisian Union for Industry, Commerce and Handicraft, will organize the second edition ICT 4 All Forum-Tunis+2 in order to address the development of activities related to Public Private Partnership in ICTs. The event includes a forum and a technological exhibition and gathers high-level personalities among decision makers, government officials, and representatives from the business community, potential investors as well as international experts and participants from leading companies operating in this field. The program will include, in addition to the ministerial panel, four other thematic panels with the participation of eminent speakers (ministers, CEOs, international experts). The event will build up on the remarkable success of last year's Forum, which was attended by 13 African Ministers, President of the African Development Bank, leaders from the private sector and more than 600 high level participants. For its 2007 edition, ICT4ALL Forum-Tunis+2 will focus on the public-private partnerships as a tool for the development of ICT sector, particularly in Africa. More: <http://www.ict4allforum.tn>

28 – 30 November 2007, The Fourth Web for Development (Web4Dev) Conference, Nairobi, Kenya. The Conference's theme is "Driving economic and social development with the Internet", and will focus on helping developing countries bridge the digital divide. Since its inception at a Conference organised by the World Bank in 2003, the Web for Development meetings are now well established as a forum for the web community of UN agencies, and international development civil society organisations interested in using their expertise to show how the Internet can promote development. The three Conferences already held have evolved to include not only the public sector, but the private sector as well. More: <http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=546>

10 – 11 December 2007, Workshop on Harmonised ICT Legal Framework for West Africa, Lome, Togo. With the objective of building the Information Society within the West Africa sub-region with particular reference to the intra sub-regional trade liberalization and facilitation, including e-commerce, the ECA is collaborating with the Economic Community of West African States

(ECOWAS) and Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine (UEMOA) to develop a harmonised legal framework for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for West Africa. In this context, the workshop is organised to discuss the draft guidelines for harmonized ICT legal framework for West Africa. The workshop is a follow-up of the previous one organized in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), which discussed the content of the study, and made recommendations taking into account experience and activities in the countries. Participants to the workshop will represent Governments in charge of ICTs, Civil Society, Private Sectors and Researchers in Cyber Laws. More: Mohamed Timoulali (mtimoulali@uneca.org).

11 – 13 December 2007, GK3, An Event On The Future: Emerging People, Emerging Markets, Emerging Technologies, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. GK3 will bring together over 2,000 visionaries, international leaders, practitioners and policy-makers to engage on the theme: Emerging People, Emerging Markets, and Emerging Technologies. GK3 will be presented in a wide array of expert panels and hands-on workshops. Delegates attending GK3 will walk away from the Conference confident in the knowledge that they too will be able to make a positive impact on the growing concerns around the world. GK3 will present an excellent array of expert panels and hands-on workshops. More: <http://www.GKPEventsOnTheFuture.org>

ANNOUNCEMENTS/RESOURCES

PICTA Mailing List migrated to Dgroups platform. The PICTA Mailing List (picta-cl@lyris.bellanet.org) was migrated to Dgroups platform, and the new address is: picta-cl@dgroups.org, <http://www.dgroups.org/groups/picta> On behalf of all PICTA members, ECA would like to thank Bellanet for the continued and excellent support provided to PICTA.

Nine Finalists Selected For Stockholm Challenge - GKP Awards 2007. A total of 119 projects had been nominated for the Stockholm Challenge – GKP Awards 2007, and nine were chosen by the jury as the best examples of the role of Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Development. The winners will be announced and celebrated during GK3, and sponsored by GKP to participate in Stockholm Challenge Week in May 2008. More: http://www.globalknowledge.org/gkps_portal/newsmaster.cfm?&menuid=2&parentid=79&action=view&retrievid=451

GKP Congratulates 100 Winners of its Global Young Social Entrepreneurs' Competition. GKP's Global Young Social Entrepreneurs' Competition Highlights the Unique and Innovative Ability of the World's Youth to Address Social Issues. Global

Knowledge Partnership (GKP) announced 100 winners for the "Global Young Social Entrepreneurs' Competition". The 100 winners from 38 countries are awarded with a trip to Kuala Lumpur to attend the Young Social Entrepreneurs' Forum (YSEF). YSEF is part of GKP's Third Global Knowledge Conference (GK3) activities in December 2007. The winners will meet representatives from funding organisations and will benefit from networking, knowledge sharing, and mentoring opportunities. Ten of the winners will be selected to present their business ideas for funding in an open GK3 session. The Global Competition is evaluated by an international 21-member Jury and is supported by GKP members, UN Development Programme (UNDP), International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). More: http://www.globalknowledge.org/gkps_portal/newsmaster.cfm?&menuid=2&parentid=79&action=view&retrieveid=449

APC launches new book on WSIS, developing countries and civil society: Time for lessons learned. The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) has been roundly criticised in the past and this new study from APC concludes that the Summit "is not the best starting point for new action." So, what is the point of looking at how developing country delegations and civil society fared at the Summit? Because, says the author "it is always important to learn from experience – particularly where it did not deliver up to expectations." The book "Whose Summit? Whose Information Society? Developing countries and civil society at the World Summit on the Information Society", commissioned by APC and written by David Souter draws on participants' observations, detailed interviews with forty key actors and case studies of experiences rooted in five developing countries. WSIS holds many lessons for developing countries and civil society organisations aiming to exert greater influence in international ICT decision-making fora. Some lessons demonstrate what worked well – such as the highly successful, multi-stakeholder Internet Governance Forum (IGF). The majority illustrate what did not work so well – not least, holding a four-year long meeting on such a fast-changing topic. More: <http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=5202187>

The UN, Google and Cisco Unveil Online Resource in the Fight to Decrease Global Poverty. MDG Monitor Tracks Progress to Development Goals. The United Nations, Google and Cisco today unveiled a pioneering online site that tracks progress towards decreasing global poverty by 2015, a global campaign known as the Millennium Development Goals, or MDGs. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched the project, called MDG Monitor, and highlighted the urgent need to increase global cooperation. The site is available at: <http://www.mdgmonitor.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:

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