



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

The third Global Knowledge Conference (GK3).

The GKP Event on the Future, Third Global Knowledge Conference, GK3, which took place from 11 – 13 December 2007 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia was very successful in providing the platform for the world ICT4D community to share knowledge and forge partnerships. The Conference was opened by Deputy PM Najib Tun Razak on behalf of H. E. Mr. Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia. The Executive Secretary of ECA, Mr. Abdoulie Janneh has also attended the opening session. GK3 attracted a total of 1,766 registered participants from 135 countries, comprising 50% from Asia and Oceania, 5% from the Arab world, 9% from Commonwealth independent nations, 14% from the African continent, 5% from Latin America and the Caribbean and 17% from North America and Europe. Through 3 days of interactions, intensive debates and discussions, certain threads of 'Emerging People, Emerging Markets, Emerging Technologies' surfaced which can guide the ICT4D community in continuing to address the challenges and reap opportunities in development. More:

<http://www.gkpeventsonthefuture.org/>

The 2007 AISI-GKP Media Award winners honoured at GK3.

The winners of the African Information Society Initiative (AISI)-GKP Media Awards 2007 were announced at the GK3 Gala Dinner on Tuesday, 11 December. The Awards were organised by the ECA and supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD). Aida Opoku-Mensah, Director of the ICT, Science and Technology Division of ECA, who said that the AISI Media Awards were introduced in 2003 to encourage more informed coverage of the information society and ICT for development issues in Africa as part of ECA's Information Society Outreach and Communication Programme, announced the winners of the eight award categories. The awards

were presented by representatives of GKP and the respective award co-sponsors, namely:

- Rinalia Abdul Rahim, Executive Director of GKP
- Beate Wilhelm, Assistant Secretary General, SDC
- Pamela Passman, Corporate Vice President, Global Corporate Affairs, Microsoft Corporation
- Rohinton Medhora, Vice President – Programmes, IDRC
- Jac Stienen, Managing Director, IICD

For list of winners and finalists and more info: <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/mediaaward.htm>

Stockholm Challenge - GKP Awards 2007 Winners honoured at GK3.

The four winners for the Stockholm Challenge - GKP Awards 2007 were announced and celebrated during GK3. More: http://www.globalknowledge.org/gkps_portal/newsmaster.cfm?&menuid=2&action=view&retrieveid=463

UN partners with European Commission to boost ICT investment.

A new agreement between the United Nations telecommunications agency and the European Commission aims to attract greater investments in information and communication technology infrastructure in the Caribbean, Africa and Asia and the Pacific. The collaboration between the UN International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Commission is a follow-up to commitments made at the Connect Africa Summit in Kigali, Rwanda, in October when the EC expressed support for the agency's regulatory reform initiatives in Africa. In a press statement from its Geneva headquarters, the ITU notes that over the past decade, most countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and the Caribbean have begun reforms in the telecommunication sector, including through setting up national regulatory bodies and introducing competition. The new agreement aims to harmonize regulatory frameworks within the different regions. It also seeks to build human and institutional capacity in the field of ICT through a range of training, education and knowledge-sharing measures. As part of the agreement, the European Union has allocated 8 million Euros from the European Development Fund, to which ITU will add \$500,000 of its own resources. The work will be managed and implemented by ITU. More: http://www.itu.int/newsroom/press_releases/2007/39.html

ECA's Aida Opoku-Mensah Speaks on the State of ICT Development in Africa. In an interview conducted with GKP, Ms. Aida Opoku-Mensah, Director of ICTs, Science and Technology Division of the ECA tells GKP about the state of development in Africa, reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and ECA's work in achieving both. ECA is represented on the GKP Executive Committee and is also GKP Africa's Regional Coordinator. More: http://www.globalknowledge.org/gkps_portal/index.cfm

ICT 4 All Forum in Tunis. At the occasion of the Second anniversary of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) held in Tunis in 2005, the Tunisian Government organised the ICT 4 All Forum from 20 –21 November 2007 in Hammamet, Tunisia. The event, which included a forum and a technological exhibition, brought together on high-level policymakers, government officials, representatives from the private sector, potential investors as well as experts from international organizations. The Forum addressed the issue of Public Private Partnership (PPP) in ICTs as a tool for development. The Forum was organised in line with paragraph 98 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the WSIS in Tunis in 2005. Several organizations including ECA, the African Development Bank, UNCTAD, ITU and the Tunisian Federation of ICT Employers participated in the Forum. Mrs. Lala Ben Barka, Deputy Executive Secretary of the ECA, in her remarks representing ECA at the Forum, put emphasis on ECA's commitment in developing partnerships and gave the examples of the Commission hosting the secretariat of several multilateral ICT for development partnerships, such as the Global Alliance on ICT and Development (GAID), the Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) and PICTA. More: <http://www.ict4allforum.tn/>

Dutch IT company Altran supports ICT projects in Tanzania and Zambia. The International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD) has been collaborating with the Dutch subsidiary of the consultancy organization, Altran, since October 2007 on several IICD-supported projects that need technical assistance and advice about eGovernance. Altran consultants will spend the first year focussing on projects in Tanzania and Zambia, possibly expanding to other countries at a later date. More: <http://www.iicd.org/articles/dutch-it-company-altran-supports-ict-projects-in-tanzania-and-zambia>

APC makes recommendations to UN Internet governance forum. The second Internet governance forum took place in November in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It was the second meeting of five convened by the United Nations over five years to discuss the future of the world's most critical communications resource. The Association for Progressive Communications (APC) presented an initial assessment and made suggestions for moving

towards the third forum in India in December 2008. Recommendations included the establishment of a self-regulatory mechanism to ensure participation, access to information and transparency in Internet governance, convening regional and national IGFs, working groups to address complex issues, more resources for the IGF secretariat, strengthening the capacity and legitimacy of the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group, making better use of plenary time and passing of lessons learned by former IGF hosts Brazil and Greece to New Delhi. More: <http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=5340227>

NEWS: ECA Activities ECA Activities

ECA Panels/Workshops during GK3. The first Panel was on "Building Knowledge Societies, What Makes the Difference? People or Policies in Africa?" , and the second was on "Rural Societies, Technologies and Languages in Africa". The first Panel addressed key questions such as what are the key features of the knowledge and information Society in Africa? Can knowledge and information transform African societies? If so how? What will make the difference? People or Policies? How can people be empowered in the Information and Knowledge societies? Moderated by Ms. Aida Opoku-Mensah, Director, ISTD, ECA, the Panellists were Declan Kirrane, Founder and Managing Director, Intelligence in Science, Yam Nyarko, Professor, New York University, Hyeun-Suk Rhee, Director, United Nations ESCAP - Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (UN-APCICT). For the second Panel, the Panellists tackled the difficulties associated with access to ICT as a result of limitation of language. This Panel was moderated by Ms. Aida Opoku-Mensah and the Panellists were John Dada, Director Fantsuam Foundation, Nigeria; Nafissatou Mbodj, Executive Director, SchoolNet Africa, Senegal; Adama Samassekou, Executive Secretary, ACALAN, Mali; Mouhamet Diop, CEO, NEXT/ Khewal, Senegal; and Adel Elzah, IDRC- Cairo, Egypt. More: <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/eca-gk3.htm>

Knowledge summit comes to Africa. The Economic Commission for Africa was supporting African coverage of proceedings at the third Global Knowledge Partnership, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Ten Highway Africa News reporters hailing from South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Zambia, Seychelles and Senegal were producing daily wire copy for a Special HANA GKP digest, which was distributed to over 1600 subscribers. The editor of the articles, Zachary Ochieng from Kenya said, "UNECA's support is a clear indication of its commitment to enable Africa to achieve the Millennium Development Goals through use of ICTs." This activity was made possible through the financial support received from the Swiss Agency for

Development and Cooperation (SDC). The news articles filed by the team are available at: <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/eca-gk3.htm>

Regional Stakeholders Workshop on Knowledge Networks for disadvantaged communities. Twenty participants, comprising managers of community access points, telecentre network leaders, project coordinators and managers of ICT initiatives from eight countries participated in a two-day “Regional Stakeholders Workshop on Knowledge Network Strategies, Mechanisms & Tools” held from 3 - 5 December 2007 in Kampala, Uganda. The participants were from Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The workshop is the third activity in a seven activity joint United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)-led UN Regional Commissions’ initiative whose outcome is that of empowering poor and disadvantaged communities through the transformation of selected ICT access points into knowledge hubs of global knowledge networks. The initiative is in line with the realisation that community access points can be the most effective tools in the realization of many socio-economic development goals and as such, need to be re-designed differently to be able to disseminate knowledge in key areas of sustainable development i.e. employment, education, gender and health. The transformation into service and community development hubs as well as centres for exchanging business information and providing sustainable sources of revenue would therefore extend the access centre model beyond the original model that only focuses on access to ICT’s. More: <http://www.uneca.org/disd/news/istd-dna-2007120301-en.asp>

ECOWAS adopts Guidelines on combating cyber crime. ICT experts from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) adopted new guidelines on combating cyber crime in the sub-region, following a workshop that concluded on 11 December in Lome, Togo. The guidelines were developed by the ECA in response to a request made by ECOWAS and the West African Monetary Union (UEMOA). The guidelines are aimed at modernizing the instruments for promoting e-commerce, preserving personal data and curbing cyber crime through the necessary sub-regional and national legislation. ECOWAS Heads of States are expected to adopt the guidelines as directives in 2008. ICT experts, lawyers, parliamentarians, private banks, economic operators, academia and economists from West Africa attended the workshop. ECOWAS, UEMOA, the African Union (AU) Commission, the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO), the West African Telecommunications Assembly (WATRA) and the International Organization of Francophony (OIF) also attended. The workshop also adopted a roadmap for implementing the guidelines at the sub-regional and national levels; and proposed the establishment of a West African Council on ICTs

to monitor implementation of the guidelines and other matters related to the Information Society. More: <http://www.uneca.org/disd/events/2007/ecowas-legal-framework/>.

ECA Head Abdoulie Janneh brokers partnerships with Europe for a science driven development in Africa. “We need no less than a scientific revolution in Africa,” said Abdoulie Janneh, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the ECA to EU parliamentarians early December in Brussels. The EU parliamentarians as well as representatives from the Council, Commission officials, industry representatives, stakeholders and policy makers had gathered for a preliminary hearing on the “Science with Africa” Conference to be hosted by ECA and other partners from 3 – 7 March 2008 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. More: <http://www.uneca.org/disd/news/istd-dna-2007120501-en.asp>

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

Kenya’s cyber law being developed. Kenya’s cyber law, when enacted, could be adopted as a model law for other countries within the East African Community (EAC) — Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi — which are yet to enact such kind of legislation to give regulatory direction for ICT-related transactions. Already, a process has been initiated under the auspices of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Washington’s Economic Growth Agriculture and Trade/Information Technology and Energy (EGAT/IT&E) Bureau to guide the process leading to the development of the legislation in Kenya. The initiative, called e-Legislation policy development initiative for the East African Community (EAC) — Kenya Cyber Law model, is facilitated through the Digital Opportunity through Technology and Communications Partnerships (DOT-COM), policy component that is managed by the Academy for Educational Development (AED). The process is run in collaboration with Kenya’s Directorate of e-Government and implemented by Afrika ICT Strategies Inc., a consulting and research firm with head offices in Washington and a subsidiary office in Kenya. More: <http://standardkenya.newsstand.com/>

Rwanda becoming Africa’s high-tech hub. Rwanda becoming Africa’s high-tech hub Kigali, Rwanda - Sometime in the next two years, nearly every school in Rwanda – from distant mountain villages to swelling urban areas – will be hooked up to the Internet. And it won’t be some crummy dial-up service. It will be high-speed broadband, carried by fiber-optic cables. The fact that Rwanda is closing in on this goal without having the massive oil wealth of Angola or Sudan, the diamonds of Congo or South Africa, or even the copper of nearby Zambia is a testimony to the power of imagination. And Rwanda

imagines that one day, it will be the information technology center of Africa. ECA and its partners assisted Rwanda to develop its national e-Strategy and plan in two phases: NICI 2000-2005 and NICI 2006-2010. "In 2000, we decided to transform the country from agricultural subsistence to a knowledge-based economy," says Albert Butare, Rwanda's minister of state for energy and communications. With two fiber-optic rings around Kigali, and cable being laid across the country, Rwanda is well on its way to being wired. "Once we've reached the towns of each sector, it's like you've covered the whole country. In another two years, we should be there." Rwanda's dream of becoming the Singapore of Africa – an information-technology hub for the resource-rich nations of Eastern and Central Africa – is a point of pride for the government, a matter of concern for some Rwandans, and a curiosity for just about everyone else. Government officials and business leaders see high-tech as the best way to lift one of the world's least-developed countries into a better position to compete globally. Source: CSMONITOR <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/1017/p01s02-woaf.html>

New website to help NGOs share ideas on technology. Nokia and Vodafone have launched a new website designed to help share ideas on how to use mobile communications for social and environmental benefits. The site, www.shareideas.org, was created in direct response to NGO calls for better tools and information to help them use mobile services more effectively in their work. Although initially created with support from Nokia and Vodafone, the site will be developed by a wide range of individuals and organizations interested in using mobile technology for social change. The wiki format means people can edit, update or comment on case studies and stories on the site, and add their own from wherever they are around the world. Case studies are grouped into six key areas - civic engagement, economic empowerment, education, environment, health and safety, and humanitarian relief projects - topics chosen after consultation with many NGOs. Stories already shared on the site include how the development of an SMS alert system has made it possible for one organization to mobilize hundreds of volunteers to carry out emergency clean up efforts in the event of an oil spill in the Baltic Sea. Other examples include how mobile games have been created in Africa and India to educate the public about HIV/AIDS and prevention measures, and how teachers in remote areas in the Philippines are receiving training and state of the art learning materials through a simple SMS message. Tips and advice to help NGOs use mobile devices to help manage their work and communication between their teams or their supporters are also available on the site. More: <http://www.nokia.com/A4136002?newsid=1134399>

Rwanda takes ICT to street kids. Rwanda will launch an extensive campaign aimed at taking

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to street boys in the country. The project, initiated in Africa by One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) is aimed at equipping every Rwandan child with a laptop. The laptops would also be given out to children in all primary schools in the country. Last October's Connect Africa International summit on ICT, set the goal of ensuring Internet access to every African by 2012. At least US\$ 300 million will be invested in projects, which will promote Information and Communication Technology in Africa. More: http://www.africanews.com/site/list_messages/12854

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

29 January 2008, Web 2.0 Conference & Expo 2008, Santa Clara, California, U.S.A. The Second Annual WebGuild Web 2.0 Conference & Expo will cover popular Web 2.0 technologies as well as those shaping the future direction of the Web. Learn from industry experts and thought leaders, connect with the companies changing the rules of the game, and those redefining the future. The conference will feature keynotes, panels, expo, awards, and networking sessions. More: <http://www.webguild.org/meetings/web20/2008/index.php>

3 – 7 March 2008, Science with Africa: Improving African participation in global R&D, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Organised by ECA and ISC – Intelligence in Science aims at exploring how African science based entities can increase their collaboration with and participation in international science R&D projects. The Conference will be a follow-up to the January 2007 African Heads of States Summit in which the leaders declared 2007 the year of science and technology and strongly urged all members countries to allocate 1% of their GDP to R&D by 2020. The Conference will inaugurate the Science with Africa Office (SWAO), which will serve as contact point for questions regarding collaborative research and act as a forum for establishing best practices in collaborative science between industrialised nations and African countries. More: <http://www.sciencewithafrica.com/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS/RESOURCES

Jac Stienen, Managing Director of IICD, retires. After serving the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD) for nearly eight years, Jac Stienen, Managing Director, will retire from his position at the end of 2007. Ms. Caroline Figuères will succeed him on 1 January 2008. Jac Stienen has been in charge of general management at the IICD since 2000, only a few years after the institute was first established in 1996. During his time in office, IICD grew from 15 to 33 staff

members, set up programmes in nine different countries, and brought the highly successful Global Teenager Project to 35 countries all over the world. Today, IICD is one of the key players in the field of ICT for development and is widely recognised in the public, private and non-profit sector for its valuable contribution to sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). More: <http://www.iicd.org/articles/jac-stienen-managing-director-of-iicd-retires>

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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