



CODIST NEWSLETTER

THE NEWS BULLETIN OF THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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One more step towards CODIST-1

We are now one week before the start of the CODIST-1 meeting.

The Organizing Committee and the three thematic Sub-Committees are ready to welcome all the participants to the sessions.

The meeting will feature: plenary-style presentations, breakout discussions, workshops and will also include opportunities for member States and partners to meet, identify collaborative opportunities and plan the next steps.

In this issue, we focus on the activities of the Sub-Committee on Information Communication and Technology (ICT).

Participants, partners and members of the general public are encouraged to send in any relevant feedback to the publishers.

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"We need nothing less than a Science Revolution in Africa. This will make the difference that we have for so long been searching for."

Abdoulie Janneh,

Under-Secretary General,
Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

CODIST 1 SPEAKERS: THE LINE-UP!

Prof. Lidia Brito, MSc. and PhD. in Wood Sciences, Department of Forestry, Faculty of Agronomy and Forestry, Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique is the CODIST **Keynote Speaker** on: *Scientific Development, Innovation and the Knowledge Economy in Africa: premises for development.*



Prof Brito is a national of Mozambique and was the first Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM). Prof Lidia has and extensive and diverse experience working on good governance issues, energy, higher education, science and technology, ICT and their impact on social development.



Hon. Dr Wilbur Ottichilo, MP, is **Keynote Respondent** providing a Geoinformation perspective following the Keynote Speaker on: *Geospatial Science in the Knowledge Economy.*

Dr Ottichilo, a national of Kenya has a PhD in Geoinformation from the International Institute of Geoinformatics, Netherlands. From 1978 to 2001, He worked as a senior civil servant for the Government. From 2001 to 2007, he was the Executive Director of the Regional Centre for Resources Monitoring for Development (RCRMD), and has been a Member of Parliament since retiring from RCRMD.

Dr. Nagwa El-Shenawi, Information Centre Director, Ministry of Communication & Information Technology (MCIT), Egypt, is the **ICT Keynote Respondent** speaking on: *Innovation and ICT in supporting scientific development and the Knowledge Economy.*



Dr El-Shenawi holds a Doctorate of Business Administration from Maastricht School of Management in Netherlands. She also graduated from Harvard Business School attending the Senior Executive Programme for the Middle East. During the last two years, she worked as the Strategic Planning and International Cooperation Director in Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA-one of MCIT's Affiliates).



Doug Solomon from the United States is a **CODIST Plenary Speaker** on: *Innovation and Economic Growth*

Doug Solomon leads technology strategy efforts at IDEO, an innovation and design firm, working with clients to leverage technologies that create both business and social value. Prior to IDEO, Doug was Vice President of Investments at Omidyar Network, helping pioneer a new approach to socially impactful investing. He was also Senior Vice President of Corporate Development and Chief Strategy Officer at both Apple and Palm, and has a masters degree from the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii and a Ph.D. in Communication Research from Stanford University.

Clement Entsua-Mensah from Ghana is a **CODIST Plenary Speaker** on: *Enabling Environment for Innovation Systems.*

Clement is a product of Universities of Cape Coast, Ghana and Sheffield/UK. He started his professional career at the University of Cape Coast Library in October 1980. Clement was appointed the Director of the Institute for Scientific and Technological Information, one of the 13 research institutes of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR-INSTI) in October, 1998, and served for a two 5-year term. His area of specialization is ICT and Development, Information Systems Development and Knowledge Management with niche interest in scientific communication.



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Perspectives on key issues: *Views from ICT Experts!*



(ATAC) Chairperson.

In this issue we ask prominent African experts to express their views on the uptake of ICT in Africa and explore the future of ICT development (ICT4D) in Africa.

Prof Clement Dzidonu, from Ghana, is ICT Policy Expert, Lecturer and ECA African Technical Advisory Committee

Q: How do you assess the progress achieved by African countries and governments in embracing ICTs in their development agenda in the past ten years?

A: The progress has been mixed with some countries moving ahead at a faster pace than others. Since the start of the ECA ICT4D process after the first African Development Forum (ADF-99), the majority the Sub-Saharan African countries have embraced the ICT4D agenda. A number of these countries have translated this commitment into development of their ICT4D/NICI policies and in some cases action plans. Despite this, the vast majority of these have not made the expected progress in the area of concrete implementation of these policies and action plans. The commitment and the will is there...but the difficulty in my view is lack of resources given other priorities these countries face. For instance, a country may have in place comprehensive ICTs-in-Education Policies and an associated action plan but face the difficulty of paying school teachers, housing them and providing classrooms etc. Implementing the ICT-in-Education plan would therefore not seem to be a priority in this case. There are other similar challenges limiting the implementation of the various components of the ICT4D agenda in a number of African countries.

Another reason for the low level of adoption relates to the lack of coordination of the implementation of national ICT projects and initiatives. Although a number of African countries as part of their ICT4D process have established agencies/administrative structures to coordinate the implementation of ICT4D strategies/plans, coordination is still proving a challenge for some of these countries. Some attribute this partially to the donor-driven nature of ICT4D project implementation, with each donor prescribing how funds should be utilized by which government agency or sector and on what. There may be other country specific reasons that could be contributing to the lack of coordination problem.

Q: How would you describe the Knowledge Economy in the African context given that this is a CODIST theme?

A: The Knowledge Economy in African countries is an emerging one. The process is faster in countries with a vibrant private sector playing a leading role and a government playing a prominent facilitation role in terms of

the creation of an enabling environment. A mature information and knowledge economy is characterized by:

- a large commercial service sector with a large ICT sub-sector;
- a technology-based knowledge driven industrial sector; a large proportion of the population with access to ICT products and services;
- the provision and delivery of government services facilitated by the use of ICTs;
- advanced and reliable ICT infrastructure among others etc

The economies of the vast majority of countries are yet to show an appreciable process towards exhibiting these characteristics. However some are exhibiting slow but steady progress towards transforming their agriculture dominated economies into information and knowledge-based economies.

Q: What measures need to be taken to fully ensure Africa's participation/contribution to the knowledge- and innovation-based economy?

A: Some of these measures include developing and aggressively promoting and supporting the implementation of national ICT4D policies/strategies and action plans. The implementation of these ICT4D initiatives should be visualized as an investment into transforming economies into an information and knowledge-driven economy - the economy of the future.



Ilari Lindy, Advisor, Information Society for Development, Department for Development Policy, Finland Ministry of Foreign Affairs speaks on Finland's promotion of ICT4D in Africa.

Q: ICT4D has become a niche area for Finland in development cooperation, why is that?

A: It is a common wisdom that all the development related society and economy is depended on our knowledge and innovative thinking. However, the competitiveness of different economies of the world has shown that only a systematic and rigorous investment on knowledge and innovations makes the difference. Finland is known today for its high technology, for its high standard of education, and for state-of-the-art research and innovation systems. These factors, essentially based on knowledge and expertise, have had a major impact on Finland's economic, social and cultural development. However, only some 50 years ago, Finland was a developing country in many different ways. The recipe for such fast development was unique and was strongly dependent on an institutional framework laid down by the country's own economic history. It was possible only through coherent policies on education, science and technology, information society, innovation and economic development, which are all emphasizing the creation of a knowledge society.

Q: Would Finland like to replicate this experience in the developing world ?

A: Today developing countries are considered less endowed in terms of capacity, capability and resources - human and financial - to successfully harness the potential of ICTs. It is a well known fact that ICT is one of the key elements when speaking about innovations: ICT is the infrastructure of knowledge and science. At first glance it seems that the strong ICT export industry is the secret behind the innovations and economic growth of Finland. A closer look reveals that equally important - and in today's world even more crucial - is a sophisticated system of innovation. A recent Finnish research confirms that more than 30 % of the growth of GDP per capita in the Finnish economy during the last ten years was ICT related. However, most of this growth was produced by multi-factor effect of ICT - indicating the importance of integration of ICT in all the sectors of society. Thus one can claim that the ICT industry itself is not necessarily the only key to success and a large part of the solution lies in social innovations of using ICT in all the sectors of society. It is this experience that Finland wishes to share with its developing country partners. At the heart of Finland's Development Policy Guidelines for ICT and Information Society is the concept of Knowledge Building and Sharing and thus an important part of our cooperation in the sector of Information society is on strengthening the knowledge and innovation systems. These actions will provide a sustainable platform for countries to develop visionary thinking and strategic capacity to effectively manage, deploy and integrate ICTs in their growth and development strategies.

Q: What about the notion of an African Knowledge Society backed by ICTs activities at the regional level?

A: In December 2007, the European Union together with African Union set ambitious objectives for the ICT sector development in Africa as outlined in the EU-AU Strategic Partnership. In this framework the implementation of actions related to Science, Information Society and Space are crucial. Due to their cross-cutting role they will provide support to other policy sectors in the achievement of Millennium Development Goals and job creation on the African continent. This requires new kinds of partnerships at national and global levels and it calls for cooperation of all actors in the society: public sector, private sector, civil society as well as academia and research. Only close cooperation of different sectors of society can establish such enabling environment that is needed for the creation of true African knowledge society facilitating speedy take-up of ICT services and applications.

ICT Side Events

The 1st Follow-up Workshop on WSIS, Tunis+3

The workshop is aimed at assessing actions undertaken by African countries in following up on the

recommendations/action lines of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), three years after WSIS Tunis.

The ECA conducted a questionnaire-administered survey circulated to NICI focal points in the 53 member States to assess WSIS outcome implementation status. Twenty member States (Benin, Burundi, Congo Brazzaville, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Egypt, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Togo and Uganda) and one REC, COMESA responded to the survey. The responses formed the foundations of a WSIS monitoring database. A publication resulting from the analysis of the responses to this survey is published and will be presented at this workshop.

The session will commence with a keynote address by the chairperson of the Africa Information Society Initiative (AIS) African Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) followed by a series of presentations and discussions on implementation through WSIS Action Lines 1 - 11. These include progress achieved on the creation, adoption and implementation of national and regional ICT strategies; development of information and communication infrastructure across the Africa region; access to information and knowledge; capacity building issues in the region; building confidence and trust in the use of ICTs; efforts by governments and organizations to create and promote Information Society enabling environment; ICT applications; cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content – including the issue of Internet governance; ICT and the media; ethical dimensions of the Information Society; and international and regional cooperation. The workshop outcomes will include follow-up mechanisms and a roadmap on the implementation of the WSIS action lines by 2015 will be developed.

Date: 28 April 2009

Location: UNCC - ECA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Website: www.uneca.org/codist | Registration: MFaye@uneca.org

Workshop on Legal and Regulatory Framework for the Knowledge Economy

An appropriate legal and regulatory environment ensures that there are set rules and regulations which allow the ICT sector to be more competitive thereby contributing to economic growth. It has been noted that there is a correlation between attainment of the knowledge economy and the inflow of financial investments. Countries that have advanced economies such as Japan, Germany, Australia, United Kingdom and United States of America have all embraced e-commerce activities, as a way of life and enacted cyber legislation to regulate e-commerce activities. African countries are striving to attract financial investment to boost economic growth and should therefore embrace this trend (the creation of a knowledge economy). Countries face a number of challenges such as lack of telecommunications infrastructure, lack of legal and regulatory frameworks supportive of ICT developments and high illiteracy rates.

This workshop is aimed at building the capacities of policy makers, legal practitioners as well as representatives from law enforcement agencies in areas such as e-jurisdiction, liability and dispute settlement, electronic signatures and

payment, e-taxation, cyber security, IPRs, digital technology, data protection and privacy. The workshop will provide an overview of legal and regulatory frameworks for the knowledge economy in Africa. Round table discussions will be held on current and emerging ICT law and policy issues such as the UNCITRAL texts on electronic commerce and electronic signatures: the adoption of modern legislation in Africa, e-jurisdiction, liability and dispute settlement, e-commerce and taxation, electronic signatures, e-payment, cyber security, IPRs and digital technology, and sub regional/regional harmonization of legal and regulatory frameworks for the knowledge economy. Workshop outcomes will include the adoption of a road map to facilitate implementation and improvement of legal and regulatory frameworks at national and regional levels. This workshop is being organised by the ECA in collaboration with the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, UNCTAD and Internet Society.

Date: 28 April 2009

Location: UNCC - ECA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Website: www.uneca.org/codist | **Registration:** ENega@uneca.org

Update: Technology in Government in Africa Awards – TIGA

The judging for the 2009 TIGA Awards is completed and the ceremony will be on 30th April 2009 at the Sheraton Hotel in Addis. The countries short listed are: Angola, Botswana, Cote D'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, The Gambia, Tunisia, and Zambia. The panel of judges was made up of leading African ICT experts as well as ICT experts from Canada and Finland. The event is being organized by ECA with support from the Canada Fund for Africa and the Government of Finland. Below are the views of some of the judges:

"Regional collaboration on science, technology and innovations can harmonize the policies and regulations in the region, and thereby create larger economic zones for private sector to operate in. As a member of the European Union Finland, knows from the European experience that regional economic development is key to global markets. Regional activities related to ICT take-up is an area that different stakeholders like governments, private sector, civil society and donors can support jointly. These partnerships are win-win partnerships where all participants benefit. With TIGA awards 2009, Finland's long-standing partner UNECA is establishing a platform to showcase African knowledge to all Africans and to the rest of world. This competition is well-positioned to promote technology learning that can lead to fruitful partnerships and wider take-up of new innovative ICT solutions in both North and South. Therefore, TIGA is important because: 1. It addresses the key growth sector in Africa, namely ICT and its innovative applications; 2. It identifies models for peer-to-peer learning; 3. It promotes African solutions for African people/organizations; 4. It facilitates the establishment networks for learning; 5. It showcases African know-how and knowledge-organizations

to the rest of the world". **Ilari LINDY, Advisor, Information Society for Development, Department for Development Policy, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland**



"As African governments rapidly move forward in ICT development to deliver on-line services to citizens, ePol-NET - the partnership between the UN Economic Commission for Africa and the Government of Canada - created the TIGA Awards to serve as a

meeting place to celebrate public sector technology accomplishments, to share new technology applications and to learn from each other. The TIGA Awards showcase advanced technologies that are driving public sector ICT initiatives at all levels of government in Africa. Now in its second year, the TIGA Awards are quickly becoming a hallmark recognition program for the African public sector where leadership, innovation and excellence in ICT are honoured. I am honoured to have been a Judge for this year's TIGA Awards. The quality of the submissions is truly inspiring. I wish all of you much success at this year's event!" **Wendy ACE, Former Director of the Canadian e-Policy Resource Centre, Government of Canada**



"E-government is becoming more and more important. Indeed it facilitates the everyday life of citizens, of companies be it national or foreign. It's a great enabler. E-government implementation is, however, not an easy task! Where to start, what are the most pertinent applications or systems to implement within the framework of African countries, are not easy questions. The 2009 UNECA TIGA prize winners session will give us a great opportunity to discover and appreciate some of the outstanding achievements in this area in Africa. It will enable us, for sure to share and learn from our own best practices and valuable ideas. TIGA is a great booster for our IT and Management teams!" **Prof. Farouk KAMOUN, Professor, Ecole Nationale des Sciences de l'Informatique, University of Manouba, Tunis, Tunisia**



"As delegates are rallying into Addis for CODIST-1 (which pursues and expands the initial goals of CODI-V), I believe they are again entering into a new experience which will equip them with knowledge on how best to put science and technology at the disposal of Africa's overall development. CODIST 1's theme is about Scientific development, innovation and Knowledge economy, a theme which is paramount to the transformation of Africa. Also, this gathering is featuring TIGA, which highlight and reward the best innovative achievements in the area of applying ICTs for better public services delivery and sound management of public administration across Africa. I have no doubt that by offering such opportunities, the UNECA is significantly contributing to capacity development in the continent". **Pierre Dandjinou Former Senior Advisor on e-Governance and ICTD, UNDP.**

General Information on the Conference

Who should attend?

Participation

There will be three categories of participants at the conference: official delegates, observers and exhibitors.

Official Delegates

These are persons designated and sponsored by a member state to represent, speak and make decisions on behalf of the states.

Observers

Experts, practitioners, and stakeholders in any substantive field (ICT, geo-information and science and technology) within CODIST's purview who are not official delegates are cordially invited to participate as observers.

While observers are free to attend all CODIST sessions, they are not allowed to vote. Observers are responsible for all their travel and subsistence costs.







Exhibitors

Persons, organizations, or corporate entities that have products, services, or information to exhibit and disseminate are invited to attend as exhibitors.

List of Exhibitors

- Economic Commission for Africa
- International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
- CGIAR
- Earnset & Young
- JAXA, (Japan)
- FUGRO Maps
- ESRI
- Alcatel-Lucent
- Microsoft
- Federal Ministry of Science & Technology, Nigeria
- GISSE
- Jupiter International Hotel
- Harmony Hotel
- NASRDA
- Ethiopian Mapping Agency
- RCMRD
- AARSE
- EIS Africa
- RECTAS
- ICSU – ROA
- Hagbes
- Ethiopian Airlines
- ASSRT
- Measure Evaluation
- Wudassie Souvenirs

Side-Events

-  Monday, 27th April 2009: Workshop on Enlisting National Mapping Agencies in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS: Building Partnerships with Ministries of Health and NAC.
-  Tuesday, 28th April 2009: AFREF Workshop
-  Tuesday, 28th April 2009: The 1st Follow-up Workshop on WSIS, Tunis+3
-  Tuesday, 28th April 2009: Workshop on Legal and Regulatory Framework for the Knowledge Economy
-  Tuesday, 28th April 2009: Experts' review workshop on developing a Business Model for technology park and center on excellence in Africa: Incubation and Technology Parks for Economic Growth
-  Thursday, 30th April 2009 - 18:30: Awards Ceremony of the 2009 "Technology in Government in Africa, TIGA"

CODIST ON TWITTER! 