

## IST-Africa December 2008 Newsletter

[www.IST-Africa.eu](http://www.IST-Africa.eu)

Dear Colleagues,

We hope you are keeping well. We would like to bring a number of important developments to your attention in this month's newsletter.

### ***IST-Africa 2009 Conference***

Hosted by Government of Uganda through the Ministry of ICT, [IST-Africa 2009](#) Conference & Exhibition will take place 06 - 08 May 2009 in Uganda.

Part of the IST-Africa Initiative, which is supported by the European Commission under the ICT Theme of Framework Programme 7 (FP7), IST-Africa 2009 is the fourth in an Annual Conference Series which brings together senior representatives from leading commercial, government & research organisations across Africa and from Europe, to bridge the Digital Divide by sharing knowledge, experience, lessons learnt and good practice and discussing policy related issues.

The Scientific Programme for IST-Africa 2009 is based on an open Call for Papers and the conference language is English. The Papers submitted under the Call for Papers are currently being reviewed by the International Programme Committee and authors will receive feedback in late January.

Plenary Speakers confirmed to date include:

Hon. Dr Ham-Mukasa Mulira, Minister of Information and Communications Technology, Uganda  
Hon Dr Sally Kosgey, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Kenya  
Mr Antti Peltomäki, Deputy Director-General, DG Information Society and Media, European Commission, Belgium

The Advance Programme will be published in late January.

IST-Africa 2009 is Technical Co-Sponsored by IEEE South Africa Section, IEEE Ghana Section, IEEE Nigeria Section, IEEE Nigeria Computer Chapter and IEEE UKRI Computer Chapter.

### ***FP7-ICT-Call 4 Deadline 01 April '09***

The FP7-ICT Work Programme for 2009 - 2010 was published on 19 November 2008. Please download it from [ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/ict/docs/ict-wp-2009-10\\_en.pdf](http://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/ict/docs/ict-wp-2009-10_en.pdf)

Call 4 is now open with a deadline for online submission of proposals of 01 April. For more information, please visit

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call\\_id=185](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=185)

More information is available at <http://www.ist-africa.eu/home/default.asp?page=fp7>

### ***ACP-ST Programme Deadline 27 February '09***

The ACP Science and Technology Programme focused on Science and Technology has been published. The proposal needs to be **delivered in hard copy to Brussels by 27 February**.

The Programme is funded by the European Union (from the IXth European Development Fund and the European Union's General Budget BL 21.031700) and implemented by the ACP Secretariat. Please go to <http://www.ist-africa.eu/home/default.asp?page=acpstprog> for more information and to download the relevant documents.

The ACP Science and Technology Programme will fund projects that primarily focus on:

- Quality health care: with special attention both to traditional and biodiversity dependent community medicines and to the developments taking place in biotechnology.
- Environmental research activities: addressing climatic variability, loss of biodiversity, deforestation, desertification and rising sea levels, as well as issues associated with upgrading and mainstreaming appropriate indigenous technology and establishing efficient mechanisms for access to and the adaptation of appropriate foreign technology.
- Energy: with special attention to renewable sources of energy such as solar, wind, hydro and biomass energy.
- Transport: addressing transport congestion, air pollution and accidents.
- Agriculture and agro-industry: addressing food productivity and security, adding value to agro-products and encouraging a stronger participation by farmers in production and post-harvest management.
- Sustainable trade: in order to increase investments, encourage development in the private sector and improve the trading capacity of ACP countries. Attention will be given to the socio-economic impact of international trade agreements and protocols on sustainable development in ACP countries

Projects should run for between 12 months - 3 years and the total grant available is between 350,000 euro - 1 million euro per project. It is necessary for the consortium to consist of a minimum of three organisations from at least two different ACP Member States. The number of non-ACP partners in a partnership cannot be greater than the number of ACP partners.

The proposal needs to be delivered in hard copy to Brussels by 27 February.

### ***Digital World Forum - Report on Broadband Access and Infrastructure Domain***

Digital World Forum on Accessible and Inclusive ICT ('Digital World Forum') is a FP7 European project focusing on the use of ICT to leverage economic development in Africa and Latin America.

Digital World Forum has published the second version of the state-of-the-art analysis of the broadband access and infrastructure domain. The study focuses on the capacity and architecture of the different systems that can be deployed in emerging countries (WiMAX, HSDPA, CDMA 1x EVDO, EDGE and WiFi). The Executive Summary can be downloaded from [http://www.digitalworldforum.eu/upload-document/doc\\_download/51-dwfd31october08execsummary](http://www.digitalworldforum.eu/upload-document/doc_download/51-dwfd31october08execsummary) and the full report from [http://www.digitalworldforum.eu/upload-document/doc\\_download/52-dwfd31october08fullpdf](http://www.digitalworldforum.eu/upload-document/doc_download/52-dwfd31october08fullpdf)

### ***Erasmus Mundus External Co-Operation Window***

The Erasmus Mundus External Co-operation Window (EM ECW) is a co-operation and mobility scheme in the area of higher education co-operation launched by Europe Aid cooperation Office and implemented by the Executive Agency Education, Audiovisual and Culture.

The objective of the EM ECW is to achieve better understanding and mutual enrichment between the European Union and third countries co-operation in the field of higher education through promoting the exchange of persons, knowledge and skills at higher education level.

This will be achieved through the promotion of partnerships and institutional co-operation exchanges between European Higher Education Institutions and Third Country institutions and a mobility scheme addressing student and academic exchanges.

Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window for African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States includes participation from International Institute for Geo-information Science and Earth Observation (ITC), The Netherlands; Université Bordeaux 1, France; Freie Universität Berlin, Germany; Universidade do Algarve, Portugal; Universidad de Deusto, Spain; Lunds Universitet, Sweden; University of Buea, Cameroon; Universidade de Cabo Verde, Cape Verde; Mekelle University, Ethiopia; Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana; Polytechnic of Namibia; National University of Rwanda; Makerere University, Uganda; Ardhi University, Tanzania; University Belize, Belize; University of The West Indies Barbados (campuses in Jamaica & Trinidad); University of East Timor; and The University of the South Pacific, Fiji. More information is available at <http://www.erasmusmundus10.net/>

The fact sheet can be downloaded from  
[http://www.ist-africa.eu/home/files/EMECW\\_Africa\\_Lot10.pdf](http://www.ist-africa.eu/home/files/EMECW_Africa_Lot10.pdf)

Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window for Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia "AVERROES" includes participation from Montpellier 2 University Sciences and Technology, France; University of Liege, Belgium; University of Cadiz, Spain; University of the Balearic Islands, Spain; Aix-Marseille 2 University, France; Montpellier SupAgro, France; Montpellier 1 University, France; Paul Valéry Montpellier 3 University, France; University of Perpignan Via Domitia, France; University of Genoa, Italy; University of Catania, Italy; Abderrahmane Mira University of Bejaïa, Algeria and Mentouri University of Constantine, Algeria. More information is available at <http://www.network-averroes.com/>

The fact sheet can be downloaded from  
[http://www.ist-africa.eu/home/files/EMECW\\_Maghreb\\_AVERROES\\_Project.pdf](http://www.ist-africa.eu/home/files/EMECW_Maghreb_AVERROES_Project.pdf)

### ***IST-Africa Guide to ICT Research***

The IST-Africa Consortium is compiling a Guide to ICT Research Capacity in Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. This will be published as an online book on an iterative basis with the final report published in 2009.

This online book provides an overview of Framework Programme 7, funding instruments and examples of projects funded under FP6 & FP7 focused on cooperation with Sub-Saharan Africa. Each country section provides an introduction, an overview of the ICT National Strategy, national research agenda and activities, identification of areas for research co-operation with the EU under FP7 and links to profiles of high potential research organisations.

The initial sections for Botswana and Uganda are now available online. Other countries will be published on an iterative basis.

Please visit <http://www.ist-africa.org/home/default.asp?page=guide-ictrc>

### ***Upcoming Events***

#### ***International Workshop of Experts on Global Environmental Change in Sub-Saharan Africa, 09 – 11 Feb 2009, Pretoria, South Africa***

The ICSU Regional Office for Africa (ICSU ROA), in collaboration with the National Research Foundation (NRF) and its partners is organizing an international workshop of experts on Global

Environmental Change (including Climate Change and Adaptation) in Sub-Saharan Africa. The workshop will be held in Pretoria, South Africa, on 9 - 11 February 2009. For more information, please visit <http://www.icsu-africa.org/>

***EuroAfriCa-ICT Cooperation Forum, 25 – 26 March 2009, Brussels***

The EuroAfriCa-ICT project is organising a two day Forum in Brussels on 25 – 26 March focusing on implementation of the Africa-EU Partnership on Science, Information Society and Space and Strengthening Cooperation on ICT Research. For more information, please visit [www.euroafrica-ict.org](http://www.euroafrica-ict.org)

***Digital World Forum Workshop: Role of Mobile Technologies in Fostering Social and Economic Development, 01 – 02 April 2009, Maputo, Mozambique***

Digital World Forum Project is organising a workshop on the Role of Mobile Technologies in Fostering Social and Economic Development (African Perspective) in Maputo Mozambique on 1-2 April 2009. The call for participation is available at [http://www.w3.org/2008/10/MW4D\\_WS/](http://www.w3.org/2008/10/MW4D_WS/)

***IMPACT Conference 2009 – OCR in Mass Digitisation: Challenges between Full Text, Imaging and Language, 06 – 07 April 2009, The Hague, Netherlands***

[www.impact-project.eu](http://www.impact-project.eu)

The IMPACT Conference will focus on exchanging views with other researchers and suppliers in the OCR field, as well as presenting preliminary results from the IMPACT project.

***IST-Africa represented at First Session of the Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology (CODIST-I), 28 April -1 May 2009, Ethiopia***

<http://www.uneca.org/codi/codist1.html>

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) have scheduled the first session of the Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology (CODIST-I) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, between 28 April and 1 May 2009. Paul Cunningham of IIMC Ltd (IST-Africa Coordinator) has been nominated to participate in the S&T Subcommittee of CODIST as an observer.

***Digital World Forum Workshop Co-Located with IST-Africa 2009: Wireless Access and Infrastructure, 04 – 05 May, Kampala, Uganda***

Digital World Forum is organising a workshop on Wireless Access and Infrastructure co-located with IST-Africa 2009 in Kampala on 04 - 05 May. The workshop announcement is available at <http://www.digitalworldforum.eu/workshops/62-workshop-on-low-cost-broadband-a-infrastructure>

***IST-Africa Initiative***

IST-Africa (Regional Impact of Information Society Technologies in Africa) is a collaborative Initiative between IIMC (Ireland, Coordinator), Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology (Botswana), Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology (Lesotho), Commonwealth Network of Information Technology for Development (Malta), ICT Policy Implementation Technical Unit (Mozambique), Ministry of Education (Namibia), Wits Commercial Enterprise (Pty) Ltd (South Africa), COSTECH - Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology, and Uganda National Council for Science and Technology.

With support from DG Information Society and Media under FP7, during 2008 – 2009 IST-Africa will focus on raising wider awareness of African research capacity, promote participation of African organizations in the ICT Theme of FP7 (FP7-ICT) and identify co-operation opportunities in fields of mutual interest. The goal is to increase visibility of mutual RTD potential and network relevant European and African stakeholders.

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