

IST-Africa February 2011 Newsletter

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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 2011 Advance Programme, African Union Research Grants, IST-Africa FP7 Training Workshops during March, 2011, Technology in Government in Africa (TIGA) Awards, VOICES Workshop on Mobile and Web Technologies in Social and Economic Development and other Upcoming Events.

IST-Africa 2011 – Advance Programme

Hosted by the Government of Botswana through the Department of Research, Science and Technology, Supported by the European Commission and African Union Commission and Technical Co-Sponsored by IEEE, [IST-Africa 2011](#) will take place in the Gaborone International Convention Centre, 11 - 13 May 2011, 11 – 13 May 2011.

The Call for Papers was very heavily oversubscribed. The Advance Programme is available [online](#) and consists of over 160 presentations from 39 countries in 40 parallel sessions. The Advance Programme brochure can also be [downloaded](#) as a pdf.

In the context of focusing on the Role of ICT for Africa's Development, the Opening Plenary on Wednesday 11 May features a high level dialogue on Implementation of the Africa-EU Partnership on Science, Information Society and Space. The Closing Plenary on Friday 13 May focuses on Initiatives Supporting Development of Regional S&T. Plenary speakers will be published during March.

The conference programme is complemented by a demonstration and technology exploitation focused Exhibition and a Networking Reception, which will take place on Wednesday 11 May 2011.

IST-Africa 2011 is Technically Co-Sponsored by IEEE Botswana Section and IEEE UKRI Computer Chapter. Major Sponsors confirmed to date include Mascom, Botswana Post and CISCO.

Registration

Presenters Registration Deadline – 04 March 2011

Early Bird Delegate Fees are available until 14 March 2011

Further details in relation to registration is available [online](#) at <http://www.ist-africa.org/Conference2011/default.asp?page=registration>

Pre-Conference Events – Tuesday 10 May

IST-Africa in cooperation with the European Network for Living Labs is organising a pre-conference workshop focused on Living Labs on Tuesday 10 May.

IST-Africa is also organising a FP7 Information Session on upcoming Calls

Delegates should indicate as part of conference registration if they wish to attend these events.

IST-Africa 2011 Call for Exhibitors - Deadline 14 March

IST-Africa 2011 features an Exhibition, which provides the opportunity to showcase research results and applications through technology demonstrations, whether funded commercially or at national, regional or European level.

The IST-Africa Consortium is sponsoring a limited amount of exhibition space for suitable demonstrations and posters at IST-Africa 2011 under a Competitive Call for Exhibitors. Potential exhibitors will be selected based on the quality and relevance of their submission to the conference themes, with preference given to those presenting innovative technology demonstrations.

The online [application form](#) is should be submitted by **14 March**.

Current Open Calls for Proposals & Guide to FP7

The [Work Programme for FP7-ICT](#) for 2011 - 2012 is published.

ICT Call 8 is currently scheduled to open on 26 July 2011 with a closing date of 17 January 2012 (17:00 CET).

All FP7 open calls can be viewed at <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7CallsPage>

IST-Africa has prepared a [Guide to FP7](#) to assist organisations looking at the Framework Programme 7 for the first time. This Guide provides an overview of FP7, how to go about identifying relevant research areas, open Action Lines, how to prepare a budget and Frequently Asked Questions.

African Union Research Grants – Deadline 30 April

The African Union Commission has launched an open Call for Research proposals focused on (a) Post-harvest and Agriculture, (b) Renewable and Sustainable Energy, and (c) Water and Sanitation in Africa. The brochure can be [downloaded](#) and the guidelines can be downloaded [online](#)

The programme is financed through the Financing Agreement between the European Commission and the ACP Group of States under the ACP Research for Sustainable Development Program of the 10th EDF Intra-ACP Envelope.

IST-Africa FP7 Training Workshops during March

IST-Africa FP7 Training Workshops in March will be hosted by the Ministry of Higher Education Science and Technology (Kenya) in Nairobi on 18 March and the Agence Nationale des Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication (Cameroon) in Yaounde on 21 March 2011 in cooperation with IIMC. These workshops will focus on FP7-ICT-Call 8 - 9 Calls for Proposals.

Please contact secretariat@IST-Africa.org for more information

While all IST-Africa FP7 Training Workshops are free, it is necessary to pre-register and participants are responsible for any travel and subsistence costs incurred.

2011 Technology in Government in Africa (TIGA) Awards - Deadline 28 February

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Government of Finland have published the third Technology in Government in Africa (TIGA) Awards. These awards are focused on recognising African Governments' effective use of ICTs for public service delivery.

Categories for nominations include Public Service Delivery to Citizens/Communities; Improved Health Services through the use of ICT; Improved Education Services through the use of ICT and PPP in Economic and financial eServices delivery.

More information and the application form can be [downloaded](#)

VOICES Workshop on Mobile and Web Technologies in Social and Economic Development - Abstract Deadline 15 April

The VOICES FP7 project is organising a workshop in Dar es Salaam on 04 - 05 June focused on Mobile Services and Entrepreneurship, Data Collection tools and Voice-based Web Service.

Experts who wish to participate in this workshop should submit a statement of interest by 15 April to team-m4d-ws-submit@webfoundation.org and provide a position paper focused on one of the relevant themes.

More information is available at http://public.webfoundation.org/2011/01/MW4D_WS/

Repository of African ICT & STI Policies

IST-Africa is compiling a repository of ICT and S&T Policies in Africa. Policy documents from Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Egypt, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda are published at <http://www.ist-africa.org/home/default.asp?page=ictpolicies>

If you would like the policy documents for your country to be published in this repository, please contact secretariat@IST-Africa.org

Upcoming Events**EuroAfrica-ICT FP7 Awareness Workshop, Sudan, 05 – 06 April**

Makerere University is organising a two day awareness workshop in cooperation with the University of Khartoum on 05 – 06 April as part of EuroAfrica-ICT project activities.

CODIST II, Addis Ababa, 02 – 05 May

The second session of the Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology (COSIST) is being organised by UNECA on 02 – 05 May focused on Innovation for Africa's Industrial Development.

IST-Africa Initiative

IST-Africa 2010 - 2011 (Regional Impact of Information Society Technologies in Africa) is a collaborative Initiative between IIMC (Ireland, Coordinator), Department of Science and Technology (South Africa), Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology (Botswana), Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology (Lesotho), Ministry of Education (Namibia), ICT Policy Implementation Technical Unit (Mozambique), National Computer Board (Mauritius), COSTECH - Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology, Uganda National Council for Science and Technology, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology

(Kenya), Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique (Burundi), Ministry in President's Office in charge of Information and Communication Technology (Rwanda), Agence Nationale des Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication (Cameroon), Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique (Senegal) and Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Egypt).

With support from DG Information Society and Media under FP7, during 2009 – 2011, IST-Africa is focused on strengthening the research dimension of Information Society policy dialogues between the European Commission and African countries and key regional organisations; the identification and analysis of African ICT policy and research priorities, including long term perspectives aligned with EU priorities and recommendations for future Africa – EU co-operation initiatives, including identification of matching counterpart funding and raising wider awareness of African research capacity, promoting participation of African organizations in the ICT Theme of FP7 (FP7-ICT) and identifying 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. The Annual IST-Africa Conference provides an opportunity to showcase relevant research capacity. IST-Africa 2011 (04 - 06 May) is hosted by the Government of Botswana in Gaborone.

Contact Details

IST-Africa Secretariat

E-mail: secretariat@IST-Africa.org / Web: www.IST-Africa.org / www.ISTAfrica.eu