

IST-Africa January 2009 Newsletter

www.IST-Africa.eu

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year. 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 the Government of the Republic of Uganda through the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Supported by the European Commission and Technical Co-Sponsored by IEEE, [IST-Africa 2009](#) Conference & Exhibition will take place on the shores of Lake Victoria at Speke/Munyonyo Resort & Conference Centre Kampala, 06 - 08 May 2009.

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.

IST-Africa 2009 focuses on the Role of ICT for Africa's Development and specifically on Applied ICT research topics in the areas of eHealth, Technology Enhanced Learning and ICT Skills, Open Source Software, ICT for Inclusion, eInfrastructures, ICT for Environmental Risk Management, ICT for Networked Enterprise and eGovernment and eDemocracy.

In the context of focusing on the Role of ICT for Africa's Development, the Opening Plenary on Wednesday 06 May features a high level dialogue on Implementation of the Africa-EU Partnership on Science, Information Society and Space. The Closing Plenary on Friday 08 May focuses on Initiatives Supporting Development of Regional S&T.

Plenary Speakers confirmed to date include

- Hon. Dr Ham-Mukasa Mulira, Minister of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Uganda
- Hon. Dr. Sally Kosgey, Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology, Kenya (AMCOST Chair)
- Mr Antti Peltomäki, Deputy Director-General, DG Information Society and Media, European Commission, Belgium
- Dr Hakim Elwaer, Director, HRST, African Union Commission
- Ms. Aida Opoku-Mensah, Director, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Ethiopia
- Mr. Adem Sumertas, Managing Director, Ericsson Uganda
- Dr. Philippe Mawoko, Programme Coordinator, African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (ASTII) Initiative, NEPAD S&T
- Mr Ilari Lindy, Advisor, Information Society for Development, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
- Mr Thierry Devars, DG Information Society and Media, European Commission, Belgium

The **Advance Programme** is available online at

<http://www.ist-africa.org/Conference2009/default.asp?page=programme-new> and consists of over 130 presentations from 36 countries in 38 parallel sessions. The Advance Programme brochure can be downloaded from

http://www.ist-africa.org/Conference2009/files/ISTAfrica2009_AdvanceProgramme.pdf

The conference programme is complemented by a demonstration and technology exploitation focused Exhibition and a Networking Reception which will take place on Wednesday 06 May 2008.

Major sponsors include Ericsson Uganda. 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.

Please remember that it is necessary for all presenters in the Programme to have completed online registration and payment by **09 March**.

Early Bird Delegate Fees are available until **14 March 2009**. Further details in relation to registration is available at

<http://www.ist-africa.org/Conference2009/default.asp?page=registration>

IST-Africa 2009 Call for Exhibitors - Deadline 27 February

IST-Africa 2009 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 2009 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 available at

www.ist-africa.org/Conference2009/default.asp?page=call4exhibitors and applications will be accepted up to **27 February**. All applicants will receive feedback on 06 March, with payment registration due by 24 March.

Cooperation Opportunities with South Africa in ICT/FP7 Workshop, Brussels, 11 Feb '09

DG Information Society and Media in cooperation the Department of Science and Technology of South-Africa, is organising a workshop on 11 February (09:30-13:00) at DG INFSO premises (Brussels, 33 Avenue de Beaulieu, room 0/54) on cooperation opportunities with South-Africa in ICT/FP7, with a specific focus on the Call 4 targeted objectives.

On this occasion, South African ICT research priorities and specific competencies related to those objectives will be notably presented. This workshop is organised in the context of the EU-South Africa Strategic Partnership, which identifies both S&T and ICT as key sectors of cooperation, with the support of the ESASTAP (www.esastap.org.za), IST-Africa (www.IST-Africa.org) and EuroAfrica-ICT (www.euroafrica-ict.org) projects.

It is necessary to pre-register to participate in this workshop. Please contact [Thierry Devars](#) for further information.

ACP-ST Programme Deadline 27 February '09

The ACP Science and Technology Programme focused on Science and Technology has a deadline for receipt of hard copy proposals in Brussels of **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.

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

Call 4 is 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

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

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, Uganda and Mozambique 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>

Youth Organisations - Option to apply for donation of equipment

ProSoft Technologies are offering the opportunity for organisations working with young people to apply for equipment as a donation. There is a fixed amount of equipment available ranging from Computers, LCD, later printers and scanners.

Please contact prosofttech@mail2germany.com to receive the application form and terms of the donation.

Upcoming Events

IST-Africa FP7 Training Workshop, Kampala, 06 March 2009

Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) in cooperation with IIMC is organising a follow on IST-Africa FP7 Training Workshop in Kampala, Uganda on Friday 06 March. More information will be published online during early February at www.ist-africa.org/home/default.asp?page=fp7ws

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

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/

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

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 is focusing on 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.

Contact Details

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