

## IST-Africa October 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 - Call for Papers Extended Deadline 28 November***

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 Call for Papers can be downloaded from

[http://www.ist-africa.eu/Conference2009/files/ISTAfrica2009\\_CallForPapers.pdf](http://www.ist-africa.eu/Conference2009/files/ISTAfrica2009_CallForPapers.pdf)

#### **Important Deadlines:**

Online submission deadline for full paper or workshop proposal: **28 November 2008**

Acceptance decision: 26 January 2009

Final Paper Submission: 20 February 2009

The scientific programme for IST-Africa 2009 is based on an open Call for Papers and the conference language is English.

Interested presenters are encouraged to prepare an 8 page paper (4,000 - 5,000) words following the IST-Africa 2009 paper guidelines and paper template for submission online by 28 November. Please observe the Paper Guidelines available at [www.ist-africa.eu/conference2009/default.asp?page=paperguidelines](http://www.ist-africa.eu/conference2009/default.asp?page=paperguidelines) and use the Paper Template provided when preparing your paper.

All submissions will be double blind reviewed by the International Programme Committee and authors will receive feedback in late January. Accepted authors will then be invited to submit a final paper taking account of feedback provided for inclusion in the conference proceedings by end of February.

#### **Core Thematic Priorities for IST-Africa 2009**

- eHealth - Health Information Systems
- Technology Enhanced Learning & ICT Skills
- Digital Libraries and Content
- Open Source Software Applications
- ICT for eInclusion and eAccessibility
- eInfrastructures
- ICT for Environmental Sustainability
- Networked Enterprise
- eGovernment - Secure Services to Citizens & Business

More information is available at

[www.ist-africa.eu/Conference2009/default.asp?page=priorities](http://www.ist-africa.eu/Conference2009/default.asp?page=priorities)

### ***Recent Developments in relation to Implementation of the Africa-EU Partnership on Science, Information Society and Space***

During the Africa-EU Summit in Lisbon in December 2007, the African and European Heads of State agreed the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership which covers 8 thematic areas. For the first time, Science, Information Society and Space is included as a priority area for joint co-operation.

During IST-Africa 2008 Conference in Windhoek in May, a high-level Round Table on the Implementation of the Africa-EU Partnership on Science, Information Society and Space took place during the Opening Plenary session, which was very successful. Participants included Ministers of Science and Technology from Namibia, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya, Director Generals from DG Information Society and Media and DG Research of the European Commission and DST South Africa and Directors from the African Union Commission, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and SADC Secretariat. The Conference Report, which provides an overview of the Round Table discussion and agreement reached. The report can be downloaded from

[http://www.ist-africa.eu/Conference2008/files/ISTAfrica2008\\_ConferenceReport.pdf](http://www.ist-africa.eu/Conference2008/files/ISTAfrica2008_ConferenceReport.pdf)

On 01 October, European Commission and African Union Commission held a College-to-College meeting in Brussels to agree the next phase of the Implementation of the 8th Partnership (Science, Information Society and Space).

Janez Potočnik, EU Commissioner for Science and Research, Viviane Reding, EU Commissioner for Information Society and Media, Günter Verheugen, EU Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry, Louis Michel, EU Commissioner for Development and Professor Ezin, African Union Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology discussed a portfolio of 19 "lighthouse projects" identified and designed by the African Union Commission (AUC) to respond to African needs that would serve as the framework for implementing the EU/AU Partnership on Science, ICT and Space and its Action plan. They agreed that 6 of these projects are 'early deliverables' and will receive immediate attention.

The 2 projects in the ICT theme selected for early delivery are the "African Internet Exchange System", focused on enhancing internet deployment and use in Africa, and "Africa Connect" to extend the reach of the European research and education high-speed network GEANT to Sub-Saharan Africa.

The EU and AUC Commissioners also agreed to further use the European 7th Framework Programme for Research (FP7) to broaden African participation notably in the areas of Health, Environment and Climate, Energy, Agriculture and Food, Information and Communication Technologies and Space Applications. The use of FP7 will complement EC Development programmes.

For more information and to download the Joint Statement, please go to

[www.ist-africa.org/home/default.asp?page=euafrica](http://www.ist-africa.org/home/default.asp?page=euafrica)

### ***ACP-ICT Programme - Call for Proposals Closed 16 September***

The ACP-Information and Communication Technologies [ACP-ICT] Programme closed on 16 September. IST-Africa supported the identification of European and African partners and the submission of a number of proposals submitted under this Call.

### **ACP-ST Programme - Call for Proposals Opening Soon**

The ACP Science and Technology Programme focused on Science and Technology will open in the coming weeks. It 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 [www.acp-st.eu](http://www.acp-st.eu) for more information.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **IST-Africa Workshop, eChallenges e-2008 Conference & Exhibition, 23 October 2008**

[www.eChallenges.org](http://www.eChallenges.org)

IST-Africa is organising a half day workshop entitled "IST-Africa - Linking European & African Researchers" to raise awareness of African research capacity and encourage the participation of African research organisations in proposals submitted under the new ICT Workprogramme for 2009 - 2010 on Thursday 23 October, as part of the eChallenges e-2008 Conference

#### **ASEM Workshop on ICT for Development, 8 – 9 December 2008 in Vientiane, Lao PDR**

The ASEM Workshop, co-organised by the European Commission and the Lao PDR government, will be held from 8 – 9 December 2008 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. ASEM is an interregional forum, which consists of the European Commission, the twenty-seven members of the European Union (EU), the ten countries of ASEAN, P.R. of China, Japan, South Korea and, as of 2008, the ASEAN secretariat, India, Mongolia, and Pakistan.

The considerable contribution of ICTs to socio-economic development and poverty reduction has been widely recognised by the international community, including the ASEM ICT Ministerial Meeting in Hanoi in November 2006. International development cooperation will be among the topics on the agenda of the 7th ASEM Summit, which will be held in Beijing on 24-25 October 2008.

The ASEM workshop on ICT for Development will aim to facilitate the exchange of best practices and lessons learned at national and international level involving key players in the ICT4D area which should lead to the identification of concrete cooperation projects. This is why a mix of government, NGOs and private sector representatives is expected for this seminar. It will also have as one of its objectives to reach an agreement on an ASEM roadmap that would give recommendations on ICT for development priorities for the coming years that could lead to concrete development initiatives.

As part of the ASEM workshop we will also celebrate the launch of the TransEurasia Information Network 3 (TEIN 3), an ASEM initiative that provides high-speed data interconnections for all research and education communities in Asia, to Europe and beyond

Should you or other representatives be interested to participate to the event and for further information on this event please contact Mr. Jean-Yves Roger at the European Commission / DG Information Society and Media (Email: [Jean-Yves.Roger@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Jean-Yves.Roger@ec.europa.eu))

### **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.

Over 2008 - 2009 with support from DG Information Society and Media under FP7, 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.

### **Contact Details**

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