

ANNOUNCEMENT

ICT Africa 2007 : Co-operation & Connectivity

Date: 1 - 5 October 2007.

Venue: Kenyatta International Conference Center, Nairobi, Kenya

“ICT Africa” is an annual continental conference addressing all aspects of ICT development in Africa. The conference is convened by NEPAD council in collaboration with the NEPAD Kenya secretariat. The 2007 event will be organized by Global Conferences, Cape Town, South Africa.

The conference features technical tutorials, demonstrations, news in the making and the opportunity to meet experts, entrepreneurs, scientists or engineers, exhibitors etc. Its also brings together agencies, industry, and governments to exchange ideas and form synergies.

Programming

ICT Africa will consist of a plenary session, conference tracks, technical tutorials and an exhibition.

Plenary session

ICT Africa 2007 will consist of a plenary session to be addressed by ministers (or their representatives) from all regions of Africa. The plenary session is expected to address infrastructure projects throughout Africa including The East Africa Marine System (TEAMS) and the East Africa Submarine System (EASSy). The Kenyan ministry of information and communications will host the plenary session.

Conference tracks

The rest of the conference will be divided into two main tracks, a technical/academic track and a policy/business track. The technical/academic track will feature presentations from peer reviewed papers by scientists, engineers, professors and students from Africa and abroad. The policy/business track addresses policy and business challenges of ICT development in Africa. Topics will include, but not limited to, deregulation, monopoly, and ICT investment.

Technical tutorials

One day will be dedicated to technical tutorials. NEPAD Council experts and other experts from different parts of the world will deliver short courses in next generation networks, fibre optics, and voice over Internet protocol and other topics of interest to the attendees.

Exhibition

The 2007 event will consist of an Industry exhibition running parallel to the conference. The exhibition is organized by Togo consultants.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsoring the NEPAD Council ICT conference is a social responsibility and an appropriate opportunity to contribute to the development of Africa. Your support, participation and sponsorship of this conference will contribute significantly towards the successful implementation of the NEPAD initiatives throughout Africa.

Revenue generated from sponsorships will be used principally to fund the cost of traveling and hotel accommodation for invited speakers. This will ensure that relevant decision makers attend the conference. Sponsorship revenue will also enable us to advertise the event. Any surplus will be used to organize subsequent events.

See the ICT-2006 conference program at:

[http://www.nepadcouncil.org/ICTeAfrica2006/downloads/2006 ICT Conference Report.pdf](http://www.nepadcouncil.org/ICTeAfrica2006/downloads/2006%20ICT%20Conference%20Report.pdf)

More Details

For more details, please contact the conference general chair:

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or visit our conference page:

<http://ictafrica.nepadcouncil.org>

Featured project

AFRICA BROADBAND COMMUNITIES

NEPAD Council S&T and ICT Commission

Introduction

“African Broadband Communities” initiative seeks to promote the development of broadband networks and modern ICTs in Africa by providing broadband access and related services to selected communities and demonstrate its benefits to Science and Technology, and the economy of Africa. For this reason, NEPAD Council has contacted several companies including operators, Internet Service Providers (ISP) and equipment vendors to participate in this effort as partners.

Background Information

The global e-commerce revenue reached more than \$10 trillion in 2006! ICTs are shrinking the world, making it possible for people from one part of the world to work for companies in other parts of the world without leaving their own countries. Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) is significantly reducing the cost of voice communications for businesses and residences all over the world. Professional and academic courses can now be offered through electronic enabled distance learning and web casts. Educational institutions separated by thousands of kilometers can now share resources and offer common courses through video conferencing and e-lab programs.

Unfortunately, these fast paced developments require high speed or broadband Internet access which is still out of reach of most Africans. Internet penetration, including traditional dial-up access, is only about 2% in Africa – the lowest in the world. There are only about 10 Internet exchange points which are isolated from one another. Only a handful of African countries have been able to deploy broadband access networks, which include mostly digital subscriber lines (DSL) and wireless broadband.

To address the ever growing digital divide between Africa and the rest of the world, a couple of infrastructure initiatives have been launched. These include the SAT-3/WASC/SAFE submarine fibre cable for South Africa and West Africa, EASSy submarine system for East Africa, the EASSy backhaul to connect landlocked countries of Eastern and Southern Africa to the EASSy undersea cable, The East Africa Marine Systems (TEAMS) for Kenya, COMTEL for COMESA countries, COM7 and many other long haul network initiatives.

Unfortunately, the already existing SAT-3/WASC/SAFE has not been well utilized by African countries where the system has landing points. Communities in South Africa and West Africa with access to this long awaited and celebrated infrastructure have not taken full advantage of the system. This project intends to encourage bandwidth take-up on available and upcoming submarine and terrestrial long haul fiber optic networks by facilitating the establishment of broadband access networks in selected African communities.

After several consultations, it was concluded that ICT infrastructure is the number one challenge to ICT development

in Africa and needs urgent attention. NEPAD Council supports some of the NEPAD's [e-Africa commission's](#) initiatives and we have concluded that working on an initiative to bring high bandwidth capacity to communities augments the work of the e-Africa commission.

Management

NEPAD Council is identifying and inviting equipment vendors, Internet Service Providers, Private Network Operators, Financing Organizations, African and International Organizations, Universities and other players to join the program partnership. A program task force comprising of representatives from partner organizations will spearhead the program under the leadership of a NEPAD Council S&T and ICT commission.

Equipment

The demonstration community projects will be selected based on recommendations by members and the task force. Equipment vendors are expected to donate or sell equipment to the program at discounted prices. In return, vendors will gain exposure to the African market and the possibility for supplying products to subsequent initiatives that may be triggered by the Africa Broadband Communities Program.

Finance

Financial organizations will be requested to support the network operators and Internet service providers to procure equipment and build the networks. Many network operators are unable to develop access networks because of the high cost of upfront equipment cost and lack of financing. This could be in terms of investments or long term, low cost-loans and development assistance. Donated or low priced network equipment is expected to be an incentive for network operators to participate in the program.

Operation

Partner network operators will ultimately be responsible for deploying, operating and maintaining these networks and provide data, video or voice access at prices commensurate with the cost they incur on the networks and sourcing the value added services. NEPAD Council will review and approve proposed pricing by the operators before their inclusion.

Main outcomes:

- Provision of timely information to users
- Cheaper broadband prices

Demonstrative impact may lead to wider deployment of broadband

For details see www.nepadcouncil.org.