



# ICT for Rural Economic Development

Berlin, Germany

November 18 – 19, 2010

## Presenter's Information

*Key facts on the speakers of the conference ICT for Rural Economic Development*

### Moderator of the conference

#### **Tim Unwin**



Tim Unwin is Professor of Geography and has the UNESCO Chair in ICT4D at Royal Holloway, University of London. He has been Director and then Senior Advisor to the World Economic Forum's Partnership for Education programme with UNESCO. From 2001-2004 he led the UK Prime Minister's Imfundo initiative based in the Department for International Development, creating partnerships to deliver ICT-based educational initiatives in Africa. Since returning to Royal Holloway, University of London, he has created an ICT4D Collective, which undertakes research, teaching and consultancy in the field of Information and Communication

Technologies for Development. Some of his other professions include Chair in Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, Academic Advisor and External Examiner to the Institute of Masters of Wine and Advisor to the Open Educational Resources, Development Gateway. His other research interests include the interface between ethics and geography, contemporary rural change in Europe, and the historical geography of viticulture and the wine trade.

## Key note speakers

### **Anton Mangstl**



Anton Mangstl serves as Director, Office of Knowledge Exchange, Research and Extension (OEK) for the FAO, which facilitates the efforts to strategically integrate the Organization's know-how in all areas of its technical expertise. OEK internally supports information and knowledge sharing among the Technical Departments to maintain FAO a mutual learning environment with competent staff expertise, and it facilitates knowledge flows within the global community through technical assistance to Member States related to information, knowledge, communication and innovation. To achieve these objectives, the office implements the Knowledge Management and Capacity Development Strategies. OEK assists Member States to develop sustainable national agricultural research and extension systems for the transfer of technical innovation to increase agricultural productivity, engaging the global agricultural research community through the FAO partnership with the Global Forum on Agricultural Research and the Independent Science and Partnership Council. Anton Mangstl was responsible for overseeing the successful launch of FAO's strategic programme on "Bridging the Rural Digital Divide", leading to the development of the global e-Agriculture Community of Expertise (e-agriculture.org). He is the FAO Focal Point for participation in the World Summit on the Information Society and related follow-up. He serves on the United Nations Group on the Information Society, and is on the Strategy Council for the Global Alliance for ICT and Development. In 2001, he was awarded Honorary Professor by the National Agriculture University of Ukraine, Prof. h.c. (UA) Prior to joining FAO in 1996, Anton Mangstl was Director of the Centre for Agricultural Documentation and Information Bonn, Germany. Earlier, he was Deputy to the Head of the Working Group on Crop Production and Informatics, Centre for Life and Food Sciences in Agriculture Germany.

### **Valerie D'Costa**



Valerie D'Costa is infoDev's Program Manager, and has had a distinguished career in private legal practice and in government service prior to her current position. She holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from the National University of Singapore and a Master of Laws degree from University College, University of London. She has a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities related to the ICT4D agenda and leads infoDev's efforts to advance the role that ICTs can play in fighting poverty and empowering people. She most recently served as Director of the International Division at the Info-Communication Development Authority of Singapore - the government agency charged with the development, promotion and regulation of Singapore's ICT sector. There, Ms. D'Costa was responsible for the formulation of the Singapore Government's policies on international ICT issues and oversees bilateral relations with other countries on ICT issues.

## Speakers

### **Daniel Annerose**



Daniel Annerose is the founder and the CEO of Manobi, an African mobile data services operator. It provides innovative services to small businesses — like farmers, fishermen, vulnerable women and children — as well as large companies to encourage economic and social development. He is a member of the Senegalese Academy of Sciences and Technology and the founder and the President of the Board of the Manobi Development Foundation. Through these two organizations, Daniel Annerose develops local projects to alleviate global poverty and diseases, empowering women and supporting the rights of children through mobile technologies and community-led service provision. He is experienced in information and communication technology (ICT), and agricultural and agro-industrial development. He was a plant scientist for 18 years, specializing in the improvement of agricultural production in arid and semi-arid areas, and in the development of models to predict yields and production. During these years, he mainly worked in development aid as a researcher and agricultural developer in African, European and South American countries.

### **Salome Ganibe**



Ms Salome “Sally” A. Ganibe is the Executive Director of the Asian Women in Co-operative Development Forum (AWCF). She has a Master’s degree in Management, major in Public Management, from the University of the Philippines and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the Baguio Colleges Foundation, Philippines. AWCF is a resource center and advocacy body in Asia concerned with promoting gender equity and equality in and through co-ops. It’s core programs are gender awareness, women in leadership and decision-making, women entrepreneurship and advocacy on support services for women. AWCF is an “NGO in Special Consultative status” with the UN ECOSOC. Ms Ganibe gets the opportunity to get involved in and to contribute to development activities at the Asian regional level as AWCF works with different countries’ national co-op and NGO networks as well as regional co-op and development organizations. Ms Ganibes deep involvement with fulfilling AWCF’s advocacy and her solid background in co-op work have developed her passion to empower women. She also considers it her continuing mission to help find innovative ways and tools for gender and development concepts to be recognized and accepted in co-ops. Among these are the use of the AWCF transformative leadership framework; the use of information technology to empower women and co-ops; and enterprise development for women.

## **Roxanna Samii**

Roxanna Samii works for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), an international financial organization and a specialized United Nations agency and based in Rome, Italy. In her current capacity she is responsible for IFAD's web-based and social media communication channels, internal communications and is involved in numerous corporate knowledge management activities. As a development worker, she is particularly interested in the mobile telephony revolution and how this sector is contributing to poverty reduction and improving the social and economic livelihoods of poor rural people. She believes in the potential of mobile telephony to become the FIRST and ONLY universally accessible ICT and is an advocate for generating local content to meet the needs of smallholder farmers and poor rural people. She is a twitter addict and enjoys blogging.

## **Pierre Lucante**



Pierre Lucante is, since 2009, Head of Sector Project ICT for Development (ICT4D) at GTZ. The Sector Project advises the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) on ICT4D issues. On behalf of BMZ, the Sector Project intensively promotes the use of ICT in different sectors of German development cooperation and actively supports the improvement of telecommunications regulation in partner countries of German development cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Sector Project is part of the Division Economic Development and Employment at GTZ. Between 2006 and 2009, Pierre was Senior Manager, Economic Regulation at France Telecom Group. Between 2001 and 2005, he was Competition Regulatory Manager at Orange Group's Headquarters in London. Pierre holds a Master degree in Management for the Middle East & North Africa from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University in London, an MSc in Regulation from the London School of Economics and a Master in Public Law from the University of Pau (France).

## **Torbjörn Frederiksson**



Mr. Torbjörn Fredriksson is Chief of the ICT Analysis Section of the Division on Technology and Logistics at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). In this capacity, he is the team leader of the annual Information Economy Report and responsible for UNCTAD's other work related to ICT4D. Prior to this position, Mr Fredriksson was leading the Policy Issues Section of the Investment Analysis Branch of UNCTAD's Investment Division and during eight years one of the principal authors of the World Investment Report. Before joining UNCTAD, Mr. Fredriksson had been Head of Research at the Invest in Sweden Agency (1996-2000), Head of Section in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce in Sweden (1994-1995) and a researcher at the Industrial Institute for Economic and Social Research in Stockholm (1992-1994). Mr Fredriksson is the author of several books and has published articles related to international trade and investment in such publications as the Journal of International Business Studies, International Journal of Industrial Organization and the Journal of World Investment.

## **Fiona Smith**

Fiona Smith is a Programme Director at the GSMA Development Fund – which works with mobile operators to accelerate mobile solutions for people living under \$2 per day in developing countries. Fiona leads the mAgri programme, looking at the deployment of sustainable mobile solutions to serve the agriculture sector. She is based in India and has worked on a range of GSMA Development Fund projects across South Asia and Africa, with a focus on rural development. Prior to joining the GSMA, Fiona was a management consultant at Accenture – working with a number of telecommunications clients. While at Accenture, Fiona spent a year in Bangladesh on a business partnership secondment with Voluntary Services Overseas. Previously she worked on development and education initiatives in Latin America and South East Asia. Fiona holds a BSc (Hons) degree in Psychology from the University of Stirling and was an Erasmus scholar at the University of Groningen, Netherlands.

## **Jenny Aker**



Jenny C. Aker is an Assistant Professor of Economics at the Fletcher School and Department of Economics at Tufts University. She is also a Non-Resident Fellow at the Center for Global Development and a member of the Advisory Board for Frontline SMS. After working for Catholic Relief Services as Deputy Regional Director in West and Central Africa between 1998 and 2003, Jenny returned to complete her PhD in agricultural economics at the University of California - Berkley. Jenny works on economic development in Africa, with a primary focus on the impact of information and information technology on development outcomes, particularly in the areas of agriculture, agricultural marketing and education; the determinants of agricultural technology adoption; and impact evaluations of NGO and World Bank projects. Jenny has conducted field work in many countries in West and Central Africa.

## **Premprakash Saboo**



Premprakash Saboo is the Chief Financial Officer & Vice President – Institutional Business for Reuters Market Light (RML). Prem has set up the Finance & Commercial function for RML in a complete start up environment. He has played a lead role in developing several institutional partnerships to spread & multiply the impact of RML service. In his earlier assignments, Prem has worked for Hewlett-Packard, PepsiCo & ABB in variety of Finance & Customer facing Operation roles. Prem is a Chartered Accountant from The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, New Delhi & Commerce Graduate with Honours from The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Vadodara. RML is a pioneering and award-winning business that sells a highly personalized information service over mobile phones to the farming community. Farmers subscribing get decision-critical information across the crop cycle, irrespective of operators and handsets, in their local language, and as per their individual crop, markets and location preferences. RML was launched as a business in late 2007 in India and has reached over a million farmers in 20,000 villages across 13 states in India with several hundred thousand farmers using a paid subscription.

## Udo Gärtner



Udo Gärtner is the Principal Advisor of GOPA (GTZ Cambodia). He graduated as Agricultural Economist from the University of Kassel, Germany in 1982. Afterwards he worked as an Integrated CIM-expert to set-up an agricultural and small industrial co-operative society in Southern Sri Lanka. In 1990 he joined the GTZ as technical adviser for local economic development and agri-business services in an Integrated Rural Development Project in Sri Lanka. Later on he became team leader of a GTZ-supported project to introduce innovative financial services for Micro-Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME's) at the Peoples Bank of Sri Lanka. From 1998 to 2004 he worked as team leader of a GTZ-supported project to set up a nationwide ICT-driven information network for MSMEs with local business chambers in Sri Lanka. Since 2005 up till now he is assigned by GOPA in a GTZ-supported private sector development program to promote innovative business services and local economic development in Cambodia. Throughout his whole career he took part in various TA-missions in Thailand, Bangladesh, Philippines and Palestine.

## Karl Jonas



Prof. Dr. Karl Jonas holds a diploma and a doctor of engineering degree in computer science from the Technical University of Berlin. In 1994 he joined the German National Research Centre for Information Technology (GMD), installing a research group for multimedia Internet services. In 1998 he joined the NEC research laboratory in Heidelberg, where his activities focused on multimedia applications, multipoint services and mobility support for real-time applications. Since 2001 he is a professor for multimedia communication at the University for Applied Science in Bonn-Rhein-Sieg, and since 2004 also head of the Fraunhofer FOKUS competence center for network research. His research work focuses on the integration of satellite-based and terrestrial wireless communication, in particular for multimedia and broadcast services in the framework of next generation mobile communication systems.

## Arafat Hossain



Md. Arafat Hossain is a social science graduate with Master Degrees in Sociology and Development Studies. He started his career as a Consultant for SEDF-IFC, The World Bank Group under Poverty and Gender team and was actively involved in developing the Poverty Outcome Tracking System for the project of The World Bank back in 2005. Later on he moved into Katalyst c/o Swisscontact and is working there as Principal Business Consultant. In Katalyst he is working with ICT as an enabler for enhancing the growth and productivity of SMEs and farmers of rural Bangladesh. Under ICT, he has worked extensively with mobile phone operators for developing a financially viable business model for establishment of telecenters. His experience also includes developing mobile telephony based application and solutions

for rural farmers and entrepreneurs with a commercial model in order to ensure sustainability of these kinds of initiatives. Mr. Hossain is also closely working with different government agencies at policy level for forging public private partnerships (PPP) in the area of ICT4D for enhancing the growth and productivity of rural farmers and entrepreneurs. He has participated and presented in various national and international training and conferences on ICT and BDS in development etc.

## **Corinna Küsel**



Corinna Küsel is head of the Section for Economic Policy and Private Sector Development in the GTZ Division Economic Development and Employment since 2006. The Division is part of GTZ's technical advisory Department for Planning and Development. In this function, she coordinates GTZ's work on conceptual development and knowledge management in the field of private sector development, which includes the area of information and communication technologies, as well as the technical advice to GTZ projects and programmes. Between 2000 and 2005 Ms. Küsel managed a GTZ programme for private sector development in Vietnam, as well as GTZ's network for economic development in Asia. Prior to moving to Asia, she was technical adviser in Planning and Development in the field of SME development (for 4 years), and managed a sector project as well as gender issues (for 3 years). Before joining GTZ, Corinna Küsel worked for several years for UNIDO, both in the field and at headquarters, as well as for a private sector consultancy company. She holds a master degree in development sociology and has extensive working experience in Asia, Latin America and Africa.

## **Ekwow Spio-Garbrah**



Dr Spio-Garbrah has been the CEO of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisations (CTO) since 2003 and has brought 20 years of experience in government, diplomacy, business, banking, and consulting to the intergovernmental organisation. Amongst his many achievements, Dr. Spio-Garbrah can highlight his time as Ghana's Minister of Communication and Ambassador of Ghana to the United States and Mexico. He also served as Ghana's Minister of Education, Minister responsible for Mines and Energy and as a member of UNESCO's Executive Board in Paris. As Ghana's Minister of Communication, Dr Spio-Garbrah initiated, developed and implemented policies and programmes that supported the increasing convergence of telecommunications, broadcasting, the Internet, publishing, news media and postal services. Concurrently, as chairman of the National Communication Authority, he had the responsibility for regulating all aspects of the telecom, Internet and broadcasting sectors. Before joining the Ghana government, Dr Spio-Garbrah was Head of Communication at the African Development Bank from 1991-94, where he directed the bank's global corporate and marketing communications and acted as institutional spokesman. Earlier, from 1988-91, he had performed similar functions as an External Relations Officer at the International Finance Corporation, the World Bank affiliate, in Washington.

## Susanne Dorasil



Susanne Dorasil studied law at the Free University of Berlin and holds a Master of Laws degree from King's College London, Bar examination (Berlin). She is working for the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Ms. Dorasil is currently Head of Division "Economic Policy; Financial Sector" and in charge of: sustainable economic development (economic policy, financial and private sector development); corporate social responsibility and ICT for development. Formerly she has been deputy head of division "Central Africa, West Africa II, Madagascar" as well as Senior Advisor to the German Executive Director at the World Bank Group. Her focal areas were IDA; debt sustainability, lending instruments, corporate governance, safeguards/performance standards, good governance, fragile states. Additionally she has been Private Secretary to the Permanent State Secretary of the BMZ and deputy head of the legal division.

## Ilari Lindy

Mr. Ilari Patrick Lindy is Senior Advisor at the Department of Development Policy in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. He works on strategic development MFA's global policies and instruments related to information society; science, technology and innovation in the context of development cooperation. Mr. Lindy has previously served as Counsellor on ICT4D for Ministry at the Embassy of Finland in South Africa, Senior Expert for European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA), Project Officer at the European Commission DG Information Society and representative for East Finland regional authorities in Brussels. Mr. Lindy has an MA in Communications Science from Helsinki University. He is currently Co-Chair of European expert group of EU-Africa strategic partnership no 8 focusing on science, technology, information society and space.

## David Grimshaw



Dr David J. Grimshaw is Head of International Programme: New Technologies with Practical Action and Senior Research Fellow at the Department for International Development. Before working in development he followed an academic career at the University of Leeds and Warwick Business School, University of Warwick, and Cranfield School of Management. He is currently Visiting Professor in Information and Communications Technology for Development at Royal Holloway, University of London. Research interests include ICT4D and the role of new technologies in development. Currently working on a DFID funded project with a team at Royal Holloway on a systematic review of "What are the key lessons of ICT4D partnerships for poverty reduction?" David has published many papers in academic journals, international conferences and the professional press. He acted as a mentor to the EPSRC funded project on Bridging the Global Digital Divide, was a member of an Expert Advisory Panel on ICT for Rural Livelihoods Programme, ODI and World Bank; and is Chair of Demos Committee for the ICTD2010 Conference in London 2010.

## Giacomo Rambaldi



Giacomo Rambaldi is senior programme coordinator at the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA), Netherlands. He has worked for various international organizations including FAO, Italian Aid to Development, the European Commission and the Asian Development Bank. He holds a degree in agricultural sciences from the State University of Milan, Italy and is currently engaged in a PhD with the Communication and Innovation Studies Group, Communication Sciences, Wageningen University in the Netherlands. At CTA Giacomo is leading activities related to the dissemination and adoption of participatory ICTs, specifically Web 2.0 and “Spatial Information Management and Communication”. In this context he supports collaborative engagement through communities of practice, bottom-up communication and local empowerment. At CTA he manages the Web2forDev Gateway and the PGIS portal. As his personal contribution to development in August 2000 he launched Participatory Avenues, a web site dedicated to sharing knowledge on community mapping and collaborative spatial information management and in 2004 the Open Forum for Participatory Geographic Information technologies and Systems, a network currently accounting for more than 2000 members worldwide. Areas of professional interest include visualizing indigenous spatial knowledge for improving communication, facilitating peer-to-peer dialogue and managing conflicts on issues related to the territory; collaborative natural resource and protected area management; participatory spatial planning; networking; information management and communication, web publishing, multimedia production and photography

## Speakers in Working Groups

### **Helani Galpaya**



Helani Galpaya is Chief Operating Officer and Indicators Specialist at LIRNEasia, a ICT policy and regulation think tank that works across the emerging Asia Pacific. Helani's primary research focus is measuring and benchmarking regulatory and sector performance. She leads LIRNEasia's work on assessing telecom regulatory risk through perception surveys, and benchmarking of mobile and broadband prices and performance. She teaches topics related to regulation and measurement of regulatory performance, and conducts capacity building programs for regulators and national statistical organizations on collecting comparable supply- and demand-side indicators to measure sector performance. In addition to her own research and advocacy activities, as COO of Helani provides overall leadership to implementing a policy-relevant research agenda in 12 Asian countries aimed at understanding and removing regulatory/policy barriers that enable economic developing through citizen access to ICTs and related infrastructure. She holds a MS in Technology & Policy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA.

### **Sonja Oestmann**

Ms. Oestmann is an experienced market, strategy, policy and regulatory consultant specialising for over 13 years in telecommunications services in emerging markets and developing countries. She has worked in over 25 countries and has a Masters Degree in Political Science. Since commencing her career at the European Commission's Telecommunications Directorate General (DGXIII), undertaking assignments related to EU integration of Central and Eastern European countries, Ms. Oestmann has carried out and managed consulting assignments in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Ms. Oestmann is an expert on Universal Access and Service, broadband development and ICT strategies and applications, and she has developed related policies and strategic approaches in Mongolia, Uganda, Philippines, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Mozambique, Peru, Botswana and Russia, among other countries. Ms. Oestmann typically conducts comprehensive sector reviews and industry consultations, works with government stakeholders, develops policy and strategies for the communications sector, assists with program implementation (including field demand studies), and develops the associated regulatory and legal documentation. Ms. Oestmann was the principal author of "Module 4: Universal Access and Service" ICT Regulation Toolkit, 2008, sponsored by ITU/infoDev and co-author of "Universal Access: How Mobile can bring Communications for All" GSM Association, 2006. Recent assignments include a multi-year project on eGovernment in the Philippines, a four-country mobile money study for the IFC and a study on mobile applications for rural development for the World Bank.

## **Olaf Nielinger**



Olaf has in depth experience of over 10 years in telecommunications market regulation, sector reform and ICT policy and strategy development. Key focus of his work include economic regulation, market strategy development and business planning, with a special focus on developing countries and emerging markets. Furthermore, he has good knowledge in developing and applying monitoring and evaluation frameworks for telecom and ICT sector developments. During the last five years Olaf has worked on over 30 assignments in more than 15 countries in Africa, Asia, Middle East and Western and Eastern Europe. Before joining Detecon International, Olaf worked for the Institute of African Affairs and the German Overseas Institute where he started his professional career focusing on telecommunications market development and regulation in developing countries.

## **Nancy Sundberg**

Nancy began her career in the ITU, in 1995, as a Project Administrator in the ITU General Secretariat's Strategic Planning Unit. She joined the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in 1996 where she started dealing with telecommunications regulatory matters. She held several positions with growing responsibilities working in ICT sector reform. Nancy now serves as a Regulatory Officer in the Regulatory and Market Environment Division (RME). Nancy Sundberg holds a Bachelor's degree (BA) in Political Science from the University of Lausanne, Switzerland and a European Masters of Arts (MA) in Society, Science and Technology from the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland and the Facultés Universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix, Namur, Belgium.

## **Christian Henckes**



Dr. Christian Henckes is Head of Section of Agriculture and Food at GTZ, German Technical Cooperation. He previously worked at The World Bank where he was first employed in the Agriculture and Rural Development Department and then in the Aid Harmonization Unit. Prior to this, Dr. Henckes was Senior Advisor for agrifood systems in the Planning and Development Department at GTZ headquarters. Before working in Germany, he was involved in a post-harvest project and a farming system project in Ghana. In his earlier career Dr. Henckes was part of a research project for smallholder maize production systems of Technical University Berlin in Tanzania. Dr. Henckes holds a Master of Science in agricultural science from Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-University Bonn and a PhD in agricultural science from Technical University Berlin.

## Michael Riggs



Michael joined the FAO in 2000. Currently in the headquarters based Knowledge and Capacity for Development branch, his work is devoted to improving the use of ICTs for sustainable rural development and food security, with a particular focus on issues related to content, communication processes, organizational capacity, and knowledge sharing. As the Lead Facilitator of the 7,000 member e-Agriculture Community of Practice ([www.e-agriculture.org](http://www.e-agriculture.org)), Michael serves as a catalyst for institutions and individuals to recognize the vital role that ICTs can play in agriculture and rural development, and to exchange knowledge and expand good practices, thereby improving the livelihoods of rural communities. He is FAO's focal point for follow-up to the WSIS action line on ICTs and rural development, and a member of the ICT4D Collective as well as an associate member of Orbicom. From 2000 to 2008, Michael was based in Thailand and led FAO's efforts in the Asia-Pacific region to improve the efficiency, quality, and relevance of information and knowledge exchange for rural development. Prior to joining FAO, Michael worked in the private sector with responsibility for new project development and global technology transfer.

## Christian Merz



Christian Merz acts as a Research Project Manager for SAP Research in Karlsruhe, Germany. Currently he is working in the research field "technologies for emerging economies" trying to establish sustainable business and technology models for socio economic development in emerging countries. He leads SAP's involvement in the African Cashew Initiative comprising an international consortium that focuses on interventions to stimulate economic development of smallholder cashew farmers in West Africa and Mozambique. His former work on virtual cooperatives amongst small and micro enterprises in rural Africa (FP6 project Collaboration at Rural) has been well recognized in the public and paved the way for enhanced activities of SAP in the developing world. Other project experiences comprise e-learning platforms to educate in-service teachers and healthcare solutions in rural South Africa. He joined SAP Research 10 years ago and contributed innovative solutions in the area of Ubiquitous Computing before he concentrated on Knowledge Management, Human Computer Interaction and Collaborative Working Environments. Christian started in 1997 as an SAP employee and consulted SAP customers internationally on SAP implementations for about 3 years. He received his Diploma in Physics from the Albert-Ludwigs-University in Freiburg, Germany.

## Márton Kocsev

Márton Kocsev, has been working for GTZ on various ICT4D projects in Ethiopia. He has been following the implementation of ICT capacity building projects in the educational sector as well as recently in private enterprises. His main interest lies in tailoring low-cost and low-energy IT solutions for community development, be it at universities, in rural environments or in Small and Medium Enterprises. Since January 2010 he has been managing the on.e | eCapacity Development department of the engineering capacity building program ([www.ecbp.biz/one.html](http://www.ecbp.biz/one.html)). The department focuses on the introduction of high-quality and sustainable digital information and knowledge hubs for Ethiopian universities and in the private sector. Besides his work he is also engaged in the academic discussions on ICT4D, through the ICT4D Collective at the Royal Holloway College, where he is pursuing a PhD.

## Balthas Seibold



Balthas Seibold is a senior project manager at InWEnt - Capacity Building International, Germany. Responsible for programmes on ICT for Development and Open Innovation, he develops and implements capacity building projects in Asia and Africa within the department of Sustainable Business Development. Previous work stations include UNESCO's bureau of strategic planning, GTZ and the UNDP. For more information, see

<http://www.inwent.org/it-inwent/>

## Yadhab Pradhan



Yadab Lal Pradhan is the executive chairman of MicroBanker Nepal Pvt. Ltd. He has 20 years of experience in software design, development and implementation mainly in the banking and microfinance sectors. Throughout his career has he worked in different phases of software related activities such as requirement analysis, designing, programming, software team management, migrations, implementations, preparation of related documentation, end-user support and training in more than 20 countries. He is also one of the developers of the FAO MicroBanking System DOS version, predecessor of MBWin system and ex-Deputy Project

Manager of the development team of the FAO-GTZ MicroBanking (MBWin) system. At present he is managing the MicroBanker Nepal as Executive Chairman which is the competence center for MBWin system and providing IT consultancies and MBWin implementation activities in many countries. Mr. Pradhan is Chairman of the MicroBanking International Foundation in The Netherlands and member of the Kasthamandap Rotary Club Kathmandu.

## Thomas Förch

Thomas Foerch is an economist by academic education and collected his first professional experiences in the hedge-fund industry. He joined GTZ in 2010 and has been working since then in Indonesia and Germany. His focus is on SME-development and financial stability issues.