

Dear Readers,

Best new year wishes from the ICT4D team here at GIZ! Since the 1st January, we are indeed part of GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) which results from the merger of DED, GTZ and InWEnt.

In this first 2011 issue, we have focused on "ICT for Rural Economic Development". That was the theme of BMZ's ICT4D 2010 conference held in November in Berlin as well as of the follow-up events that we organised in collaboration with FAO on [e-Agriculture.org](http://e-Agriculture.org) and on the fourth day of the [ICTD2010](#) conference.

**Pierre Lucante**

#### Market & Business Solutions

### Conference "ICT for Rural Economic Development"



More than 90 representatives of development cooperation organisations, research institutions, academia, and private sector companies followed the invitation of BMZ and came together in Berlin on November 18 – 19 for our conference "ICT for Rural Economic Development". The participants discussed the many different uses of ICT, e.g. to

provide market information or to ensure access to financial services for people living in rural or remote areas.

The participants themselves also practiced the use of new media and communication tools. Our weblog (<http://ict.ez-blogs.de>) served as a platform to document the different sessions and working groups, while participants shared their impressions and thoughts through Twitter in more than 300 tweets. Video interviews filmed during the conference and a selection of photographs are also available on [YouTube](#) and on [flickr](#).

If you want to learn more about the proceedings and outcomes of the conference, read the following article in this newsletter, visit our [weblog](#) or contact [Anja Kiefer](#). For a bit more background on ICT for economic development in rural areas, read the Spotlight article at the end of this newsletter.

#### General ICT4D News

**Is it possible to effectively analyse the socio-economic impact of ICT in rural areas?**

#### ICT4D Weblog

To learn more about ICT4D, visit our [weblog](#). With this blog, we aim at facilitating communication between all ICT practitioners working in the field of development cooperation all over the world.

Feel free to tell us about your projects and daily work, post personal opinions and questions and comment on other articles.

#### Upcoming ICT4D Events

[Mobile Web West Africa](#), Feb 2-3, 2011, Lagos/Nigeria

[ICT for Africa](#), March 23 - 26, 2011, Ota/Nigeria

[IFIP WG9.4 Conference:](#)

Partners for Development: ICT Actors and Actions, May 22 - 25, 2011, Kathmandu/Nepal

#### Other ICT4D News

The World Bank Group (WBG) is currently developing a new ICT Sector strategy that better incorporates ICT's transformational power into its work. The strategy will take a cross-sectoral approach that focuses on three pillars: Innovate - Connect - Transform. The WBG is consulting with external and internal stakeholders to refine and strengthen the strategy and seeks views from all stakeholders on where and how to focus the financial and advisory services within this constantly-changing sector. To learn more and to participate, visit the [Virtual Consultation website](#).

Rwanda: [Third Phase ICT Action Plan Unveiled](#)

Filipino Government Bids to Encourage the Use of [Social Media As a Disaster Warning Tool](#)



Directly following the conference “ICT for Rural Economic Development”, an [online discussion forum](#) was hosted by FAO and GTZ on behalf of BMZ on the e-Agriculture platform. This forum picked up the discussion from the conference to pursue an important issue of ICT4D projects. During the week from Nov 24 to Dec 1, all members of the e-Agriculture community were invited to discuss the value of analysing the impact of ICT in rural areas, relevant methods for

it, and how to ensure that information about such an assessment will be fed back into the design of future projects.

Many people from all over the world participated in this online forum as almost one hundred comments were posted during the 8 days of discussion. We wish to thank everybody who shared his or her thoughts and experience and contributed to this successful forum.

For details on the discussion, see the [online forum](#) or contact [Anja Kiefer](#).

---

## Regulation

### West African Regulators set up a framework to regulate access to submarine cable



On 7-9 December in Monrovia, the telecom regulatory authorities of West Africa validated the regulatory guidelines that aim to enable a fair access to submarine cables in West Africa. The West African Telecommunication Regulators Assembly (WATRA) guidelines have been prepared by

the ITU with the support of the Sector Project ICT4D. The guidelines, to be adopted by WATRA's general assembly later on this year, should play a significant role in reducing Internet connectivity prices in West Africa.

For further information see the [workshop homepage](#) or contact [Pierre Lucante](#).

---

## Knowledge & Learning Systems

### ict@innovation: more than 10 FOSS business models trainings in 2010 – more to come



The capacity building program “ict@innovation - Creating Business and Learning

Opportunities with Free and Open Source Software in Africa” looks back at a busy year 2010: ict@innovation triggered more than 10 national follow-up trainings on African FOSS Business Models (e.g. in South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Mozambique, Kenya), following a wave of Training of Trainers schemes with the goal to “free IT businesses in Africa”. Thanks to the excellence of the trainers, the training initiatives were praised by IT companies and attracted quite some media attention ([view here](#)). Furthermore ict@innovation brought advanced training in Linux system administration to more than 20 certification trainers and bodies in East Africa. This was accompanied by the first “Linux Professional Institute” training material ([view here](#)) developed in Africa by Africans. Now for 2011, ict@innovation is looking forward to a second round of Linux system administration Training of Trainers ([view here](#)) as well as to many more national follow ups of FOSS business models trainings to bring the idea of free and open source software into small and medium IT enterprises. ict@innovation is a partnership between FOSSFA (Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) (until 2011: with InWEnt

- Capacity Building International, now part of GIZ).

For more information, visit the [ict@innovation website](#) or contact [Balthas Seibold](#).

---

#### Knowledge & Learning Systems

### First International Certification for E-Learning in Capacity Development Available



On 30 November 2010 the international e-learning quality standard initiative Open ECBCheck has awarded its first five

certifications for capacity development programs and courses to international organizations.

Open ECBCheck provides international standards for e-learning programmes and courses. The crucial success factor for the quality concept is its widespread acceptance of a global community because it was developed through an open consultation process from the community of capacity development organizations itself, inviting their partners for regular validation and feedback. Organizations can join the Open ECBCheck Quality Charter, freely use the quality tool which is available online and offline ([www.ecb-check.org](#)), and join the open community to ask for a peer-review in a light and low cost certification process.

As some of the pioneer organisations in the field of e-learning in capacity development, the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the Training Center of the International Labor Organisation, the World Bank Institute and InWEnt – Capacity Building International (now part of GIZ) have proven their excellence in delivering e-learning supported capacity development.

Read the whole article [here](#) or contact [Monika Soddemann](#) for more information.

---

#### Knowledge & Learning Systems

### From e-learning networks to e-learning policy



„Am I a social network, and if so, how many of them are there?“ During InWEnt’s workshop (InWEnt is now a part of GIZ) at Online Educa Berlin this question surely occurred to more than 50 international participants from politics, economy, education and culture. The main topic of the workshop was the significance of networks and their influence on e-learning policy.

According to Beverly Trayner, an international expert for social networks, virtual networks offer people’s voices a chance to become noticed all over the world. This particular characteristic of virtual networks can play an important role regarding the topic of “leadership”.

For e-learning and e-policy expert Bernadette Robinson from Great Britain, policy is an accumulative pool of opinions in which every person and their expert community has to play a part.

With the help of practical examples from GIZ’s network partners from Costa Rica, Cambodia, Mongolia, Namibia and Tanzania it became evident how many goals these countries have already accomplished. For example, thanks to the efforts of the Namibian e-learning centre (NeLC) there is an “Open and Distance Learning Policy” in Namibia. The political influence of the National E-learning Centre in Tanzania is similarly strong.

For more information, read the whole article [here](#) or contact [Christian Gmelin](#), [Monika Soddemann](#), or [Miriam Unverzagt](#).

---

## Market & Business Solutions

### First Barcamp in Ethiopia



German Development Cooperation supported the organization of the first ever [Barcamp in Ethiopia](#).

Barcamp is an innovative, alternative form of conference which forms through the active, participatory, unstructured and non-hierarchical collaborative efforts of the participants themselves. The Barcamp took place on 17th – 18th September 2010 in Addis Ababa. Among many other exciting topics, it discussed new ways of using web-based technologies to improve education, private sector & community processes.

For more information, visit the [Barcamp Ethiopia website](#), download the [Barcamp documentation](#) or contact [Márton Kocsev](#).

---

## General ICT4D News

### UNCTAD publishes Information Economy Report 2010



The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) recently published the Information Economy Report 2010: ICTs, Enterprises and Poverty Alleviation. It is the fifth such report in the flagship series published by UNCTAD. As one of few annual reports that monitor global trends related to information and communication technologies (ICTs) from a

development perspective, the Report is a valuable reference source for policymakers in developing countries. In the 2010 edition, special attention is given to the potential impact of ICTs in enterprises for reducing poverty and improving livelihoods. The evidence presented in this Report suggests that more attention should be given by policymakers and other stakeholders to opportunities in this area.

To learn more, visit the [UNCTAD website](#) or [download the report](#).

---

## General ICT4D News

### A "Twitter"/"Facebook" Revolution in Tunisia?

A few links to follow the debate:

[Social media's role in the Tunisian uprising](#)

[Tunisia: Can We Please Stop Talking About 'Twitter Revolutions'?](#)

[Was What Happened in Tunisia a Twitter Revolution?](#)

---

## Spotlight

### ICT for Rural Economic Development

Rural poverty is one of the major challenges in developing countries. Especially in rural or remote areas – where often a disproportionately large part of the population is affected by poverty – a number of challenges hamper sustainable economic growth.

Remoteness and sparse population density, often accompanied by a lack of transport infrastructure, define rural areas. In many regions, physical infrastructure and the provision of basic services are at best inadequate. Support infrastructure is missing for the most part. Additionally, dysfunctional land and property ownership structures make successful development in rural areas of developing countries more difficult. Insufficient market orientation of rural production and the dependence on only a small number of economic activities are also detrimental to sustainable economic growth and

development.

Fostering economic activities in rural areas – for example improving the competitiveness of rural producers or enhancing business opportunities for rural entrepreneurs – is an important step towards poverty reduction, and ICT can play a major role in achieving this aim.

ICT can help promote economic development in rural areas in a number of different ways.

For example, improved access to markets for goods, commodities, and services is crucial, and mobile phones can be a tool to simplify access to such markets. SMS-based trading platforms, where producers and buyers can be linked through simple queries, are one example for this. Access to basic services like banking is also important to improve the ability of people in rural areas to seize opportunities for development. Radio broadcasts on innovative farming methods can be another way in which ICT contribute to improving farmers' revenue.

Overall, improving the business environment around the rural producers and local entrepreneurs in such a way that they can benefit from local, national and international markets is a key enabler for rural economic development, for which ICT can contribute relevant and useful tools.

#### **Imprint**

Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH  
Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 40  
53113 Bonn, Germany

Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH  
Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5  
65760 Eschborn, Germany

Phone: +49 6196 79-0  
Fax: +49 6196 79-1115  
Email: [info@giz.de](mailto:info@giz.de)

#### **Registered offices**

Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

#### **Registered at**

Local court (Amtsgericht) Bonn, Germany: HRB 18384  
Local Court (Amtsgericht) Frankfurt am Main: HRB 12394

#### **VAT no.**

DE 113891176

#### **Chairman of the Supervisory Board**

Hans-Jürgen Beerfeltz, State Secretary

#### **Chairman of the Management Board**

Dr Bernd Eisenblätter

#### **Management Board**

Dr Christoph Beier  
Adolf Kloke-Lesch  
Tom Pätz  
Dr Sebastian Paust  
Dr Hans-Joachim Preuß  
Dr Jürgen Wilhelm

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please click [here](#).

#### **In charge of this newsletter:**

Pierre Lucante ([pierre.lucante@giz.de](mailto:pierre.lucante@giz.de))

**Editor(s):**

Anja Kiefer ([anja.kiefer@giz.de](mailto:anja.kiefer@giz.de))

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Contact](#) | [Recommend this newsletter](#) | [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)