

Dear Readers,

The last few months have been marked by a number of key international events in the field of telecommunications and development; most notably the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2010 co-organised in Geneva by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP and the World Telecommunication Development Conference that took place in Hyderabad.

The development of "broadband" Internet access and usage was one of the main topics discussed during these events. At the occasion of the WSIS Forum, the ITU and the UNESCO notably announced the establishment of a "Broadband Commission for Digital Development" co-chaired by Paul Kagamé and Carlos Slim which will be investigating strategies for accelerating the roll-out of broadband infrastructures and applications in view of improving social, economic and environmental goals. The Commission will deliver its conclusions and recommendations to the Secretary General of the UN at the occasion of the UN MDG Summit that will take place in September in New York. In the next few months, Internet access and its regulation should thus remain a top priority on the world's ICT4D agenda.

Pierre Lucante

Regulation

The fifth World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-10)



A German delegation attended the fifth World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-10) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), which was held from 24 May to 4 June 2010 in Hyderabad, India. It was attended by 924 participants, including government delegates, representatives from public and private sector companies, and representatives from regional and international organizations. The WTDC-10 identified priorities

for the development of telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs), taking into account contributions made by Member States and Sector Members. WTDC-10 adopted a declaration (Hyderabad Declaration), a strategic plan and an action plan setting the activities of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) over the next four-year period.

Download the [Hyderabad Declaration](#).

For further information see the [WTDC homepage](#) or contact [Thorsten Scherf](#).

Regulation

Expert Talk on Internet Access in Africa



The Expert Talk, which took place on 15th June at GTZ HQ in Eschborn, aimed at understanding how German Development Cooperation could contribute to the improvement of Internet connectivity in sub-Saharan Africa. Moderated by Martin Müller (Division pan-African

Programmes, West Africa II & Angola at GTZ), the expert talk was opened by

Conference on ICT for Rural Economic Development

On behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the sector project ICT4D will be organizing a conference on "ICT for Rural Economic Development" in Berlin (Nov. 18-19, 2010). While highlighting the role of ICT for economic development in rural areas of low- and middle-income countries, the conference will foster an exchange of ideas and showcase international good practices and trends in this field of development cooperation.

For more information please contact [Peter Rave](#) or [Anja Kiefer](#).

Upcoming ICT4D Events

On December 13 - 16, the [ICTD2010](#) conference will be hosted by the UNESCO chair in ICT4D in London/United Kingdom. The conference aims to provide a forum for researchers, practitioners and all those with interests in the use of information and communication technologies in development practice to discuss the latest research advances in the field. This important event is sponsored by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Publications

In the March newsletter we presented the Internet-based multilingual technical dictionary for the Arabic world project. We are now pleased to announce that the [first volume](#) on automotive engineering was released in May 2010 and is available to all users free of charge. Additional volumes will be added successively.

A comprehensive documentation of our conference on "e-Health for development", which took place last October in Berlin, can be downloaded [here](#).

Susanne Dorasil (Head of Division Economic Policy; Financial Sector at BMZ). Sandrine Guyot (International Telecommunications Union) illustrated the issue by analyzing the case of the HIPSSA project (Harmonization of the ICT Policies in Sub-Sahara Africa) to which GTZ on behalf of BMZ contributes.

In sub-Sahara Africa, Internet access and usage are hindered by a lack of investment in infrastructures but also by a lack of competition. An adequate regulation of the market that strikes the right balance between competition and investment incentives is critical to the development of the sector. German Development Cooperation, through its efforts in favour of the development of capacities of partner countries' regulatory agencies, is therefore contributing to the improvement of Internet connectivity in the region.

For more information please contact [Pierre Lucante](#) or [Thorsten Scherf](#).

Market & Business Solutions

Training Handbook released: "Free your IT-Business in Africa!"

"How can I build a sustainable business around Free and Open Source Software in Africa?" - In order to answer this question frequently asked by young African IT-business owners, InWEnt and FOSSFA are pleased to present "ict@innovation: Free your IT-Business in Africa!" - a set of advanced training materials on African Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) Business Models for IT-enterprises.

The open training material "ict@innovation: Free your IT-Business in Africa!" is part of the initiative ict@innovation, a partnership of FOSSFA (Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa) and InWEnt - Capacity Building International of Germany, funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). In the handbook, numerous successful business models suited to the African context are presented and explained, such as Software Selection, Software Installation, FOSS Training, Maintenance and Support, Software / Systems Migration, Consultancy, Software Localization and Internalization, FOSS Customization as well as Technical / Legal Certification.

The book is available for free download at the [ict@innovation website](#). For more information please contact [Balthas Seibold](#) from [InWEnt](#).

General ICT4D News

WSIS Forum 2010: Turning targets into action



The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2010, facilitated by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), took place in May in

Geneva. At the occasion of the Forum, ITU officials stressed that broadband networks should be considered as a basic infrastructure. According to ITU's Secretary General – Mr Touré - "in the 21st century, affordable, ubiquitous broadband networks will be as critical to social and economic prosperity as networks like transport, water and power".

At the Forum, Pierre Lucante participated in a panel discussion on the WSIS Action Line C6 (Enabling Environment) with a focus on regulation. During the panel discussion, there was a common understanding that regulatory reform is becoming an ever more complex task. A balance between the various aspects of an efficient policy and regulatory framework is essential for achieving a level playing field for businesses while ensuring accessible and affordable services for consumers. Competition, together with privatization and the establishment of a separate regulatory body remain the pillars of market-focused strategies of governments to meet social and economic goals, such as increased access to broadband and revenue from ICT services.

See [WSIS homepage](#) for more information.

A summary of the session can be found [here](#).

ICT in Tax Administration



What are the benefits of a computerized tax administration system? How can such a system be implemented? What institutional, organizational and personnel aspects have to be considered in the process? What steps are necessary to ensure the effectiveness and the sustainability of the system?

Based on the experience of GTZ projects in Tanzania and the Philippines, our newly published handbook provides answers to these questions. It introduces iTAX, the software solution developed to deal with all aspects of tax administration – whether on a national or on a local level. The iTAX

handbook is directed at practitioners in the field of tax administration and in development cooperation as well as decision-makers and authority officials interested in making their tax system more efficient.

If you are interested please download the [handbook](#) or contact [Anja Kiefer](#).

Knowledge & Learning Systems

Assessment of GTZ's e-Health project in Banda Aceh

Following the Tsunami, GTZ had contributed to the establishment of Health Management Information Systems (HMIS) in selected areas of the Aceh Province in Indonesia. GTZ's involvement in the project has now come to an end and a third party review was commissioned to assess its progress and its impact. This assessment was conducted by two external reviewers from Health Metrics Network (HMN, World Health Organisation) and one from Deloitte. The project successfully implemented two information systems (one for the hospitals and one for primary care) that improved business and decision-making processes.

For more information please contact [Kelvin Hui](#).

Imprint

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH
- German Technical Cooperation -
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Turnover Tax ID No.: DE 113891176
Commercial Register: HRB 12394



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