

Dear Readers,

This summer issue of the ict4d newsletter provides us with the opportunity to show the regional and sectoral variety of information and communication technologies in German Development Cooperation's projects. It features project examples in the field of agricultural value chain, private sector development, governance and environment; projects run in cooperation with SAP in Ghana, Deutsche Telekom in China, a pan-African training guide on [LINUX](#) System Administration, the first ever [mobile app Hackathon](#) in Ethiopia, a workshop on [e-procurement](#) in Georgia and a specific spotlight to explain the relevance of [interoperability](#) for development cooperation.

Pierre Lucante

#### Market & Business Solutions

### African Cashew Initiative: Cooperation to Use ICT for the Benefit of Cashew Growers



We recently published, in collaboration with our colleagues from the African Cashew Initiative, a short paper "Virtual Cooperatives: ICT for African Cashew Farmers" on a development partnership with SAP Research in Ghana.

The development partnership utilizes Information and Communication Technologies to provide the means to enhance the productivity of Cashew farmers, to strengthen farmer cooperatives, and to enable them to do collaborative business with the established economy in a transparent and sustainable way.

To learn more, you can download the paper [here](#) or visit the [website of the African Cashew Initiative](#). Also, Deutsche Welle, the German international TV channel, has produced a [short video](#) about the pilot of the project in Brong Ahafo, Ghana.

#### e-Government

### e-Procurement in Georgia



სახელმწიფო შენახვისაგნის სააგენტო  
STATE PROCUREMENT AGENCY

On May 10-11, GIZ's Private Sector Development Programme Georgia and the State Procurement Agency of Georgia

(SPA) conducted a workshop with local stakeholders in Tbilisi, dedicated to the topic of e-procurement in Georgia. The participants had in-depth discussions on issues such as the use of electronic auctions in public procurement, how to maximize price savings and quality, how to stimulate international as well as local competition through the increased participation of SMEs, and integrity in public procurement.

GIZ's [Private Sector Development Programme Georgia](#) has been working

#### 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

[CTO Forum Connecting Rural Communities](#), Aug. 24 - 26, 2011, Dar es Salaam/Tanzania  
[2nd German-African ICT Forum](#), Nov. 2 - 3, 2011, Nairobi/Kenia  
[3rd International ICST Conference on e-Infrastructure and e-Services for Developing Countries](#), Nov. 23 - 24, 2011, Zanzibar Islands/Tanzania

#### Other ICT4D News

This year's flagship report of the Inter-American Development Bank, titled "Development Connections: Unveiling the Impact of New Information Technologies," focusses on ICT and their impact on economies and societies. The [executive summary](#) can be downloaded online. More information on the report itself is available [here](#).

As part of its series "Science, Technology and Innovation: Current Studies," UNCTAD recently published "[Measuring the Impacts of Information and Communication Technology for Development](#)."

New papers on ICT for Development by Richard Heeks: "[Do ICTs Contribute to](#)

with the [SPA](#) on the introduction of e-procurement since June 2010. The very successful reform, introducing e-procurement from December 1st, 2010, is a big step forward in the country's fight against corruption as well as in the implementation of e-government.

The workshop in May 2011 marked the end of GIZ's and SPA's first phase of cooperation which focused on stimulating SME access to public procurement in order to increase competition, realize cost savings and eliminate corruption opportunities. At the same time it was decided to continue the cooperation by introducing a business intelligence tool and economic analysis department at SPA which will monitor public procurement markets and hence ensure the efficiency of the system.

For more information, please contact [Johanna Wohlmeyer](#) or [Thorsten Scherf](#).

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#### General ICT4D News

### Fostering an Independent Media: An Important Part of Democracy Promotion



In late June about 1,600 people from around the world discussed challenges for the media in the context of human rights and globalization at the [Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum](#). Supported by the Sector Advisory Project Good Governance and Democracy, BMZ

organised a [workshop](#) at the Forum regarding the topic of Media for Development.

Free and independent media allows citizens unhindered access to information, helps establish a variety of opinions and facilitates a culture of political pluralism and social dialogue. In this way, freedom of press is a decisive prerequisite for an informed, critical and vigilant civil society. In addition, New Media offers possibilities for political participation of all social groups and, as has been seen in the MENA region, in authoritarian states it can serve as a vehicle for social protest.

The support of an independent media in developing countries is a key part of Germany's efforts to promote democracy and good governance. The Sector Advisory Project Good Governance and Democracy has long-standing expertise of media and takes into account the media's role in state-society relationships.

For more information and advice on new/social media and networks; their role in promoting participation in the political process; promoting the media in development cooperation; eDemocracy; and eGovernance, please contact [Doris Beerling-Henestrosa](#), download our [factsheet](#) and visit our [homepage](#).

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#### General ICT4D News

### Low Carbon Mobility Management for Chinese Megacities – A development partnership between Deutsche Telekom and GIZ



In China, growing transport and mobility demands expressed through higher motorization rates cause increasing fuel consumption and therefore rising greenhouse gas emissions. Especially in Chinese megacities of today and tomorrow, these growing emissions pose an enormous challenge to urban transport. As part of a

[Development?](#)" draws on models of enterprise value chains, empowerment and Sen's capability theory to review ICTs' contribution to conceptions of development as economic growth, as sustainable livelihoods, and as freedom. It also argues the need to address motivational and structural issues around impact assessment, and the need for greater awareness of the potential for 'Development 2.0'.

"[Social Outsourcing as a Development Tool](#)" assesses the impact of a new business model that uses IT outsourcing contracts to deliver socio-economic development. While raising questions about sustainability of the initiative, the research finds that social outsourcing has delivered new jobs, incomes and empowerment into low-income communities.

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Members of the ICT4D Collective at Royal Holloway, University of London, have compiled a Systematic Review Report for DFID: [What are the key lessons of ICT4D partnerships for poverty reduction?](#)

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DFID and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) are calling for new and innovative research proposals. One study area of particular interest is ICT4D. Applications are invited for projects with a Full Economic Cost value of between £100,000 and £500,000 and open to researchers based in higher education institutions, research organizations and organizations with a credible research capacity. The closing date for applications is 27 September 2011. To apply and find out more, visit the [ESRC website](#).

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comprehensive policy package to curb emissions from transport, eco-driving is an option which not only reduces emissions quickly but also helps to reduce costs through fuel savings. Therefore, logistic service providers with large fleets have a vested interest in a more eco-friendly driving behavior and a fuel reducing driving style of their drivers. This is where ICT comes in.

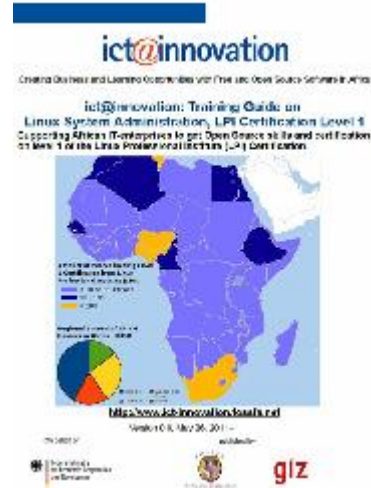
In November 2010, GIZ and Deutsche Telekom signed a contract for a joint development partnership with the objective to introduce an IT-based approach that will make the physics of driving visible and so encourages eco-friendly driving. With a combination of mobile apps, GPS and platform centric data processing, this solution can be used to visualize whether a individual driving style is anticipatory, with low fuel consumption, or more aggressive, with higher fuel consumption and consequently higher CO2 emissions – and this in real time. In other words, the principles of eco-driving are translated into software that supports fleet operators to introduce eco-driving approaches and allows them to establish incentive schemes. In addition, the project will evaluate whether the methodology can also be used for monitoring, reporting and verifying of emission reductions, which would be of high interest for GIZ. The project will be implemented during a three year period until October 2013.

[Dennis Horch](#) is glad to give more information.

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## Knowledge & Learning Systems

### ict@innovation training guide on Linux System Administration published



“How do I know that this IT company from Kampala will be able to maintain my IT server infrastructure?” asks a contract-giving government agency in Uganda. The answer lies in a trust-building certification, a crucial ingredient of any economic development agenda. Therefore, FOSSFA (Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Germany are proud to present the brand new “ict@innovation Training Guide on Linux System Administration - LPI Level 1”.

The training guide is geared towards African trainers who want to incorporate Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) Certification into their institution's curriculum and/or developing FOSS Certification training as a new revenue stream. This open training guide provides a structured set of learning modules covering the first essential steps in becoming a Linux System Administrator charged with installing, supporting, and maintaining Linux-based computer systems as well as a module on how to be a FOSS trainer in Africa.

In order to support a wide range of capacity needs and training environments in Africa, the training material and the training-of-trainer programme build on the Linux Professional Institute (LPI) Certification. It is a world-wide recognized distribution- and vendor-neutral standard for evaluating the competency of Linux and Open Source professionals.

The “ict@innovation: Training Guide on Linux System Administration - LPI Certification Level 1” has been released under an open licence, permitting free distribution, remixing and updating of the material.

For more information [download the training guide](#) or visit the [ict@innovation website](#).

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## General ICT4D News

### Android Mobile Challenge and Hackathon at the iceaddis Innovation Hub



May 21-22, 2011 have seen a great breakthrough in mobile applications development in Ethiopia. In cooperation with Google Africa and the Google Technology User Group, iceaddis hosted the first ever mobile app hackathon in Ethiopia. Some forty Android developers came to the 48-hour coding event to develop new apps for Google's open source Android platform.

The changing regulatory environment for mobile telephony in Ethiopia and great mobile app breakthroughs such as Ushahidi and M-Pesa from neighbouring Kenya create the momentum for an Ethiopian mobile boom, too. Mobile phones will play a central role in bringing financial, health and business services to Ethiopia's vast population. Among businesses and civil society organisations, there is an ever growing interest to use mobile applications. iceaddis has also launched Mobile Monday Addis, an open community platform, on July 18.

To read more about ICT related innovations and community building in Ethiopia visit [www.ice-ethiopia.org](http://www.ice-ethiopia.org).

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## General ICT4D News

### Meeting with UNCTAD @ BMZ

On July 14th, UNCTAD representatives Torbjörn Fredriksson, Chief of ICT Analysis Section, and Marta Perez Cuso, Economic Affairs Officer, visited BMZ to present UNCTAD's latest ICT studies and to meet the German ICT4D community.

At the meeting in Bonn, members of German academia, research institutions, NGOs, and development cooperation working on ICT4D discussed ways in which they can collaborate more closely and in a more systematic way with UNCTAD's ICT4D team.

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## General ICT4D News

### WSIS Forum 2011



The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2011 was held from 16–20 May in Geneva. In continuation of the annual WSIS meetings, the forum was

hosted by ITU and jointly organised by ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP. More than 1150 stakeholders from more than 140 countries (Action Line Facilitators from various UN agencies, regional commissions, the private sector, governments and civil society) reported their efforts towards WSIS implementation and follow-up, and shared their plans to achieve the targets set in the WSIS Outcome documents.

For more information, please refer to the [WSIS Forum 2011 website](#) or contact [Anja Kiefer](#).

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## Spotlight

### Interoperability - Exchanging Data without Loss of Information

In the recently published ICT strategy [Digital Germany 2015](#), a key policy paper by the German Federal Government to foster ICT in Germany and other countries, interoperability is seen as an important precondition for local IT sectors to gain competitive advantages. According to the strategy, interoperability is also essential for generating new IT services.

Besides this strategic importance that interoperability holds for Germany, the Federal Government also stresses the need to promote know-how transfer to partner countries in the developing world in order to support the establishment of interoperable ICT architectures and solutions there.

But what exactly do we mean by 'Interoperability'?

Basically, interoperability is the ability of one or more systems to interact with other systems. For IT systems in particular, this means that data can be exchanged without a loss of information. Interoperability guarantees an efficient exchange of knowledge based on reliable information.

A good example is the appearance of a formatted text document. If interoperability is ensured, it will look the same whether it is opened with MS Word, OpenOffice or any other document viewer. Tables, paragraphs, headers etc. would all appear in exactly the same space, size, and font.

On the other hand, a lack of interoperability will produce a lot of friction losses and can produce considerable costs. For example, during interaction processes between users and e-government services loss of information can lead to high unreliability of the entire system and insecurity of sensitive personal data.

What is the relevance of interoperability for sustainable development?

As the state and government agencies are often the main buyers of IT solutions in developing countries, local micro, small, and medium IT enterprises (IT-MSMEs) can only flourish when they are able to enter into state tenders. When the state sets up clear interoperability criteria that define the minimal requirements for its procurement needs, IT-MSMEs can offer custom-made local solutions. Without such criteria, it is usually the big (international) IT firms that win open tenders, since they offer well-tested solutions that, however, hold the risk of creating a lock-in for the customer.

Establishing interoperability test labs, where IT-MSMEs can test their solutions to verify the compliance with specified requirements, is a good way to ensure the competitiveness of small IT enterprises. For governments (or donors), utilizing interoperability in the procurement process and setting up test labs for local solutions is a great opportunity to support and develop their countries' IT sectors.

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