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***ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA***

*Meeting of the Partners for Information and Communication  
Technologies in Africa (PICTA)*

*7-8 September 2001  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*

## **PICTA Activity Update Report**

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### **Cisco Systems, Inc.**

Contact Name: *Erin Walsh and Trish Tierney*

Email: *erwalsh@cisco.com and ttierney@cisco.com*

Telephone: *202/661-4027*

Fax:

Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies) : *Sectoral applications (e-commerce, health, education, etc.)*

Summary of the Activity (ies):

*In a unique partnership with ECA and InfoDev/World Bank, Cisco has established a Cisco Networking Academy Program at the Information Technology Centre for Africa located in the United Nations Conference Centre, ECA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Through the end of 2002, a total of 52 women will be selected from across Africa to attend a residential training program - an ICT "incubator." The IT training course is a comprehensive 280 hour curriculum that trains students how to design, build and maintain computer networks - preparing them for an industry standard CCNA certification. Employing an e-learning model, the Networking Academy Program delivers web-based educational content, online testing, student performance tracking, hands-on labs and instructor training support. Additionally, through the ECA African Centre for Women, the course participants take part in training on gender and development, entrepreneurship and management for African women and information in Africa awareness. Upon completion of the program, the women are expected to return to their own countries with enhanced opportunities to gain employment in the IT area, start their own business, serve as role models for women in Africa and hopefully take on leadership roles in the development of ICT's on the continent.*

Partners : *UNECA, InfoDev/World Bank*

Future plans:

*The Cisco Networking Academy Program exists in 133 countries, including 28 Least Developed Countries. To learn more about the program please visit the website: [www.cisco.com/edu](http://www.cisco.com/edu) and for more on the LDC Initiative: [www.cisco.com/edu/ldci](http://www.cisco.com/edu/ldci)*

### **European Commission**

Contact Name: Harry De Backer

Email: [harry.de-backer@cec.eu.int](mailto:harry.de-backer@cec.eu.int)

Telephone: +32/2/29 68222

Fax: +32/2/29 94176

Area of PICTA Activity (ies) : *Policy awareness*

Summary of the Activity (ies):

*The European Commission monitors the European Development Fund which is the single largest ODA fund on earth. It is mainly the transport sector and rural development that benefits from the EDF.*

*It should be feasible to fund projects in traditional sectors like health, governance, medicine , etc. that make use of advanced technologies so that Africa can step in the new economy. However any application should be tailored according to the real needs in Africa.*

Partners: *Info-DEV, IICD, ITU, DIFD*

Future plans: *When the benefits can be proven have more ITC in the projects of the traditional sectors.*

### **International Development Centre (IDRC) – Acacia**

Contact Name: Mr. Laurent Elder

Email: [Lelder@idrc.org.sn](mailto:Lelder@idrc.org.sn)

Telephone: 221 8640000 Ext. 2213

Fax: (221) 825 3255

Areas of PICTA Activity (ies) in the past year : *Policy awareness, Sectoral applications (e-commerce, health, education, etc.)*

Summary of the Activity (ies): *Extensive ICT involvement in Southern, East and West Africa.*

Partners : *Many other organizations*

Future plans: will continue ICT4D programming through Acacia for at least another 4 years.

### **International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD)**

Contact Name: *Jac Stienen*

Email: [jstienen@iicd.org](mailto:jstienen@iicd.org)

Telephone: 0031 703117311

Fax: 0031 703117322

Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies) : *Sectoral applications (e-commerce, health, education, etc.)*

Summary of the Activity (ies):

*The International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD) assists developing countries to realise sustainable development by harnessing the potential of information and communication technologies (ICTs). The driving force behind IICD activities is that local 'change agents' themselves identify and develop proposals for realistic ICT applications – local ownership forms the essential basis for sustainable socio-economic development. Acting as a catalyst, IICD's three-pronged strategy is mainly delivered through a series of integrated Country Programmes. First, IICD facilitates ICT Roundtable Processes in selected developing*

*countries, where local stakeholders identify and formulate ICT-supported policies and projects based on local needs. Second, working with training partners in each country, Capacity Development activities are organised to develop the skills and other capacities identified by the local partners. Third, IICD draws on its global network to provide information and advice to its local partners, also fostering local information exchange networks on the use of ICTs for development. The best practices and lessons learned are documented and disseminated internationally through a Knowledge Sharing programme. In support of these activities, IICD invests in the development of concrete partnerships with public, private and non profit organisations, thus mobilising knowledge and resources needed by IICD and its local partners. Country Programmes are currently being implemented in Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Jamaica, Mali, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.*

**Partners:**

*Burkina Faso*

*Delegue National a l'Informatique Cenatrin (Delgi)*

*University of Bobo Dioulasso*

*University of Ouagadougou*

*<<http://www.zcp.bf>> Zongos Consulting and Productions*

*Ghana*

*<<http://www.cict.org.gh>> Centre for Information and Communication Technology (CICT)*

*<<http://www.epa.gov.gh>> Environmental Protection Agency EPA)*

*<<http://www.isoc.gh.org>> Internet Society of Ghana (ISOG)*

*<<http://www.mofa.gov.gh>> Ministry for Food and Agriculture (MOFA)*

*Ministry for Health Policy, Planning Monitoring and Evaluation*

*Ministry of Communication*

*Rescue Mission Ghana*

*University Cape Coast*

*University of Legon*

*Mali*

*<<http://www.sotelma.ml>> Sotelma*

*<<http://www.anais.org/Fr/pays/mali/index.html>> ANAIS Mali*

*Cenafob*

*Datatech*

*Ministry of telecommunications*

*Ministry of Culture*

*Tanzania*

*<<http://www.issaminternational.co.tz>> ISSAM International:  
Business Care Services (BCS)*

*Computing Centre Community Tele-Center Limited*

*Finance and Enterprise Development Associates Ltd. (Fedea)*

*Mwanza Information & Technology*

*National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)*

*Safima Co ltd.*

*Tanzania Traditional Energy Development and Environment Organisation  
(TaTEDO)*

*University of Dar es Salaam*

*Uganda*

*<<http://www.parliament.go.ug>> Institute of Teacher Education Kyambogo (ITEK)*

*Computer Society*

*Internet Society Uganda (ISOC-Uganda)*

*Rank Consult Ltd.*

*Uganda Debt Network*

*Uganda Online*

*<<http://www.worldbank.org/worldlinks>> WorldLinks:*

*Zambia*

*<<http://www.dispatch.co.zm>> Information Dispatch*

*Firstnet*

*Ministry of Education (BESSIP)*

*Royal Netherlands Embassy*

*New Millenium Corporation*

*<<http://www.coppernet.zm/>> Coppernet Solutions Ltd*

*TEVETA*

*<<http://www.zambiz.co.zm/assoc/znfu.htm>> Zambia National Farmers Union*

*Future plans: On IICD website <http://www.iicd.org> <<http://www.iicd.org/>> you will find the plans for these countries.*

### **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa**

Contact Name: *Mrs. Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane*

Email: *kbounemra@uneca.org*

Telephone: *+251 1 511408*

Fax: *+251 1 510512*

Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies): *Monitoring and evaluation – SCAN-ICT*

Summary of the Activity (ies):

*The Scan-ICT project is a project aiming at building capacity in Africa to collect, organize and analyze information on the diffusion and utilization of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in various sectors of the national economy. The data collected is believed to feed into decisions on ICT investments. The Scan-ICTs employs a methodology consisting of various indicators developed based on the themes and strategies identified by the African Information Society Initiative (AISII) to develop the information and communication infrastructure of the continent, e.g., infrastructure, sectoral applications, human resources, etc. Activities include: selecting one or more sectors for study, planning the baseline study, collecting data, organizing data, analyzing data, preparing the national scan profile of the sector. The Scan-ICT process is also expected to test and verify the methodology in use and refine existing indicators and add new ones. Six countries, namely, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, Morocco,*

*Senegal and Uganda, have been selected to undertake baseline studies and publish a national Scan profile.*

*Partners: International Development Research Center (IDRC) of Canada, the European Union, and the Norwegian Agency for Development (NORAD).*

*Future plans : Future plan includes participation in the e-readiness assessment project of the InfoDev (World Bank)*

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Contact Name: *Mrs. Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane*

Email: *kbounemra@uneca.org*

Telephone: *+251 1 511408*

Fax: *+251 1 510512*

Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies): *Policy awareness - NICI*

Summary of the Activity (ies):

*The National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) development process is aiming at assisting member States in defining a national Information and Communication strategies and policies to give directions to the harnessing and integrating the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to facilitate the socio-economic development of countries in Africa. Activities in this project include: needs assessment, conducting sensitization and high level policy workshops, preparation of the draft plans, holding validation workshop, preparation of the policy document, setting up co-ordination and implementation organs, and Candidates for assistance include: Central Africa Republic, Djibouti,*

*Partners: The funds to support current project activities come from the European Union (EU).*

*Future plans: Plan includes bringing more countries onboard.*

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Contact Name: *Mrs. Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane*

Email: *kbounemra@uneca.org*

Telephone: *+251 1 511408*

Fax: *+251 1 510512*

Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies): *Monitoring and evaluation – World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)*

Summary of the Activity (ies):

- *To develop an African capacity in the protection of African traditional knowledge, electronic commerce, and global communications.*

- *To disseminate pertinent information on the central role of intellectual property rights (IPRs) in development, and to ensure better protection of IPRs to contribute to economic development.*

Partners : *World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)*

Future plans:

- *Joint advocacy and advisory services to encourage an enabling policy environment for e-commerce activities in Africa*
- *Collaborating in the promotion and development of the NICI plans, policies and strategies in Africa*
- *Cooperating in the deployment and delivery of WIPONET components and services in Africa.*
- *Designing and assisting in implementing jointly, with the Information Technology for Africa, training programmes for different target groups on intellectual property related themes.*

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Contact Name: *Mrs. Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane*

Email: *kbounemra@uneca.org*

Telephone: *+251 1 511408*

Fax: *+251 1 510512*

Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies): *Infrastructure development and Internet connectivity - French Cooperation*

Summary of the Activity (ies):

- *Improving ECA Web/Internet presence and activities*
- *French expert in ICT to develop ECA's web resources*
- *Developing the French Web Site of the Economic Commission for Africa*
- *Enriching the ECA Web Site with francophone contents on development projects undertaken in French speaking African countries.*

Partners: *French Cooperation*

Future plans:

- *Developing and strengthening web resources of ECA's Sub Regional Development Centers to promote information on regional integration*
- *Capacity building in the Information Technology Center for Africa's (ITCA) training programs*

**United Nations Economic Commission for Africa**

Contact Name: *Mrs. Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane*

Email: *kbounemra@uneca.org*

Telephone: *+251 1 511408*

Fax: +251 1 510512

Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies) : *Policy Awareness, Infrastructure development and Internet connectivity , Sectoral applications (e-commerce, health, education, etc.), Monitoring and evaluation*

Summary of the Activity (ies):

*Under the framework of strengthening the African voice in international fora, ECA is one of the main players in fostering African debate on development issues. The "Global Compact with Africa" as drafted by ECA, is exemplary in this respect. It contains an innovative agenda for development cooperation in the future. It will be further refined in order to serve as an operationalization of the "New African Initiative", as adopted by the OAU-summit in Lusaka of July 2001. Promoting ICTs for development is one of the key programme within both the "Global Compact for Africa" and the "New African Initiative".*

Partners: *Government of Netherlands*

Future plans: *Implementation of some of the AISI programmes and activities as a component of the "Global Compact with Africa" and the "New African Initiative"*

**United Nations Economic Commission for Africa  
Information Technology Centre for Africa (ITCA)**

Contact Name: Makane Faye  
Email: mfaye@uneca.org  
Telephone: 251 1 511167  
Fax: 251-1 510512 / 515829

Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies) : *Sectoral applications (e-commerce, health, education, etc.)*

Partners: *India, Japan, Korea, UNCTAD*

Future plans: *A study tour for selected businessmen from different African sub-regions to visit the Asia-Africa Investment and Technology Promotion Centre (AAITPC) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in-house e-commerce software development and show casing. Networking of African Trade Points.*

**United Nations Economic Commission for Africa  
Information Technology Centre for Africa (ITCA)**

Contact Name: Makane Faye  
Email: mfaye@uneca.org  
Telephone: 251 1 511167  
Fax: 251-1 510512 / 515829

Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies): *Policy awareness*



Summary of the Activity (ies):

*ECA has awarded a scholarship for 26 African women for a training course on **Internet Networking Technology** at its Information Technology Centre for Africa (ITCA). This is a two batches program for Anglophone and Francophone African women. The first batch which was launched on 2nd August 2001 is for Anglophone women and will be followed by the Francophone on February 2002.*

Partners : *InfoDev, Cisco Systems Inc., The republic of Korea, USAID, OPEC*

Future plans: *Train 20 Francophone African women on Internet Networking Technology*

**United Nations Economic Commission for Africa  
Information Technology Centre for Africa (ITCA)**

Contact Name: Makane Faye

Email: mfaye@uneca.org

Telephone: 251 1 511167

Fax: 251-1 510512 / 515829

Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies): *Policy awareness*

Summary of the Activity (ies):

*To help Ethiopian journalists play a catalytic role in the use of ICTs for development endeavors in Ethiopia, ECA organized ICTs and Internet awareness training for Ethiopian journalists under the title ICT applications and its future for media.*

**United Nations Economic Commission for Africa  
Information Technology Centre for Africa (ITCA)**

Contact Name: Makane Faye

Email: mfaye@uneca.org

Telephone: 251 1 511167

Fax: 251-1 510512 / 515829

Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies): *Policy awareness*

Summary of the Activity (ies):

*Following requests from several African Ambassadors based in Addis Ababa, ECA organized a series of training workshops on ICTs and Internet use for the benefit of African Ambassadors at its Information Technology Centre for Africa (ITCA).*

Partners: *USAID, The Republic of Korea*

Future plans:

- *Train the Ambassadors on additional ICT topics*
- *Train first counselors*

- Train heads of UN agencies and development organizations based in Addis Ababa

**United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)**

Contact Name: Guenther Cyranek, Regional Adviser,  
UNESCO Office Addis Ababa

Email: g.cyranek@unesco.org

Telephone: 00251-1-513953

Fax: 00251-1-511414

Main Area of PICTA Activity (ies) : *Policy awareness, Infrastructure development and Internet , connectivity , Sectoral applications (e-commerce, health, education, etc.), Monitoring and evaluation*

Summary of the Activity (ies) :

*UNESCO through its intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP), together with ECA, is a lead agency on the United Nations Special Initiative for Africa (UNSI) programme cluster on Harnessing Information Technology for Development (HITD). The cluster deals with the promotion of information and communication technologies for socio-economic development for Africa and is closely tied to the African Information Society Initiative (AIS), launched in 1996 as an action framework approved by ECA Conference of Ministers for elaboration and implementation of National Information and Communications Infrastructure (NICI) plans in Africa.*

*The Regional Information Society Network for Africa (RINAF) is a framework for cooperation within UNESCO's intergovernmental Information For All programme which was initiated in 1992 to strengthen the capacity of the public sector and the civil society in Africa to exploit information and communication technologies for development. RINAF is working to include all societal sectors including rural, isolated and other disadvantaged communities. 43 African countries are now participating in RINAF through national focal points.*

*Some of the major "Digital Divide" bridging initiatives underway in Africa within the UNESCO programme are: Infoethics, Learning Networks for African Educators, E-governance for African municipalities, Community telecentres and multimedia centres, Endogenous applications and public domain content, and Capacity building and human resource development.*

Partners : *among others DANIDA, ITU, UNDP, World Bank*

Future plans: *For the future RINAF has identified a number of priority additional action areas for regional cooperation: RINAF Virtual Multimedia Academy, RINAF Web site design competition, RINAF Distance Education Project, RINAF PC recycling project*

Additional Comments: *For these four UNESCO RINAF projects funds are needed: RINAF Virtual Multimedia Academy, RINAF Web site design competition, RINAF Distance Education Project, RINAF PC recycling project*

**United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)**

Contact Name: *Cynthia Hewitt de Alcántara*

Email: *Hewitt@unrisd.org*

Telephone: *(41-22) 917-2950*

Fax: *(41-22) 917-0650*

Major Area of PICTA Activity (ies) : *Research*

Summary of the Activity (ies):

*The UNRISD Infotech programme studies the implications of the digital revolution for developing countries. It publishes papers and books on the evolution of global IT policies, and the likely impact of these changes on development options. It also sponsors new research by Third World scholars and activists on the way new information technologies are being integrated into their economies and societies. For more information see [www.unrisd.org/infotech](http://www.unrisd.org/infotech)*

*Partners: The UNRISD Infotech programme usually works with individual consultants. Its primary funding has come from the Minister for Development Co-operation of The Netherlands.*

Future plans:

*During 2001, UNRISD is completing a two-year research project on Information Technologies and Social Development in Senegal. Drawing on the experience gained during this project, the Institute plans to launch similar research efforts in other Third World countries.*

*Two books are currently in preparation: The Beginners' Guide to Global Media Governance (Rowan and Littlefield/UNRISD, paperback, 2001); and Les NTIC et le développement social au Sénégal, Khartala/UNRISD, 2002). Others will follow. Over a dozen papers and essays have also been published by the UNRISD Infotech programme and/or are available online. Six to eight more will be published in the coming year, including some commissioned specially for the World Summit on the Information Society.*