



The Free Software and Open Source  
Foundation for Africa



Open Society Initiative  
for Southern Africa



Capacity Building International  
Germany

# ict@innovation

## Newsletter September 2009

Johannesburg, September 10<sup>th</sup> 2009

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, Partners and Friends,

Greetings from the ict@innovation programme management team! Half way through 2009 we are happy to update you on the progress of ict@innovation – the programme is well under way, trainings on FOSS Business Models have commenced, and ict@innovation has continued growing and forming new networks to promote the use of FOSS for business in Africa and overseas. During the next months, we look forward to celebrating Software Freedom Day, continuing with the trainings, kick-starting the programme component on FOSS certification and building our network and community.

The ict@innovation summer highlights:

- Trainings on FOSS Business Models: a report from Johannesburg and upcoming dates
- Global Networking: From LinuxTag to OSCON
- Getting ready for Software Freedom Day 2009

George G Nyambuya,  
on behalf of the ict@innovation programme management team

## 1) Trainings on FOSS Business Models: a report from Johannesburg and upcoming dates

"How can Southern African IT-businesses make money with Free and Open Source Software?" - this was one of the questions discussed at the first regional courses on "Advanced African Business Models with Free and Open Source Software (FOSS)". The two-week event started on July 13<sup>th</sup> at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg and is the first in a series of training-of-trainer events in Southern and East Africa.

The training brought together over 18 experts from universities, training institutions and the private sec-



tor in South Africa, Malawi and Zambia. The course content builds on more than eight practical case studies of African IT companies, who use FOSS to generate income, drive innovation, add local value and provide legal, low-cost and high quality software solutions to businesses and administrations in their countries. Goal is to form a corps of trainers and advocates who are equipped to train and support small and medium companies locally who want to make a business with Free and Open Source Software.

Materials for the training of trainers were developed by more than 20 experts from Africa, invited to contribute their knowledge in a content creation workshop and an online follow-up process. Here, case studies were prepared, educational standards set, types of learning materials and format defined. The materials will be published under creative commons licence and made available freely via the [ict@innovation](mailto:ict@innovation) portal. We encourage and look forward to comments, suggestions and the further community development of these materials.

The second [ict@innovation](mailto:ict@innovation) Advanced African FOSS Business Models Course (ToT) is held in Kampala, Uganda at the moment (31st August to 11th September 2009) at the East African Centre Open Source Software (EACOSS) in Kampala, Uganda. The third training will take place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from September 14<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> 2009 and the fourth training of trainers from October 19<sup>th</sup> – October 30<sup>th</sup> in Maputo, Mozambique. For inquiries, please contact George Nyambuya (Fon: + 27 (0)12 423 6313, email: [george.nyambuya@inwent.co.za](mailto:george.nyambuya@inwent.co.za)) or visit <http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/> for further information.

## 2) Global Networking: From LinuxTag to OSCON

This summer brought interesting networking opportunities for [ict@innovation](mailto:ict@innovation) and its main partner FOSSFA, such as a study tour to Berlin, Germany to visit Europe's leading Open Source event LinuxTag and the participation at OSCON.



On June 22<sup>nd</sup> five FOSSFA delegates were welcome in Berlin to a week of meetings and events on the topic of Open Source. The LinuxTag, Europe's leading Open Source event was visited by the delegation and enriched by the presentation on the situation of FOSS in Africa, held by James Wire Lunghabo. The LinuxTag trade fair provided the opportunity to meet with a number of interesting stakeholders from Germany and Europe and to share information on FOSSFA's activities and [ict@innovation](mailto:ict@innovation). Highlights included meeting the heads of the Open Source Business Foundation, Lisog e.V., LiVe Linux Association as well as the organisers of the LinuxTag – Germany's leading Open Source organisations. Common challenges such as ensuring fair and open public procurement were identified between the meeting parties as well as opportunities for

further cooperation. (For more information and links please visit <http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/blog/%5Buser-raw%5D/germanys-open-side-week-open-source-and-warm-welcomes-berlin>)

For the eleventh time, OSCON 2009 provided a platform for to gain exposure and evaluate new projects, tools, services, software, and standards developed by the open source community. From the 20<sup>th</sup> till the 24<sup>th</sup> of July 2009 over 3,000 convened in San Jose, California, USA. FOSSFA harnessed this good opportunity to increase awareness and visibility of its mission, projects and events. International attention was drawn on the activities of FOSSFA members as well as partnering organisations like InWEnt, OSIWA, SITA and COMESA. The forum was also used to raise the debate on developmental goals and potentialities of Open Source Software for Africa and make connections to potential partners and supporters such as the Linux Fund, Sun Microsystems, the GNOME Foundation, and GLP. (For further information about OSCON please visit: <http://en.oreilly.com/oscon2009>)

### 3) Getting ready for Software Freedom Day 2009

On September 19<sup>th</sup> is Software Freedom Day – around the world FOSS users and supporters organise events on this day to raise awareness to the benefits and opportunities of FOSS. Pia Waugh, President of SFI - 2007 describes SFD as "a global celebration and education of why transparent and sustainable technologies are now more important than ever." <http://softwarefreedomday.org/SoftwareFreedom>

As this year's Software Freedom Day is moving closer, we invite everyone organising or attending Software Freedom Day events to promote them via the [ict@innovation](mailto:ict@innovation) website by posting in the event calendar and/or blog – just let us know by writing an email to: [George.Nyambuya@inwent.co.za](mailto:George.Nyambuya@inwent.co.za)

In preparation of Software Freedom Day InWEnt is hosting an international chat conference linking up InWEnt partner organisations in Asia and Africa. Representatives of InWEnt, FOSSFA, ISON and IOIT will exchange experiences in implementing FOSS training programmes, experiences in lobbying for FOSS in Asia, Africa and Europe and planned activities for Software Freedom Day 2009 as well as discussion future networking opportunities between the continents. Results of the chat will be published on the [ict@innovation](mailto:ict@innovation) portal. (For background information on the organisations please visit <http://www.fossfa.net> as well as <http://www.iosn.net> and <http://www.foss-bridge.org/>)

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We look forward to keeping you updated and hearing from you – for current news please also visit <http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/>

Yours in innovation,  
*George G Nyambuya*  
on behalf of the [ict@innovation](mailto:ict@innovation) programme team

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