



The Free Software and Open Source  
Foundation for Africa



# ict@innovation

## Newsletter July 2010

Pretoria, July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, Partners and Friends,

As we mark the half way of 2010, ict@innovation looks back into the last six months of programme implementation. In this edition of our ict@innovation newsletter we review our achievements in 2010 thus far, including a detailed overview of the completed FOSS Business Models Trainings of Trainers, and take a preview at the highlights awaiting us in 2010, including upcoming events.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all partners for their ongoing engagement and to thank you, the ict@innovation community, for your interest and support. We hope 2010 will be a successful FOSS year, not only for ict@innovation, but for all of you individually and would like to wish you all the best for your FOSS activities in the second half of 2010!

George G Nyambuya,  
on behalf of the ict@innovation Programme Management Team

### Review of first half 2010

#### 1) Trainings on FOSS Business Models: from the Regional to the National Trainings

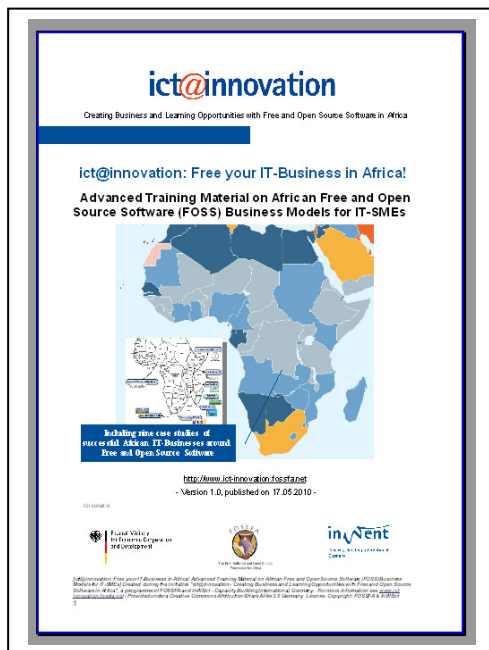
In 2009 ict@innovation achieved a major milestone by successfully conducting four regional training of trainers on Advanced African FOSS Business Models. Now the 80 FOSS Business Models Trainers from 10 different countries in Southern and East Africa are preparing for the national roll-out, to spread the knowledge on FOSS Business Models in their countries.

If you are interested to see which FOSS Business Models Trainers are active in your country please visit: <http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/wiki/public-wiki/course-advanced-african-foss-business-models/FBMTrainers>

Detailed information on the National Trainings will be published soon on the ict@innovation portal: <http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/>

Please check for trainings in your country!

## 2) Publication of the Handbook “ict@innovation: Free your IT Business in Africa!”



This year's Idlelo4 conference on FOSS and the Digital Commons (May 17th–21st in Accra, Ghana) presented the perfect occasion to launch the training handbook: “ict@innovation: Free your IT Business in Africa!” The training handbook has been collaboratively developed by more than 50 FOSS experts from Africa and beyond, who have contributed their expertise and helped to put together a wealth of knowledge with detailed examples and case studies of FOSS entrepreneurs from all across the African continent, model presentations, assessment tests, exercises and assignments.

Nnenna Nwakanma, FOSSFA Council Chair, acknowledged this book as a great joint achievement and its meaning for ICT businesses in Africa.

**“Free your IT-Business in Africa!”** is a comprehensive starting point for anyone planning to start an IT business around Open Source technologies. The book consists of different training modules divided into three thematic parts:

The first part - African FOSS Business Models - introduces basic FOSS concepts and provides practical case studies across the African continent.

The second part - Knowledge and Skills for FOSS Entrepreneurs – focuses on FOSS communication and business skills which are vital for businesses and contribute immensely in helping young entrepreneurs leverage FOSS to gain a competitive advantage. Innovative and cost effective tools and techniques, community building and networking, and FOSS strategies which are vital for starting and sustaining a viable FOSS business in Africa are also covered in this part of the syllabus.

The third part - FOSS Training as a Business – aims to foster understanding of some of the requirements for becoming a FOSS trainer, and identifies the opportunities that exist for FOSS training as a business in Africa and further introduces a global look at Linux training worldwide. It is particularly suitable for Training-of-Trainers and for advanced courses within ICT-associations, training institutions as well as universities.

The book is available for **free download** at the following link of the ict@innovation website: <http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/node/4252>. In the spirit of sharing and mutual capacity-building, the training material is released under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike licence. Therefore, distribution, remixing and updating of the materials by you is encouraged.

### 3) Appointment FOSS Certification Manager and next steps towards regional trainings

In April, Mr Evans Ikua, the new [ict@innovation](mailto:ict@innovation) Certification Manager, has taken up work. Since then, much progress on FOSS Certification has been achieved and a roadmap for activities developed. During the next months, open training materials for LPI examinations will be compiled and regional trainings held. In addition, a long-term strategy for FOSS certification in Africa is being developed in close cooperation with the FOSSFA network. We will update you regularly on the Certification activities at the [ict@innovation](http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net) community portal. For details on Evans, please see: <http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/blog/%5Buser-raw%5D/challenge-promoting-foss-africa>

If you are experienced with FOSS Certification and interested in shaping this project line, please contact Evans Ikua directly at: [ikua@fossfa.net](mailto:ikua@fossfa.net) and join the FOSS certification community.

### 4) Supporting the local development of FOSS Applications through the AVOIR / [ict@innovation](mailto:ict@innovation) Mentored Internship Programme

On the 28th and 29th of April representatives from nine **African Virtual Open Initiatives and Resources (AVOIR)** nodes gathered at University of Western Cape for a two-day workshop to plan a joint Mentored Internship Programme of [ict@innovation](mailto:ict@innovation) and the AVOIR Network.

Aim of the Mentored Internship Programme is to qualify African FOSS experts in the development of innovative local FOSS solutions. It will improve the coders' skills to apply what they learn in theory to “real world problems”. The activity aims to motivate more African developers to contribute to FOSS projects and develop more high-quality African FOSS solutions.

The planning workshop mobilized expertise from across the continent located within the AVOIR nodes – from Nigeria to Kenya, Mozambique to Rwanda, and Uganda to South Africa. The two days were a think tank of ideas and planning. A concrete action plan was devised, which included the content and curricula of the Mentored Internship Programme as well as mapping the first phase of intern recruitments. The pilot phase of the Mentored Internship Program launches at the beginning of October 2010.

For more information please read: <http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/blog/%5Buser-raw%5D/workshop-uwc-kick-starts-new-mentored-internship-programme> and check the [ict@innovation](http://www.ict@innovation) portal for updates.

## 5) Networking and Community Building at Idlelo 4



This year's Idlelo4 conference on FOSS and the Digital Commons took place from May 17th – May 21<sup>st</sup> in Accra, Ghana (<http://idlelo.net/>). The IDLELO conference, themed „Development with Ownership“, was a premier international forum on Free and Open Source Software in Africa and is therefore an especially important event for any ICT programme. It presented the opportunity to discuss new issues, tackle complex problems and find advanced enabling solutions able to shape new trends in FOSS and related technologies on the African continent.

Several ict@innovation related events and sessions took place at Idlelo, for instance:

- Pre-conference training of trainers on African Foss Business Models (<http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/blog/%5Buser-raw%5D/idlelo-pre-conference>)
- Roundtable by project champions of the FOSSFA / InWEnt Programme "ict@innovation - Creating Business and Learning Opportunities with Free and Open Source Software in Africa"
- Presentation and group discussion on FOSS Certification
- Participation on the panel “FOSS in African Education”

For more information please check: <http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/blog/%5Buser-raw%5D/ictinnovation-idlelo>.

## 6) Country Features on the ict@innovation Blog



In order to continue to make the ict@innovation platform an interesting and enriching experience for you, the ict@innovation community, the ict@innovation-team has introduced a new feature section. Every month, we will feature FOSS-organisations, projects and news from one of our 10 partner countries. This new website section gives you the chance to share your FOSS experiences more prominently. For the next ten months, we will dedicate one month per country to highlight national FOSS projects and initiatives, academic institutes, and

interesting individuals. If you feel like you could contribute with your FOSS story, please feel invited to share your ideas and experiences. The format of this contribution is open and we welcome any story, that might want to share with the rest of the community. You can send photos, videos (or links to them), an article telling your FOSS-story or a link to your website or project. Also, you may want to update your ict@innovation profile to make sure everyone has an up-to-date picture on your area of interest and engagement.

The first feature focused on South Africa, with a special section on FOSS for the Worldcup 2010. Please see this feature at: <http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/blog/%5Buser-raw%5D/country-feature-south-africa>

Next up will be Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania – we are looking forward to your contributions!

## Outlook 2010

The year 2010 will be a busy and exciting period, as we are looking forward to the further implementation of a number of programme activities. Here is a short overview:

### African FOSS Business Models

- The second phase of Pillar A will commence with trainings being held on the national level in autumn 2010.

### FOSS Certification

- The implementation of FOSS Certification activities will begin shortly with a compilation of open training materials and training-of-trainers for Linux Professional Institute Certification (LPIC) Level 1.

### Local FOSS Applications and Software Development

- The pilot phase of the Mentored Internship Programme with the AVOIR network will commence in October 2010.

### Networking and Community

- ict@innovation will be joining in the festivities of Software Freedom Day and are planning some virtual actions on September 18<sup>th</sup> to advocate free software in Europe and Africa. If you would like to participate in the SFD, please check their website at: <http://softwarefreedomday.org/>
- We will be continuing the Country Features series at the ict@innovation blog

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We look forward to keeping you updated on these and other activities via this newsletter and of course to hearing from you – please send comments or suggestions to [george@inwent.co.za](mailto:george@inwent.co.za).

For current ict@innovation news please also visit <http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/>

Sincerely,

*George G Nyambuya*

on behalf of the ict@innovation Programme Team

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