ict@innovation

Newsletter November 2010

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, Partners and Friends,

Another quarter has passed and much has happened in the programme: we are happy to say that all components of the ict@innovation programme, business models, certification and application building are up and running. In this edition of our newsletter we will update you on the programme activities, including current trainings on FOSS Business Models and promotion of FOSS certification. Last but not least we have launched the component "FOSS applications" with the Mentored Internship Programme in cooperation with AVOIR. Mr. James Kariuki Njenga, the manager of the Mentored Internship Programme, has successfully started work and we are happy to have him aboard as one of the team members of ict@innovation.

At this point we would also like to say thank you to all those who keep contributing to the success of ict@innovation, including the team, trainings, participants and partners.

And one more message to our readers: If you have any news on FOSS in Africa, if you are working on a FOSS project or would like to learn more about the possibilities FOSS offers - Please do not hesitate to contact us and tell your story or ask your questions!

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

Updates on ict@innovation Activities

1) Trainings on FOSS Business Models: The National Trainings

In the last newsletter we announced the commencement of the national trainings on FOSS Business Models. About ten national trainings have taken place and more trainings are registered and about to be launched.

One of the first national trainings on Advanced African FOSS Business models already received local media attention. The "Entrepreneurship Course in African Business Model With Free and Open Source Software" currently on the roll-out in Tanzania was visited by a local newspaper who reported on the training: http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/blog/%5Buser-raw%5D/national-trainings-advanced-african-foss-business-models-tanzania-get-local-media-attentions

As a result of the media coverage, the interest in the course boosted, with more people calling and requesting further information on what FOSS can do especially to SMEs. Edgar Telesphory, course organiser, suggests, "an advice, to my fellow national trainers, find way to have media people as participants."

Another successful training has taken place in Uganda, where 35 representatives from Small and Medium ICT Enterprises were trained in August 2010. The training lasted four days and took place at the Bugema University, Uganda. Organiser Robert Nkambwe said: „Participants were charged with knowledge and skills to go and make business with Free and Open Source Software (FOSS), a key technology that drives innovation, adds local value and creates sustainable and affordable ICT-solutions." One participant, Nganda Ivan Kudo, Consultant at NIG-Solutions ltd, said "To the software developers, the workshop proved to us how we could improve on our skills by participating in FLOSS communities, it exposed freedom to manipulate the existing code or customizing the open source software applications". You can watch a video about the training in Uganda at http://www.youtube.com/user/ictinnovation?feature=mhum#p/f/0/Py_9iusSXV0

We are happy to receive this positive feedback and hope the trainings will have lasting impact on the work of the SMEs partaking in the trainings. If you are interested and would like to find out where upcoming trainings are taking place, please check for the trainings in your country: http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/wiki/public-wiki/course-advanced-african-foss-business-models/national-course-versions

Next Steps to promote FOSS Business Models: **Networking and Evaluation Workshop**
At the end of November a group of 15 FOSS Business Models Trainers will be afforded the opportunity to partake in the overall evaluation of the Training of Trainers process with respect to their National Roll Out Plan in their countries. Apart from networking and developing a sustainability strategy for the trainings, it is expected that a lot of lessons and challenges learnt in this first phase will be used to improve the implementation of further trainings and also the expansion of these trainings in West Africa.

2) FOSS Certification

In September 2010 our FOSS Certification Manager Evans Ikua organised and hosted a training material development workshop involving 7 African Linux experts in Nairobi, Kenya. The workshop was a culmination of a process that started in the second quarter of the implementation of the FOSS Certification component of ict@innovation. It also marks the very first step in the exciting journey of building the capacities of African FOSS practitioners to offer quality services through training and certification.

The workshop participants made history by producing the first African Linux Professional Institute Certification Level 1 (LPIC-1) training manual. Although existing open material was incorporated, the bulk of the manual, about 80%, was developed from scratch. The manual will be pubished soon on the ict@innovation website under an open license. We will keep updating it with the contribution of the wider open source community, and especially with the contribution of the ict@innovation community. Read more about the workshop at: http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/blog/%5Buser-raw%5D/ictnnovation-lpic-1-training-guide-coming-soon

Next steps to promote FOSS certification in Africa and upcoming events include:

- The first regional FOSS Certification training of trainers for East Africa is being held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 1st November to 12th November 2010. 20 participants from 5 East African countries are improving their Linux administration and trainers' skills: http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/event/first-regional-training-trainers-lpi-certification-east-africa

The training will culminate with Linux Professional Institute exams on the 13th November. These exams will be open to the general public and will be hosted by the Strathmore University in Nairobi. Anyone who is interested to sit for the same is welcome to do so even though they may not be participating in our trainings. This will be a proctored and paper-based exam and will be on a special discounted rate of $ 95 per exam. There are two exams in LPIC-1, Exam 101 and 102: http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/event/lpic-1-exams

- **Apply for the second regional training on FOSS Certification!** which will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in February 2011. If you have Linux admin experiences, you would like to improve your Linux skills, become LPI-certified and would like to be an LPIC-1 trainers, please apply for the training until 30th November 2010. Applications are open for participants based in South Africa, Malawi, Namibia, Mozambique and Zambia. More information and the application procedures can be found here: http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/blog/[user-raw]/wanted-training-participants-first-regional-lpic-1-training-trainers

3) Training of Mentors at the University of Western Cape: Kick-Off of the Mentored Internship Programme

The last week of September, free and open source software (FOSS) mentors from five African countries were trained at the University of the Western Cape, as part of the newly launched Mentored Internship Programme on FOSS software programming jointly organised by ict@innovation and AVOIR. AVOIR is a partnership of 16 African Universities whose aim is to build capacity in software engineering in Africa using FOSS. James Njenga, our Mentored Internship Programme Manager based at the UWC, says this training is the first in a series that will see a number of mentors and interns trained. James adds that "currently all the 14 participating mentors have been paired with potential interns who they will support in a software programming project for the next six months. The mentors and interns have worked on very exciting and detailed project plans for FOSS development."

According to the lead trainer Paul Scott, who is also the manager of the Free and Software Innovation Unit at UWC, as well as the Chief Software Architect for the AVOIR network, "ICT@Innovation has enabled us to bring together some of the most talented and well respected software developers in Africa in order to strengthen the African Free and Open Source ecosystem making use of the pan African AVOIR network. It is through initiatives like this, that we, as a continent can create the next generation of ICT and networked business opportunities by working together! I am extremely excited about this training workshop and personally cannot wait to see the fruits of it in all of the participating institutions".

Frank Tilugulilwa a mentor from the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) exudes a lot of confidence with the project: "I am very excited with this collaboration between ICT@Innovation and AVOIR as it is the only way we can move forward towards building capacity to African developers and at the same time trying to develop solutions to the society around them. UDSM is looking forward to be an East /Central African hub for this collaboration ". The work on specific FOSS projects at the participating AVOIR nodes will commence shortly. Watch out for news at: http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/

4) News from the ict@innovation community

Many exiting FOSS activities are taking place in Africa and we have captured some of them in our reports from the community on ict@innovation. In our country feature on Uganda, experts with a long term view on how FOSS is developing and spreading, like James Wire Lunghabo, share their views, we introduce new initiatives and talk about the perspectives of training as a business model: http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/blog/%5Buser-raw%5D/country-feature-uganda

If you have a FOSS story to tell, just send us an email via the ict@innovation contact form: http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/contact. We would be happy to include it in our next country feature! Upcoming are Kenya and Tanzania.

In celebration of this years software freedom day, we have also made a short video featuring some of the FOSS stories told at this year's Idlelo, which took place in Accra last May. Watch the video at: http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/blog/%5Buser-raw%5D/watch-new-ictinnovation-video-foss-stories-told-idlelo Online Africa has also picked up on our video and re-published it under: http://www.onlineafrica.net/video/ictinnovation-foss-stories-at-idlelo-2010/

5) Ict@innovation and Social Media

After many requests, ict@innovation is using more and more social media to spread news about the programme. We invite you to visit us on the different platforms and stay in touch with the programme not only through the Website Blog but also through our different social media channels:

- **Twitter:** Check out our Twitter Account and follow us to stay in touch with the most important programme news: http://twitter.com/ictinnovation

- **Youtube:** Visit our Youtube Channel to watch ict@innovation related videos: http://www.youtube.com/user/ictinnovation

- **Linked-In:** Our Linked-in Group is a place to check out latest discussions hot topics and join in our business network: http://www.linkedin.com/groups?mostPopular=&gid=3081735

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 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