



The Free Software and Open Source
Foundation for Africa



Open Society Initiative
for Southern Africa



Capacity Building International
Germany

Newsletter December 2008

ict@innovation

Pretoria, 22 December 2008

Dear Madam/Sir, dear ict@innovation community-member,

as the African Coordinator of ict@innovation, I can reflect back on a very successful year 2008 where we, the partners of ict@innovation (InWEnt, FOSSFA & OSISA), advanced the project to where it is today. I will highlight a few of the notable successes and achievements and mention key expectations for the beginning of 2009. As we happily and gracefully say good-bye to 2008, we still look forward to the coming year, 2009.

We thank the sponsors of ict@innovation BMZ and OSISA for their continued support. Most of all we thank you, the participants, community members, project partners and supporters for giving ict@innovation a successful start! We hope for your continued support in 2009 and look forward to engaging in further discussions, actions and collaboration!

In the following, you will find:

- REVIEW 2008
- OUTLOOK 2009
- USING THE ICT@INNOVATION PORTAL

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very happy and merry Christmas, Season's Greetings and a happy New Year. Best Wishes for 2009!

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



1) Review 2008: How ict@innovation developed in 2008

ict@innovation thanks all contributors, who made these initiatives possible and successful.

March 2008

Launch of ict@innovation at the Third African Conference on FOSS and the Digital Commons - Idlelo 3, Dakar, Senegal from 16-20 March 2008. Co-organisation of two conference tracks. For results see: <http://ict-innovation.org/activities/idlelo-3>

March 2008

First Planning Workshop on Training Program on African FOSS Business Models. For outcomes, see: <http://ict-innovation.org/wiki/public-wiki/african-foss-business/foss-business-workshop-0>

April 2008 ff

Joining of other main partners such as Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA)

Mai 2008

Constitution of advisory board including members such as: Jon 'Maddog' Hall (Linux Int.), Rishab Aiyer Ghosh (UNU-Merit), Victor van Reijswoud (Prof., currently Papua New Guinea), Arjan de Jager (Het Expertise Centrum), Nnenna Nwakanma (FOSSFA), Thandikile Mbvundula (OSISA), Thilo Thormeyer (InWEnt South Africa).

August 2008

Appointment of the African Project Coordinating Office based in Pretoria, South Africa. George G Nyambuya was appointed effective 18 August 2008 as ICT@Innovation Project Coordinator.

October 2008

The ict@innovation Steering Committee Meeting was held on the 13-15 October 2008 in Johannesburg. The main programme partners met and mapped the way forward.

October 2008

The ict@innovation Certification Workshop was held from the 15-17th of October 2008 and included more than twenty participants from across Africa. The workshop enabled the exchange of ideas on and approaches to FOSS certification in Afrika.

November 2008

The ict@innovation Office was presented with an opportunity to meet the FOSSFA Executive team during the I-Week at AiTi-KACE, Ghana. FOSSFA appointed a substantive coordinator for their offices in Ghana effectively November 2008.

December 2008

Call for co-editors for training materials on FOSS Business Models in Africa as a first step to implement the high level training program on FOSS Business Models for IT-companies. (More information on the call: <http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/blog/%5Buser%5D/wanted-coeditors-materials-foss-business-models-africa>)

For a more detailed overview of ict@innovation activities, visit our webportal: <http://ict-innovation.fossfa.net/activities>.

Outlook 2009: Expected Highlights

High level trainings on African FOSS business models

Starting Spring 2009, ict@innovation will host four regional, high-level trainings on African business models based on Free and Open Source Software (FOSS). A detailed schedule of dates and venues will be put online at www.ict-innovation.fossfa.org soon. If you are associated to or part of an African training institution and interested in joining in the upcoming regional trainings, please check the related call for registration online here: <http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/blog/ago/ict-innovation-call-training-institutions-foss-business-models>

Promoting quality yet affordable FOSS certification

In 2009 ict@innovation will intensify its work on spreading certification in FOSS skills. Some of the upcoming activities will include: the compilation and development of training materials to prepare for a certification exam, revision of existing examination procedures, and the training of trainers on a regional level, who will qualify themselves to become certifiers. If you are interested in this topic and the programme activities, please contact us (<http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/contact>). We also have a discussion forum on FOSS certification on our site, that you are welcome to use <http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/forum/public-forums/foss-certification-forum>.



Group photo after closing of the FOSS certification workshop in Johannesburg, 17 October 2008

Fostering innovative local FOSS applications through an internship programme

ict@innovation is planning to offer mentored internships for software developers seeking to improve their FOSS skills and create innovative applications. This internship programme is currently being designed and will kick-start in 2009. If you are interested, please get in touch via the website contact form: <http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/contact>.

3) Using the [ict@innovation](http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net) portal to stay informed and network

How to stay informed

Receive all Blog posts and other Website updates by Email or RSS feed In order for everyone to stay in touch with the programme and community activities, we offer an email-subscription and RSS feed service on all news items (including blog posts, events, forum messages etc.). You find RSS icons to subscribe to feeds at the bottom of the sections that offer subscriptions. You can manage email subscriptions as a registered user under "My account" > "Subscriptions".

How to contribute

Blog: Read and discuss about current news and developments on FOSS related topics and the [ict@innovation](http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net) programme on the [ict@innovation](http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net) blog (<http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net>). Comments are open for everyone. You are welcome and invited to contribute your own blog posts on this portal, just let us know (<http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/contact>).

Forum and Wiki: Read and contribute to discussions and working processes online by engaging in online discussions in the forum (<http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/forum/>) and online text editing using the Wikis (<http://www.ict-innovation.fossfa.net/wiki/public-wiki>).

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