



it@ab
news



News

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Interregional Cooperation I it@ab Workshop in Malawi to come up

The first it@ab conference of the year will be held in Malawi in April 2005. The workshop called "Interregional Cooperation I" will take place from the 11th to 16th of April 2005 at Club Makokola, Lake Malawi in Malawi. It will be hosted by BUMAS International of Malawi, and organised in close cooperation with it@ab Vice-Chairperson Derek Lakudzala. The Conference will be managed through a team of the Malawian it@ab members.

The Conference is intending to transfer available products into cross boarder business opportunities; present it@ab network projects and activities; discuss new project proposals for interregional coopera-

tion and establish sustainable business Initiatives in order to make the it@ab network sustainable.

The workshop will include intense discussions based on the result of the last conference in Maputo in 2004 and the future planning of the network.

Working groups will most probably be established for different tasks such as the organisation and maintenance of CLE2, the update of the web-site, other promotional activities. InWent and the consultants contracted by InWent will also give insight to the best practices regarding trade fair participation as well as registration of it@ab with different donor organisations. (continued on page 2)

(cont'd from page 1)

Participants of the Conference will include senior managers and decision-makers from the it@ab network. In order to make the available results more transparent, representatives of the junior consultants will attend the Conference.

You as valuable it@ab member should not miss this event and register as soon as possible if not done already. More details are available in CLE2 as well as at the it@ab web-site under www.it-ab.net.

Contribute!

A network can only be as strong as its members! It is on you, the it@ab members, to contribute to the network.

The management board and InWEnt intend to invite donor organisations and international projects to the conference on a public day to introduce the parties to each other and start possible co-operations.

Should you have personal contact to any international project and / or donor organisation that might be interested in introducing itself to the network, please contact Christiane Weber of InWEnt (Christiane.Weber@InWEnt.org) or the Consultants for this workshop (it-ab@applicatio.com) as soon as possible, so that we can invite these valuable guests.

www.it-ab.net

The it@ab management board and InWEnt plan to organise a donor organisation meeting in course of the conference in order to introduce it@ab to these possible business partners and to introduce the it@ab members to the work of the organisations and possibilities to register as consultant and / or NGO. (see also our article "Contribute" on this page)



Database updated!

The Open Source Software Database of it@ab and it@asia has recently been updated. This source offers detailed information and evaluation on a wide variety of open source products for almost any demand. For access to the open source database visit <http://213.239.197.70/inwent/>

Interesting Links

APC Africa ICT Policy Monitor

<http://africa.rights.apc.org/index.shtml>



AllAfrica:

<http://allafrica.com/ict/>



<http://www.connectivityafrica.org/>

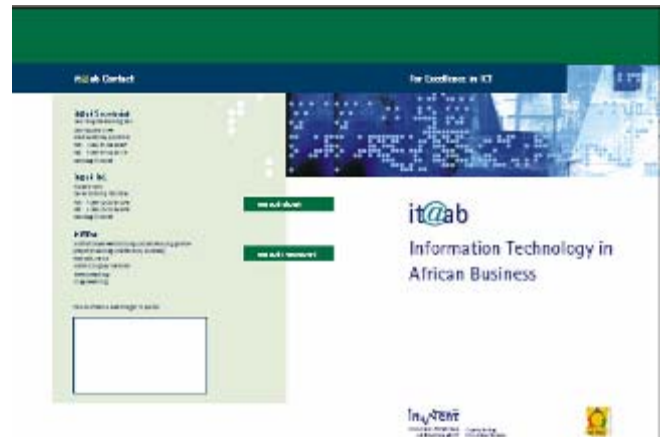
Brochure it@ab Marketing News

it@ab develops fast and so do the marketing efforts. During the Malawi Workshop in mid April it@ab will launch the newest marketing instrument that has just been finalised... the it@ab brochure.

The brochure has been developed with assistance from InWEnt and thanks to InWEnt's financial contribution it could be printed in full colour.

The brochure has been developed in such a way that it can be used by all members (adding their personal rubber stamp), it will be valid no matter how many new members join the network.

In addition a 2 x 1 meter roll-up display has been produced and will be made available for workshops.



Further development of CLE

CLE2, the communication and work platform of it@ab, will be reorganised as one of the results of the upcoming workshop. This is to facilitate usage and to make access to important documents easier for all members. Hopefully the usage of CLE2 will increase.

In order to further develop CLE 2 the management board and the secretariat will need your assistance: Please visit CLE2 at www.cle2.it-inwent.net, login and explore the folder structure and send your wishes and recommendations as well as ideas on the new folder structure and new folders to create to InWEnt or it@ab secretariat in order to furnish us with the necessary input.

ICTe Africa

Trade Fair and Conference on ICT

ICTe AFRICA is the first ICT exhibition, conference and broadcasting-media event to directly address the entire African continent. Organised by GLOBAL FAIRS TT-MESSE (Germany and Kenya) and the ATU and URTNA, it will bring together the international ICT industry with the leading ICT decision makers from throughout the continent.

ICTe AFRICA will take place on the equator in Nairobi, home to many of Africa's pan-regional inter-governmental organisations. With one of the best conference and exhibition facilities, one of the largest airports and one of the biggest airlines, and with many international hotels clustered around the KICC fair site, Nairobi offers the optimum location for a continental African fair.

The comprehensive conference programme will increase the effectiveness of your presentation very significantly. The African Telecommunications Union (ATU) will be holding its conference within the framework of ICTe AFRICA. This will ensure that senior level government ICT decision-makers from throughout the Continent are well represented. URTNA members will also be meeting during the event. In the private sector organisations such as AfrISPA (see LINK) will ensure the largest possible presence of the continent's ISP's. And there will be a special



forum exclusively for African ICT distributors.

A network of well established African conference organisers, including AITEC, are fully involved in organising and supporting the event.

By bringing together the leading ICT decision-makers and international exhibitors, ICTe AFRICA aims to push forward business relations and result in rapidly increased growth at both supplier and customer level. With the hugely increased significance and potential of information technology and the internet, Africa already offers a large market. As the continent becomes ever more connected to the world through greater use of ICT, the potential will only increase further.

All these decisive players from Africa, linked with a global network of international media partners, will create an unrivalled and unprecedented framework for holding what will be the largest ICT, broadcasting and media event ever on the African Continent.

it@ab plans to participate as visitor to get in contact with others and to collect information also for the planned active participation in the World Summit in Tunis.

DEBIAN

Can you afford not to try it?
(by Ricardo Taca, it@ab 2004-2005)



The 21 participants of the IT@AB upgrade II 2004-2005 would like to welcome you to the world of a wonderful Open Source Linux distribution - Dabian!

Debian was founded in 1993 by Ian Murdock, in the spirit of Linux and GNU. He chose the name by combining the first name of his then-girlfriend (now wife) Debra with his own first name "Ian", forming the portmanteau "Debian".

The Debian Project is an association of individuals who have made common cause to create a free operating system. This operating system that has been created is called Debian GNU/Linux, or simply Debian for short.

It's a bit like a tower. At the base is the kernel. On top of that are all the basic tools. Next is all the software that you run on the computer. At the top of the tower is Debian — carefully organizing and fitting everything so it all works together.

Of course, the thing that people want is application software: programs to help them get what they want to do done, from editing documents to running a business to playing games to writing more software. Debian comes with over 8710 packages (precompiled software that is bundled up in a nice format for easy

installation on your machine) — all of it free.

You may be wondering: why would people spend hours of their own time to write software, carefully package it, and then *give* it all away? The answers are as varied as the people who contribute. Some people like to help others. Many write programs to learn more about computers. More and more people are looking for ways to avoid the inflated price of software.

The participants of it@ab upgrade II 2004-2005 give good reasons to choose Debian:

- The best packaging system in the world (apt-get install)
- It is secure, having packages of the famous GPG (and PGP)
- You wouldn't be alone, organizations & individuals use it
- Easy installation (from DVD, Network or over the Internet)
- Incredible amounts of software
- Easy upgrades (apt-get update)

For more information, please read <http://www.debian.org/>

The Senior Managers will be introduced to Debian during the Malawi workshop in April 2005 and InEnt will be prepared to bring along Debian-CDs as well as mirrors on hard drive for further use and distribution by the it@ab network

ICT News Africa

Selected Press-cuttings on ICT in Africa

South African: Telkom Rates are among the highest

(Business Day (Johannesburg)
March 29, 2005)

DESPITE price cuts for both international and national long-distance calls announced recently by Telkom, its rates remain the highest among the 14 major economies in the world, a new study shows.

The survey, by US-based telecoms and energy cost control consulting firm NUS Consulting, says Telkom's high tariffs "continue to hamper South African organisations in their efforts to compete in the world's major markets".

The report, was conducted among 14 of the world's major markets with which SA does business - the UK, US, Canada, France, Sweden, Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain.

NUS Consulting MD George Rahr says although Telkom should be applauded for the 49% and 10% rate cuts it had made for international and national long-distance calls, the decreases pale into insignificance when compared with price cuts in other countries.

(Source: www.allafrica.com)

Zambia: First Wireless ISP Offers High Speed Broadband Solution among the highest

(Balancing Act (London)
March 28, 2005)

Always-on broadband is largely a dream for most African internet users. And even what is usually described as broadband would not pass muster as a high speed service in other markets.

Earlier this month AfriConnect announced the launch of its 'iConnect' wireless broadband internet service in Zambia, a service that they believe brings a whole new internet concept to the country by offering the first affordable, high-speed internet solution. The always-on service not only provides speeds up to twenty times faster than dial-up but does so for a fixed monthly fee. iConnect, which is the first wireless connectivity solution in Zambia, is distinct in that it uses a 4G technology to provide easy access to the internet as well as fast speeds, previously unavailable in the country, writes Mapara Syed.

AfriConnect is a UK based company that offers systems integration and a full range of internet connectivity and related services throughout Africa, with offices in Zambia, Tanzania and Ghana.

(Source: www.allafrica.com)

Good bye Saarbrücken - Welcome Freiburg

IT Managers on the Run in Germany

(by Meraldina P. Mazivele, Elina M. Massaite)

As the time approached for the it@b IT specialists to relocate, the atmosphere was exciting and motivational. The 21 members revived their 'group spirit' by coming together and doing activities together.

On the 12th of February, 2005, the 21 IT specialists had a seminar on Time-Management. The Seminar held by Mr. Frenzel-Paal, at the CDC, was very interesting and productive. The specialists were taught on various issues from how to manage time to balancing priorities. The success, of the projects, life outside home country and social life all depend on how well the time is managed. InWEnt presented the participants with 'Agendas' which would help every participant to value the time.

On the 17th of February, 2005, the 21 participants visited the Landeskriminalamt (LKA), Saarbrücken. Lead by their German language teachers. The group met Mr. Ruppert and Mr. Kiefer who led them through some vital information regarding IT Security.

With Computer crime being a concern, the group was also informed on the kind of criminals they as LKA encounter e.g Hackers and those involved in data manipulation, illegal copies and how to deal with such situations.

On the 19th of February, an eventful workshop was held for the participants at the CDC. With a visit from Mr. Markus Mayer, Mr. Carlos Zarate und Ms. Simone Zarate, the participants were filled with information about the frame of the programme which is to be carried out in Freiburg. Mr. Zarate took this time to inform on the CeBit Fair. The participants were also informed on the move to Freiburg, the living conditions, the area and all the information needed in order to feel comfortable.



For more information about our IT-Specialist Programme, please visit our programme website:
<http://www.a-2-a.net>

by Meraldina P. Mazivele (DataBase Management Systems) & Elina M. Massaite (IT Security)