

## IT-Specialists from 7 SADC countries meet in Maputo

By:

[it@ab](#) Mozambique (Information Technology in African Business) and  
InWEnt gGmbH (Capacity International, Germany) Dept. Business Development & Infrastructure

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The SADC knowledge network it@ab (Information Technology in African Business) in cooperation with InWEnt (Capacity Building International, Germany) is organizing the first InWEnt it@ab-Alumni Workshop in Maputo, Mozambique. From 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2006, more than thirty Alumni of the InWEnt advanced Training Programme "Business related IT Consultancy" from seven SADC countries are gathering in Maputo for the one week hands-on Workshop. The seven countries are Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia. All former participants of the InWEnt training programmes in Germany since 2002 have been invited to join the workshop designed to be a kick-off for sustained networking among all it@ab Alumni and to foster Free and Open Source Technology (FOSS) knowledge transfer and IT know-how exchange.

The objectives of the advanced training have been developed in close consultation with the Alumni. One of the main goals of the workshop is to intensify the interaction and exchange among all it@ab Alumni and their institutions as well as to institutionalise such networking through practical measures. Besides, the Alumni are to exchange and communicate their IT know-how and share their experiences on ICT-related projects with local and regional approaches. For instance they will gain more technical skills in the area of FOSS (conception and conversion of new and emerging FOSS business models and projects) with the aim to identify areas of implementation. Another focus is the conception and adaption of it-business models and projects as well as building of technical skills with a focus on Free and Open Source Software (FOSS). The workshop will be financed by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development within the framework of InWEnts advanced Training Programme "Business related IT Consultancy".

Mrs. Elina Massaite, Mozambique, one participant and Alumni of InWEnt it@ab training 2004-2005 explains:

*"I would like to involve myself more in accordance to what the network is involved in and also enrich my skills when it come to the Hands-on, Technical Know-how, communication skills within the network and also networking in the aspect of learning how to help a growing network grow to a better multitude."*

### it@ab - A Network of Stakeholders

The Southern African Knowledge Network it@ab was established to facilitate cross-border-cooperation of IT-institutions and -specialists within Africa.

The network aims at the participation of SMEs, institutions and governmental bodies in the field of e-business development and IT training, and the promotion of local and regional business cooperation. About 30 institutions with some hundred IT-experts and software programmers in seven SADC member states have been drawn together under the network's umbrella since 2001 and serve as multipliers for innovation and technology exchange. it@ab mainly consists of IT consulting firms, IT training institutions, business promotion agencies and universities in Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia.

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## About InWEnt

InWEnt Capacity Building International stands for the development of human resources and organizations through international cooperation. InWEnt's training and dialogue services cater to managers, skilled and executive personnel and decision makers from business, politics, administration and civil society worldwide. Reaching about 55,000 people per year InWEnt works with partners in developing, transition and industrialized countries. InWEnt's shareholders are the Federal Republic of Germany represented by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft representing the business world and the German Foundation for International Development representing the German federal states.

## it@inwent – Supporting ICT Networks in the South

it@inwent helps multiplying partners in Africa, Asia and the Middle East to provide advanced knowledge in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). Through capacity-building and training, we create new business opportunities and assist our partners in generating income and high-quality jobs. Jointly with our partners we support a wide variety of economic and social ICT initiatives and develop ICT products. Our key objective is to strengthen IT sectors in various regions of the world, foster key innovations in ICTs for development and use ICTs as enabling tools for poverty reduction. We focus on providing IT training, fostering e-business opportunities and virtual cooperation and promoting innovative ICT solutions such as open source.

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