



eLearning
Africa

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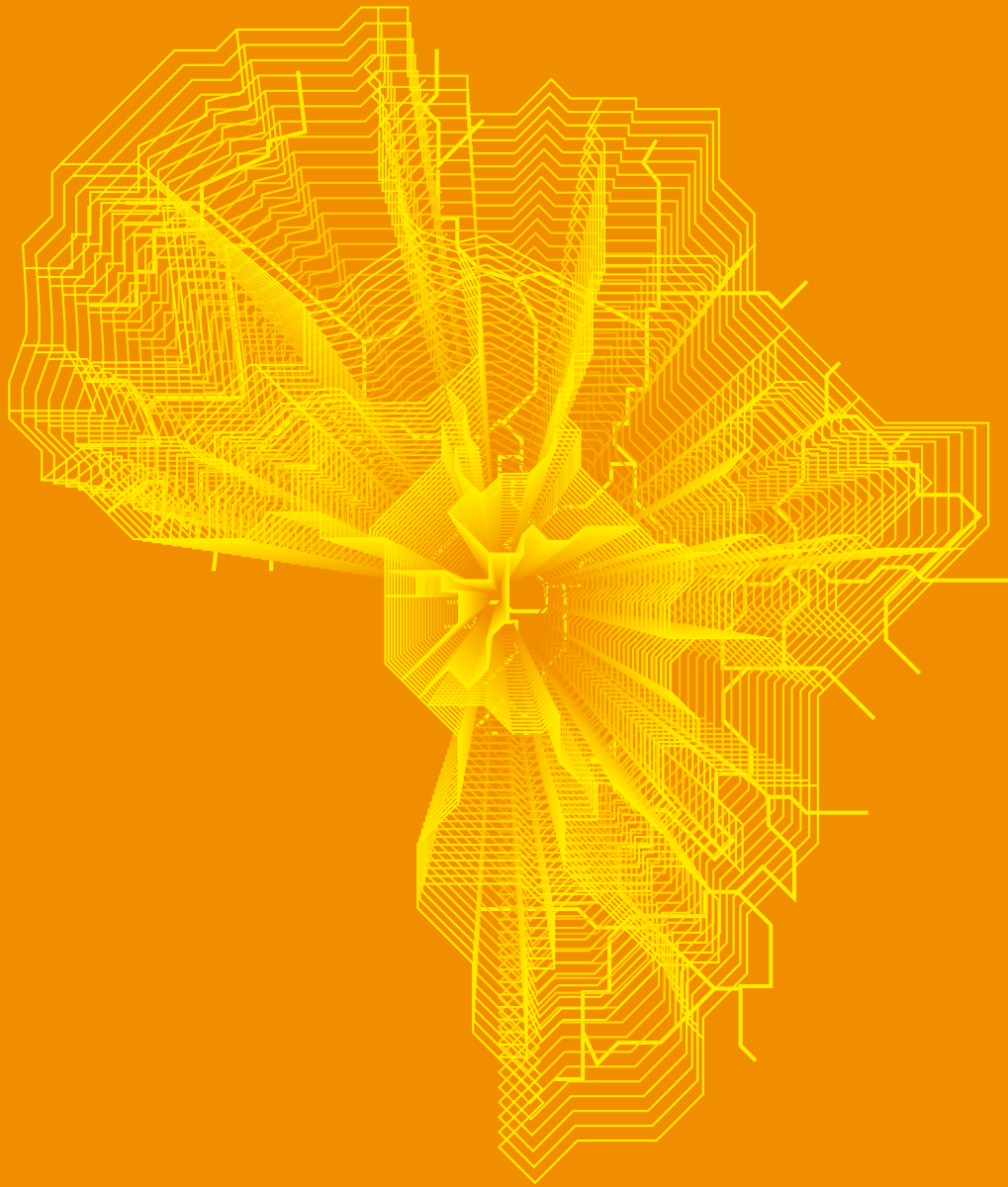


Supported by:



European Commission
DG Information Society and Media

1st International Conference on ICT for Development,
Education and Training, UNCC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



www.elearning-africa.com

An Annual Event for Building
eLearning Capacities in Africa

May 24 – 26, 2006

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eLearning Africa

An annual capacity building event and conference to be held in Africa

eLearning is high on the agenda in Africa. Governments and educational institutions look at eLearning as the only option to achieve one very important Millennium Goal which is "Education for All". In many countries new ambitious infrastructure programmes form the basis for unprecedented "great leaps forward" in providing access to and outreach in education and training.

In Ethiopia all 500 secondary schools and all twelve universities have been networked. Educational institutions in South Africa have led a pioneering role in eLearning for many years. Countries such as Botswana, Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, and Tanzania have introduced a variety of ICTs to their already established distance learning programmes and traditional universities. Multi-purpose community tele-centers, regional study centers, faculties and corporate training centres across the continent are connected with African educational providers such as the "African Virtual University" and international programmes from development cooperation agencies abroad. In many countries, schools have been equipped with PCs and are gradually being linked, forming national and cross-border school networks. One prominent example is "SchoolNet Africa", which provides support to practitioners, education policymakers, teachers and learners in 31 African countries.

Is eLearning in Africa coming of age? Looking at the lack of a robust telecommunications infrastructure, weak regulatory frameworks, the relatively small number of Internet accounts, the few trained IT technicians and poor maintenance services, the obstacles and stumbling blocks are obvious. But the efforts aimed at overcoming them are significant and the steps from isolated projects to sustainable services can

be observed all over the continent. Most importantly, an African community of practitioners in eLearning is emerging and addresses the new issues related to the efficient use of advanced learning technologies, the need for appropriate pedagogy and local content and the requirements demanded by institutional and service development.

It is against this background that "eLearning Africa", a conference to be held annually in Africa, intends to become the African eLearning capacity building event and – at the same time – a forum for all stakeholders engaged in the planning and implementation of technology supported learning and training on the African continent. Supported by the Economic Commission for Africa, donor organisations already engaged in the field of eLearning, and "Online Educa", Europe's largest international annual eLearning conference, "eLearning Africa" is certain to become the target destination of Africa's educational decision makers and practitioners in governments, public and private education and corporate HRD. The event will offer a unique opportunity to gain invaluable insights into the latest activities and achievements from the ever-evolving eLearning world.

„More of the same is just not going to work. Building more classrooms, and training more teachers to reach those currently unreached by education systems is unrealistic and will not be enough to meet the Education for All (EFA) challenge. Some countries are already spending considerable percentages of their Gross Domestic Product on education and have little room for manoeuvring. In addition, traditional education models will no doubt be unable to achieve educational empowerment effectively in the emerging Knowledge Societies.“
(Unesco, Bangkok, 2004)



The Conference Highlights of eLearning Africa 2006

This first eLearning Africa conference taking place in Addis Ababa from 24 – 26 May will feature:

- A pre-conference seminar about setting up and launching **European-African R&D projects** aimed at bridging the digital divide led by experienced practitioners from Africa and Europe with the input of the **European Commission**. This seminar will be linked to a conference session featuring developments supported by the European Commission particularly applicable in Africa.
- A pre-conference workshop on e-Readiness providing an **African Development Bank** and **Microsoft** perspective, organised in conjunction with the **NEPAD e-Africa Commission**.
- A major pre-conference seminar led by the **African Virtual University** focusing on the three key areas that AVU believe will support Open, Distance and eLearning (ODeL) in African universities; **Capacity Enhancement, Bandwidth Consortia** and **Open Education Resources**.
- Practical pre-conference hands-on workshops on **Establishing a Web Presence with a Blog, Designing Learning for the Future** and **Mobile Learning**.
- **Connectivity** continues to be an obstacle for many African eLearning providers and users. There will be a pre-conference workshop on this topic which will include the input of **SchoolNet Ethiopia**, followed by a session in the conference agenda featuring the latest developments and solutions including those supported by **satellite** and **PLC**.
- Conference sessions highlighting the challenges of adopting ICT in African universities featuring presentations from universities including **University of Yaoundé I, Cameroon, University of Pretoria, University of Namibia, University of Botswana, UNISA, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria**, and many more....
- A highly interactive discussion session entitled "Knowledge Sharing in Real-Time for Capacity Development" organised by the **Global Distance Learning Network (GDLN)** supported by the World Bank.
- Teacher training presentation and discussion sessions featuring the significant progress being made to improve pre-service and in-service teacher training in Africa through initiatives such as the **School Empowerment Programme** in Kenya, **Regional Network Training Workshops** in Uganda, the work of the **Tanzania Ministry of Education** and the **Africa Drive Project**.
- As part of the conference agenda, a **WITFOR Education Commission IFIPTC3** seminar on integrating ICTs in pedagogically meaningful ways in schools and educational institutions featuring cases and examples from all over Africa.
- Discussion and analysis opportunities addressing the impact ICT can have on promoting a more **learner-led pedagogy** based on the experiences gained in higher education in **Nigeria**, training schemes in **Botswana** and teacher training colleges in **Kenya**.
- Discussion opportunities focusing on the topic of quality with input from leading international experts, primarily aimed at identifying **Quality Assurance Practices and Procedures** that can be applied to eLearning in Africa.
- Open Source and Open Content Solutions will be featured throughout the conference agenda and in a session dedicated to the topic. Organisations like the **World Agroforestry Centre** in Kenya and the **University of the Western Cape** in South Africa will present and discuss their approaches.
- Developments and initiatives aimed at overcoming the digital divide like those related to **mobile technologies** including the **African Digital Education Enhancement Project (DEEP)**.
- Specific eLearning initiatives focussed on the treatment of **AIDS and HIV** will be included with **GTZ** leading a special focus session on this subject as well as a pre-conference workshop.
- Schools' initiatives will include input from **SchoolNet Africa**, the continent-wide network of SchoolNets. Other initiatives featured will include the **National Educational Portal "Thutong"** in South Africa, **World Links** and examples of the many collaborative initiatives linking experts in Africa with experts in other parts of the world.
- **AUF (Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie)** and **Gaston Berger University** in Sénégal will present their experience of creating and managing an **African Online Postgraduate Degree in Cyberspace Law**.
- **African Showcases** featuring examples of digital courseware and learning materials developed with African learners in mind presented by organisations like **Makerere University** from Uganda, **Riverbend Learning** in South Africa and the **World Health Organisation**.
- A **Demonstration Village** as part of the conference exhibition featuring services, products, tools, courseware and materials from all over the globe which can have an impact in Africa, including open learning systems like **KEWL.NextGen**, tools like **SMIRK, Webscripiter** and **IMARK**, and resources and materials aimed at the African learner.
- **Formal and informal networking** opportunities during the discussion sessions, coffee breaks and social events.....

Time	May 24	May 25	May 26
09:00 – 10:30	Pre-	Opening Plenary	Plenary Session
10:30 – 11:00		Coffee Break	Coffee Break
11:00 – 13:00	Conference	Morning Session	Morning Session
13:00 – 14:30	Workshops	Lunch Break	Lunch Break
14:30 – 16:30		Afternoon Session	Afternoon Session
16:30 – 17:00	and	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
17:00 – 19:00	Seminars	Evening Session	Evening Session

WORKSHOPS

Workshops and Seminars - Wednesday, 24th May, 2006

Seminar 1: Supporting ODeL in African Universities

Leaders: Peter Bateman and Catherine Ngugi, African Virtual University, Kenya

Time: 09:00 – 17:30

Price: Free of charge to conference participants

Seminar 2: European-African R&D Projects for Bridging the Digital Divide

Chairman: Leopold Reif, Hoffmann & Reif, Germany

Presenters: Jacques Babot, European Commission, Belgium

Thierry Devars, European Commission, Belgium

Prof. Joern Braa, University of Oslo, Norway

Prof. Rahel Bekele, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia,

Dr. Humberto Muquingue, Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, Mozambique,

Representatives from two other European-African R&D projects

Time: 10:00 - 17:00

Price: Free of charge to conference participants

Seminar 3: Quality for eLearning in Africa: Hands-on Training Workshop for Decision Makers, Educational Practitioners and Students

Leader: Stamenka Uvalic-Trumbic, Chief, Section for Reform, Innovation and Quality Assurance,

Dr. Ulf-Daniel Ehlers, the European Foundation for Quality in eLearning and the University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany

Time: 09:00 - 18:15

Price: Free of charge to conference participants

Seminar 4: e-Readiness: Making the Most of ICT for Educational Development in Africa: An African Development Bank and Microsoft Perspective, in Conjunction with NEPAD e-Africa Commission

Leader: Alice Hamer, African Development Bank, Social Sector, North, East and South Africa,

Rizwan Tufail, Microsoft, Middle East and South Africa Region,

Dr. Henry Chasia, NEPAD, South Africa

Time: 10:00 - 17:00

Price: Free of charge to conference participants

Workshop 5: Connectivity Issues and Solutions in Remote, Rural and Developing Educational Communities

Leaders: Mathy Vanbuel, ATiT, Belgium and Ethiopian School Net Project

Time: 10:00 - 17:00

Price: € 70
free of charge to African participants attending the main conference

Seminar 6: Capacity Building in and for eLearning

Leaders: Dr. Günther Podlacha, InWEnt (Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung gemeinnützige – Capacity Building International), Germany

Frank Dubert, GTZ (Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit – Agency for German Technical Cooperation), Germany

Time: 09:30 - 12:30

Price: Free of charge to conference participants

Seminar 7: Inaugural Meeting of IVI-Health Foundation in Collaboration with IVINURS and IVIMEDS

Leader: Prof. Keith Palmer, International Virtual Medical School, UK

Time: 09:30 - 12:30

Price: € 40
free of charge to African participants attending the main conference

Workshop 8: Mobile Learning: What's Happening, Has It Worked, What's Possible?

Leaders: John Traxler, Applied Innovative Digital Technologies Research Group, University of Wolverhampton, UK

Leonard Mware Oloo, Kenya College of Communications Technology, Kenya

Time: 09:30 - 12:30

Price: € 40
free of charge to African participants attending the main conference

Seminar 9: The TESSA Programme: the Role of eLearning and ICTs in Teacher Education and Training in Africa

Leaders: Prof. Bob Moon, The Open University - Centre for Research & Development in Teacher Education, UK

Time: 14:00 - 17:00

Price: € 40
free of charge to African participants attending the main conference

Workshop 10: Designing Learning for the Future

Leader: Prof. Alan Amory, Centre for IT in Higher Education, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Time: 14:00 - 17:00

Price: € 40
free of charge to African participants attending the main conference

Workshop 11: Establishing My Web Presence with a Blog

Leaders: Tony Carr and Glenda Cox, Centre for Educational Technology, University of Cape Town, South Africa

Time: 13:30 - 17:30

Price: € 40
free of charge to African participants attending the main conference

Workshop 12: A two-day, hands-on workshop for teachers, professors, trainers and educational experts with a three-week eLearning phase on the Internet

Leader: Sebastian Hoffmann, Hoffmann & Reif Consultants, Germany

Time: 22 and 23 May 2006

Price: FULLY BOOKED

Detailed information on the Pre-Conference Workshops & Seminars can be found under:
www.elearning-africa.com/workshops_detail.php



WHO SHOULD ATTEND

eLearning Africa will be of professional interest to:

- Deans, Directors, and Researchers from Universities and the Higher Education Sector
- School Principals and Administrators, Teachers and Trainers
- Senior Staff from Government Departments and International Development Cooperation Agencies
- Corporate Training & Development Executives
- Programme Managers and Education Administrators
- Human Resources Executives
- IT Managers
- Leaders of Professional Associations, Expertise Centres, Trade Unions, and Continuing Education Centres
- Technology and Service Providers Publishers and Content Providers
- Multimedia and Software Designers
- Training Consultants and Company Representatives



WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND

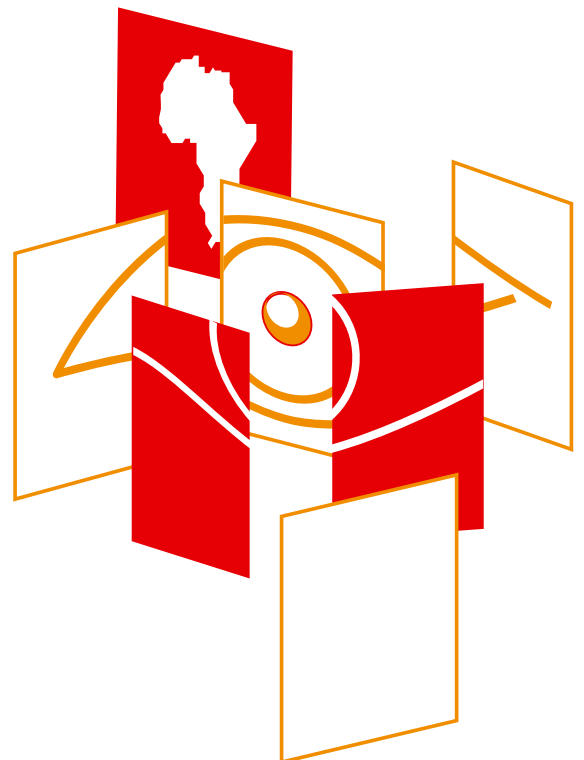
For anyone holding a substantial interest in eLearning, this conference is of the highest significance. If you are in charge of, or involved in eLearning strategy, implementation, or management, **eLearning Africa is a unique opportunity for expanding your knowledge.**

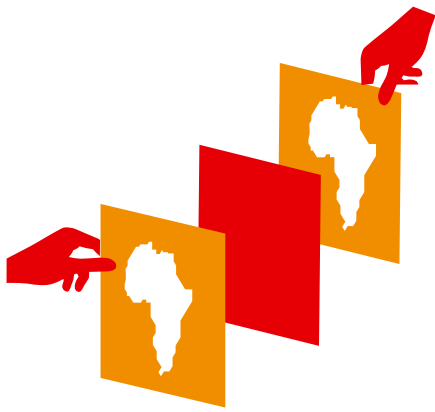
- **Keep up with** all the major issues, latest developments, and trends in eLearning
- **Meet with and listen** to the opinions and experiences of acknowledged industry leaders
- **Hear from** the experts how to build an effective eLearning organisation
- **Find out** how to choose and use various technologies, products and services
- **Discuss** critical success factors and innovative practises with your peers

EXHIBITORS AND SPONSORS

The conference is accompanied by an **exhibition and demonstration area** for eLearning manufacturers, suppliers, and service providers. The exhibition will serve as a central meeting point for the participants within the conference, and an excellent opportunity to meet with and compare the offerings of the exhibiting companies and institutions. Exhibitors and Sponsors at **eLearning Africa** will include:

- Development Cooperation Institutions
- Government Agencies
- eLearning Content Providers
- Distance Learning Software, Systems and Services
- eLearning Projects & Services
- Authoring Tools and Services
- Computer Based Training Programme Suppliers
- Consultancy Services
- eLearning Administration Support System Providers
- eLearning Equipment and Hardware Providers
- Electronic Learning Environments
- Instructional Design Tools and Service Suppliers
- Literature and Consultancy Services about eLearning
- Management System Providers for Content and Learning
- Multimedia Learning Material Publishers
- Networking Services
- Online Services
- Satellite Systems and Services
- Student and Staff Support System Providers
- Training and Educational Material Providers
- Video - and Audio Conferencing Equipment Suppliers





NETWORKING, SPECIAL AND SOCIAL EVENTS

There will be a variety of networking, special, and social events planned to take place alongside the conference. More information will be sent to you after receipt of your registration.

PUBLICATIONS & CONFERENCE LANGUAGES

The abstracts of accepted papers will be available to all participants upon registration. The conference languages are English and French.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

We have negotiated preferential rates for conference participants at conveniently located hotels. If you should decide to stay at any of these hotels, please make the reservation as soon as possible as rooms at reduced rates are limited and go on a first-come, first-served basis.

Detailed information and a booking form will be sent to you upon receipt of your completed application form.

REGISTRATION FEES

Participants from Africa € 250,00

Other participants € 500,00

Students * € 100,00

*Copy of Student ID required

The fees include VAT, conference materials, a conference CD, coffee breaks and lunch. Group rates are available. The above-mentioned fees do not include Pre-Conference Workshops or accommodation.

SPONSORSHIPS

A number of sponsorships for participants from African countries will be available. To request further information, please contact us at:

info@elearning-africa.com

ORGANISERS:

ICWE and Hoffmann & Reif Consultants

ICWE is an international conference organiser with a focus on education and training, providing the world largest annual international eLearning conference since 1995 "Online Educa Berlin": www.icwe.net

Hoffmann & Reif Consultants have been engaged in "ICT for Development" and eLearning projects in Africa and Asia since 1995: www.hoffmann-reif.com

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