

# First pan -African ICT conference begins here

By Dagnachew Teklu

**ADDIS ABEBA**-The first pan -African conference on ICT for Development, Education and Training was officially launched in Addis Ababa yesterday.

The conference will formally start with an opening ceremony today.

The international conference on ICT, eLearning Africa 2006, from 24-26 May is a new conference organized by ICWE GmbH and Hoffmann and Reif that focuses on ICT for development, education and training in Africa.

The event will establish and link a network of decision makers from governments and administrations with universities, schools, governmental and private training providers, industry, and important partners in development cooperation.

The organizer said on Wednesday that major organizations from the World of International development will be present, among them, the Global Development Learning Network (GDLN), the World Health Organization (WHO), the German Development Agency (GTZ), the African Development Bank (ADB) and the NEPAD e-Africa commission.

"One of the main goals of eLearning Africa 2006 is to really help build a strong African eLearning community and to create an exciting and dynamic annual event where contacts are made and re-made, ideas exchanged and evaluated and where real collaboration is initiated," Rebecca Stromeyer, Managing Director of ICWE and Project Manager of eLearning Africa 2006 said.

Stromeyer said that the agenda scheduled to be discussed in the following days includes examples of the deployment of eLearning in Schools, administration, and government.

Universities from all over Africa will describe how they are adopting various technology solutions to support their educational programmes.

"ICWE is an international conference organizer with a focus on educa-



ICWE Executive director Rebecca Stromeyer,

tion and training, providing the world's largest annual international eLearning conference since 1995.

"Hoffmann & Reif Consultants has been engaged in 'ICT for Development' and eLearning projects in Africa, Asia and Europe since 1995" Stromeyer added.

So far, 726 participants from 74 countries have confirmed to attend the first e Learning Africa conference, scheduled to be officially opened on today.

Over 70 % of participants come from Africa and 20 % from Europe, with experts from Latin America, the Middle East, and the Asia Pacific region constituting the balance.

eLA 2006 is supported by the United Nations Commission for Africa and the European Commission's DG Information Society.

The Ethiopian Ministry of Capacity Building has taken the patronage over the conference. The event will be accompanied by an exhibition.