



E- LEARNING AFRICA 2011 : FOSSFA Press information

The Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa – FOSSFA, has made huge strides in Africa's policy, technology, business and education sectors.

In the just-concluded second session of the Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology, on FOSSFA's recommendations, CODIST II has adopted, among other key ICT policy, that African countries develop ICT policies on Open Standards in general, and Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) in particular, with a view to ensuring that procurement and promotion of ICTs provide a level playing field for proprietary and FOSS software; and that African governments work together to implement FOSS recommendations emanating from CODI IV, including raising awareness about FOSS and building capacity in FOSS, encouraging the participation of FOSS communities in policy formulation and implementation, and that United Nations Economic Commission for Africa should support member states to develop capacity in FOSS.

On May 5, the 2nd Edition of the Guido Sohne Fellowship aimed at inspiring and motivating young African software developers was launched in the plenary session of CODIST II, the second session of the Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology, in the presence of member delegations from African states, Regional Economic Communities, UN Agencies and other stakeholders. It attracted major interest from participants who lauded this initiative and its potential to grow quality software developers on the continent. The Fellowship was established as a memorial to Guido Sohne, a legendary African developer known for both his software development as well as his writings on Africa's future and the importance of the Information Technology Regulatory and Policy Environment to the socio-economic development of the continent.

On May 25, as a pre-event to the E-Learning Africa 2011, FOSSFA, in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH will be offering participants a full day workshop on: **African FOSS Business Models: Case studies from 8 African countries**

This workshop looks at case studies which demonstrate how companies in eight African countries are already profiting from FOSS. The case studies showcased will give practical advice based on reported experiences of a cross-section of FOSS business enterprises. FOSSFA, in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, in the framework of the ICT@innovation project is also launching the innovation award. This award shall recognize and encourage innovative African business models at the African Conference on FOSS and the Digital Commons – Idlelo 5 in March 2012.

The FOSSFA booth at E-Learning Africa is open to you for information on Idlelo 5, exchange of views, membership applications, demonstrations on FOSS education platforms and expert advice on software, business and technology solutions.

About FOSSFA

FOSSFA is the premier African FOSS organization, and was founded under the auspices of the Bamako Bureau of the African Information Society Initiative within the mandate given by African Governments in 1995 to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). The Vision of FOSSFA is to promote the use of FOSS and the FOSS model in African development. FOSSFA supports the integration of FOSS in national policies and also coordinates, promotes, and adds value to African FOSS initiatives, creativity, industry, expertise, efforts and activities at all levels. FOSSFA partners with development organizations who share these goals towards a participatory and gender-mainstreamed sustainable development and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

<http://www.fossfa.net/>