



AfriNIC : A Tool for ICT Development in Africa?

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TALKING POINTS

- An overview of the ICT Infrastructure in Africa
 - Key challenges facing ICT development in Africa
 - What to expect from AfriNIC?
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An overview of the ICT Infrastructure

- A Combination of radio relay links, radio telephone stations, fixed local loop installations and a substantial mobile cellular networks.
- Satellite and micro wave links are mostly used, namely for inter state communications.
- Two continental organizations (RASCOM and PATU) seek to administer the above resources for the continent's benefit
- However, it is noted that approx. 90% of African traffic is routed through Europe and North America
- Efforts are in place to lay optical fibers both locally and regionally, with continental rings such as SAT3 and EASSY
- There is a regained interest for investing in African telecommunications. i.e World bank. EU and AfDB recent announces

Key Challenges facing ICT Development

- Uneven development across the continent
 - Lack of appropriate policies/strategies to harness ICT
 - Unclear sector regulation
 - Inadequate telecom and electricity infrastructure
 - Lack of local contents and language barriers
 - Low affordability and high pricing
 - Poor management and dissemination of ccTLDs
 - Etc..
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What role for AfriNIC?

- Results from its three year operation put AfriNIC in a position to contribute to ICT development in Africa
 - Increased user community
 - Increased African participation in global forums re Internet development
 - Synergizing with other players : AfrisPA, AfTLD, AfNOG..but soon with continental/regional organizations
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Strategic Niches for AfriNIC

- A Facilitator of an African ICT Development Fund
 - Research and Education
 - Contribute to boosting the African nascent Internet Industry
 - Example : in the mobile sector, accompany operators' move into adopting all IP-based systems capable of supporting different mobile networks on a single IP core network
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Conclusion

- African ICT development requests concerted efforts by all stakeholders (Governments, business and user community)
 - Special niches are available to foster uptake of the ICT on the continent
 - AfriNIC is one of those niches, the spill over effect of which could boost the African internet industry and contribute to capacity development
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