

it@inwent – Supporting ICT Networks in the South

InWEnt - Capacity Building International, Germany supports its partners in Africa and Asia to provide advanced knowledge in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). The key objectives of the it@inwent programmes are to strengthen IT sectors, foster vital innovations in ICTs for sustainable human development, and use ICTs as enabling tools for poverty reduction.

We believe in a world in which the free flow of images, ideas, and information can become a reality anywhere and anytime. it@inwent.org, therefore, contributes to the implementation of national and international ICT strategies and plans of action, such as those by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

it@inwent focuses on providing IT training and blended learning, fostering business opportunities and virtual networking, and promoting innovative ICT solutions such as free and open source software.

For more information on it@inwent: www.it-inwent.org

About InWEnt

InWEnt stands for the development of human resources and organisations within the framework of international cooperation. InWEnt's range of services caters to skilled and managerial staff as well as decision makers from businesses, politics, administrations and civil societies worldwide. Each year, some 55,000 persons participate in our measures.

Programmes and measures at InWEnt aim at promoting change competencies on three levels: They strengthen the individual's executive competencies, increase the performance of companies, organisations and administrations, and at the political level improve decision-

making skills and the capacity to act. The methodological tools comprise modules and can be adapted to meet changing requirements in order to provide solutions. Apart from face-to-face situations in measures offering training, exchange of experience and dialog, emphasis is on e-learning-assisted networking. InWEnt cooperates equally with partners from developing, transition and industrialised countries.

InWEnt's shareholders comprise the Federal Republic of Germany, represented by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Carl Duisberg

Gesellschaft that represents the business community, and the German Foundation for International Development that represents the Länder (German federal states).

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Supporting ICT Networks in the South

Business Development – Innovation – Poverty Reduction



Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung gGmbH Capacity Building International, Germany



"I learned so much during the one year of advanced training in business-related IT consultancy with InWEnt in Germany.

I strongly believe that my newly acquired knowledge, skills and experience form a good basis to master the challenging tasks that are waiting for me in Africa."



Ms Fausta Nguzo, Tanzania, Alumna of InWEnt's programme on "business related IT consultancy"

Ms Fausta Nguzo from Tanzania, speaking in Berlin on 26 September 2005 at the graduation of the third round of IT consultants from Africa. They had spent one year in Germany for an advanced IT-training programme on "business related IT-consultancy". The it@ab project is one example of InWEnt's capacity-building activities in the field of information and communication technologies (ICTs). Since 2002, more than 60 specialists from Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia passed an extensive one-year IT training programme (see page 10-11).

Towards Knowledge Societies, Business Opportunities & International Exchange

Mobile phones, computers, the World Wide Web, e-mail – information and communication technologies (ICTs) are becoming more and more central for economic and social development in a globalizing world. However, many people, businesses and organizations worldwide do not have access to ICTs or the ability to use digital technologies and media for knowledge-driven empowerment and economic growth. In recent years, the international community has therefore focused on turning digital divides into digital opportunities. This was stressed in the commitments of the UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and through the nexus of ICTs and the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). At a national level, the German government identified ICTs as key enablers to increase impact in different areas of development such as education, health, private sector support or good governance.

InWEnt – a builder of capacity

Within this framework, InWEnt's key objectives are to foster knowledge-driven human development, business opportunities and international exchange through the use of ICTs.

We believe that education, training and lifelong learning are key drivers to achieve inclusive yet diversified knowledge societies worldwide. Today, we are witnessing that technologies, societies and economies are changing more and more rapidly. Know-how, up-to-date skills, services and interaction become key dimensions of social and economic development. A world run by ICTs will require open societies characterized by lifelong learning, constant adaptation and training.

This is why InWEnt puts so much emphasis on capacity-building 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. Only then can new business models and ICT-powered social initiatives emerge, which lead to knowledge-driven human development at the national, regional and international level. The benefits of ICTs should be used to the advantage of all.

Providing advanced knowledge in ICTs for economic development

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) stressed that ICTs can be a powerful instrument to increase productivity, generate economic growth and employment and improve the quality of life of all. Consequently, the main goal of our it@inwent programmes is to support partners in Africa and Asia as well as the Middle East (planned) in providing advanced knowledge in ICTs. Through capacity-building and training, we create new business opportunities and help our partners generate income and high-quality jobs. We focus in particular on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as well as organizations and administrations, enabling them to make the changes needed to seize the benefits offered by ICTs. With its partners, InWEnt also supports regional economic and social ICT initiatives and develops ICT products for local markets.

"Information technologies enable countries like Vietnam to take advantage of innovation, to better serve the information needs of the poor, to improve competitiveness and to better integrate into the networked economy of the world."

Dr Bui Manh Hai, Vice Minister of Science and Technology of Vietnam, speaking at the international conference "COSGov Vietnam – Building cooperation via open-source for eGovernance" organized by InWEnt together with its partners INRIA and IOIT. COSGov was held in Vietnam's capital Hanoi from September 28 – 30, 2005.

Our strategy and tools

A strong national IT sector is a precondition for any development of ICT-enabled solutions. This is why the first pillar of our strategy aims at strengthening the capacities of IT sectors. We train and network multiplier institutions such as IT businesses and IT educational institutions and we promote business clusters related to ICTs.

Secondly, we foster key innovations in ICTs which are expected to become springboards for economic, political and social development in the countries of the South. Concepts such as free and open-source software (FOSS) or local content can be drivers towards local high-quality ICT solutions which enhance local economic development, governance and access to global public goods.

Three pillars of our strategy

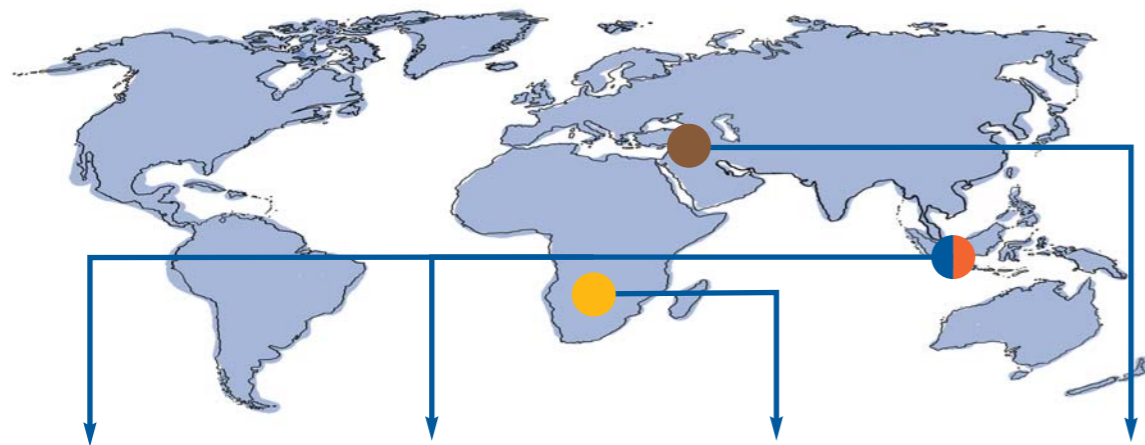
- 1. Strengthening the capacities of IT-sectors**
Training IT-businesses and IT-educational institutions
- 2. Fostering key innovations in ICTs for development**
Open source software, local content and more
- 3. Using ICTs as enabling tools for poverty reduction**
Access to knowledge for SMEs, educational institutions and governmental bodies

The third pillar of our strategy is geared towards the attainment of the UN Millennium Development Goals and other international development goals. Here, we focus on using ICTs as enabling tools for poverty reduction by fostering access to knowledge for SMEs, educational institutions and governmental bodies.

In all of our capacity-building activities we blend the three pillars of our

strategy in a holistic approach according to the needs of our partners. Our main tools are IT training, consulting services on e-business models and software technology, institutional development, creation of regional networks, virtual cooperation, blended learning and fostering of local centres of excellence. A brief overview of our projects is provided below. A more detailed presentation can be found on pages 6 to 11.

it@foss, it@coops, it@ab, ict@innovation – our main projects in Africa, Asia & the Middle East



it@foss Free and open source software in Southeast Asia – promoting the use of free and open source software for development in fields such as business development and e-governance. See page 6–7.

it@coops Information Technology for Southeast Asian cooperatives – providing poverty-oriented cooperatives with ICT skills and stimulating virtual cooperation. See page 8–9.

it@ab Southern African Network on "Information Technology in African Business" – supporting SMEs, IT training institutions and universities in the field of ICT training, e-business development and regional cooperation. See page 10–11.

ict@innovation – providing access to knowledge and local innovation for businesses, educational institutions & administrations (planned for 2008ff in Asia, Africa, Middle East / input welcome at ict@inwent.org)

More ICT-related programmes at InWEnt

InWEnt has established its technical competence in business fields, which are structured on a topic-by-topic basis. The it@inwent unit is part of the department for Sustainable Business Development and develops all its activities in close cooperation with other units of InWEnt, which provide ICT-related projects in their respective business fields. In addition to the three strategic pillars of the it@inwent programmes (1. Strengthening the capacities of IT sectors / 2. Fostering key innovations in ICTs for development / 3. Using ICTs as enabling tools for poverty reduction), InWEnt has developed strong expertise in several fields such as:

E-learning Systems, Contents & Capacities

flagships: Global Campus 21 / Regional Capacity Building in E-Learning / ELDI – E-Learning Development & Implementation / Alumni Portal
websites: www.gc21.de, www.vietnamgateway.org

Modern Media and Curricula Development in Vocational Education and Training

flagships: E-learning Management in TVET Processes, Modern Media and Curricula Development in TVET
websites: www.inwent.org

Environment, Energy and Water

flagships: Ch@t der Welten – Development politics and environmental issues in schools / SANTREN, Online Southern African Network for Training and Research on the Environment
websites: www.chatderwelten.de, www.santren.com

E-Health

flagships: tailored e-learning-courses on HIV/AIDS for different target groups such as health workers, teacher educators, general public
websites: www.gc21.de

International Institute for Journalism

flagships: training courses on Journalism and the Internet, Multimedia and Online Journalism
websites: www.inwent.org/themen_reg/ijj/programme/index.en.shtml

International Regulatory Framework / Good Governance

flagships: e-governance initiatives in Southern Africa
websites: www.inwent.org

Information resources and ICT products of it@inwent

As part of our capacity-building activities, we have developed a set of practical information resources and ICT products. Most of them are offered through open content models.

IT Knowledge Edition 1

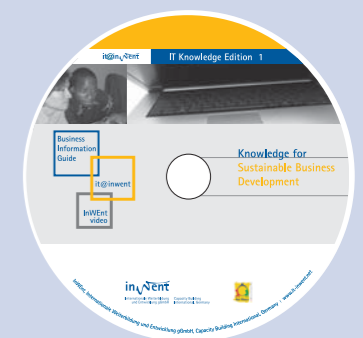
"Knowledge for Sustainable Business Development" (CD-Rom) Guide on how to find business information on the Internet, language tools, translation aids.

Blended Learning Programme

500 hours of blended learning on areas such as Internet Technology, IT Security, IT Consulting, E-Business Applications, E-Learning.

IT Knowledge Edition 2

"Compendium of Open Source Software" (CD-Rom) Information about Linux, FOSS and its uses in business processes.



it@inwent Website

www.it-inwent.org
News and project section, InWEnt database on open source technologies, brochures, services.

For further information please contact us at ict@inwent.org



it@foss – Promoting Free and Open Source Software in Southeast Asia

More and more countries in Southeast Asia pin their hopes on information and communication technologies (ICTs) based on free and open source software (FOSS) to advance their development in areas such as administration, education, health and business development. However, the region lacks software architects experienced in FOSS. Also, many decision makers in administration and education are not aware of the potential of FOSS for development. Therefore, InWEnt's it@foss project focuses on supporting the FOSS community of the ASEAN region and on promoting

awareness of the opportunities of FOSS for local ICT development.

The overall goal is to contribute to building a FOSS community in the ASEAN region for the advancement of a locally adapted ICT infrastructure based on open source technology. The project applies four lines of action to reach its objectives:

1. National workshops and training for developers, experts and the wider FOSS community.
2. Regional FOSS conferences to reinforce regional cooperation and building of networks.
3. Public-private partnerships, especially with businesses in the field of training.
4. International capacity-building events involving European developer communities and innovative free and open source companies worldwide.

What is Free and Open Source Software (FOSS)?

Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) is software which is liberally licensed to grant the right of users to study, change, and improve its design through the availability of its source code. The emphasis on openness in FOSS has fostered the growth of a world-wide community of FOSS developers con-

tributing to a large pool of software programmes ranging from operating systems and web servers to e-mail, word processing and spreadsheets. Some examples of FOSS are the operating system Linux, the Internet browser Firefox and the office suite OpenOffice.org.

Sources: www.wikipedia.org, InWEnt

it@foss in brief

Objective:	Promoting free and open source software (FOSS) for development in Southeast Asia
Countries:	Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam
Beneficiaries:	Communities of software developers, decision makers in administration and higher education, and ultimately end users benefiting from software in local languages and open licensing models
Duration:	2005-2008
Strategic partners:	Free and open source-oriented software developers, SMEs active in the development of software systems, governmental and administrative agencies
Website:	www.it-foss.org

FOSS and e-governance – international conference COSGov in Vietnam

28-30 September 2005 – More than 300 IT experts, governmental representatives and entrepreneurs gathered in Vietnam's capital Hanoi for the conference "COSGov Vietnam – Building cooperation via open source for eGovernance". COSGov reinforced links with the international FOSS developer community, provided a forum for knowledge exchange and training on

issues such as FOSS in e-governance, e-education, e-health and e-business, open standards, licensing and security issues. The event was organised by an international consortium under the lead of InWEnt, Capacity Building International in the framework of the European Union's EU Asia IT&C Programme.

Cambodia: FOSS training in Khmer

The National Information Communications Technology Development Authority (NiDA) of Cambodia and the WordForge Foundation are implementing a national master plan on Free and Open Source Software (FOSS). Within this plan, NiDA and WordForge together with InWEnt provide customized and localized training courses on Linux administration in Khmer lan-

guage. This includes training of Linux administrators and of trainers for Linux administration. Moreover the initiative is establishing a pool of 250 to 300 trainers capable of teaching the use of FOSS end-user applications in Khmer language (word processing, spreadsheets, Internet, etc.).





it@coops in brief

Objective:	Providing basic and advanced ICT training for poverty-oriented cooperatives and stimulating virtual cooperation
Countries:	Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand
Beneficiaries:	Members of poverty-oriented cooperatives, with a focus on women entrepreneurs
Duration:	2004-2007
Strategic partners:	The regional umbrella association Asian Women in Cooperative Development Forum (AWCF) and national umbrella associations CULT (Thailand), FORMASI (Indonesia) and NATCCO (Philippines)
Website:	www.it-coops.org

it@coops – Information Technology for Southeast Asian Cooperatives

The project it@coops provides poverty-oriented cooperatives with basic and advanced IT skills and stimulates virtual cooperation. Cooperatives in the Southeast Asia region have proved to be a successful form of organisation for marginalized people, especially women. They foster business start-ups and thus create

new employment opportunities. Since 2004, InWEnt's it@coops project has focused on qualifying members of cooperatives in the field of ICTs. With its strong orientation towards the poorest segments of the population, it@coops contributes to the attainment of the UN Millennium Development Goals.

it@coops consists of three components:

1. Qualifying members of co-operatives in the field of ICTs through extensive train-the-trainer programmes in the respective local language and tailored towards the needs of cooperatives.
2. Promoting the set-up of ICT Business Development Centres. Such centres enable cooperative members and various micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to gain access to ICT-related services.
3. Creating virtual networks to systematize operational procedures, facilitate the exchange of information and act together on the market to improve competitiveness.



Training the cooperative's IT trainers

The it@coops project is training a total of 60 IT multipliers from cooperatives of three countries in a train-the-trainer approach. The curricula are tailored towards the demands of the respective cooperative environment. Each IT specialist is trained for

over 100 days in order to prepare him or her for the training of members of the cooperatives. Experienced local training institutions conduct the programmes in local languages to maximize quality and impact.



it@ab – Information Technology in African Business

The Southern African Knowledge Network on "Information Technology in African Business" (it@ab) supports the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), institutions and governmental bodies in the field of e-business development and IT training and promotes local and regional business cooperation.

More than 30 institutions 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.

The main components of it@ab

- Conferences and seminars for senior and junior executives from institutions of the network focussing on concrete ICT business solutions, practical knowledge and interregional cooperation.
- One-year training programmes in the field of "business related IT consultancy" in Germany (see page 11).
- Production of hands-on material for consulting purposes, e-learning programmes and local content.
- Sharing of knowledge on innovations and IT topics conducive to human development such as free and open source software (FOSS), blended learning, e-readiness and e-health.
- Interregional and international contacts and exchange among it@ab members.

it@ab in brief

Objective:	Promotion of ICT development, local and regional business cooperation and knowledge exchange within the SADC Region
Countries:	Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia
Beneficiaries:	IT specialists and executive staff from African companies and institutions with sound experience in IT and business related training/consultancy from the SADC region
Duration:	2001 – 2006
Strategic Partners:	IT consulting firms and internet service providers, ICT training institutions and business promotion agencies, universities, governmental bodies
Website:	www.it-ab.org and www.a-2-a.net



German training programme for African IT specialists

Since 2001, InWEnt has been offering an extensive one-year advanced training programme on "business related IT consultancy" for members of the it@ab network. Within the past four years, over 60 IT specialists have taken

the courses in Germany. Typical participants are African IT specialists in junior managerial positions up to 37 years of age, who are trained in issues such as IT project management, e-business applications, IT security, e-learning and

e-law. The programme also includes German language courses, internships in host companies, individual e-projects and international management training.