the institute
newsletter

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innovative

responsive

developmental

enabler

collaborative

The Institute is a national catalyst, facilitator and responsive change agent in the development of SA, within the globally evolving information and knowledge-based environment, by leading the creation of key e-skills development strategy, solutions, practices and the implementation thereof, to benefit the total population. The Institute focuses primarily on four components: research, teaching and learning, innovation and a monitoring and evaluation framework.

Creating an e-skills platform for African growth

Building capabilities, uniting around a common pillar to fight poverty
and inequality and leadership to work together to solve problems

With the integration of the e-Skills Institute (e-SI), National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa (NEMISA) and the Institute for Satellite and Software Applications (ISSA), the Institute has entered a new phase.

It continues to broaden its multi-stakeholder collaborative network ensuring aligned engagement for increased e-skills capacity development to support the goals of the National Development Plan (NDP). There is a better collaboration of effort and the creation of the Institute's value proposition provides direction and shows benefits regarding stakeholder engagement for all stakeholders and the positioning of the country.

Six provincial CoLabs have been established with thematic areas that speak directly to the goals of the NDP. The CoLabs ensure that the e-skills challenge is dealt with on a provincial and local community level, as well as a national level. Targeted e-skills courses have already been created with impact on over 55 000 people.

A visit from the Zambian broadcasting delegation provided the opportunity to share lessons learnt and to explore new collaboration opportunities.

The Zambian delegation
From 19-21 June 2013, a delegation from Zambia led by their Permanent Secretary Amos Malubenga visited various broadcasting stakeholders within South Africa. The aim was to share experiences, lessons and key strategies for

development within broadcasting. It included discussions on broad areas of cooperation between the two countries.

The Zambian delegation met with representatives from the Department of Communications, the Institute, ICASA, Multichoice, Sentech, MDDA and SABC. Issues covered areas such as broadcasting policy, local digital content, broadcast digital migration, infrastructure and frequency spectrum, and compliance.

Opportunities and lessons shared
Representatives from the Institute focused on issues around building e-skills capacity and how the e-skills strategy responds to South Africa's NDP.

The multi-stakeholder collaboration model, which offers central coordination and an integrated approach, impacts on various employment drivers such as business development, entrepreneurship and increasing of research capabilities.

Within this model, strong relationships have been developed with international organisations and countries, including across Africa. The Institute is working with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) regarding an aggregation framework to identify the gaps and also has links with UNESCO, among other organisations and other countries. Opportunities exist for further collaboration with Zambia.

An example of how the collaborations have already borne fruit is the multimedia training course. It resulted

The Zambian delegation with representatives from the Institute.

[continued] **Creating an e-skills platform for African growth**

from a bilateral agreement with South Korea and is being implemented in collaboration with the DHET at selected FET colleges across the country. Coincidently, the final multimedia course of the year was being run on the day of the Zambian delegation visit.

The innovative methodology of working within a multi-stakeholder network (to leverage resources for better outcomes with greater impact) was well received by the delegation. The Institute made a specific case of the courses developed around the broadcast digital migration (BDM) ie the community support field agents and the installers. This is where industry, as a key stakeholder, is able to support the development of courses and integrate these within their own course frameworks.

As per the e-skills competency framework aim, these courses have been developed within learning pathways to allow for learning and employment longevity and to provide

accreditation.

The BDM offers approximately 62 000 job opportunities in the short term. These include trainers, installers and

> **"Representatives from the Institute focused on issues around building e-skills capacity and how the e-skills strategy responds to South Africa's NDP. "**

community support field agents. However, future jobs are being mapped out to ensure career pathways.

The opportunities within Creative New Media Industries (CNMI) also offer the development of skills, job creation, and employment and entrepreneurial pathways. This includes the opportunity to create local content such as that of digital community radio.

The Zambian delegation and representatives from the Institute in discussion.

NDP Priority Areas supported by NeSPA 2013

Pillar 1: Unite around a common pillar to fight poverty and inequality

Pillar 2: Active citizenry

Pillar 3: Inclusive economy

Pillar 4: Build capabilities

Pillar 5: A capable developmental state

Pillar 6: Leadership throughout society to work together to solve problems

Developing a platform for e-leadership

Uniting around a common pillar to fight poverty and inequality, active citizenry, building capabilities, leadership to work together to solve problems

One of the core characteristics of the Institute's engagement model is that it operates on a national, provincial and local community level. This provides the opportunity for capacity development that reaches every individual in the country despite geographic location.

It is strategically important to raise awareness of the e-skills national agenda across all levels, including the broader public. National and provincial expos provide an opportunity to do just that. They provide a platform to connect with leadership and drive awareness of the national agenda and e-skills, especially among the youth.

The Institute has been involved in two such endeavours recently.

Ekurhuleni Job Summit and Career Expo

Ekurhuleni Job Summit and Career Expo

Ekurhuleni is considered an airport economy – aerotropolis – and an economy of manufacturing. There is a large skills deficit within the municipality and higher than the national average of unemployment. A large percentage of the unemployed are youth, nearly four out of 10.

The Ekurhuleni Job Summit and Career Expo was held from 11-13 June 2013 at the Alberton Civic Hall, Gauteng. The job summit focused on issues specific to the City of Ekurhuleni such as youth development, job creation, entrepreneur and skills development. SMMEs are seen as critical for job creation and development plans view ICT as very significant. The municipality is looking to create collaborative platforms to address challenges.

At the career expo, the Institute had an opportunity to show expo visitors, predominantly youth, information on the Institute and the concept of e-skills. There was also an interactive lab where expo visitors could go through some of the online e-literacy course, assisted by facilitators. There was a consistent interest in this interactive course and the information at the stand.

A presentation was made by the Institute to the summit delegates, with a focus on collaboration, innovation and new e-skills and competencies needed for the knowledge-based economy.

Limpopo imbizo and expo

The Department of Communications (DoC) is holding national imbizos as part of its engagement between provincial and local government and citizens. These are being run from 1 June 2013 to 30 March 2014.

The first DoC Imbizo took place in Nkowankowa, Limpopo on 21 June 2013. The area is surrounded by several villages: Letsitele, Mariveni,Petanenge, Mokgolobotho, Tzaneen, Lenyenye, Mohlaba Cross, Moime, Maake, Nkambako and Mamitwa.

The imbizo promoted broadband digital migration and discussed issues around connectivity, among other areas. It also included an expo focusing on career guidance. Schools from the surrounding areas were invited.

The Institute promoted the national e-skills agenda and allowed visitors to engage with new opportunities offered by e-skills courses and the DTT and Broadcasting Digital Migration (BDM).

Limpopo imbizo and expo

Leveraging the stakeholder network for impact

Building capabilities and uniting around a common pillar
to fight poverty and inequality

The multi-stakeholder collaborative network continues to grow as the e-skills plan for South Africa is being implemented. Engagement with stakeholders at all levels allows for an aligned strategy that can be massified through collective resources. This is an essential process if the Institute is to e-skill 10 million people within the next five years.

Presentation to FET colleges

The ICT for Rural Development CoLab, Eastern Cape, presented to provincial further education and training (FET) college administrators and deputy principals on 13 June 2013. The Institute's model was explained, in particular the support for the turnaround strategy of FET colleges. This included:

- Building the capacity of FET colleges to offer skills required for the information society and knowledge-based economy
- Growing the capability of learners and making them employment ready
- Offering new innovation within curriculum design and ensuring alignment to ICT industry demands
- Facilitating the multi integration of theory into practice, including career pathing

Areas of collaboration were then explored.

The unique geographic location and spread of the FET colleges and their satellite campuses, as well as their existing community links, positions them as ideal candidates to host e-skills smart community knowledge production centres and to assist with the compilation of a provincial e-centre database.

For the same reasons, the FET colleges are in a pivotal position to assist with the e-literacy course roll-out.

The 'host' of the stakeholder meeting, the East Cape Midlands FET principal Mr Mbana (R) talking to Mr Jacobs (L), administrator at King Hintsa FET College.

The ICT for Rural Development CoLab, Eastern Cape, stakeholders on FET college tour.

There are many benefits to the collaboration. For one, the FET Colleges will be able to expose their range of courses to centre users. FET ICT lecturers and students will also gain valuable 'experiential training' within areas such as networking, user support services and apps development.

Further projects looked at expanding the professional development programme for IT/Computer Science lecturers, establishing Cisco networking academies at FET colleges and developing and e- and m-learning course around the use of ICT in pedagogy.

All the proposals were well received.

Stakeholder meeting

On Tuesday 11 June 2013, the ICT for Rural Development CoLab, Eastern Cape, held a stakeholder forum at the new Brickfields Road Campus of the East Cape Midlands FET College. Representatives from education and government agencies attended and were updated on the CoLab's activities, including the amalgamation of the e-Skills Institute, National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa (NEMISA) and the Institute for Satellite and Software Applications (ISSA).

Reports on projects by sister universities in the Eastern Cape (Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Rhodes University and the University of Fort Hare) were also given at the stakeholder meeting.

The FET venue further emphasised the pivotal role that FET colleges will play in the rollout of both the e-literacy course and the smart community knowledge production centres.

CoLab thematic areas
Western Cape CoLab: e-Inclusion and social innovation
KZN CoLab: e-Enablement of Effective Service Delivery
Eastern Cape CoLab: ICT for rural development
Gauteng CoLab: Creative New Media Industries
Limpopo CoLab: Connected Health
Southern Gauteng/Northern Cape CoLab: Knowledge-based Economies and e-Social Astuteness (e-Literacy)

Communicating the research agenda

Building capabilities and uniting around a common pillar
to fight poverty and inequality

The national Research Network for e-Skills (ReSNeS) follows a multi-stakeholder model allowing for collaboration on research to support the national e-skills agenda. It continues to build a network of researchers across the higher education sector, the private sector, government, business and civil society. This is essential if there is to be research-based intelligence needed for e-skilling South Africa.

Part of the engagement includes ongoing communication and the raising of awareness around ReSNeS and the essential e-skills research.

Prof Olugbara, Research Chair at the e-Enablement of Effective Service Delivery CoLab, KwaZulu-Natal, was invited by the Mangosuthu University of Technology to be the keynote speaker at their seventh Engineering Faculty Research Day on 11 June 2013. Among other things, he presented the e-skills research agenda.

Creating job opportunities through creative new media industries

Building capabilities and creating an inclusive economy

The Institute, as a national catalyst, is supporting the Department of Communications in its digital migration drive. The broadcast digital migration (BDM) process includes, among other things, creating content, maintaining and supporting infrastructure, and developing technical and creative capabilities.

Learning pathways are being developed as part of the national e-skills curriculum framework and these are aligned with the country's National Development Plan and the BDM process.

Within this context the Institute's Creative New Media Industries CoLab (based at the University of Pretoria), along with the university, have developed a postgraduate Diploma in Digital Innovations. It is a response to the need for creative content and to develop digital entrepreneurs (cyberpreneurs).

Providing e-skills to the nation is not only basic e-literacy training but occurs throughout the learning value chain, including postgraduate programmes.

Postgraduate Diploma in Digital Innovations

The University of Pretoria's senate has approved the Postgraduate Diploma in Digital Innovations. The diploma offers a postgraduate qualification for those with a background in either music, publishing, multimedia or heritage studies, allowing them to broaden their skills set to include entrepreneurial skills, e-skills for the digital era and advanced skills related to their discipline.

The first intake will be in 2014.

The Creative Industries

Creative Industries refer to industries that have their origin in individual creativity, skill and talent and which have a potential for wealth and job creation through the generation and exploitation of intellectual property.

Examples of creative industries are advertising, art, design, film, music, publishing, games, crafts, tourism, TV and radio. The creative industries are seen as areas where self-employment is common.

The Institute in the news

- Award-winning mobile developer, Bilal Kathrada, from the e-Enablement of Effective Service Delivery CoLab, based at the Durban University of Technology, was **interviewed by Ashraf Garda on SAFM** on 20 June 2013 about the CoLab's mobile initiatives.
- On 21 May 2013, **ITWeb reported on the launch of the single integrated entity, the Institute**, dedicated to improving e-skills among South Africans. (*www.itweb.co.za/index.php?option=com content&view=article&id=64229*)
- On 16 May 2013, **Brainstorm magazine reported on the Institute in 'The employment conundrum'**

(*www.brainstormmag.co.za/index.php?option=com content&view=article&id=4936:the-employment-conundrum&catid=109:public-sector-2013&Itemid=137*)

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Connected health is critical to equitable prosperity
Building capabilities, active citizenry and a capable developmental state

In the National e-Skills Plan of Action (NeSPA) 2013, various issues were identified as critical to achieving ICT-supported equitable prosperity and global competitiveness. One of these is for the population to have participative and engaged electronic access to all relevant government information and services, including health services.

'Quality healthcare for all' is one of the goals in the National Development Plan (NDP). NeSPA 2013 aligns with this through connected health skills. These will allow for:

- improved health management and accountability
- better trained health professionals
- better patient information systems that support a more decentralised and home-based care model
- support to maternal and infant care

It is also about developing a social e-astuteness at the societal level to increase the efficacy of e-health delivery at the community level.

Connected Health CoLab, Limpopo
Connected health is the core thematic area for the CoLab based at the University of Limpopo. An initial survey has been done and feedback shows that health workers are very keen to be e-literate and to have access to ICT infrastructure. The clinics have also indicated a need for e-literacy.

The CoLab is at proposal stage regarding solutions to providing e-skills training and ICT access. Part of the longer-term plan is to create a portal/repository that aggregates health information, including freely available health courseware.

The CoLab is currently running an e-literacy course for 24 people from the health sector. It began on 24 June 2013.

e-Social astuteness: A smart way of applying acquired e-skills and e-astuteness for everyday socio-economic development and better life opportunities for local benefit in a socio-economic dynamic, increasingly impacted by new forms of ICT (societal focus).

The notion of e-social astuteness helps in recognising opportunities in an ICT-enabled world for all people regardless of their formal education, employment status, location, age, gender or physical disablements.

The Institute events

- Want to make a difference to South Africa and earn money at the same time? The e-Enablement of Effective Service Delivery CoLab based at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) is holding a **BlackBerry Jam on the 15 July 2013**. This must-attend full day workshop is open to anyone with an interest in mobile apps and wants to programme. **Little or no programming experience is needed.** Any viable apps developed remain the intellectual property of the developer and there is an incubator at DUT to assist in driving the product to market.

- There is an **apps development course for the BlackBerry 10 platform**. This is **for absolute beginners**. You don't need a BlackBerry phone as there are devices and simulators in the BlackBerry lab. Participants will be taught how to programme in C++ and learn how to develop an app that can be used on the BlackBerry 10 platform. (The information also applies to other platforms.) The course started on 11 June and ends mid-August. People can still join in the sessions as previous classes have been uploaded onto the website. See *www.appslab.org/pretoria/events*. There will be weekly training sessions, every Thursday 6-8pm, at the BlackBerry Apps Lab associated with the e-Entrepreneurship, Creative New Media Industries CoLab, University of Pretoria. Contact Leon at *leon@appslab.org* for more information.

  - On 5 June, BlackBerry has opened up a third apps lab at the JoziHub in Johannesburg. This follows the opening of BB labs in Cape Town at the Bandwidth Barn and at the University of Pretoria. The aim is to help accelerate mobile application development in South Africa and create new opportunities in the mobile space. This aligns with the objectives of the South African Department of Communications' Institute to stimulate research, development and innovation.

- An **iPad for Educators Workshop** will be held on 17 July 2013 at the e-Enablement of Effective Service Delivery CoLab, KZN, at the Durban University of Technology. It is being conducted in association with CORE, one the Institute's partners. It is a once-off morning workshop followed by a 'technology in education' discussion. Please email Delene at *deleneh@dut.ac.za* for more details. **The course is open to educators**.

- **Mobile development for educators** is a course being run for educators from KwaZulu-Natal. It is being run by the e-Enablement of Effective Service Delivery CoLab, KZN, at the Durban University of Technology. While it started on 20 June 2013, **interested educators can still join** as this was a meet and greet session. The formal classes start in July 2013. They will be held every Thursday afternoon for three hours. Email Colin at *Thakur@dut.ac.za* for more information. Further courses and other locations will be created depending on demand.
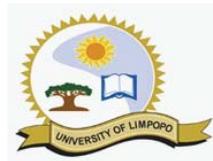
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Partners in the Department of Communication's Institute multi-stakeholder collaboration

education

government/South Africa

civil society

business

global developmental partners

Kenya   Rwanda

Please note that this list will be extended as there are Memorandums of Understanding in progress across all sectors.

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