



About the ICT Alliance Namibia

On the 17th of November 2004, the ICT alliance merged with NITA, otherwise known as the Namibian Information and Technology Association. A sequence of events lead to this formation, being:

- Rural Access workshop on ICT in February 2004
- First Alliance workshop in March 2004
- Interim Steering committee
- Founding meeting on June 11, 2004

Stakeholders in the IT industry saw the need for, and decided to call for this joint effort.

The focus of the ICT Alliance is:

- harmonizing and streamlining of services and infrastructure and delivery
- to come up with an ICT need and delivery plan
- to give advice on policy formulation, regulation and legislation
- to solicit government support
- to be seen as beneficial to be associated with
- to become a value-add partner to decision-makers
- advise on what to do regarding ICT
- growth of ICT and the ICT industry in Namibia

The ICT Alliance should be seen as providing expert advice on ICT matters; never to take over or dictate!

The objectives of the ICT Alliance

- To harmonise various ICT interest groups
- To agree on a general framework for advice on the concept of 'Universal Access' and 'Universal Service' for Namibia
- To help identify and clarify ICT needs in Namibia
- To recommend quality and service standards for ICT
- To match appropriate stakeholders to beneficiaries
- To develop and propose models and mechanisms which can provide self sustaining Universal Access in Namibia
- To establish and propose priorities for development of ICT in Namibia
- To raise awareness and promotion of ICT in Namibia
- To be an ICT "Think Tank" for Namibia
- To offer advice on ICT
- To offer input towards policies for Universal Access
- To offer input towards policies for an Universal Access Fund
- To promote open standards for access and content delivery
- To improve national ICT skills through active capacity building

Benefits of joining the ICT Alliance Namibia include, but are not limited to:

- Centralization of the IT information flow
- Your support through joining the ICT Alliance will be ploughed back into the industry by means of increased professionalism, legislation, business protection and recognition
- The ICT Alliance can assist you by giving you a platform to learn on and share ideas, as well as in education and training, gathering and exchanging of information, as well as networking opportunities with others in your industry.
- Participation in public events organized by the ICT Alliance
- On a long term perspective the ICT Alliance of Namibia could liaise with similar organizations abroad, and thus offer information exchange on an international level.
- uniform representation of the industry as professionals

THE ICT ALLIANCE

- has a large cross-sectoral stakeholder community
- is here to assist and support and has the capability to do that
- can help provide consensus and resolve difficult issues such as Universal Access definitions and proposals

The ICT Alliance has also sub-divided itself into 3 different sub-committees, each with its own members and action plan. A board member also acts as chairman for each respective sub-committee.

The three sub-committee's are:

CAPACITY BUILDING COMMITTEE

- Promote the building in capacity in the IT area. This includes Human Resource development in many different IT areas (Technicians, Software development and users) and in Institutional development (equipments, standards, policies)
- CBC must work towards Standard setting in IT qualifications. This will be achieved by the NQA initiative by setting up a standard setting body.
- Work towards regional distributions of IT training. Encourage IT training intuitions to set up training facilities in all regions by working with Multipurpose centers & computer learning centers of communities
- Work towards improving access and the number of ICT loans and scholarship all prospective students in all regions.
- Our work in the sub-committee should work at all levels of education:
 - Higher education: here is still something to do regarding coordination and recognition of IT courses, bridging years, Credit transfers and recognitions of subjects, qualifications between intuitions
 - Primary / secondary education
 - IT education for pupils (standardization; quality control?) from Schoolnet, X-net
 - IT education for teachers (e.g. NIET, meeting with Andrew Clegg last year, NIET)
 - Vocational training: CBC must help to develop a standard ICT curriculum for all trades at VTC. Encourage industry to introduce formal on the job-training program for ICT relevant to the trade.
- Encourage Industry, Government to define basic level of ICT Literacy and ways to achieve its strategies

- Promote e-Learning and the development of an independent platform where any body in Namibia and the world at large can use deposited material and use material for learning, training. E.g. development gateway.
- Work towards national Education and Research Network by bringing all stakeholder together to provide very fast national connection connecting

ICT INDUSTRY COMMITTEE

Mission

- A major task and primary mission of this committee will be to establish the ICT Alliance as a trusted partner and regulatory body of the ICT industry, as well as to gain wide support and buy-in from the various stakeholders in the ICT industry.

Some of the issues we intend to address are the following:

- How is the ICT industry represented and protected when government and other institutions are setting general and ICT policy?
- What internal policies can be implemented within organizations functioning within the ICT industry to ease management and growth of such industry participants and how can the ICT Alliance be involved?
- How can the industry be involved in policy making?
- Networking
- Can the ICT alliance provide a way for the service providers to meet and network with potential buyers of such service?

Regulation

- How can the ICT Alliance become the accepted regulatory body of the ICT industry?
- Can a certain amount of policing be implemented in the industry to ensure ethical and trustworthy trade?
- Can the ICT Alliance become the consumer watchdog in the ICT industry
- Arbitration
- Can the ICT Alliance establish mechanisms to provide greater transparency for business opportunity

Services

- Can the industry members in any way provide benefits through services to ICT Alliance members?
- Are there services which are needed within the industry that the ICT Alliance can provide?

Benefits

- Can a benefit scheme be introduced where members offer other members various benefits such as reduced costs, priority attention, etc?

ICT POLICY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS COMMITTEE

Aims and Objectives:

- To influence and shape ICT policymaking for the industry and the users.
 - To drive ICT policymaking within Namibia.
 - Liaise with and lobby government, NGO's, private sector, ICT sector regulator and public at large on shaping policy decisions.
 - Represent the interest of members of the Alliance on policy platforms.
 - Draft and propose sound policy suggestions to present to stakeholders for adoption on existing as well as future policies.
1. Action plans
 - TLDA

- Gauge the Alliances formal position and suggestion on the matter with the Committee members and the Directors at a meeting still to be called, around beginning February 2005.
- Liaise with Dr. Lisse on the formal suggestion and enter into formal discussions, by the end of April 2005.
- Legal Framework
 - Distribute the Communications Bill to members of the Committee for discussions and possible suggestions o changes and formulate action plans thereafter.
 - Distribute the ICT Policy of Namibia to members of the Committee for discussion and possible suggestions and formulate action plans thereafter.
 - Assist in the establishment of an E-Law framework for Namibia.

The ICT Alliance will be running and assisting in many projects, which will no doubt benefit the Namibian IT industry

Projects include, but are not limited to:

NIX and The WiseNamibia Project.

The vision of the WiseNamibia Project is to give Namibians equal access and skills to use and benefit from Information society Services and communication systems

- Create a wide enough client base for e-governance and e-commerce. The project implementation will include:
 - Training 200 000 Namibian adults for basic information society skills
 - Training 5000 teachers for e-learning possibilities and basic skills
 - Training 2000 of Namibia's unemployed youth for computer literacy and thus offer them job-creation paths
 - Create 1000 new ICT's
 - Start a separate SME Training and start-up enterprise.
 - Set up 107 ICT community centers
 - Set up School centers and e-office internet access points to rural areas, which will include e-governance services
 - Access to internet, working tools and networking skills for 200 000 Namibians

Our board of directors consists of influential IT Stakeholders of the Namibian Economy, namely:

Mr. Peter Mbome: His education comprises of a BA Degree in Journalism, University of California, Berkeley Campus, USA (Major in Print Journalism), Advance Diploma in Graphic Art and Design, Harare College of Education/Zimbabwe Publishing House, Harare, High School Certificate from Ag Khan Academy in Nairobi, Kenya, Cambridge "O" Level Overseas Examination Syndicate Subjects: English Second Language, Mathematics, Economics, Combined Science, Biology and History.

ICT Alliance Namibia. ICT's are at the heart of social and economic transformations in the industrialized and much of the developing countries. ICT Alliance was established in 2003 to promote Universal Access ICT facilities for all the Namibians in the country.

Other memberships and directorships have been:

- 1998 - 2003: Vice President of the Namibian Planned Parenthood Association (NAPPA) a leading family planning Association in Namibia established in 1996. I now serve as member of the National Executive Committee in NAPPA.
- 1995- 1996: National Project Coordinator for the Population, Information, Education and Communication (IEC), a UNFPA project in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. At this position, he coordinated all the activities pertaining to sexual and reproductive health issues in the whole country. Produced three (3) Video Programmes on HIV AIDS in three regions of Omusati, Kavango and Caprivi; produced

series of Radio programmes in support of sexual transmitted diseases (STD programmes in the same three regions.
1992 - 1994: Founder member and Director of the Namibian Book development Council (NBDC) an NGO promoting reading culture in Namibia and traveled quite extensively both in Africa and Europe attending various seminars and conferences.

Mr. Theo Schoeman

Mr. Schoeman is a shareholder and managing director of Schoemans Office Systems (pty) Ltd. He graduated with BA (Social Science) UPE 1970, Executive. MBA/ AEP (Unisa) 1993. He is responsible for Schoemans Office Systems (Pty) Ltd., Windhoek, Walvis Bay, and Oranjemund & Oshakati. **IT Career:** Initiated the Computer Systems division at Schoemans together with Olivetti in 1972. Attended many courses in Information Technology throughout the years at IBM, Olivetti, Hewlett Packard, Dell, General Electric and Cisco. Final responsibility for the installation and support of some 500 networks, 100 Unix sites, and 25,000 PC's sold to date by Schoemans Office Systems in Namibia. Over the years directly involved at operational level in most large projects in terms of consultancy, design and final implementation. Specialized in End User Information systems for Management during the Executive MBA at Unisa in 1993. Many consultancy projects, all successfully completed. Some of the more interesting ones include SADC MIS study and ICT Policy for the Republic of Namibia. Other career milestones: Founder member and executive board member of the Namibian Stock Exchange (NSX) founded in 1992. Founder member of Namidef. President of the Windhoek Show Society.

Mr. Lodewyk van Graan

Mr. van Graan studied business computing and human resource management, and has also completed various technical industry qualifications including MCP, MCSE. A+, N+, iNET+. He completed programs by the United Nations including International Arbitration; Capital market development; International Debt Management
Mr. van Graan is currently employed as the Managing Director of the Institute of Information Technology and the Namibia Business Institute and serves as Director on the SchoolNet Board as well as the ICT Alliance, where he is the director in charge of the ICT industry subcommittee. He also serves as the Executive director of the National Refurbishment Centre and serves on the National Refurbishment Centre Trust

Mr. Stanley Shanapinda:

Mr. Shanapinda graduated from the University of Namibia with a B.Juris and an LL.B Degree. He is currently the Assistant Legal Advisor at Telecom Namibia Limited and the Chairman of the ICT Alliance Sub-Committee on ICT Policy and Universal Service

Mr. Israel Tjizake: Mr. Tjizake is currently employed by the Ministry of Higher Education.

Ms. Rauna Lenga: Rauna Lenga studied Msc. Information Technology, LMU (2003) Graduate Diploma in Professional Computing & Information Processing (1992); Certified SAP Consultant (2000). She attended various IT related courses, systems analysis and design, software development, Information systems security, project management and managing IT functions, and has 13 years experience in the IT profession.

Mr. Jochen Traut: Mr. Traut serves on the marketing committee of the ICT Alliance and holds a Masters Diploma in Technology, BCom from UNISA and is busy with my LLB through UNISA. He was an employee of Telecom for 17 years and has been an employee of MTC since the opening ten years ago. He now holds the position of General Manager: operations.

Dr. Joris Komen: Dr. Komen is currently the Managing Director of Schoolnet. He serves on the board as well as on the Universal Access Committee, to which he is Chairman. The Universal Access Committee has joined forces with the ICT Policy Sub-Committee

Mr. Bernd Schulz: Mr. Schulz is currently employed by the Polytechnic of Namibia. He serves on the Board of Directors as well as the Capacity Building and ICT Industry Committees.

Memberships are charged annually and prices vary according to the size of your business:

A large company will have more than ten members -	N\$ 1600, 00
A small company will have less than ten members -	N\$ 800, 00
Individual Members will pay a fee of -	N\$ 240, 00
Students -	N\$ 50, 00

The ICT Alliance can be contacted at: Tel: 061 259 102
E-mail: sandy@iit.com.na