

Youth from Ethiopia, Senegal and Cape Verde to present results of their ICT based innovations

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Addis Ababa, 22 May 2012 (ECA) - The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Technology Centre for ICTs (CTIC) are organizing a special event on 'Innovation in ICTs – the CREATIC4AFRICA initiative' on June 4 2012 at the United Nations Conference Centre to hear from the five winners of the CREATIC4AFRICA programme.

Five African fellows from Cape Verde, Ethiopia and Senegal were selected to develop an innovative ICT-based application that would respond to particular needs of their communities and remain commercially viable and sustainable.

The fellows developed their respective ideas at the CREATIC4AFRICA innovation lab in Spain, where a team of professionals supported them through individualized coaching and mentoring, so that each innovative ICT based application could contribute to the development of their community as effectively as possible once the candidates return to their home countries.

The event will include a one hour presentation followed by a networking opportunity and press conference. The presentation will provide the public with an opportunity to hear about recent updates on ICT-based ideas that aim to respond and propose solutions to any problem or needs identified in Cape Verde, Ethiopia and Senegal.

The event will bring together technology experts, innovation practitioners, researchers, students and the media to share and celebrate innovative solutions that could contribute to the development of communities.

Background:

Initiated through a Memorandum of Understanding signed between ECA and CTIC during the Second Science with Africa Conference on Science in June 2010, CREATIC4AFRICA aims to spur innovation among Africa's youth by enabling them develop ideas into viable and solution-based applications, working in CTIC's innovation laboratory in Spain.

CREATIC4AFRICA represents a firm commitment to creativity and technology innovation as the driving force behind social and economic progress in Africa. The initiative will support and promote ingenuity and innovation springing from Africa by funding ideas generated and developed by Africans who are familiar with the cultural and socioeconomic challenges of their countries.

The following ideas were developed with CREATIC4AFRICA's support:

- Mesfin Fikre Woldmariam (Ethiopia): Application development for mobile money
- Andualem Workneh (Ethiopia): Mobile Based Decision Support System to Improve Child Health Care (mobile e-Health system)
- Tinbit Kassahun Hirutu (Ethiopia): Tracking Commodity price on Cell phone
- Papa Fary Diallo (Senegal): Building a social network of communities
- Simao Paulo Rodrigues Varela (Cape Verde): Sharing knowledge and experiences in education and social capital for development of fishing communities in Galicia, Spain, to be implemented in Cape Verde.

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