

Promoting Economic Growth through ICT

History of KIF

The Kenya Information and Communication Technology Federation (KIF) is a legally registered member based Association which was established in 2003 as KEPSA's sector board for ICT. This was in line with KEPSA's mandate to bring together the associations in each ICT market segment into a federation. KIF is a non-political, independent and non-profit making organization.

KIF represents the ICT industry in government and regulatory authorities, as well as private sector both national and international levels.

VISION

Achieve a high quality of life for Kenyans and national competitiveness, by stimulating effective ICT policy, strategy and usage.

MISSION

Act as a think tank on ICT for Government and Private Sector; Partner with all stakeholders in advising and influencing Government to develop and implement a national ICT strategy;

Lobby for its members on issues of common interest. KIF has been accepted as the private sector voice of the ICT industry by Government

VALUES

- Action and results oriented
- High impact
- Inclusive and representative
- Open and harmonious

FOCUS AREAS

Economic Impact – encompassing national competitiveness and productivity, governance, legislation and budgetary measures, and to stimulate investment in the ICT industry.

Digital Divide – close the development gap between Kenya and advanced countries, rural and urban areas, and large and small enterprises.

Infrastructure – encourage sustained improvement of connectivity in terms of access, quality, cost and global competitiveness.

Human Capacity Building – develop global best practice standards and stimulate the creation of a world class human resources base in ICT.

ACTIVITIES

Issue Management

Policy issues are continuously managed by KIF and its membership. Depending on members' priorities, these issues include aspects of market liberalization and taxation, innovation promotion, e-commerce legislation, human resources development and more. Individual members subscribe and contribute to an issue through the KIF interactive web-site ([www.kif.or.ke / issues](http://www.kif.or.ke/issues)). Issues are selected and resourced based on the business plan.

Issue management is our core service.

The current activities at KIF are:

- Promotion of e-commerce Legislation
- Power up with ICT Campaigns in major towns
- Promoting the Local Software Industry – Formation of Kenya Software Association on the 19th June, 2008
- Promotion of Unified Licensing

Apart from active dialogue with our line Ministry Infocom and higher public fora, KIF has monthly Board Meetings and an AGM, and holds open thematic meetings and debates about four times each year. In addition, every year we organize management conferences in the five main second-tier towns around the country. We have supported an international open source software university day and each year we support IEEE Engineering Students Exhibition under the auspices of IEEE and KEPISA.

Governance

KIF has an elected governing council (Board) and secretariat in Nairobi. The Board Members are elected by the members during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and holds office for a maximum of two years.

KIF maintains a transparent and efficient management culture. Office bearers 2009-2010: Joseph Nyongesa, Chairman; Thomas Ndegwa, Vice Chairman (Interim), Rop Kiplagat, Treasurer; Evelyn Rono, Board Secretary and Governor of ICT Chapter in Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA);. Activities are implemented by the secretariat with support by a hands-on membership base. The Board meets monthly, in on-line conferences and in formal sessions in Nairobi.

KIF's accounts and financial records are audited annually.

Membership

KIF Membership is made up of trade associations and professional bodies within the national ICT industry, as well as commercial corporations. KIF's old and current members are:

Aquinas Wasike - Lantech (Africa) Ltd
Preston Odera - K-90EA
Marcel Werner - Innovation Africa
Kevit Desai - Centurion Systems
Mike Eldon - Mike Eldon
Evelyn Rono - Kenya Data Network (KDN)
Willy Simons - ESRI EA
Akich Kwach - Archway Technology Management Ltd
Patrick Mathenge - Mullard Electronics
Vishal Shah - Mecer EA LTD
Frank Mwaniki - Resident USA
David Svarrer - Digital Age Institute
Sunny Mangat - Wananchi Online Ltd
Joseph Nyongesa - GS1
Thomas Ndegwa - Oakar Services
Tandy Bharah – Oracle Tony Karanja - My ISP
Susan Kimanzi - Ramani Communication
Dan Njiriri - Tracom College
Anthony Cordeiro - Technology Today
Antoney Okoth - Starcom System Solutions Ltd

Suraj Shah - Intel Corporation (Kenya)
Serge Marc Victor Blockmans - Seal Infotech Kenya Ltd
Michael Githaiga – Synergy-Pro
Aunally Maloo – Coast Data Systems
Manish Mehta – Total Solutions
Dennis Karanja – SYBASE
Bernard Matthewman – Paynet Kenya Limited
Martin Mutiiria – AFSAT
Jack Muchira – GS4
Rakesh Lakhani- Lakhani Sight and Sound Computers Limited.
Sam Mucai - Serasoft
Vitalis Olunga - Safaricom
David Kitur – Microlanafrica
Ken Mbwaya - HP
Jonna Owitti - Information Systems Audit and Control Association - Kenya (ISACA)
Robert Wakaba - E-Commerce Association of Kenya (ECAK)
Jonathan Somen – TESPOK
Paul Asura - IEEE East Africa Chapter
EA Internet Solutions
Local Assemblers Association
Kenya Software Association (KeSIA)

Note: KIF reaches out to industry associations that wish to pursue a national ICT development agenda.

Linkages and Partnerships

KIF's past and present linkages and partners include the IDRC, the Finnish Embassy, FAO, Business Advocacy Fund (BAF), Ministry of Information and Communication, Kenya ICT Board, The Municipal Councils and KEPISA.

How to Join KIF

Requirements to becoming a KIF member are to complete a registration form which is then submitted to the KIF secretariat and also pay an annual subscription fee payable in full at the start of the membership period or in two six-month installments at the start of each six-month period.

Specialized associations in the ICT sector (e.g. e-Commerce systems auditors, ISPs) are invited to join in the Associations Members' category. Private ICT companies are being offered the opportunity to join KIF as Corporate Associate Members.

The Annual membership fee categories are:

- Class 1: Large Companies –KES 500,000
- Class 2: Large companies - KES 200,000
- Class 3: Medium size companies - KES 50,000
- Class 4: Small companies - KES 20,000
- Class 5: Associations - KES 20,000

KIF's Achievements

ICT advocacy - For the last six years KIF (and its legal predecessors) advocated for ICT-friendly measures in the Annual Budget. It has provided substantial input to the Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme (PRSP) and the National Development Plan, to Kenya's input to NEPAD and to the Economic Recovery Strategy. Our input has been fully reflected in foundation Government documents. KIF has succeeded in convincing Government to make ICT a priority national issue. It has promoted national consensus, between public and private sector, academia and civil society. KIF has successfully promoted tax harmonization and reduction in the ICT industry. KIF monitors and supports the implementation of the National ICT Policy.

Education and awareness - KIF organizes seminars and workshops at economic sector level, to find ways to strengthen these sectors with well defined ICT approaches. In 2004, 2005 and 2006 KIF reached out to Kenya's province towns, with an awareness programme 'Power up with IT'. The annual Engineering Students Exhibition is an innovation promoter under the auspices of the IEEE, KEPSA and KIF. KIF is a regular contributor to Government fora, industry events and conferences of professional bodies.

Jobs creation – KIF has played a key role in the creation of the JKUAT Business Incubator Project sponsored by the World Bank. The Incubator started operations in 2005. It has taken in the first young Kenyan companies and has also led to the creation of the Business Incubator Promotion Agency known as Kenya Kountry Business Incubator KeKoBi (www.jkuat-cbi.co.ke) KIF has taken on all ICT policy issues related to promoting Business Process Outsourcing to Kenya.

KIF Achievements 2002 - 2008

- Successful advocacy for the establishment of a Ministry for Information & Communication (2003)
- Engineering Student Exhibition (2003– 2008)
- Customs duty harmonization on ICT products (2004; 2008)
- Successful profiling of the ICT sector among development partners (2004)
- National ICT Policy formulation (2004 – 2006)
- Tax reforms 2006, 2007, 2008
- Development and gazetting of national ICT Policy (2006)
- 1st sector within KEPSA to start Ministerial Stakeholder Forum process (2006)
- Power up with ICT nation-wide awareness campaigns (2004, 2005, 2006)
- Participation in Government Budget Hearings (2005, 2006, 2007, 2008)
- Member consultative process ICT Bill & e-Transactions Bill review (2006-2008)
- Professional community for Open Source Software through cooperation with Finland (2007-ongoing)



Kenya ICT Federation

- Promotion programme local software industry (2008)
- Promotion of innovation and higher education reform (2006-ongoing)
- Improving Unified License regime CCK (2008)
- PSDS
- Africon 2009
- Public panels with Kenya ICT Board