



THE SECOND IDLELO CONFERENCE ON THE DIGITAL COMMONS

www.fossfa.net/idlelo2

[ENTRENCHING THE SOFTWARE INDUSTRY IN AFRICA]

23RD-25TH FEBRUARY, 2006

SAFARI PARK HOTEL, NAIROBI, KENYA

The **Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa (FOSSFA)** in collaboration with **The Kenya e-Government Directorate in the Office of the President** together with the **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)** are pleased to announce the Second IDLELO Conference on the Digital Commons to be held at the Safari Park Hotel from 23rd to 25th February 2006. IDLELO is derived from a Zulu word for a common grazing ground.

Software has become an integral part of modern life. Today, basic items such as Mobile Phones, Computers and TVs to complex equipment such as Motor Vehicles, Industrial Plants and Telecommunication infrastructure all rely on software to run their core functions. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) E-Commerce 2004 Report estimates the software industry generates yearly revenues in excess of US\$300 billion. Developing Countries now have a real chance in participating in the industry using community shared software commonly referred to as Free & Open Source Software (FOSS).

FOSS is software that has made its source code free and public and allows - perhaps even motivates - users to change the source code and redistribute the derivative software. While liberating the source code is a goal in itself, FOSS encourages, or even obliges, programmers to give other programmers and users those same freedoms and opportunities. The increased use of FOSS is sustainable development, because FOSS is a technology that the local people (in Africa or anywhere) can understand, maintain, and adapt to their needs. It also creates new opportunities for employment and wealth creation.

To demonstrate how FOSS can generate revenues especially for the youth, the IDLELO Key Note Speaker will be **Mr. Mark Shuttleworth from Ubuntu/Canonical, UK**, renowned youthful entrepreneur who made his fortune through FOSS based business. He will also present a motivational speech on how he achieved his childhood dreams of going to the outer space by paying US\$20 Million to become the First Space Tourist to the NASA Space Station.

Other Confirmed High Level Speakers will include inter alia;

- **Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, UN Under Secretary General, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa, UNECA, Ethiopia**
- **Dr. Juma Oketch, ICT Secretary, Directorate of e-Government, Office of the President, Kenya**
- **Sir John Daniel, the Director General of Commonwealth of Learning (COL), Canada**
- **Ms. Zaheda Borat, Open Source Unit, Google, USA**
- **Ms. Danese Cooper, Open Source Innovation Unit, Intel, USA**
- **Professor Henry Moses Thairu, MD, Jomo Kenyatta University Enterprises, Kenya**
- **Bildad Kagai, CEO, Circuits & Packets Communications Ltd, Kenya**

The objectives of this conference are to stimulate a local Software Industry in Africa and bring together Practitioners, Decision Makers, FOSS Software Developers and the General Public to learn how FOSS can be of relevance to their sectors. This conference targets Key Decision/Policy Makers in African Governments with emphasis on The Central Government/E-Government Teams, Education and Health, FOSS/Linux User Groups National Leaders and Leading FOSS Industry Players from the Private Sector.

The conference programme is available on <http://www.fossfa.net/idlelo2/programme.htm>

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For Registration, Sponsorship and Exhibition Details Please Contact the Event Organiser.
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