



ICTs 4 Development  
2012 Conference



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## 3<sup>rd</sup> INTERNATIONAL ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE IN RURAL KENYA

*Theme: “Technology and Peace for Diverse Voices”*

*October 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Kibugat Village, Bureti District, Kericho County, Kenya*

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The aim of this document is to seek proactive organizational and individual participants for the 3<sup>rd</sup> International ICT for Development Conference.

### **Why Take Part?**

Since the inaugural ICT 4 D Conference, several action plans have been implemented to the benefit of the participants and the Kenyan ICT fraternity. The ICT Conferences in rural Kenya have resulted into knowledge sharing, creation of digital centres and training in their management, Kenyan Digital Villages Network, training in Community Media and Citizen Journalism, promotion of e-transactions and ICT skills.

This year, our theme is “*Technology and Peace for Diverse Voices*”.

Key Note Speaker and Facilitator, **Dr. Peter Day**, Senior Lecturer, Arts and Media, University of Brighton, United Kingdom

“*Technology and Peace for Diverse Voices*” gives the opportunity to Kenyans to shed off the stigma that is associated with this group as the group that is easily corrupted to cause mayhem and violence. This conference seeks to give them a voice in the community to showcase their multimedia creations, talents aspirations and hope for a Kenya they would like to be associated with; one that is peaceful and full of opportunities, through basic application of basic technologies. The young people will be exploiting use of technology to showcase digital stories of what it means to live in their local communities. Other aspects of basic technology to be showcased include early crisis monitoring, mapping and early warning systems, crowd sourcing, advocacy and social networking.

However, due to the logistics involved in organizing the event and to ensure maximum impact and quality of delivery, the participants are expected to help meet some of the costs and their accommodation and basic conference materials. The financial support will also help us raise awareness through employing other methods including use of both the Print and the audio media and web presence besides our Network and word of mouth as we have traditionally used in the past. This is going to have the direct impact of attracting more participants, which will translate eventually into more resources and lead to sustainability of subsequent conferences.

Through your registration fees, we will be able to avail conference participatory equipment, print out literature to be distributed to participants, offer support for facilitators and volunteers and as well as employ the best technology to capture data for future dissemination to wider population and archiving for posterity.

The conference package is as follows:

**Individuals participants .....Kshs. 2,000**

**Corporate (exhibition).....Ksh. 10,000 for 3 days**

**Conference Branding.....Negotiable**

**Note:** The fee caters for conference participation, transport to and from Leiten on daily basis, conference package and 2 teas (morning and evening). Lunch will be offered by Kibugat Women Outdoor Catering Services on *Pay As You Eat* basis, at a cost of between 200 and 400. Various dishes including traditional ones such as mursik (sour milk) will be available. Accommodation can be secured at nearby places such as Leiten, Tea Hotel and Kericho Town. The rates vary with hotels, but the organizers can make booking arrangements for free when asked to.

**Payments can be made through:**

**1. Bank: EQUITY BANK**

Name: Model-I.T.U YOUTH GROUP

Branch: KASARANI

Account No.:1180197807948

**2. MPESA-+254724237604 (Simion Nyachae)**

We are actively carrying out fundraising, and in case of success, participation fees will be reduced significantly.

**Background Information**

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Model I.T.U in conjunction with IT Skills 4 Rural Kenya, International Youth Council – Kenya Chapter and Kibugat ICT Centre have organized two International Conferences in the village of Kibugat, Bureti District in the Rift Valley on a wide variety of themes over the last two years. The Conference, which is undoubtedly first and ground breaking in rural Kenya, has attracted a lot of interest from among others, Governments agencies in Kenya and the United Kingdom, Policy makers, educationalists, Community activists, Academia, young people and diverse NGOs from across the UK and Kenya. We also noted the growing interest in raising awareness about a peaceful election from the Civil Society and the Peace and Dialogue Conferences being organized by Faces of Peace Kenya, a local youth led organization based in Kenya and who will be partnering with us in 2012 Conference.

During the last Conference in October 2011 under the theme “Community first before technology” participants felt the need to model the 3rd Conference (October 26th – 28th) on outreach work and with the issue of peace and mutual coexistence between tribes across Kenya and, especially as a lead up year to the presidential elections. The participants, all collectively formed an association called the Kenya Digital Village Network which is a platform for interactive engagement for information sharing, collaboration and creation of a value based network (localized community informatics model) for ICT actors. The Conference this year will therefore seek to use a mix of practical training workshops; participatory learning, workshop used last year on Community Networks & Networking and presentations on how ICTs in the broadest sense can be appropriated to promote peace and celebrate cultural diversity. The conference this year is earmarked to have the following theme “Technology and Peace for Diverse Voices”.

To kick-start the preparations for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference this year, University of Brighton students drawn from Community Project and Community Media modules travelled to Kenya under the Community Media Research trip to Kenya in 2012. During the trip, the students ran film participatory training sessions with young people drawn from Focus Youth Initiative (Ruiru), Kibugat ICT Centre (Bureti), Mercy Children Orphans (Kisii) and

Nyangoma ICT Centre (Muhoroni). The youth expressed an interest in producing films that would form the backbone of the Conference theme; Technology and peace for diverse little voices which will showcase the cultural strengths as reflected in the Kenyan tribal mesh and at the same time celebrate their difference as a positive influence rather than the negativity associated with inter-tribal relations in Kenya.

### **Problem Statement and Conference Justification**

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The aftermath of the hotly contested presidential elections in Kenya in 2007 gave a clear testimony to the world in general that peace is both a virtue and right to be jealously guarded. Questions asked included why the post election violence occurred. Who had the **information and knowledge** that the violence was to occur and was this spontaneous or organized violence? Majority of those identified as deeply involved or fomenting trouble on ground were the youthful Kenyans, unemployed, disaffected and living with a loss of hope.

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a 20 page report stating that more than 1,200 Kenyans were reported killed, thousands more injured, over 300,000 people displaced and around 42,000 houses and many businesses were looted or destroyed with a significant number of cases of sexual violence reported. The report identifies three “distinct but sometimes concurrent patterns of violence – spontaneous, organized and retaliatory.” Kenya is preparing for another presidential election in 2013. The political climate and tribal tensions seem to be rising with every day the election dates draw near.

The new Constitution, renewed hope amongst the people of Kenya and the determination by people of goodwill, including the International community to forget the Post Election Violence (PEV) and forge a unified country, gives us the opportunity to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> International ICT 4 Development Conference in rural Kenya from the 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> of October under the title “technology and peace for diverse little voices.” The conference will seek to showcase and share local digital stories from diverse tribes in Kenya and hopefully start a debate amongst communities on how their differences are actually the same if seen from a different medium through Technology.

### **ICT4D Conference**

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ICT4D Kenya targets communities and schools, with the aim of building the capacity of youth, men and women through community ICT resource centers to introduce them to new ways of learning. The objectives of the conference include:

- To show applications of basic ICTs as stimulants and tools for crises awareness and mapping and peace building
- To demonstrate use of basic multimedia technology, films and picture in harnessing cultural divergence for tolerance and peace
- To advocate for responsible and effective use of social and mainstream media for a peaceful and prosperous Kenya
- To understand the role of citizen journalism and its potential in monitoring hate speech.
- The Conference will therefore seek to use a mix of practical training workshops; participatory learning, workshop used last year on Community Networks & Networking and presentations on how ICTs in the broadest sense can be appropriated to promote peace and celebrate cultural diversity.

## Conference Methodology

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- Relevant brief Key Note Address that will touch on all the aspects of the conference, the principle of information and role of ICT in Peace and Development;
- Participatory Learning Workshop; Scenario Based Approach: Interactive Workshop led by resourceful persons to set the tone for the conference and create curiosity and come up with relevant scenarios;
- Interactive Panelists' Presentations by experts and resourceful persons that will dwell on the traditional and modern technologies and emerging technologies , use of case studies and reports and their relations to peace and development;
- Group and focused discussions to encourage knowledge, success stories and experiences sharing in application of ICTs in peace building, community resource management and networking.

## Conference Outcomes

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- Acquisition of relevant skills and knowledge in community and social media for community mobilization and peace building and proactive exploitation of social capital
- Promotion of digital villages and community resources centers as initiatives for capacity building, knowledge sharing, information dissemination and e-government services
- Development of mechanisms, platforms and networks for strengthening the Kenyan Digital Village Networks and creation of an avenue for continued engagements, partnerships, exchanges and cross cultural dialogues in Kenya and beyond.
- Participants will understand the use of technologies such as frontline SMS to broadcast peace messages to various communities.
- Build the capacity of participants in use of social media.
- Broaden the capacity and understanding of citizen journalism.
- Impart participants with knowledge and information on role of ICTs in peace building.

## Partnerships

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The organizers of the Conference are open to any form of partnership that is mutually beneficial and is geared towards achievement of the set objectives. The partners may support the conference by sponsoring the participants, offering in-kind and financial support and volunteering skills, publicity and conference branding. Conference participation has both individual and organizational package.

## Contacts

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