

Call For Papers

The 6th International Conference on Open Access

Lilongwe – Malawi
November 2008

Conference Theme

"Open Access to ICT for Socio-Economic Development"

Introduction

Open Access in the context of Communication (Open Communication) means that anyone, on equal conditions with a transparent relation between cost and pricing, can get access to and share communication resources on one level to provide value added services on another level in layered communication system architecture.

Open Access conferences have been organized since 2003 with the objectives of sharing knowledge and good practices on how to widen Open communication, Open networks, Universal access, and Sustainable business models for operation and maintenance of such communication. The Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) has been on the fore front of these efforts. The workshops have attracted a lot of interest from the general society, academicians and private sectors.

There is a high momentum in the deployment of infrastructures such as optic fiber, wireless and the like. Also, there is a lot of advancement in the use of ICT in general such as mobile phones. If used wisely, we believe these developments can facilitate provisioning of relatively inexpensive, easily accessible, diversified and expandable ICT services.

Objective

The 6th Open Access Conference in Lilongwe will focus on open communication infrastructure policies, regulations and access technologies. The conference will also explore how we can promote access to the services which run on the infrastructure to promote development of our societies and accelerate attainment of the MDG's. This is why the conference theme for 2008 is **"Open Access to ICT for Socio-Economic Development."**

Host

The conference will be hosted by the ICT Association of Malawi (ICTAM). The mission of ICTAM is to offer leadership in the ICT industry in Malawi by catalysing the development and review of ICT Policies and supporting development efforts aimed at empowering Malawians to participate in the ICT-based global economy through partnerships with Government and all major ICT stakeholders in Malawi. [Find detailed information about ICT Association of Malawi.](#)

Target group

The target group includes academicians, professionals, researchers, planners, political readers, private sector, innovators and ICT end users.

Language

The official workshop language is English

Fee and Accommodation

The conference costs will cover registration and accommodation fees for presenters of selected papers, and to the invited key speakers and participants. In addition, there will be some honoraria to presenters of best papers.

Venue & Date

The Conference will be held at the new Crossroads Hotel – in Lilongwe, The Capital City of Malawi on 12th to 14th November, 2008. This is a new five star hotel in Lilongwe, which has one of the most modern hotel & conference facilities featuring a high-tech auditorium. The hotel is also located in the heart of the capital city with a lot of shops and restaurants within 5 minutes walking distance. An ICT Fair has also been planned and will be hosted on the conference venue grounds under the conference theme. The ICT fair will focus on information & communication technology solutions for enhancing awareness, propagation and distribution of cost effective last mile connectivity, showcasing of fibre optics and VSAT materials, open source software, power systems for rural areas, Wifi/Wimax technologies , community radio transmission equipment, mobile banking and email systems for remote areas just to mention a few.

Submission

Authors are invited to submit extended abstracts and original papers (4-6 pages, IEEE transactions two-column style, 10pt). Articles should be tutorial in nature and should be written in a style comprehensible to readers outside the specialty of the article. Articles should be submitted in any popular word processor format [here](#)

Important dates

Submissions are due on:

6th October, 2008

Notification on Papers:

20th October, 2008

Final Submission of Papers:

3rd November, 2008

You are invited to share experiences, plans or hypotheses under validation. We solicit focused abstracts, tutorial and survey contributions as well as research papers on, but not limited to, the following sub themes:

ICT Infrastructure

- Emerging communication infrastructures (local, national and regional)
- Network architectures (backbones and Access Networks)
- Alternative source of power supply
- Technical Solutions (for First Mile & Last Mile connectivity)

Strategic ICT Leadership

- Integrating ICT in National Registration, and democratic process, services and productive activities
- ICT governance

Universal Access

- Research and Educational Institutions
- ICT Quality Management & Accreditation
- Rural Development Solutions
- Information & Knowledge centers
- Universal Access Fund
- Accessibility for people with Special Needs

Policy and Social implications

- Legal and Regulatory framework
- Information Security
- The role of ICT on gender socio-economic empowerment
- E-government, E-Inclusion and Local Administration.
- Challenges & Opportunities

ICT Usage

- Productive Sector; Service Sector
- Public service; Local content & Access
- Local Content Access, Archiving and Retrieval.

Open Source, Media and ICT

- Policy & Regulatory issues on Education & Training
- Software, Content and language
- Curriculum Development and Quality Control
- Community Broadcasting Radios, Newspapers & Magazines.

ICT Entrepreneurship & Supply Chains

- Different Business models to create sustainability
- Financing models for ICT in developing countries

Mobile Technology

- M-Applications in Agriculture, Health, Banking & Education
- First Mile and Last Mile Access

The call for paper in pdf format can be downloaded [here](#).

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