

BUILDING THE CAPACITIES OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION PROFESSIONALS

International partnerships for e-learning and copyright-free training materials.

Organized by:

■ The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

■ The Association for Progressive Communications

■ **Date:** ■ *Wednesday, 16 November 2005*

■ **Time:** ■ *7:00-19:00*

■ **Place:** *The Bizerte Room of the Parc des expositions du Kram
World Summit on the Information Society, II - Tunis, Tunisia*

The organizers invite you to a parallel event which will introduce two inter-related capacity building initiatives which support information and communication professionals and community-focused organizations.

The initiatives provide opportunities for on-the-job training to improve ICT skills of professionals and users in developing countries through the provision of self-paced e-learning curricula and easily accessible copyright-free training materials. Target groups include a wide range of information professionals and information providers such as librarians, ICT specialists, information and multimedia communication service providers, as well as individuals supporting research communities, networks and providing community services.

Both initiatives build upon the expertise of a wide range of individuals and institutions from both the Northern and Southern hemispheres and promote realistic approaches to using technologies which can be sustained and managed locally.



Information Management Resource Kit (IMARK)

A partnership based e-learning initiative lead by FAO aimed at strengthening national and local agricultural agencies and networks by improving information management and the mobilization of local content.

Multimedia Training Kit (MMTK)

A partnership initiative championed by Association for Progressive Communication (APC) and UNESCO, which is developing a collection of training materials aimed at community media and multimedia communication service providers focused on development.

For more information, please visit the ICT 4 All Exhibition, Parc des expositions du Kram:

- ■ FAO Booth, Development and Partnership Quartier, Stand number: 1304
- ■ APC Booth, Development and Partnership Quartier, Stand number: 2201



ABOUT THE PARALLEL EVENT

The event will provide an overview of the two initiatives and discuss the approaches, outputs and products from each, as well as the synergies and collaboration. A portion of the session will be dedicated to discussing the dissemination of materials on CD and through the Internet, as well as through national, regional and international partners. Though both initiatives target users primarily outside educational structures, experience has shown that the materials produced by both initiatives have been used to supplement university curricula. The various mechanisms and strategies for optimizing the use of the materials will be discussed as part of a Q&A session in the latter part of the event.

ABOUT THE INITIATIVES

■ Information Management Resource Kit (IMARK)



IMARK is targeted at in-service information professionals and provides a comprehensive suite of distance learning resources covering concepts, approaches and tools for agricultural information management. Current IMARK curricula now consist of over 100 lessons in production covering the management of electronic documents, digital libraries, electronic communities, and information management strategies. The curricula have been developed by a wide range of experts, and are based on the use of appropriate and cost-effective technologies.

IMARK now has over 30 partners and collaborating institutions since its inception in 2001 and is coordinated through a Steering Group consisting of the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), FAO, the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (Cirad), the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

■ Multimedia Training Kit (MMTK)



The MMTK is a growing collection of "workshop kits" for face-to-face training. The materials provide a comprehensive suite of resources for trainers to develop their own courses. There are currently over 100 MMTK units or lessons available online and on CD-ROM, covering a wide range of topics aimed at improving technical and content development skills, as well as training material addressing ICT policy, advocacy, and the digital divide.

MMTK partner and supporting organizations include the Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC), FAO, OneWorld International, the Panos Institute of West Africa, and Radio for Development.