



NCRST  
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ON RESEARCH SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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# ISTAfrica

29 MAY 2017

Attention: The News Editor

MEDIA RELEASE

**IST-Africa 2017 Week, 30 May - 02 June 2017**  
Safari Conference Centre, Windhoek, Namibia  
[www.IST-Africa.org/Conference2017](http://www.IST-Africa.org/Conference2017)

For Immediate Release

**IST-Africa 2017 Week focuses Innovation Spotlight on Namibia & Cooperation between Africa and Europe**

*Global applied ICT research and innovation community comes together in Namibia to share knowledge and discuss current and future ICT related challenges*

29 May 2017 – IST-Africa 2017 Week ([www.IST-Africa.org/Conference2017](http://www.IST-Africa.org/Conference2017)), which takes place in the Safari Conference Centre, Windhoek, 30 May - 02 June, will put international research cooperation and African innovation under the spotlight. Over 380 delegates from leading public, private, education and research, societal and funding sector organisations around the world will spend an intense three days discussing and reacting to over 190 presentations from 36 countries focused on applied Information and Communication Technology (ICT) research and innovation. Participation in IST-Africa provides a wonderful opportunity to gain a better appreciation of some of the socio-economic, cultural, technological and training issues impacting on global eAdoption today.

IST-Africa 2017 Week is hosted by the Government of Namibia, through the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology and Technical Co-Sponsored by IEEE Society on Societal Implications of Technology, IEEE Region 8 and IEEE South Africa Section.

## ***IEEE ETAP Forum on Internet Governance and Cyber Security (30 May)***

IST-Africa is cooperating with IEEE to organise the first IEEE Experts in Technology and Policy (ETAP) Forum on Internet Governance, Cybersecurity, Privacy and Inclusion to take place in Africa, as the pre-conference event on Tuesday 30 May. This workshop features keynote presentations from Namibia, South Africa, Cameroon and NEPAD to share experiences in relation to policy development, cyber security awareness and implementation at Member State level as well as insights into the AU Convention on Cybersecurity. This will be followed by participatory working groups focused on specific topics and reporting feedback to the full group. To date there

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are over 70 participants from 25 countries. This pre-conference workshop is complemented by a full track related to Cyber Security in the Scientific Programme of IST-Africa 2017.

### *IST-Africa 2017 Conference (31 May – 02 June)*

IST-Africa 2017 features an invigorating mix of business and government case studies, technical and policy papers and interactive workshops.

The Opening Plenary is focused on sharing insight into research and innovation international cooperation opportunities between Europe and Africa under Horizon 2020, the importance of research and innovation within the Higher Education sector in Namibia and the importance of ICT in Namibia. This is then followed by a High-level Roundtable focused on the role of ICT, research and innovation in supporting entrepreneurship and socio-economic development in Africa. The Scientific Programme incorporates over 190 presenters from public, private, education and research organisations in 35 countries in 40 thematically focused sessions. Themes addressed include International Cooperation, eHealth, Technology-enhanced Learning, CyberSecurity, Next Generation Computing, eGovernment, ICT4D, Internet of Things, eAgriculture, Content Technologies and Societal Implications of Technology.

The Closing Plenary focuses on sharing insights into development instrument funding from DG Development of the European Commission, NEPAD Activities, lessons from the eGovernment Initiative in Namibia, SAIS II and preliminary outputs from the first African IEEE ETAP Forum.

Presentations share insights from projects funded at national, international and European Commission level. The mHealth4Afrika, ITS4LAND and WAZIUP Horizon 2020 projects focused on African ICT Research Challenges and co-funded under the ICT-39-2015 Call will share initial results with the conference community.

## **Background Information**

### *NCRST*

The National Commission on Research Science and Technology (NCRST), a State-Owned Enterprise established in terms of the Research, Science and Technology Act, 2004 (Act no. 23 of 2004) with a primary role of promotion, coordination and development of research, science, technology and innovation in Namibia. NCRST is the IST-Africa partner in Namibia.

### *IST-Africa Initiative*

Founded in 2002, supported by the European Commission (EC) and African Union Commission (AUC), and co-funded under the EU Framework Programme since 2005 (current contract No. 723240), IST-Africa facilitates and supports:

- International Innovation, Research and Policy Cooperation
- Knowledge Sharing and Skills Transfer between IST-Africa Partners
- Collaborative Open Innovation, ICT, ICT4D, ICT Entrepreneurship and Social Entrepreneurship
- Africa – EU Strategic Partnership (ICT, Information Society, Innovation)

IST-Africa activities include analysis and publication of African ICT-related research and innovation priorities, African research and innovation capacity and innovation spaces, Horizon 2020 Training Workshops, Horizon 2020 Help Desk support and IST-Africa Week.

Supported by the European Commission and African Union Commission with co-funding under Horizon 2020, the IST-Africa Initiative is a strategic collaboration between IIMC (Ireland, Coordinator), Ministry of Transport and Communications (Botswana); Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique (Burundi); Agence Nationale des Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication (Cameroon); Information Technology Industry Development Agency (Egypt); Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (Ethiopia); Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (Kenya); Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology (Lesotho); National Commission for Science and Technology (Malawi); National Computer Board (Mauritius); Instituto Nacional de Tecnologias de Informacao e Comunicacao (Mozambique); National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (Namibia); Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur de la Recherche (Senegal); Department of Science and Technology (South Africa); Ministry of Information Communication Technology (Swaziland); COSTECH - Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology; Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique (Tunisia) and Uganda National Council for Science and Technology.

### ***Horizon 2020***

Horizon 2020 commenced in January 2014 as the new Framework Programme to implement the Innovation Union with research and innovation funds of €80 billion from 2014 - 2020.

Horizon 2020 is the largest Research and Innovation programmes. It supports International Cooperation and African legal entities can apply for research and innovation funding in cooperation with European partners as a consortium to relevant calls open under the Work Programmes. IST-Africa has prepared a guide to Horizon 2020 and Guide to 2017 Calls for Proposals in Horizon 2020, which can be downloaded from <http://www.ist-africa.org/home/default.asp?page=reports>

IST-Africa, CAAST-Net Plus, RINEA and other projects support awareness-raising around participation of African research and innovation organizations in proposals submitted for consideration under Horizon 2020. Under Framework Programme 7 (2007 - 2013) there was a phenomenal increase in African participation with research funding of over €171.5 million going into African research institutions in 45 African Member States.

IST-Africa provided DG CONNECT of the European Commission with the necessary evidence to include two dedicated calls in 2015 and 2017 providing funding of €26 million focused on leveraging ICT to addressing end-user community requirements in Africa under relevant thematic areas. ICT-39-2015 Call was very successful with 45 proposals submitted and four proposals awarded a grant with participation from 11 African countries. The ICT-39-2017 Call has also been over subscribed with over 71 proposals submitted in April 2017, which will now be evaluated.

For more information about IST-Africa, please contact Paul Cunningham 085 6864645 (until 02 June)

The Final Programme can be downloaded from [http://www.ist-africa.org/Conference2017/files/IST-Africa2017\\_FinalProgramme.pdf](http://www.ist-africa.org/Conference2017/files/IST-Africa2017_FinalProgramme.pdf)

### ***Scholarships***

There are a limited number of scholarships available for Namibians who are active in ICT Research and Innovation to participate in IEEE ETAP Forum on 30 May and IST-Africa 2017 on 31 May - 02 June. Please contact [secretariat@IST-Africa.org](mailto:secretariat@IST-Africa.org) outlining the benefit of participation.

**“Ends”**

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