

168 Countries for the World Summit Award

Global expert panel boosts the initiative

THIS ISSUE:

■ 168 countries for the World Summit Award

■ Paul Hoffert new on WSA Board

■ Technology needs Creativity!

■ New Partnerships in Africa to promote quality e-content

■ Searching Indias Best - The Manthan Award kicks of

■ Promoting An Enabling Environment For Digital Development

■ High Commendation for WSA Winner 2003

■ How to fight the Digital Divide?

The call for the World Summit Award Expert Panel 2005 has evoked an incredible echo worldwide - over 320 leading ICT experts and organisations from 168 countries have stated their interest to commit to the WSA initiative and to conduct the process of selecting the world's best e-content 2005.

The final list of experts, selected by the WSA Board of Directors to undertake this task in each of the 168 countries, is now accessible at: www.wsis-award.org

The WSA representatives from Africa, Asia, Arab Countries and the Middle East, South and Latin America, North America, Australia, New Zealand and Europe team up to ensure independence, diversity and inclusiveness of the WSA 05 global contest.

Until summer 2005, the Expert Panel members will select and nominate the best multimedia products or applications from their countries, according to the WSA guidelines and categories. The selection is done either through organising a national contest, on the decision by an expert committee or - in exceptional cases (i.e. in case of small countries) - on the perso-

nal decision of a national expert.

Up to now, over 30 countries have already launched professional national e-Content awards, which will serve as official national pre-selections for the WSA 2005. (e.g. "Manthan Award" in India)

The national WSA contests will run until July 2005. The winners will be evaluated by the WSA Grand Jury in September 2005. The winning e-content from 168 countries will take central stage at the WSA Gala-Event at WSIS in Tunis, November 17, 2005.

What is happening next? For the latest news and detailed information see:

www.wsis-award.org



Paul Hoffert new on WSA Board

WSA welcomes the musician, scientist, engineer, arts maven and entrepreneur

THIS ISSUE:

- 168 countries for the World Summit Award
- Paul Hoffert new on WSA Board
- Technology needs Creativity!
- New Partnerships in Africa to promote quality e-content
- Searching Indias Best - The Manthan Award kicks of
- Promoting An Enabling Environment For Digital Development
- High Commendation for WSA Winner 2003
- How to fight the Digital Divide?



WSA Board of Directors is pleased to welcome Paul Hoffert as new Board Member.

Paul Hoffert describes himself as a visionary with the logical mind of a mathematician and the soul of an artist. He is Chair of the Bell Broadcast and New Media Fund, Research Professor at Sheridan College, Fine Arts Professor at York University, and Chair of the Guild of Canadian Film and Television Composers.

Hoffert has scored more than 30 feature films as well as many television productions, and has produced dozens of recordings for major labels throughout the world. Furthermore, he has parallel achievements in science and technology. He was at the National Research Council of Canada and worked as Vice President of DHJ Research, where he invented digital audio technology for companies such as Akai and Yamaha musical instruments.

Hoffert is a pioneer in the use of computers and

electronics in innovative cultural applications, and has worked extensively in the development, implementation and transfer of digital media applications in the fine arts and telecommunications.

He presents his visions for the Digital Age in three best-selling books: "The New Client", "All Together Now", and "The Bagel Effect", which detail recipes for living in the Information Age.

Hoffert on becoming a WSA Board member: *"I am very pleased to join the Board of WSA. The impact of WSA's work is very significant because it encourages, recognizes, and celebrates excellence in local E-Content. That helps those who make and distribute content as well as the audiences whose lives are enriched by experiencing it. WSA ensures that, in an environment that has favored homogenized global culture, local cultures will in fact be well represented in the faces, languages, and stories online and on disk. After all, a major promise of the Information Age is to enable cultural diversity to flourish."*

Find further information on Paul Hoffert on his comprehensive Website: www.paulhoffert.ca

Technology needs creativity!

WSA is preparing the "World Summit Contributory Conference on ICT & Creativity" in Vienna, 2005

THIS ISSUE:

- 168 countries for the World Summit Award
- Paul Hoffert new on WSA Board
- Technology needs Creativity!
- New Partnerships in Africa to promote quality e-content
- Searching Indias Best - The Manthan Award kicks of
- Promoting An Enabling Environment For Digital Development
- High Commendation for WSA Winner 2003
- How to fight the Digital Divide?

On October 28th more than 50 IT and Multimedia experts from Austrian government, private industry and civil society met in Vienna to work on a shared strategy for the international conference "World Summit Contributory Conference on ICT & Creativity". This global conference - one of the official preparatory conferences for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), organized by the World Summit Award under Austrian patronage will be held in Vienna, Austria, on June 2-3, 2005,

The main discussion was based on the following issue: the United Nations member states have prepared a plan of action valid until the second phase of WSIS in Tunisia. However, the primary focus was placed on access and infrastructure whereas a reference on creativity and quality e-content is still missing.

Giving inventive e-Content and creativity more importance could further enhance technology with meaning and foster awareness on content issues.

Austria therefore aims to put special emphasis on quality e-Content by promoting innovation and creativity from both developed and least developed countries.

Representatives of UN Agencies and WSA partners, such as UNESCO and UNIDO provided significant input during the meeting and stated their intention to cooperate with the WSA and provide support in this matter.



Brainstorming on ICT & Creativity in Vienna

New Partnerships in Africa to promote quality e-content

WSA Road Show in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

THIS ISSUE:

- 168 countries for the World Summit Award
- Paul Hoffert new on WSA Board
- Technology needs Creativity!
- New Partnerships in Africa to promote quality e-content
- Searching Indias Best - The Manthan Award kicks of
- Promoting An Enabling Environment For Digital Development
- High Commendation for WSA Winner 2003
- How to fight the Digital Divide?

Great recognition was given to the World Summit Award at the annual AITEC exhibition in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The Tanzanian road show was organized under the coordination of the World Summit Award office and DigIT Africa as the key coordinating partner. The Tanzanian event put an emphasis on showcasing the world's best e-Contents and thus raised recognition for the most creative local producers in East African countries like Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Mozambique.

Among many distinguished guests and visitors at the WSA booth, the Tanzanian Minister for Communications and Transport, Hon. Prof. Mark Mwandosya visited the World Summit Award. WSA Eminent Expert 05 of Tanzania, Mr LeoPold Rweyemamu, presented last year's winners of WSA 03 and invited the Minister to sign the WSA guest book.

The World Summit Award is delighted to announce three partnerships agreements with African organizations: AITEC Africa, Africa's leading organizer of

ICT exhibitions and conferences, Tanzania Information and Communication Technologies Association (TICTA), and DigIT Africa. These organizations will foster WSA's mission to select and promote the world's best in eContent on the African continent.

The Minister for Communications and Transport of Tanzania, Hon. Prof. Mark Mwandosya followed carefully a presentation of last year's winners in Geneva



Sean Moroney, Chairman AITEC Africa (www.aitecafrica.com) and Thomas Biebl, Networking World Summit Award, finalize a partnership agreement to spread word about WSA activities in Africa

Searching Indias Best - The Manthan Award kicks of WSA & DEF launch national WSA contest in India

THIS ISSUE:

- 168 countries for the World Summit Award
- Paul Hoffert new on WSA Board
- Technology needs Creativity!
- New Partnerships in Africa to promote quality e-content
- Searching Indias Best - The Manthan Award kicks of
- Promoting An Enabling Environment For Digital Development
- High Commendation for WSA Winner 2003
- How to fight the Digital Divide?

The Manthan Award Digital Empowerment Foundation, a Delhi-based NGO, and the World Summit Award in partnership with PlaNet Finance India, launched “The Manthan Award” - the first of its kind in India and the official national WSA contest. The aim and purpose of the Manthan Award (Indian for the e-Content Award) is to recognize, encourage and further disseminate India’s best e-Content practices in order to break the information barrier which has kept the country underdeveloped.

All entries will be evaluated according to the WSA criteria and categories. The evaluation criteria will be based on quality and comprehensiveness of content, ease of use, functionality, navigation and orientation, value added through interactivity and multimedia, attractiveness of design, quality of craftsmanship and strategic importance to the millennium development goals (MDG). The Category Winners will automatically become nominees for the WSA global contest 2005.

Osama Manzar, the director of DEF and the WSA Board Member asserts that The Manthan Award will open doors for global recognition and support to the local initiatives. He added: *“We would also take it further by encouraging developing e-content at every level and enhancing the e-content production capabilities and inducing poverty alleviation exercises. E-content shall enable every citizen to have complete and high quality information about his/her rights, privileges, strengths, and how he/she can become self reliant on the basis of ‘information prowess’.”*

Osama Manzar, WSA Board Member and initiator of the Manthan Award



Promoting An Enabling Environment For Digital Development

UN ICT Task Force Global Forum

THIS ISSUE:

■ 168 countries for the World Summit Award

■ Paul Hoffert new on WSA Board

■ Technology needs Creativity!

■ New Partnerships in Africa to promote quality e-content

■ Searching Indias Best - The Manthan Award kicks of

■ Promoting An Enabling Environment For Digital Development

■ High Commendation for WSA Winner 2003

■ How to fight the Digital Divide?

"Promoting an enabling environment for digital development" was the theme of the seventh meeting of the United Nations Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Task Force, held in Berlin, November 19. -20.

The issue was addressed at the Global Forum attended by nearly 300 practitioners from the public and private sectors, academia and civil society.

Peter A. Bruck, Chairman of the World Summit Award Board of Directors, and member of the Advisory Board of the UN ICT Task Force held a speech where he highlighted the importance of ICTs in distributing local content and helping to bridge the knowledge gap between information 'haves' and 'have nots'.

Additionally, Bruck presented some examples of best practice in e-Content coming from the WSA contest 2003.

Established by Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2001, the United Nations ICT Task Force brings together representatives of governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations in a global effort to harness the immense potential of ICT for promoting development.

Further information on the work of the UN ICT Task Force: www.unicttaskforce.org



WSA presentation at the UN ICT Task Force Global Forum

High Commendation for a WSA Winner 2003

Sheikha Lubna Al-Qasimi has been announced the first female minister of the United Arab Emirates

Sheikha Lubna Al-Qasimi, a member of the Sharjah royal family, takes on the key position of the UAE Minister for Economics and Planning.

For many young Emirate women, Sheikha Lubna al-Qasimi is already a role model for aspiring women entrepreneurs in the region and for her contribution to the development of e-business in the Middle East.

Next to her new job as Minister, her Excellency Sheikha Lubna Al-Qasimi is also the CEO of Tejari (www.tejari.com), a successful business-to-business online marketplace for the Middle East.

Tejari was awarded as “Best Practice in e-Business” at the World Summit Award Gala event at WSIS in Geneva, 2003.

The Dubai based Tejari.com enables buyers and sellers to transact and share information about goods and services via a secured internet environment. Tejari has won many important awards acknowledging its efforts in promoting business-to-business online trade in the Middle East. WSA is proud to be one of the first who appreciated the high standard of this online marketplace.

Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi presenting the WSA Best Practice Certificate at WSIS in Geneva, Dec. 2003



THIS ISSUE:

■ 168 countries for the World Summit Award

■ Paul Hoffert new on WSA Board

■ Technology needs Creativity!

■ New Partnerships in Africa to promote quality e-content

■ Searching Indias Best - The Manthan Award kicks of

■ Promoting An Enabling Environment For Digital Development

■ High Commendation for WSA Winner 2003

■ How to fight the Digital Divide?

How to fight the Digital Divide?

Global ICT conference in Azerbaijan

THIS ISSUE:

■ 168 countries for the World Summit Award

■ Paul Hoffert new on WSA Board

■ Technology needs Creativity!

■ New Partnerships in Africa to promote quality e-content

■ Searching Indias Best - The Manthan Award kicks of

■ Promoting An Enabling Environment For Digital Development

■ High Commendation for WSA Winner 2003

■ How to fight the Digital Divide?

From 25-28 November, Baku hosted a global ICT Conference "Digital Divide and Knowledge Economy: Problems and Solutions", jointly organized by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the World Summit Award.

The Conference, bringing together over 100 high level representatives of the ICT industry, key Government entities, embassies, international organizations, civil society, private sector and academia from over 40 countries around the globe, was aimed at sharing the best practices in the field of ICT and exchanging knowledge and ideas that would shape the future of the global ICT development.

The conference ended up with the adoption of the **Baku Declaration on Digital Divide and Knowledge Economy**.

All presentations held during the conference are available for download [here!](#)

