

# **MICTI E-learning centre**

Progress report 2005-05-16

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# 1 Background

The Mozambique Information and Communication Technology Institute (MICTI) is a priority programme and plan of action for the Country's ICT Implementation Strategy. It is a long-term vision for building ICT skills and capacity in Mozambique facilitated by combining the energies and contributions of the Government, Academia, domestic and international private sector, as well as development and donor agencies. The programme is made up of three inter-related components:

- The Research and Learning Component address the direct need for skilled personnel in Mozambique and the region
- The Incubator Component nurture entrepreneurial skills providing employment and wealth generating opportunities
- The Science and Technology Park Component is the place from which knowledge-based companies (national and international) wish to conduct their business

The Learning Programme (MICTI - Research and Learning Component) will aim to:

- Develop an innovative curriculum for developing ICT knowledge and skills
- Provide accreditation facilities for international standards related to ICT's
- Create a dynamic environment where professors can use innovative techniques and practices in teaching
- Play a leading role in developing ICT users, technicians and managers in Mozambique

MICTI applied for Spider ICT Project funding in November 2004 in order to develop MICTI E-learning centre, being a part of the MICTI Research and Learning component.

MICTI has developed its educational model and an ICT curriculum including E-learning, which terminated in the design of the ICT management course.

Linda Johansson, PhD student, designed a model and prototype for MICTI E-learning centre, being the base for the Spider application.

There is a great demand for education in Mozambique. E-learning technologies are still to be introduced and make part of the national strategy for ICT policy implementation. In comparison with the first world, many students lack access to tools and a proper study environment.

The objective of this project is to establish an E-learning Centre in order to:

- Facilitate flexible e-learning solutions and access to new learning technologies
- Offer a structured and professional study environment
- Stimulate the interest for software application and development through computer games
- Facilitate LAN gaming and access to educational games
- Facilitate access to Internet

- Create an environment that stimulates innovation and entrepreneurship within the area of ICT

The E-Learning Centre will provide services within three areas:

- E-Learning
- LAN games
- Internet Café

The target groups are:

- High school and University students (E-Learning)
- Youth (14-25 years) with computer skills (gaming)
- Broad public (Internet café)

The target groups will come to MICTI E-learning centre because of:

- Rapid and reliable Internet connection
- Competitive prices of all services/products provided
- Services in a suitable (central) location where there is big flow of people
- An environment where people can work and study efficiently, feel comfortable and buy services (silence, computers that's working, coffee etc)
- E-learning products/services that's flexible, easy-to-use and rewarding for the customer.
- MICTI E-learning centre is the only place that offers LAN game in Mozambique
- Discounts, membership and other attractive payment solutions

## 2 Activities

A project plan consisting of 11 major activities was included in the application for funding. Below is a comment on each of them.

### 1. **Establish management team**

MICTI has entered into a joint venture with a private company in order to manage the daily operation of the centre. The board comprises of representatives from both MICTI and the private company.

### 2. **Define E-learning model/platform**

Linda Johansson did a great job in establishing a suitable E-learning model for MICTI, and based on that model, MICTI is at the moment procuring a platform/system for E-learning. Two commercial (WebCT, Theeducation) and one open source system have been examined but no decision has been made yet.

### 3. **Facilities identification & rehabilitation**

Facility where the MICTI E-learning centre will operate have been identified in the middle of Maputo city centre in a strategic place with schools, institutes and churches nearby. The premise needs to be rehabilitated before opening, with

- regard to painting and improvement of electricity. This rehabilitation work has not been concluded.
4. **Specify equipment**  
The premise has been surveyed and necessary equipment to open up the centre have been identified; software, hardware, systems and other
  5. **Procurement**  
Procurement for all necessary equipment; hardware (servers, PCs etc), software (programs, systems to control and operate the centre) and services (Internet connection, LAN installation) have been initialized but not purchased. Quotations exist. Decisions will be taken within the near future.
  6. **Install equipment**  
Installation of equipment have not started, since the premise is not ready and procurement aren't completed.
  7. **Implement E-learning solution**  
MICTI is about to decide which E-learning system to use. The ICT Management course intended for normal classroom teaching comprises of nine modules, which will be transformed into E-learning content as soon as the platform have been chosen.
  8. **Train staff/facilitators**  
MICTI has selected key persons with potential that during the implementation process work, accompany and learn in order to build capacity for future job challenges in the centre. This process already started long ago and we believe it is a very good way to learn and grow people.
  9. **Marketing of centre**  
A marketing plan exists, detailing how to reach the target group, however no official marketing of the centre has been done, since the centre has not yet open.
  10. **Operate**  
The centre is not operational; however preparations have been made. Systems such as controlling computer usage and clients payment routines have been identified, examined and decisions exist on how to operate and which systems to use. IT security risks have been identified and decisions on how to avoid them exist. Other risks with the operations have been identified and discussed. Market research regarding pricing has been made. Operations have been discussed and fine-tuned in order to guarantee as smooth opening and operation of the centre.
  11. **Monitor and report**  
The centre is not yet operational

### **3 Conclusions and Way Forward**

MICTI E-learning centre is behind the original schedule because the joint venture agreement and identification of premise took longer time than expected. According to current plan, the centre will open for the public in the end of June 2005.

Crucial preparations have been made and activities in the work plan are being executed. MICTI E-learning centre is in a solid position for beginning to operate within the near future. There is no major problem that threatens the existence of the project.