



Newsletter

Issue 8

<http://www.ansti.org/>

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E-content Development – Training of science and engineering university staff

The African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions (ANSTI), with financial support of UNESCO, has just concluded a 3 week distance-learning programme on e-content development for lecturers of science and engineering courses. Aware of the problems of internet connectivity in most institutions, the training took place using CD-ROMs. Nearly 100 CD-ROMs containing the self-training manual were distributed to several institutions in the region. The training covered both pedagogy and the use of various software tools. Forty-seven of the recipients followed the course to the end. They took the exams and submitted their solutions to the course tutor. The exam consisted of preparing a structured web-based course material from an MS-word document of lecture notes. Twenty-five of the solutions were of very high quality and could be used on the home institution's Local Area Network (LAN). Another round of this type of training will take place in 2005.

From the Editor

Prof. J.G.M. Massaquoi
Editor

This Newsletter is coming out a little late because of changes that recently occurred at the Secretariat. We apologise for the delay. In this issue, we have focused on an important programme activity of ANSTI: The Use of ICT in teaching/learning of science and engineering courses. There are articles on the recently included distance training for e-content development. The training was done using courses on CD-ROM and it targeted university staff in science and engineering faculties. Nearly sixty (60) people participated in the training and forty-six (46) took the exams.

There is also a report on a workshop for e-content development, which brought together university staff who are already knowledgeable in e-content development, to sharpen their skills and use it immediately to prepare contents for distribution. The outputs of the workshop were several contents on CD-ROMs for courses in science and engineering.

This edition also has other information on scientific activities, which recently occurred in the region as well as those yet to take place.

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ABOUT ANSTI

ANSTI is a project of UNESCO. The original aim of ANSTI, which has remained unchanged over the years, is to develop active collaboration among African scientific institutions so as to promote research and development in areas of relevance to the development of the region. ANSTI emphasizes the pooling of resources available in the region so as to provide quality training and research in various scientific disciplines.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PHYSICS 2005

The International Year of Physics 2005 has been proposed to mark the 100th anniversary of the 'miraculous year 1905' when Albert Einstein wrote his legendary articles on relativity, quantum theory, and Brownian motion.

As one of the greatest personalities of the 20th century and first 'international' scientist, Einstein, through his works, would serve as a rallying point to promote the public understanding of physics. The International Year of Physics 2005 provides a unique opportunity to promote the important contributions of physics to the development of science and technology and its vital role in addressing many challenges of the 21st Century. At the initiative of the European Physical Society, the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) passed a resolution endorsing the global event.

All physical societies all over the world are called upon to organize various activities to mark this event. Global activities are loosely coordinated through an international steering committee led by the European Physical Society. The website www.wyp2005.org provides timely information on developments.

Workshop on e-content development 20 – 29 October 2005

Following the successful distance training programme on e-content development, ANSTI/UNESCO organised a workshop from 20-29 October, in Kigali Rwanda for e-content development in various subject areas of basic and engineering sciences. Twenty-four participants came to the workshop with the MS-Word format of their courses and used the resources (both human and material) put at their disposal to develop the e-content.

The workshop also served as an opportunity to sharpen the skills of the participants as they shared experiences with each other.

The 2nd African Regional Conference in Engineering Education Lagos, Nigeria 20 – 22 September 2004

The 2nd African Regional Conference on Engineering Education was held at the University of Lagos in Nigeria, from 20-22 September 2004. It was well attended with forty participants from 6 different Countries. The ANSTI Coordinator Prof. J. Massaquoi who was present at the Conference delivered the keynote address on the "Trends and Advances in Engineering Education in Africa." The Conference highlighted several issues affecting Engineering Education in the region. A decision was reached that the Conference shall from now on be a bi-annual event.

The World Conference on Physics and Sustainable Development will be held in Durban, South Africa, on October 31- November 2, 2005.

As part of the celebration of the International Year of Physics, the 100th anniversary of Einstein's "Miraculous Year" in which he published three of his most famous papers, the **World Conference on Physics and Sustainable Development**, will be held in Durban, South Africa, on October 31-2 November, 2005. Participants from developed and developing nations will join together to examine the contributions that physics has made to society in the past in order to formulate and sharpen action-oriented plans for the contributions that it can and should make in future. This conference will be cosponsored by UNESCO, the Abdus Salam International Centre for Physics (ICTP), the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP), and the South African Institute of Physics (SAIP).

COMING EVENTS

AFRICA REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN SCIENTISTS AND SCIENCE EDUCATORS.

Windhoek, Namibia 2005

WE STILL NEED YOUR CONTRIBUTION!

We invite you all to contribute to this newsletter with short articles: announcements for meetings, descriptions of recently concluded activities, or any important scientific activities that might be of interest to others.

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REMEMBER?

In 2005 ANSTI will organize a conference of Deans of Science, Deans of Engineering, vice-chancellors and college principals on the theme "State of Science and Technology Training Institutions."

MORE DETAILS ON THIS WILL FOLLOW

VISIT THE ANSTI PORTAL

The portal is available for interactive information exchange on scientific activities in Africa, or relevant to the region.

Visit the site: - <http://www.anstiweb.org> for details.

Don't Forget ANSTI Website!

- Even if you have visited our website once you should do it every now and then to check the latest updates on various news (<http://www.ansti.org/news.htm>) and announcements (<http://www.ansti.org/openings.htm>)
- Make use of the Message Board! Feel free to use it as a forum for discussion and spreading information.
http://www.ansti.org/message_board.php
- Have you already enrolled yourself to our Scientists Database? If not, please do so at
http://www.ansti.org/inclusion_scientist_databases.htm
- Ask your friends and colleagues to join ANSTI mailing lists at
http://www.ansti.org/mailling_list.htm

LATEST PUBLICATIONS FROM ANSTI 2004 AVAILABLE ONLINE

We are pleased to announce that in keeping with our objective of human resource capacity building in Science and Engineering through the award and administration of various grants, we have just published our annual report as well as an updated grantees directory.

The Network is welcoming you to view the recently published Annual Report and Directory of Grantees which are now available online at:

<http://www.ansti.org/reports/annualreport2003.pdf>

http://www.ansti.org/ansti_grantees/ansti_grantees_part_1.pdf

http://www.ansti.org/ansti_grantees/ansti_grantees_part_2.pdf

Members have also used the network's African Journal of Science and Technology (AJST) to disseminate their research results and promote discussions of the work. Please also visit the link <http://www.ansti.org/journal.php> to get more information about our journals and also view the latest editions.

Fellowships and other awards for 2004/05

The African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions (ANSTI) is offering the following awards for the 2004/05.

- ◆ Visiting Staff fellowships
- ◆ Postgraduate training fellowships
- ◆ Research Grants
- ◆ Conference Grants

ELIGIBILITY FOR AWARDS

These awards are restricted to staff of institutions, which are members of ANSTI.

Please enquire from ANSTI secretariat (info@ansti.org) or visit our website: -

(<http://www.ansti.org>)

Here you will find out if your institution is a member of ANSTI.