



Economic Commission for
Africa



Ministry of Communications
Government of Ghana



ORGANISATION
INTERNATIONALE DE LA
FRANCOPHONIE



AFRICAN ACADEMY OF
LANGUAGES

African Regional Preparatory Conference for the WSIS Pre-Conference Activities

Workshop on African Languages and Open Source Software: Creativity in the Service of African Renaissance

**Accra International Conference Center
29 January 2005**

Rapporteur: Mr. Cyriaque Didier Kouma, Head of New Technologies, Informatics Directorate,
Gabon

Saturday, 29 January 2005

Opening Session and setting the scene

Chair: Mr. Adama Samassekou, President of African Languages Academy (ACALAN)

09:00 – 10:15

Welcoming remark: Mr. Pierre Ouedraogo, Head of Information Society Programmes,
Institut des Nouvelles Technologies (INTIF), Organisation Internationale de la
Francophonie (OIF)

The WSIS Academia Research Network (ARN): Mr. Thierry Amoussougbo, Regional
Advisor, ECA

Overview of the activities of the ARN thematic research network on “African language and
content development in the cyberspace”: Mr. Salam Diakite, Director of Research and
Documentation, ACALAN, Mali

Discussion

10:15 - 10: 45 Coffee break

Session I: ARN Action plan outcomes

10: 45 – 11:30

Chair: Dr. Solomon Atnafu, Assistant Professor, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Report on the short-term action plan of the thematic research network on “African languages and content development in the cyberspace”: Mr. Maurice Tadadjeu, ARN member and Professor of Linguistics, University of Yaounde I, Cameroon

Discussion

Session II: Local content and Free and Open Source Software

11:30 – 13:00

Chair: Mr. Pierre Ouedraogo, Head of Information Society Programmes, INTIF/OIF

Free and Open source software in local content development with African languages:

- An overview by Bildad Kagai, Coordinator, Free and Open Source Foundation for Africa (FOSSFA)
- Alex Corenthin, Modèle opérationnel de visibilité des langues Africaines à l’aide des logiciels libres
- Case studies by:
 - Dr. Solomon Atnafu, Associate Professor, AAU
 - Selected presenters

Discussion

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch break

Session III: Free and Open Source Software in Africa: Stakes and Challenges

Chair: Mr. Bildad Kagai, Coordinator, FOSSFA

14:30 – 15:45

Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) and the African Regional perspective: Mr. Girma Dessalegn, Trainer and multimedia specialist, Information Technology Centre for Africa (ITCA), ECA

The African Conferences on Free and Open Source Software (RALL): Mr. Pierre Ouedraogo, Head of Information Society Programmes INTIF/OIF

Report of the UNCTAD meeting on Open Source Software: Mr. Kofie Danner, Director Computer Centre, University of Sierra Leone

The African Experiences on FOSS: by other selected presenters

Discussion

15:45 – 16:00 Coffee break

Session IV: The way forward on FOSS and African languages

16:00 – 16:45

Chair: Mr. Maurice Tadadjeu, ARN member and Professor of Linguistics, University of Yaounde I, Cameroon

The way forward to ensure an effective and sustainable presence of African languages and using Open Source Software in the cyberspace:

- Mr. Adama Samassekou, President of ACALAN
- Mr. Pierre Ouedraogo, Head of Information Society Programmes INTIF/OIF

Discussion

Closing Session

16:45 – 18:00

Chair: Mr Adama Samassekou, President of ACALAN

African Languages and Open Source Software: Charting the Way Forward: Cyriaque Didier Kouma, Rapporteur

Discussion

Summary and wrap up by the Chair

Closing Remarks by: Ms. Aida Opoku-Mensah, OIC, Development Information Services Division (DISD) of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)