AFRICAN INTERNET OLDIES TO SHARE WITH THE YOUNG
The Programme highlighted the role of computer networks as a means of fostering regional and international co-operation, in addition to their function as a medium for disseminating information at a national level. They help to make institutions less isolated, and facilitate the pooling of information and experience by specialists, researchers and practitioners. They could provide a means of combatting the brain drain by enabling everyone to obtain locally the wherewithal to learn, to serve and to achieve personal fulfillment. Like training, the establishment and management of operational networks calls for substantial resources and a long-term approach. Such networks are nevertheless essential, and the work of setting them up should be begun forthwith.

- conceived in 1985
- the project was started in late 1991
- funding of about 1 million dollars from the Italian Government
- promote Internet connectivity and the use of research network services
- official opening in DAKAR, 1992

REGIONAL INFORMATICS NETWORK FOR AFRICA

CNR CNUCE Institute – Pisa, Italy

Stefano Trumpy
RINAF Technical Coordinator

Laura Abba, Adriana Lazzaroni and Abraham Gebrehiwot
Technical Support Unit
OTHER INITIATIVES/PROJECTS ON NETWORK DEVELOPMENT, PRESENT AT THAT TIME

- ORSTOM-RIO
- REFER
- IDRC
- ITU
- World Bank
- PADIS
- ECA
RINAF Main Project objectives (1991)

- Internet connectivity
  - bring basic data communication services;
  - remedy the isolation of research institutions;
  - facilitate the dialogue between researchers, academics and the private sector;
  - increase awareness of the importance of data network services;
  - create a group of African technical experts and network operators skilled in the management of network services;
  - project hand over.
RINAF Project main activities

- Acquisition of equipment (routers, modems, gateways, software for communications etc.) testing and shipping to final destinations;
- Technical assistance for installation;
- Connectivity and acquisition of basic network services;
- Training activities and regional courses;
- Participation of African delegates at International networking events.
**Project hierarchical structure:**

5 Regional nodes

- **Algeria** (CERIST – Centre de Recherche sur L’Information Scientifique et Technique)
- **Senegal** (CNDST – Centre National de Documentation Scientifique et Technique)
- **Kenya** (NCST and Moi University)
- **Zambia** (University of Zambia) later Zimbabwe
- **Nigeria** (NACETEM – Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife)
Project hierarchical structure: National nodes

- **Morocco** (Ecole Mohammadia d'Ingenieurs),
- **Mauritania** (Faculté des Sciences)
- **Ivory Coast** (CIRCI - Ministère de l'Enseignement Superieur),
- **Ethiopia** (National Computer and Information Centre),
- **Tanzania** (Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology)
- **Swaziland** (University of Swaziland)
- **Namibia** (Office of the Prime Minister)
- **Cameroon** (CNDT - Ministry of Scientific Research and Technology)
- **Republic of Central Africa** (Office National d'Informatique)
COUNTRIES DIRECTLY SUPPORTED BY

- Kenya
- Senegal
- Ivory Coast
- Zambia
- Swaziland
- Namibia
- Zimbabwe
- Central African Republic
- Algeria
- Mauritania
- Morocco
- Tanzania
- Ethiopia
- Nigeria
- Cameroon
- Niger

1992-1998
CNR Technical Coordination of RINAF 1992-1998 (1)

- Evaluation and completion of the regional and national networking plans submitted by the regional/national coordinators;
- Acquisition, testing, shipment and installation of equipment;
- Organization of network training activities and courses;
- Support the participation of RINAF African specialists at international events on networking;
- Supply on-site and remote technical assistance;
CNR Technical Coordination of RINAF
1992-1998 (2)

- Maintenance of leased line and dial-up (UUCP) connections for Algeria (CERIST) and Nigeria (NACETEM);
- Registration and maintenance of top level domain .NG for Nigeria;
- Establishment and maintenance of domain name servers at the CNR CNUCE institute for Algeria (.dz), and Nigeria (.ng);
- Management of the RINAF Project Web site (http://www.cnuce.cnr.it/RINAF);
- Management of mailing lists (CAMNET, NGR-MAIL, SENEGA-L, GUINEQ-L) and of discussion lists (RINAF-L, RINAF-T, RINAF-R);
- Hand over activities for transferring technical know-how, and project management: Algeria (CERIST) and Senegal (CNDST).
The Eastern RINAF regional node was located at the Faculty of Information Sciences at Moi University in Eldoret.

For the project implementation, close interactions were established with:

- Moi University, Eldoret (Fac. of Information Sciences, Fac. of Medicine, Library)
- UNESCO ROSTA, Nairobi
- Italian Embassy, Nairobi
- National Council for Science and Technology (NCST), Nairobi
- Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI), Nairobi
- local Internet service provider (AfricaOnline, etc.)
RINAF in Kenya (2)

- Acquisition of hardware (PC’s, modems, routers, etc.)
- Installation of a switched telephone line (Kenya Posts & Telecommunications) at Moi University
- e-mail connection over a dial up line with AfricaOnline, a local ISP giving an e-mail access to a wide number of researchers of the Computer science department
- Funding of communication costs (January-June 1997),
- Training: a regional networking course was held at Moi University in Eldoret on 24-28 February 1997, supplying advanced technical training to node operators.
RINAF played a relevant role in introducing the use of the network services, supplying advanced technical training to network operators and users.

The Eastern RINAF Regional networking course
24-28 February 1997, Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya
1. RINAF course for system operators - Pisa, **Italy**, 26 Oct - 6 Nov 1992
2. RINAF course for system operators: Ile-Ife, **Nigeria**, 26-28 April 1993
3. RINAF Project management – hand over activities from CNUCE to CERIST (Algiers): Pisa, **Italy**, 13-17 November 1995
4. RINAF Project management – hand over activities from CNUCE to CNDST (Dakar): Dakar, **Senegal** December 1995
5. The Western RINAF Regional networking course: Dakar, **Senegal**, 4-17 December 1995
6. RINAF Regional course for system operators - Central Region: Libreville, **Gabon**, 21-26 April 1996
8. RINAF Regional training course for the Northern Region: Algiers, **Algeria**, 18-22 June 1998
10. Training workshop on Internet administration and networking for RINAF Engineers/Technicians, National Center for Technology Management (NACEFEM), Obafemi Awolowo University, 24-30 January 1999, Ile Ife, **Nigeria**
PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING EVENTS

The RINAF project supported the participation of African technicians and network operators, belonging to different universities, to international networking conferences and events to introduce them to the big picture of the Information Society and its latest developments.

The CNR technical Support Unit organized the participation of African delegates to:

• **INET 92** - International Networking Conference - Workshop for developing countries – Kobe, Japan, June 1992;
• **INET 93** - International Networking Conference - Internet Society, San Francisco, California, USA, August 1993
• **NSC 92** - Network Services Conference, Pisa, Italy, November 1992
• **Helina 93** - International Conference on Health Informatics in Africa, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, April 1993
Africa was represented at the International Networking Conference of the Internet Society INET '92 held in Kobe, Japan
INET92 African Participants

AFRICAN ATTENDEES OF

THE WORKSHOP FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AT INET92

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Editor: Ali B. Ali-Dinar
Africa on Internet- INET '92 Proceedings

INTERNET AND AFRICA

The proceedings of the June 1992 INET Conference in Kobe, Japan have been issued in print format. Members of the InterNet Society can obtain copies of the big volume. Contact: InterNet Society
1895 Preston White Drive
Reston, VA 22091
E-Mail isoc@nri.reston.va.us

Some papers of interest are:


Editor: Ali B. Ali-Dinar
In 2001, RINAF initiated four pilot projects:
- Virtual Multimedia Academy
- Website Design Competition
- Distance Education Project
- Cheap Hardware and Open Software Project

In 2003, 43 African countries were participating in RINAF through national focal points.
FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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