

Bytes for All...

July 2005 at BytesforAll discussion group, as usual, was another exciting and happening month with very interesting and insightful discussion, thanks to resourceful contributors. The following is the brief summary of various discussion threads

Open Source

OpenMEDnic archive

A step-by-step guide for using the OpenMED@NIC Archive and any other EPrints based Archive.
<http://openmed.nic.in/135/>

CiviCRM 1.0 Beta announcement

CiviCRM is an open source, internationalised, nonprofit-centric constituent relationship management core. It is designed to handle common contact and relationship needs (CRM needs) in the nonprofit and non-governmental sectors. CiviCRM will form the basis of a number of end-user targeted applications including CivicSpace 0.8.2 and the Social Source Foundation's donor/constituent management, broadcast e-mail and online donations solution. The CiviCRM Team is proud to announce the release of CiviCRM 1.0 Beta.
<http://www.openngo.org/>

BBC open source

This site provides information about and links to British Broadcasting Services (BBC) open source projects. It lists projects developed by the BBC where the source code has been released as open source. The site doesn't cover the many open source projects to which the BBC has contributed, but only those that the BBC has initiated and managed itself.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/opensource/>

ICT4D

ITU hones in on digital divide

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has launched a new development drive designed to bring access to information and communication technologies to the estimated one billion people worldwide who are still without access to a telephone. Called 'Connect the World', the initiative is designed to encourage new projects and partnerships to bridge the digital divide.
<http://www.balancingact-africa.com/news/current1.html>

Education

A revolution in Indian education

Education in colleges and schools across India's villages and urban areas will not be the same from July 28, 2005, onwards after the

launch of Edusat, the world's first dedicated education satellite by A P J Abdul Kalam, President of India by connecting 15 teacher training centres and 50 government schools through satellite in Kerala. Edusat is a collaborative project of ISRO, the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development, State Departments of Education and the Indira Gandhi National Open University. Growing demand for an interactive satellite based distance education system through audio-visual medium, employing Direct To Home (DTH) quality broadcast prompted the government to launch it.

Africa's first NEPAD e-School launched in Uganda

The first New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) e-school on the African continent, the Bugulumbya Secondary School in Busobya Village in the Kamuli District of Uganda was launched by Uganda's President Museveni on 18 July 2005. The Bugulumbya school has computers and accessories, server, Internet, electricity, mobile telephone booster mast, computer desks, DSTV, e-health facility, and trained teachers. The 10-year NEPAD flagship e-schools initiative involves the establishment of an Africa-wide satellite network that will connect the schools to the Internet as well as to points within each country from which educational content will be fed to the schools on a continuous basis.
<http://www.nepad.org>

Site watch

Women in Global Science and Technology, WIGSAT

Women in Global Science and Technology (WIGSAT) promotes the contributions women make in science and technology for development. It also helps NGOs, governments, bilateral and multilateral agencies and women themselves to understand the gender dimensions of science and technology and the implications of this for development policy and practice. WIGSAT provides services in the area of gender, science and technology for development, with a special focus on information and communications technologies. It also acts as a broker or disseminator of information and resources.
<http://www.wigsat.org>
<http://GSTGateway.wigsat.org>

Seed savers' network

Australian NGO which views seed-saving as a vital means of preserving genetic resources. It provides financial and educational assistance to community development projects, and open-pollinated seed stocks (as an alternative to their hybrid and genetically engineered counterparts) to individuals, groups and communities.
<http://www.seedsavers.net>

The Equator Initiative

The Equator Initiative is an UNDP partnership programme that aims to reduce poverty through conservation and biodiversity sustainability in the region between 23.5 degrees north and south

of the Equator. This zone holds the world's greatest concentrations of both human poverty and biological wealth. The project based in New York was launched in 2002.

<http://www.undp.org/equatorinitiative>

Events and announcements

Announcing the APC Betinho communications prize in 2005

In 2005, the Association for Progressive Communication's (APC) Betinho Prize will be offered in recognition of community initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean that use the Internet and other networks to access markets, skills and opportunities to derive real economic benefits. The US\$ 7500 prize is open to civil society organisations, community-based groups, networks, and social movements anywhere in Latin America and the Caribbean. Applications will be accepted in Spanish, Portuguese and English. Deadline for nominations is October 16, 2005.

<http://www.apc.org/english/betinho>

Scholarships for women bloggers

Blogging company Six Apart has announced that they will offer five scholarships for women bloggers interested in attending the upcoming BlogHer conference, which will focus on the role of women in blogging culture.

http://www.sixapart.com/about/corner/2005/05/upcoming_bloghe.html

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

CIRN conference 2005

The Community Informatics Research Network (CIRN) conference will held in Cape Town, South Africa on August 22-30. It will include more than 90 selected presentations, workshops and panels relevant to the social appropriation of ICT for local benefit.

<http://www.cirn2005.org>

Call for abstracts - Unite For Sight's 3rd Annual International Health Conference

Unite For Sight's 3rd Annual International Health Conference, 'Empowering Communities to Bridge Health Divides' will held in Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, on April 1-2, 2006. It is calling for posters about the use of IT and technology to bridge health divides in developing countries. Unite For Sight is also encouraging submission of proposal for a poster presentation at the conference site. Unite for Sight's conference is for all professionals and students involved in medicine, health education, health promotion, public health, and international service.

http://www.uniteforsight.org/2006_annual_conference.php

South Asian workshop on knowledge networking

Bellasap in coordination with South Asia Partnership (SAP) International and SAP Nepal organised a South Asian workshop on

Digital Learning 2005

Centre for Science, Development and Media Studies (CSDMS) is organising a one day seminar on October 18 on ICT and education during Conflux 2005 on the theme 'ICT and Education: Challenges and Practices'. The objectives of the conference will be to create a platform to interchange the views of experts and professionals who are associated with various important issues of ICT implementation in education sector. The keynote address will be on 'Learning ICT and Learning through ICT: Prospects and Challenges'. The following four themes will be covered in four sessions of the conference:

- Tools for Learning through ICT: Availability and Scope,
- e-Learning: Best Practices and Challenges,
- Open Source in Education,
- Policy and Advocacy: Critical Issues.

Applications for slot and paper presentations to be sent to sejuti@csdms.in. The last date for receipt of abstracts is September 15, 2005.

'Knowledge Networking for Peace: Rhetoric or Reality?' on July 27-29, 2005 at Kathmandu, Nepal. The primary objective of the workshop was to build community of practice for peace in South Asia using various online and other forms of knowledge sharing.

http://www.sapnepal.org.np/k_network_peace.php

Microfinance workshop

ekgaon Technologies and Community Enterprise Forum India (CEFI) have entered into partnership for initiating series of workshops aiming at identifying priorities, analysing technologies and enabling communities to specify their requirements from ICTs and evolve learning for stakeholders. The workshop named as 'ICTs for Communities: Learning Workshop Series' was held on August 1-2, 2005 at Sevaiyoor, Virudhunagar in Tamil Nadu, India.

www.microfinance.in

Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD) conference in Jordan

The conference Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD) will held in Amman, Jordan on October 1-3, 2005. This will be the largest-ever global gathering of media development professionals. The aim of the conference is to begin to address challenges and opportunities facing the media development sector.

<http://www.gfmd.info/> ■

Bytes for All: www.bytesforall.net

Bytes For All Readers Discussion: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bytesforall_readers

Bytes for All Summary Archive: <http://www.bytesforall.net/Summary/>

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