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FOR **TERMINOLOGY**

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Der Infoterm Newsletter (INL) ist das offizielle, vierteljährlich erscheinende Informationsblatt des Internationalen Informationszentrums für Terminologie (Infoterm). Das Sekretariat von Infoterm fungiert als internationale Informationsstelle für alle Terminologiefragen, es fördert und koordiniert im öffentlichen Interesse weltweit terminologische Aktivitäten. INL enthält insbesondere Informationen über die Tätigkeiten der Infoterm-Mitglieder und Kooperationspartner und verfolgt dabei keine parteilichen oder ideologischen Zielsetzungen.

The Infoterm Newsletter (INL) is the official quarterly of the International Information Centre for Terminology (Infoterm). It informs its readership of the latest developments in the field of terminology. In addition, INL provides information on the latest activities and projects of Infoterm members and co-operation partners as well as on past and forthcoming events.

Le Bulletin d'information (INL) est l'organe officiel trimestriel du Centre international d'information pour la terminologie (Infoterm). INL informe ses lecteurs sur les développements les plus récents dans le domaine de la terminologie. Il donne également un aperçu des activités et projets des membres et des partenaires d'Infoterm et contient, entre autres, un calendrier des manifestations passées et à venir.

WHO Executive Board discussed eHealth standardized terminology

At its 118th session from 29 May to 1 June 2006, the WHO Executive Board discussed the Report by the Secretariat, entitled eHealth: standardized terminology (EB118/8).

The Report highlights the need for standardized terminology for health information and its use by policy-makers, consumers, providers and others. Use of standardized terminology in a consistent way will result in better and safer patient care and more efficient health services. It has been recognized that standardized information could underpin statistical reporting, decision-making, measurement of outcomes and performance, and even cost analysis.

WHO proposes the creation of a family of terminologies in line with the WHO Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC) which dates back to 1853, when ICD, the International Classification of Diseases was created by the International Statistical Congress as a “uniform nomenclature of causes of death applicable to all countries”.

The Board was of the opinion that, in collaboration with international standards organization, WHO should play an active role in setting health information standards and rules. However, this item will have to be further discussed at the Board's next session in January 2007.

Infoterm as WHO Collaborating Centre for Health and Biomedical Terminology was asked to assist WHO in establishing the International Network for Health Terminology in October 2006 and to contribute with its expertise to the development of terminology policies for WHO Member States.

Infoterm was represented at the WHO-FIC Network Meeting in Tunis, 29 October – 4 November 2006. We will report on it in one of the next issues of INL.

Document EB118/8 can be downloaded from: http://www.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB118/B118_8-en.pdf

For further details, please contact: Infopoint@infoterm.org

WHO challenging the information paradox in Tunis

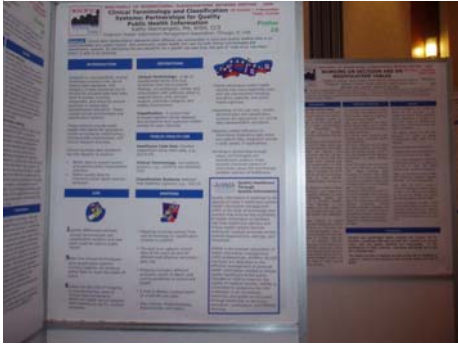
When a person died in Jordan in the late 1990s it was likely that his or her death certificate stated “died suddenly” or “heart and lungs stopped” as the cause of death. That was it, provided the person was in the lucky position of having died in one of the few hospitals that maintain vital statistics at all.

This was reported by the Director of the Information Department of the Jordanian Ministry of Health during the Round Table discussion on the implementation of ICD 10, thus describing what is still happening in many developing countries around the world. This condition – countries with the greatest health burdens and needs, the highest birth and death rates having the biggest information gaps, too – is also known as the Information Paradox in the WHO. These countries have not only the least information but also a limited capacity (skills, systems) to generate, analyse, present and disseminate information, such as vital statistics registries to reliably and accurately count births and deaths and submit exact and comparable mortality cause data.

The somewhat vaguely stated cause was only partly resulting due to the fact that the doctors could not provide with a post mortem diagnosis of what lead to the demise. Rather it might have been due to lacking implementation of certification and registration according to international standards by the national health system. Such standards are set by the World Health Organization (WHO) in the form of the Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC), which consists mainly of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), available already in its 10th revision, the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) and the International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI, under development).



The 2006 Annual Meeting of the WHO Network of Collaborating Centres for WHO-FIC took place from 30 October to 4 November in Tunis. 112 international participants from 10 centres as well as representatives of Ministries of Health or Statistical Bureaus from 16 countries attended in order to review all elements of WHO-FIC and the work of the WHO-FIC network.



While WHO-FIC is undoubtedly indispensable for the compilation of comparable health statistics and is an incredible product in itself, when it comes to dealing with terminologies, the story becomes considerably more complex. The necessity to manage existing and developing terminologies of authoritative nature has become a prominent issue for WHO, or, as one participant during the plenary stressed “terminology now has come out of the shadow into light”. To investigate the issue further, a Terminology Reference Group has been established within the WHO-FIC Network. The group had its constituting meeting in Tunis to set the stage for the establishment of a work plan to address the most pressing issues for WHO. These are the exploration of possible synergies between the classifications and terminologies through mapping, decentralized maintenance mechanism, and challenges in multilingual knowledge representation in the

health domains. The meeting was attended by 14 participants.

Many problem areas identified by the WHO-FIC group during the meeting, such as education, awareness and publicity, implementation, collaboration, etc. are also familiar to the terminology community. The organization is aware that due to the existing diversity in terminologies not one authoritative solution can be named. Instead, an “International Family of Health Terminologies” after the model of WHO-FIC is envisaged. However, considering the much more dynamic nature of terminology (new terms, determinologization, terminologization), their occurrence at different levels of discourse and other socio-terminological issues, different granularity, the sheer overwhelming number of terms and related maintenance problems, etc., a very different approach than the one used for WHO-FIC might be needed for WHO. To evaluate suitable strategies and to assist with benchmarking is the purpose of the new “International Network for Health Terminologies” which brings together collaborating centres and other institutions of expertise. This network was brought into life in October 2006 in Geneva and is relatively open to interested organizations that are willing to contribute with their expertise.

By the way, in his report on the implementation of ICD 10 in Jordan, the Director of the Information Department of the Jordanian Ministry of Health, which has taken the responsibility for the information process after a reform of the country’s health information system in 2003, continues reporting that the situation has improved dramatically ever since. By the way, in 2004, one year after the reform, the list of causes of death in Jordan was topped by diseases related to the circulatory system (36,14%), of that ischaemic heart disease was the most common, followed by cerebrovascular disease. This cause, interestingly, was more common with male patients, whereas events of undetermined intent, as the second most frequent external death cause, was significantly more frequently occurring with women.

The papers read during the meetings as well as further information on the International Family of Classifications are available on the WHO website www.who.int/classifications/.

For further information, please contact Anja Drame infopoint@infoterm.org.

WHO Collaborating Centres

A WHO Collaborating Centre forms part of an inter-institutional collaborative network set up by WHO in support of its programme. The WHO collaborating centres are used, in various fields, for the purpose of standardization of terminology and nomenclature, of diagnostic, therapeutic and prophylactic substances, of technologies, methods and procedures, etc. Standardization is typically a global function, but it benefits all Member States by developing common denominators and a universal language allowing for better international understanding and easier comparison of data on a worldwide basis.

UNESCO Guidelines for Terminology Policies to be translated into different languages

In 2005, UNESCO published its Guidelines for Terminology Policies, consisting of recommendations for the formulation and implementation of strategies related to terminology. The document, compiled by Infoterm, focuses primarily on public policies at the national level, thus providing hands-on advice for governments to complement language planning activities. It also addresses, though briefly, the importance of terminology policies also for the private sector, in particular on the company and NGO level.

Upon publication of the Guidelines, Infoterm started its dissemination efforts. Today, just about one year later, we can look upon upcoming translations into French (by the Canadian Translation Bureau), Spanish (by the University of Antioquia, Colombia), Dutch (by Lessius University College, Antwerp/Belgium). Further negotiations are underway for Hausa (Nigeria) and Arabic (Egypt).

Nicole Sévigny from PWGSC, Canada, also reports that the Guidelines are regarded in her country as extremely useful and are used by the various ministerial departments for the development of their national terminology policies.

WHO has also asked Infoterm to assist with the development of one or more terminology policies for their Member States.



A new work item proposal for an international standard based on the guidelines has been submitted to ISO/TC 37/ SC 1 in October 2006. After ballot and the hopefully favourable decision on the project, work will begin soon.

Terminology policies and planning were also a topic during the EAFT Summit (13-14 Nov., Brussels).

TermNet organized a workshop on terminology policies on 15 November 2006 as part of the NL-Term Conference "Terminology and Society: The impact of terminology on everyday life", Antwerp, 16-17 November 2006.

We would like to encourage all Infoterm members, who regard the Guidelines as a valuable tool and who would like to translate them into their language, to send an E-mail to our coordinator, Ms. Dorothée Eichfelder at Infoterm: deichfelder@infoterm.org

Calling a spade a spade: meaningful definitions of health conditions

Bedirhan T. Üstün & Robert Jakob

This issue of the Bulletin features an article on a new definition of "drowning" (1). Most of the time we intuitively know what drowning is until someone asks us explicitly to define it. In scientific research, meaningful definitions are essential for comparability and reproducibility. Drowning has been listed as the second leading cause of death from unintentional injury in WHO reports, after road traffic accidents (2). Many questions can be asked as to whether this is really the case in various countries, whether the data are comparable across cultures, and what can be done about it. Surely such a frequent event, with its serious consequences of death and disability, requires widespread public health attention, especially as drowning can be prevented by simple measures.

To take effective public health measures, solid monitoring and evaluation programmes are necessary, for which the definition of the concept must be clear. Be it drowning or any other condition, a definition should include a full conceptual representation as to what the condition includes: what it is, how it is generated, and also what it is not. In simple terms, drowning is the state in which a person cannot breathe because access to air is blocked by going under water or any other liquid.

The process may include various aspects such as voluntary stopping of breathing, lowering of oxygen in blood and subsequent bodily changes. Such definitions guide a more precise identification of the exact cause of death. The proposed definition of drowning will affect the international classifications of diseases (ICD) (3) and external causes of injuries (ICECI) (4), and in the future become part of them within the revision of the ICD. The impact of this definition on cause of death statistics will have to be analysed to reveal its implications for coding practice and monitoring purposes over time.

The task of incorporating such definitions into the classifications is, however, quite a complex one. The world of definitions is built on other definitions - for example, drowning is defined as "the process of experiencing respiratory impairment from submersion/immersion in liquid". The key concepts in this definition are "respiratory impairment", "submersion/immersion" and "liquid": respiratory impairment relates to multitude of conditions from inhaling air into the lungs to exchange of gases between air and blood, and exhaling air; many pathological events other than drowning may come under the heading of respiratory impairment; and the addition of submersion/immersion may indicate a causality or at least a temporal association. One can split hairs about definitions if they stand alone. The triangulation between the reality, the concept

and the definition lies in a multidimensional space of other definitions, concepts and entities. It is therefore important to create a set of coherent, internally consistent definitions within classifications that adequately represent the actual events.

The current situation in monitoring important causes of death suffers from the lack of appropriate definitions. Although there have been 150 years of history behind the ICD, most listed conditions are left without definitions. In many instances there are several coexisting definitions of diseases and other entities. The selection of a classification category then depends on the user's background. This situation leads to applications of different criteria and fuzzy statistical results.

Construction of modern classifications relies on consistent use of definitions that are operational and have logical properties allowing users to assess whether the condition meets the specified criteria - by quantitative parameters if possible. Broad experience from many different disciplines has led to a formalization of the process of defining entities in classifications with agreed definitions and ensuring its utility and applicability in several different settings. In the past, this consensus could have been achieved only through a complicated pattern of conferences. Today, there are not only information platforms that use discussion forums on the Internet to allow the active participation of the broadest possible spectrum of persons, but there are also "ontology" tools that define the style of the definitions in terms of their core meaning, operational characteristics, boundaries, exclusion conditions and relations with other concepts (5).

Linking classifications with definitions that are systematically generated using appropriate scientific standards is essential for health information systems. In this way, better monitoring and surveillance programmes could be generated and better evaluation of outcomes could be achieved so as to assess whether the prevention efforts make a difference. Of course, in many developing countries these statistics of death are lacking not only for drowning but also for all other conditions. It is an information paradox that a large number of deaths occur in developing countries but these countries often do not have very good data on the causes and distribution of deaths. Although the reasons for this information paradox may lie well beyond definitions, defining one's terms is a necessary first step.

REFERENCES:

1. van Beeck EF, Branche CM, Sypilman D, Modell JH, Bierens JJLM. A new definition of drowning: towards documentation and prevention of a global public health problem. *Bull World Health Organ* 2005;83:853–6.
2. WHO Factsheet on drowning. Geneva: World Health Organization. Available from: http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/publications/other_injury/en/drowning_factsheet.pdf
3. International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Health Related Problems ICD-10. 2nd ed. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2004.
4. International Classification of External Causes of Injuries (ICECI). Geneva: World Health Organization; 2004. Available from: <http://www.who.int/classifications/icd/adaptations/iceci/>
5. Protégé, University of Stanford, USA. See: www.protege.stanford.edu

This article has originally been published in the Bulletin of the World Health Organization, Vol. 83 No.11, Geneva, November 2005 (ISSN 0042-9686). Web version, available at: <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/83/11/en/index.html>
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NEWS

In every issue Infoterm compiles the most interesting news clippings from the press. If you come across further sources, please let us know: infopoint@infoterm.org

e-Civicus

The online magazine for international literature

Words Without Borders undertakes to promote international communication through the translation of the world's best writing, selected and translated by a distinguished group of writers, translators, and publishing professionals on the web. It also serves as an advocacy organisation for literature in translation, producing events that feature the work of foreign writers and connecting these writers to universities, and to print and broadcast media. For more information, see: www.wordswithoutborders.org

Digital Divide or Digital Solidarity: Bridging the gap between the information-rich and the information-starved

By Vicente García-Delgado, CIVICUS' UN Representative

At the UN DPI NGO 59th Annual Conference held in New York, 6-8 September 2006, Oscar A. Avalle of the World Bank related a funny personal episode: Along with a team of Bank experts, Mr. Avalle was meeting with members of a rural community in a remote region, the purpose of which was essentially to inform and educate the local people on the uses and benefits of ICTs. An elderly woman came forward and asked Mr. Avalle and the other experts whether they knew how to "raise pigs scientifically". The experts were taken aback by the question, exchanged blank looks, and had to admit that, no; they did not know how to raise pigs scientifically. Whereupon she told them to let her know when they find out. For more information, see www.civicus.org/new/content/monthcolintro25.htm

CIVICUS Poll Questions 18 September 2006

Each week, a new question is put to people around the world on the CIVICUS website.

Question: Do you think that civil society is doing enough to strengthen global ICT (Information and Communications Technology) policy formulation? **Results:** Yes: 11%, No: 86%, Don't Know: 3%

New Articles on Development Gateway

Afridigital -- Balancing Act News Update

<http://topics.developmentgateway.org/knowledge/rc/ItemDetail.do?itemId=1073970>

This is an online publication and resource portal from Balancing Act -- a company that seeks to facilitate the development of content on the internet and other new media from or about Africa. Of particular interest is a set of country ICT profiles....

Contributed by John Daly on 22 Sep. 2006

Memory of the information society

<http://topics.developmentgateway.org/knowledge/rc/ItemDetail.do?itemId=1073980>

PDF document - 100 pages. From the summary: "Unless decision-makers quickly show enough political will, and take measures commensurate with the issues at stake, there is a great risk that our entire information society will explode without leaving..."

Contributed by John Daly on 23 Sep. 2006

"Science in the Information Society"

<http://topics.developmentgateway.org/knowledge/rc/ItemDetail.do?itemId=1073986>

From the Overview: "The emergence of the information society is a revolution comparable to the deep transformation of the world engendered by the dual inventions of the alphabet and the printing press." Walter Erdelen (Assistant Director-General for...)

Contributed by John Daly on 23 Sep. 2006

ITU report: Progress made in bridging the digital divide

<http://topics.developmentgateway.org/knowledge/rc/ItemDetail.do?itemId=1074280>

The ITU report was unveiled during a special session on "Integrating Least Developed Countries (LDCs) into the world economy through telecommunications/ICT" in New York. According to the report, teledensity has more than doubled in the majority of...

Contributed by Thomas BEKKERS on 26 Sep. 2006

Elgg.net: An "online social network" for education practitioners

<http://topics.developmentgateway.org/knowledge/rc/ItemDetail.do?itemId=1074457>

Elgg.net defines itself as "the online social network for those interested in education, learning technology and new approaches to teaching and learning". visitors can subscribe to become members and will soon be able to open "Elgg spaces"...

Contributed by Thomas BEKKERS on 27 Sep , 2006

Brazil: Rediscovering the value of Intellectual Property Rights

<http://topics.developmentgateway.org/knowledge/rc/ItemDetail.do?itemId=1074005>

a new ITSSD article discusses how, by rediscovering the value of private intellectual property rights, Brazil can stimulate domestic innovation and generate economic growth while the government of Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva works...

Contributed by Lawrence A. Kogan on 23 Sep. 2006

"Status of Research on the Information Society"

<http://topics.developmentgateway.org/knowledge/rc/ItemDetail.do?itemId=1074139>

The report is divided into five sections: "Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Gender;" "Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in Media and Information Networks;" "Press Freedom and Freedom of Expression in the Information Society: Selected..."

Contributed by John Daly on 25 Sep. 2006

Knowledge society: The wikipedia definition

<http://topics.developmentgateway.org/knowledge/rc/ItemDetail.do?itemId=1074484>

From the summary: "Knowledge societies have the characteristic that knowledge forms major component of any activity, particularly economic activities. Economic, social, cultural, and all other human activities become dependent on a huge volume of..."

Contributed by Thomas BEKKERS on 27 Sep. 2006

Information technology strengthens local democracy!

<http://topics.developmentgateway.org/ict/rc/ItemDetail.do?itemId=1074692>

80 participants from some 20 countries met at the Council of European Municipalities and Regions' offices in Brussels for a seminar on new media and local democracy, on 21 September 2006. The seminar was co-organised by CEMR and its ELANET network...

Contributed by Giulia D'Amico on 29 Sep. 2006

IANIS+: European inter-regional networking programme

<http://topics.developmentgateway.org/ict/rc/ItemDetail.do?itemId=1074726>

IANIS+ is a very dynamic European programme which aims to further develop inter-regional networking in Europe by effective mechanisms to facilitate sharing information, experience and good practice between regions. The project aims to build a bridge...

Contributed by Thomas BEKKERS on 29 Sep. 2006

UNESCO***A Summary of relevant July – November 2006 Newsflashes*****Local language computing introduced in UNESCO supported CMCs in Nepal**

03-07-2006 (New Delhi) - Information today is an integral part of society and access to it is considered a basic human right. But a large section of the Nepali population is deprived of such access because they cannot overcome the English language barrier. As part of efforts to bridge this language gap, seventeen trainers and volunteers from UNESCO supported community multimedia centres in Nepal attended a two-day workshop on the application and installation of Nepalinux, an open source operating system. The training contributed to local language becoming the precursor to bridging the persisting digital and information gap.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=22503&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Pacific ICT for persons with disabilities workshop adopts Nadi Declaration

04-07-2006 (Apia) - ICT are among the best solutions to empower persons with disabilities" said the participants from Pacific countries at a three day ICT workshop in Nadi, Fiji, while urging governments to adopt ICT accessibility guidelines. In the so-called "Nadi Declaration", which the participants adopted at end of the event, they stressed that ICTs are "opening up opportunities for employment at all skill levels and opportunities to live independently in the community".

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=22512&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Voices of people with disabilities

07-07-2006 (New Delhi) - Eight people with disabilities now have an opportunity to voice their issues using community multimedia centres (CMCs) in Nepal after a recent training workshop on audio production and new technologies.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=22532&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

UNESCO launches Young Digital Creators Educator's Kit

11-07-2006 (Paris) - Enabling young people to using ICT creatively to address global challenges of development, cultural diversity and inter-cultural dialogue is the aim of UNESCO's Young Digital Creators Educator's Kit that is now online available.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=22530&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Free and open source software on agenda of workshops in Addis Ababa

17-07-2006 (Addis Ababa) - A series of workshops on free and open source software tools and related policy issues targeting policy-makers, information professionals and development workers took place in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=22553&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

United Nations Group on the Information Society launched with UNESCO's participation

20-07-2006 (Geneva) - Implementation of the outcomes of the recently concluded World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) gathered momentum with the launch of the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS). High level representatives of twenty-two UN agencies met on Friday, 14 July 2006 at ITU Headquarters in Geneva under the chairmanship of ITU Secretary-General Yoshio Utsumi to facilitate the process.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=22585&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

New version of web portal for youth in Arab region launched

21-07-2006 (Rabat) - The web portal <http://www.jeunessearabe.info>, dedicated to the youth living in the Arab region, has just revamped its design and content outlay.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=22583&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

UNESCO Guide "Citizens and Media" published in French

27-07-2006 (Paris) - UNESCO just released a practical guide for fostering the dialogue between citizens and media entitled "Citizens and media" authored by Jamal Eddine Naji, the holder of the UNESCO/ORBICOM chair in Rabat, in cooperation with Moroccan Organization of Human Rights (OMDH).

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=22579&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Partners sought to translate open learning resource kit for street children in Africa

28-07-2006 (Paris) - An interesting CD-ROM with learning resources in Amharic for street children was just released by the Forum on Street Children in Ethiopia and BBC; it was prepared together with the concerned young people. Partners are now being sought to translate the kit into other languages.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=22606&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

UNESCO supports organization of community of practice on local e-governance

01-08-2006 (Paris) - UNESCO, through its Information for All Programme, will soon launch an international "community of practice" on local e-government, thanks to the Spanish Government funding a series of UNESCO e-government projects.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=22607&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

"Gateway to Global Culture" site launched

02-08-2006 (Paris/Boston) - Global Memory Net, an online image library and gateway to cultural, historical, and heritage images around the world, has just been launched with a number of collections included in UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=22616&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Linux/FOSS Training and FOSS policy workshop

03-08-2006 (Addis Ababa) - On Monday 10 July, the Ethiopian Free and Open Source Software Network (EFOSSNET) launched a series of workshops targeting policy-makers, information professionals and development workers on FOSS tools and policy issues.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=22617&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Telecentres help put computers to work for small business in Malanville

14-08-2006 (Paris) - UNESCO alongside other partners like the Government of Benin, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and UNDP supported a training course offered by the Malanville Community Telecentre.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=22676&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Russian and Spanish Versions of UNESCO's Guide to Community Multimedia Centres Now Available

15-08-2006 (Paris) - UNESCO is now releasing the Russian and Spanish versions of "How To Get Started And Keep Going: A Guide to Community Multimedia Centres."

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=22552&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

World Conference on Open Learning and Distance Education this year in Brazil

24-08-2006 (Paris) - UNESCO is one of the co-sponsors of the 22nd World Conference on Distance Education, that the International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE) and the Brazilian Distance Education Association organized from 3 to 6 September 2006 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=22438&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

New publication on using ICT to develop literacy

25-08-2006 (Bangkok) - A concise overview on the issue of literacy and on how ICT can be used to improve literacy education provides a new UNESCO publication entitled "Using ICT to Develop Literacy".

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=22536&URL_DO=DO_PRINTPAGE&URL_SECTION=201.html

UNESCO and IFLA to establish strategic alliance to implement Plan of Action of World Summit of the Information Society

29-08-2006 (Paris) - In a bid to foster the role of libraries as key players in building people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented knowledge societies, UNESCO and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) will establish a strategic alliance as part of their contribution to implement the decisions of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=22705&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Mozambican government endorses the CMC model in new science and technology strategy

07-09-2006 (Maputo) - Mozambique's new 10-Year Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation gives full backing and priority to the expansion of community multimedia centres and other related initiatives in the country.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=22737&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Training of trainers on Microsoft Unlimited Potential curriculum in Senegal

11-09-2006 (Paris) - In the framework of the Community Multimedia Centers (CMC) project, UNESCO in collaboration with Microsoft organized in Dakar from 24 to 29 July 2006 a workshop for training trainers in the use of Microsoft courseware.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=22706&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

UNESCO supported publication looks at young people and media in the digital age

19-09-2006 (Paris) - "In the Service of Young People? Studies and Reflections on Media in the Digital Age" is the title of a UNESCO supported publication that was recently launched by the International Clearinghouse on Children, Youth and Media.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=22776&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Tanzania contributes funds to UNESCO's Information for All Programme

22-09-2006 (Paris) - The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania recently made a contribution to UNESCO's Information for All Programme in support to promoting universal access to information and knowledge for development.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=22819&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Work on UNESCO's ICT Competency Standards for Teachers enters final phase

10-10-2006 (Paris) - A groundbreaking international standard for integrating ICTs in teaching, will soon be available as the extensive work on the "ICT Competency Standards for Teachers" that UNESCO is preparing together with several partners from academia and the private sector including Microsoft, Intel and Cisco, enters its final phase.
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=23023&URL_DO=DO_PRINTPAGE&URL_SECTION=201.html

Raising awareness about Information Literacy

18-10-2006 (Bangkok) - A UNESCO guide outlining *Principles of Awareness-Raising for Information Literacy*, is now available for administrators, librarians, teachers, lecturers and community leaders.
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=23312&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

UNESCO supports Caribbean indigenous and endangered languages portal

07-11-2006 (Kingston) - UNESCO and University of West Indies Language Unit launch the first authoritative website on Caribbean Indigenous and Endangered Languages (CIEL). The website showcases and promotes the preservation of over 20 indigenous languages in the region.
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=23354&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

UNESCO-SALIS workshop to build capacity of educators for the disabled

09-11-2006 (New Delhi) - The Society for the Advancement of Library and Information Science (SALIS), in collaboration with UNESCO and the Madras School of Social Work (MSSW), is organizing a Workshop on Information Literacy Competency Development for Library and Information Science Professionals and Special Educators at MSSW, Chennai, India, on 6-10 November 2006.
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=23343&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

New higher education institutions portal on agenda of UNESCO experts meeting today and tomorrow

13-11-2006 (Paris) - Free of charge, easy to access and searchable, these are the characteristics of a future "UNESCO Portal on Recognized Higher Education Institutions" that experts meeting today and tomorrow at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris.
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=23433&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Kofi Annan: Make the Internet available to everyone

15-11-2006 (New York) - Access to information technology creates opportunity for all, especially persons with disabilities, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan says in a message for the International Day of Disabled Persons, observed on 3 December under the theme "E-accessibility".
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=23451&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Abdul Waheed Khan to receive Dayawati Modi Award today

17-11-2006 (Paris) - The prestigious 'Dayawati Modi Award for Art, Culture and Education' for the year 2006 was given to Abdul Waheed Khan, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, at a ceremony in New Delhi, India, on 17 November.
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=23460&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

UN hosts conference aimed at using information technology to boost development

23-11-2006 (New York) - Service-oriented ICT, website evaluation, multilingual websites, accessibility and Internet broadcasting are all topics being discussed at the third annual Web for Development (Web4Dev) Conference that ended yesterday at UN Headquarters in New York.
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=23481&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

UNESCO and US Library of Congress host meeting on World Digital Library project

01-12-2006 (Paris) - UNESCO and the Library of Congress will host today at UNESCO Paris Headquarters a meeting to pave the way for the launch of a World Digital Library, an internet-based repository of knowledge from all cultures and in all languages.
http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=23521&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html