

# Applications of Mobile Communications in Africa: Prospects and Challenges

Mobile communications has been advancing at a fast pace in Africa and is increasingly used as technology platforms for meeting challenges in other fields such as health, education, banking, etc. Though a decade of innovative public sector reforms in Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) sectors of sub-Saharan Africa has brought enormous developments and prospects, there's room for further development. Most of the African economies have also been expanding over the same period, which implies that the consumer base is still expanding, and there exists enormous opportunities for mobile and internet sub-sectors.

The mobile markets in the sub-Saharan Africa are very competitive with multiplicity of network operators in each country. Investors from across the world are keeping a watch over the events in the sub-region as new and innovative service offerings are being rolled out year after year.

Africa is the second most populous region of the world with over 1 billion inhabitants. Though there has been tremendous growth rates for mobile communications, coupled with some fiber optic cables being laid, market penetration rates for fixed telephony, mobile communications and broadband internet remain relatively low.

Thus, real digital opportunities for deployment and utilization in areas such as e-learning, e-health and e-governance, etc. are presented to promote higher literacy, healthy, and well informed societies. It is, therefore, imperative that sub-Saharan Africa positions itself to participate and utilize the ever-evolving opportunities in health delivery, e-learning endeavors, e-Commerce, e-Governance, etc.

The conference on 'Applications of Mobile Communications in Africa: Prospects and Challenges' examines these issues regarding the development of mobile communications – markets, regulations, business strategies – as well as issues relating to the use of mobile communications for economic, social, and human development.

Participants will come from academia, business, and policy and regulation. Furthermore, the idea is to benefit from input from speakers and participants from Africa as well as Europe. There is a need for Africa to partner and establish cooperation with their European counterparts in the areas of research and development, deployment and operations, consultancies and education, as well as learning best practices.

## Conference Objectives

The main objectives of this conference are:

- To discuss the developments of mobile communications with respect to market developments, policies and regulation, and business potentials and strategies;

- To examine the need for and use of ICT by educators, health care workers, government officials, business men, researchers, etc. in the sub-region;
- To explore ways in which technologies are used and assessed in diverse fields of education, health care, governance, businesses, social networks, banking & finance;
- To assess recent methods that enhance access to mobile communications, education, health services, government services, business services such as distance education, computer-based communication methods, telemedicine, e-Commerce, Face Booking, etc.;

### Who Should Attend

Faculty, Teachers, Researchers, Policy makers and Regulators, Health practitioners, Business professionals, ICT practitioners, Instructional designers, Media specialists and producers, Distance learning directors, Technology & Service providers

### Topics will include – but not limited to the following:

- Mobile Communications
- Mobile broadband
- Information Systems
- Role of Internet Providers (ISPs)
- Application of Information Systems in Government and Businesses
- Age and Gender Issues in the Use of Information Systems
- Digital Library, Distance Learning, e-Learning systems & technologies
- E-Health & e-Governance
- Databases, Storage & Retrieval systems (e.g. Cloud Computing)
- Cyber-security – governance, risk & compliance (GRC), cyber-crime.
- E-Commerce & e-Banking in developing economies
- Social engineering and social networking – prospects and challenges
- Policy & Regulatory environment.

### Important Dates:

- Deadline for Abstracts: February 15, 2013.
- Notification of Acceptance: March 15, 2013.
- Deadline for Full Papers: May 2, 2013.

*Note: Selected papers will be published in a special edition of Nordic- and Baltic Journal of ICT.  
Please visit the conference website for further details ([www.ghanaictconf.com](http://www.ghanaictconf.com))*