

## African Business Incubation network

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With first email communication the Africa Incubator Network began to develop. Steve Giddings from SABTIA, South Africa took initiative to begin building a foundation for such a network. And found quite much interest. Interested in membership are, for example Aziz Rabbah, Morocco, ICT advisor to the Prime Minister in the Ministry of Economic and General Affairs; Busi Ndlovu-Bhebhe, South Africa, Corporate Affairs Manager at the Embizeni Innovation Support Centre in Durban; Chinedu Okpaleke, Nigeria, project co-ordinator of the Nigeria Development Gateway; Dunwell Eku, Ghana, over 20 years experience in small enterprise development; Lesley Dadoo, Ghana, who along with colleagues Mark Davies and Estelle Akofio-Sowah run BusyInternet. You can learn more about Estelle and BusyInternet by visiting the infoDev website ([www.infodev.org](http://www.infodev.org)). Mamadou Falilou Sarr and Mame Gnagna Fall, Senegal who are involved in the National Council of Negro Women initiative to develop a business incubator in Senegal; Micugu Wagatharia, CEO of Midafrica Technologies and serves on the technical committee of the Kenya Country Business Incubator; Roshan Seebaluck and colleagues Kheeran Badoor and Ingrid Lamothe, Mauritius who are involved in the ICT Incubator Centre operated by the National Computer Board. Since inception 17 enterprises have benefited from the services and facilities offered by the Centre and four start-ups have successfully graduated. At least 90 jobs have been created too! Their website is at <http://incubator.intnet.mu>; Shem Ochuodho, Kenya, chairman and founder of the African Regional Centre for Computing in Nairobi.

As one of the first initiatives of the network more comprehensive information on incubation practices should be collected. A basis for this might be the Incubator Toolkit at <http://toolkit.idisc.net>. This infoDev sponsored initiative provides information on everything from planning an incubator to evaluating it - and with articles, templates and references to other information, it really is a good site to bookmark. Another plan is to develop a Africa Incubator Network website to allow posting new, events and documents and to engage network participants in discussion forums.