

# Preface

Africa is a continent of diversity that is going through dramatic changes in its social, political, and economical environments. Deploying efficient and effective infrastructures and solutions when limited resources are available is a challenging task, but a key-enabler for the diffusion of ICT.

AFRICOMM conference addresses the communication part of this deployment, which is characterized by transformation from satellite based to a terrestrial infrastructure, starting from the intercontinental submarine cables to the national backbones and then on to the distribution and access networks, not least into rural areas. In the end, the potential users need to adapt their working procedures to take advantage of the benefits of ICT.

The economical challenges include reducing operational and capital cost to provide affordable connectivity to all. Services must be adapted to local needs, and business concepts must meet local requirements. The technical challenges include not only the ICT aspects, but also reliable power supply.

The aim of the AFRICOMM 2014 conference was bringing together international researchers, students, public officers, policy makers, and practitioners in ICT to discuss issues and trends, recent research, innovation advances, and on-the-field experiences related to e-Infrastructures and e-Services with a focus on developing countries. Thus, the conference is a platform where new ideas are tested, evaluated, discussed, and challenged.

This volume of papers testifies to the exemplary diversity of the various topics presented and discussed, providing a unique insight into appropriate technology and practice. Let these conference proceedings of be a milestone and empowerment for cultural aligned practices in e-Infrastructure and e-Services in developing countries.

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