Call for applications for online course participants

The Capacity Development Programme aims to assist ACP (African, Caribbean, and Pacific) countries in Information and Communication Technologies Policy and Internet Governance (March-August 2011).

DiploFoundation announces the opening of the call for applications for participants for the 2011 **Online Foundation Course in Internet Governance** of the ACP Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Internet Governance (IG) Capacity Development Programme, to all government and sub-regional/regional institutions involved in ICT and IG policy as well as civil society, business, academia, media and other interested individuals or groups from **ACP countries**. The call for applications will be open from **15 January until 12 February 2011**. This online component of the programme is designed to improve IG and ICT policy-related knowledge and skills of participants. The programme also facilitates community building among individuals with different national, cultural and professional backgrounds.

With the collaboration of seven ACP partner institutions, the two-year (2009-2011) project has been training key beneficiaries and institutions who are addressing IG and ICT policy issues at national, regional and global levels (**http://www.diplomacy.edu/acp**) since September 2009.

The programme

The 2011 programme offers 75 places for professionals from diverse stakeholder backgrounds in IG- and ICT-related fields and is open to all ACP nationals.

The Foundation Course will be conducted entirely online and will be followed by a second course on ICT Strategy (for which a separate call for applications will be issued).

The 12-week **Foundation Course in Internet Governance (7 March–31 May)**, introduces IG policy, and covers five thematic areas: *Infrastructure and Standardisation, Legal, Economic, Sociocultural, and Development*, and a section on IG processes and actors. Discussions will cover issues such as broadband policy; management of domain names and IP addresses, including the transition from IPv4 to IPv6; network neutrality; jurisdiction, intellectual property rights, open source and peer-to-peer sharing; privacy protection; data security and cybersecurity; child protection; human rights; content management; digital signatures; and other topics, with space for regional and other issues raised by the participants.

Learning activities take place in an online classroom and include the analysis of course materials; interactive group discussions using a variety of communication tools, assignments, and exams; and other dynamic methodologies. Successful participants of the Foundation Course will receive a certificate of completion.

An 8-week online course on **developing and implementing national/regional ICT policy and strategic plans (13 June–12 August)**, will follow shortly afterwards and will have a separate application process. Advanced modules will also be offered in Infrastructure, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), Security, Privacy, and E-participation. A second call for applications will be announced for this course. Priority will be given to successful participants from the Foundation Course.

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An optional, award-based policy immersion phase offers capacity building fellowships to a selected number of the most successful participants in the programme, such as internships with partner organisations or attendance at regional IG and ICT policy-related meetings. The flexible timing of this phase depends on fellowship, partner, and participant availability, and may extend beyond the programme dates if agreed by all parties.

Languages

Programme materials and the online classroom website are in English.

In addition to English-speaking groups, a bilingual group may be formed for the Foundation Course, having English as the primary language, and either Arabic, French, Spanish or Portuguese as the secondary language for communication and interaction. This option may be offered depending on the needs of the applicants.

Target audience

DiploFoundation seeks applications from the following categories of individuals:

- officials in government ministries and departments dealing with Information Society, Internet and ICT-related issues (e.g. telecommunications, education, foreign affairs, justice);
- officials in regulatory authorities or institutions dealing with Information Society, Internet and ICT-related issues;
- postgraduate students, academics and researchers in the IG field (e.g. in telecommunications, electrical engineering, law, economics, development studies);
- civil society activists in the IG and Information Society fields;
- journalists covering IG issues; and
- individuals in Internet-business fields (e.g. ISPs, software developers).

Timeline

- 15 January 2010 call for applications begins
- 12 February 2010 call for applications ends
- 21 February 2010 selection results
- 7 March-31 May 2010 – Foundation Course in Internet Governance
- 13 June-12 August – ICT Strategy Course

Scholarships and fees

This course is part of a two-year capacity building project for ACP (Africa/Caribbean/Pacific) countries under the @CP-ICT Programme financed from the 9th European Development Fund (EDF). Course fees for eligible participants will be covered by the @CP-ICT Programme Budget. All applicants from ACP countries who are accepted for the course will receive full scholarships.

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Requirements

Applicants are required to have:

- a basic awareness of and an interest in issues related to the Information Society, ICT, and IG;
- knowledge and/or experience of the multistakeholder approach in international affairs;
- fluency in English, as well as fluency in French for applicants to the bilingual group;
- good writing skills, and the ability to summarise information and focus on details;
- regular access to the Internet (dial-up connection is sufficient);
- **a minimum of 10 hours to commit per week during each phase of the programme; this is perhaps the single most important requirement and should be evaluated seriously by any potential applicant; and**
- the readiness to participate in online consultations (once a week at specified times).

Deadline

The deadline for applications is 12 February 2011, midnight UTC/GMT.

How to apply

To apply, fill in the registration form **here**. For more information, please visit **http://www.diplomacy.edu/acp**.

For further information about DiploFoundation's Internet Governance Capacity Building Programme, visit **http://www.diplomacy.edu/ig**

Do not hesitate to contact us at **acpinfo@diplomacy.edu**.

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