

## **Press Release – AfrinIC awards prize for the best open source software**

AfrinIC, the Regional Internet Registry for Africa, has awarded a special prize to Mr. Nouhoun Yedidya Diarra as the programmer of the best open source software in the context of the Best Open Source Project contest, which took place during the ‘Rencontres Africaines du Logiciels Libre’s 2007 event (RALL 2007) at the Golden Tulip Farah Hotel in Rabat, Morocco.

The project that has been awarded is a call centre management software. As mentioned by Pierre Ouedraogo, chair of the event: “Africa will benefit from these open source based applications for two reasons; firstly they are free and secondly; they are developed by the African community that understand the specificities of African organisations.”

The prize, which is a fellowship amounting to US\$ 2500, will cover the winner’s participation to the IETF-72 meeting which will take place from 27<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August 2008.

‘We need to have more people from the continent participant in the IETF.’ Adiel Akplogan, CEO of AfrinIC said. ‘This is the first time that AfrinIC is providing a fellowship to a person to attend an IETF meeting, and we are planning to expand this program to support and better expose engineers from Africa to international Internet technical forum. The IETF will provide a good exposure to Mr. Diarra on the latest development in the Internet field.’

AfrinIC is a non-governmental and not-for-profit membership based organisation. Its main role is to serve Africa region as Regional Internet Registry, like the four other continents which have their own RIR.

AfrinIC’s mission is “To provide professional and efficient distribution of Internet number resources to the African Internet community, to support Internet technology usage and development across the continent and strengthen self Internet governance in Africa by encouraging a participative policy development.”

The RALL events now constitute one of the largest African meetings for open source applications. RALL 2007 was organised by the Department of Post, Telecommunications and IT in partnership with the African Association of Open Source Applications (l’Association Africaine des Utilisateurs de Logiciels Libres - AAUL) and the Institute de la Francophonie Numerique (Institut de la Francophonie Numerique -IFN)

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