SANGONeT: SOUTHERN AFRICAN NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION NETWORK

ANRIETTE ESTERHUYSEN
Sangonet, P O Box 31, Johannesburg, 2000, SA

WHAT IS SANGONeT?

SANGONeT is a regional electronic information and communications network for development and human rights workers. SANGO-NeT is the Internet service provider with a difference - we aim to promote development and social justice through affordable and accessible communications and information. We aim to service the specific needs of NGO's - nongovernmental organisations - and CBO's - community-based organisations - in using the Internet. SANGONeT currently serves a user community of 600 people and organisations working in development in the region. SAN-GONeT is a cooperative, decentralised and non-profit organisation designed to bring development and social justice information to NGOs via computers at affordable costs.

SANGONeT IS DIFFERENT BECAUSE

- We deliver relevant information to NGO's and CBO's
- We enable development workers to communicate electronically with each other
- We encourage "open government" and provide access to government information
- We provide extensive support, training, demonstrations and discussions to empower people to use electronic information in their work for economic and social justice

SANGONeT's software, InterACT offers full Internet access, which means that not only can users send email to anyone with an email address, they can access any public information via gopher, ftp, telnet, WWW and conferences. This service provides access to vital sources of information such as SABINET (South African Bibliographic Information Network), the ANC Information Service, the Weekly Mail archives and many other national and international online databases, conferences and newsgroups.

ASSOCIATION FOR PROGRESSIVE COMMUNICATIONS

SANGONeT is the South African member of the APC (Association for Progressive Communications). This gives SANGONeT members access to the information available in the many APC conferences. These conferences cover topics on the environment, social and economic justice, development, women's issues and human rights and provide an excellent forum for the exchange of information and the sharing of ideas on a regional and global level - "Information for Action".

Because SANGONeT is committed to development in the whole of the southern African region, we provide an international gateway for Fidonet networks in Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia and Zambia. Our Fidonet service is primarily used by NGO and academic networks in southern African countries, and other users who are located in remote rural areas with noisy and unreliable phone lines.

SANGONeT's SERVICES

Information

Finding information on the Internet can be a complex and time-consuming task, and most of us do not have time to spare. SANGONeT can help you to access the information you need to do your work more effectively. We can help tailor searches to suit your needs, and guide you to information sites on the Internet which will be useful to you.

By dialling into SANGONeT you will immediately find the following information available:

- African National Congress Information
- Reconstruction and Development Programme information
- Documents issued by government
- Legislation
- Directory information - names, addresses and programme information on South African NGO's, and international and local donors
- Management resources for NGOs-handbooks and reference lists on financial management, fundraising, evaluation and strategic planning
- The Weekly Mail Archive - a keyword searchable database of back issues of South Africa's foremost weekly newspaper
- International development information

Electronic Publishing on SANGONeT

SANGONeT provides the opportunity for organisations to publish their information electronically. You can publish documents produced by your organisation such as newsletters. policy documents, journal articles, briefings, summaries and proposals. You can also raise the profile of your organisation by posting information about the organisation: your mission. your projects, your achievements and your branches and affiliates. Through electronic publishing you can extend the effectiveness of your work, create a greater awareness of the issues and become known globally. You can put your organisation on the information highway.

Communication services

E-mail is a dynamic and immediate way of communicating privately with people all over the world at very low cost. You can mail to individuals or groups of people on any network in the world. You can also send and receive computer files, e.g. documents created in word processing or database applications.

Support

SANGONeT gives support on all aspects of service. from how to use the technology to

how to find information. Users can call in for help from all parts of the country on our toll free support numbers. Our back-up services include technical support and advice in the effective use and management of information on the network.

Training

SANGONeT offers weekly training sessions to our members at an introductory and advanced level - for training in Gauteng you can simply book for any Friday morning. Training sessions are held periodically in other parts of the country. We also offer training courses tailored to suit the needs of your organisation and have a fully equipped training room at our Johannesburg office.

Internet demonstrations and discussions forums

Because the Internet is new to many of us, SANGONeT does free weekly demonstrations to orient people to the internet and to help organisations see how electronic networking can benefit their work.

SANGONeT regularly holds public discussion forums on a variety of topics related to networking. These are introduced by experts in the field who will answer questions. Discussions have included: "An introduction to the Internet" and "Untangling the Web".

WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN SANGONeT?

Firstly, SANGONeT provides organisations and individuals with THREE POWERFUL TOOLS:

- A way to communicate easily at low cost
- Immediate access to relevant information
- An Electronic Publishing service

Secondly, SANGONeT makes it easier to plan, execute and evaluate your work; write thoughtful funding proposals and reports; develop relationships with funders; build local, national and international networks; find consultants; and meet your and your clients' information needs.

Thirdly, you can COMMUNICATE easily, frequently, inexpensively, and confidentially (each user has a unique ID).

Fourthly, SANGONeT will help you to find the INFORMATION you need, update it regularly and explore new areas of information with ease.

Fifthly, SANGONeT enables you to PUBLISH information easily and cheaply and will assist you in doing this by creating a WWW page, setting up a gopher and/or creating a conference.

Sixth, our SUPPORT AND TRAINING is friendly, efficient and empowering and we provide an excellent, easy to use package of Internet software.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO JOIN SANGONeT?

All you need is a computer, a modem and access to a telephone line. SANGONeT software is available in DOS and Windows versions. We will supply the software and a customised manual. SANGONeT staff will help you install the software and train you to use the network effectively. If you need any advice regarding communications hardware or software simply give us a call. For more information, or a demonstration, contact Anriette - anriette@wn.apc.org or Fatima - fatima@wn.apc.org if you have an email account, or call us at 011 838 6943/4. You can also reach us by fax at 011 492 1058.

Cost of subscribing to SANGONeT

Initial Startup Fee	R250 - includes software, manual and training
Monthly suscription	R50
Online time per hour	R4 per hour