Due to high interest in

'ICT: Africa's Revolutionary Tools for the 21st Century?'

a new date and new venue have been arranged to meet demand…

4th-5th May 2010
John McIntyre Conference Centre, University of Edinburgh

Call for Papers deadline: 25th February

Confirmed speakers:
- (Keynote) **Jonathan Donner**, Technology for Emerging Markets Group, Microsoft Research India
- (Keynote) **David Souter**, Managing Director, ict Development Associates; Visiting Professor in Communications Management, University of Strathclyde; Visiting Senior Fellow, Department of Media and Communications, London School of Economics and Political Science
- **Ken Banks**, kiwanja.net
- **Mirjam de Bruin**, African Studies Centre, Leiden
- **Fredrick Agboma**, IDPM, University of Manchester
- **Gina Porter**, Department of Anthropology, University of Durham
- **Naluwembe Binaisa**, School of Global Studies, University of Sussex
- **Chester Shaba**, Institute of Education, University of Stirling   *and more speakers to follow . . .*

New information and communication technologies (ICTs) have taken Africa by storm. By far the highest uptake has been of mobile phones, and while rates of internet uptake in Africa have been slower, in many countries technologies that enable mobile internet access are now beginning to enter the mass market. New applications, and in some cases new devices, are also being introduced, at times in partnership between technology companies and development agencies. ICT seemingly embraces every aspect of the development spectrum, and has led to increased academic interest in the Information and Communication Technology for Development, or ICTD/ICT4D discipline. At the same time, many Africans are using ICT – especially mobile phones – for less explicitly developmental, everyday communication that was otherwise impossible when landlines, the postal service or buses were the best options for communicating at a distance. Nowadays mobile phones are being used for more frequent communication, often over much shorter distances, and may prove to change interrelationships – not least between state and non-state actors – in unexpected ways. With this in mind, the Centre of African Studies is calling for papers that address the conference title, 'ICT: Africa's Revolutionary Tools for the 21st Century?'.

Given the broad range of uses to which ICT are put, the conference organisers welcome papers that relate to the use or potential of ICT in influencing change in Africa. Papers may wish to address issues of access, adoption, or impact, and may be framed in any discipline. Topics might include, but need not be restricted to: health (including veterinary science), education/learning, livelihoods and socio-economic interaction, finance (including money transfer), culture, media, governance, or any other aspect of empowerment. Papers covering other topics will also be considered, and both theory-based and empirical papers covering any region or country in sub-Saharan Africa are welcome.

To meet the high demand from participants, the conference will now take place at the University of Edinburgh's brand new John McIntyre Conference Centre. Funding will be available for a limited number of individuals presenting papers, with priority given to presenters based in Africa. Presented papers will be considered for inclusion in a peer-reviewed journal special edition. Attendance is open to all, although the number of prospective self-funded attendees who are not presenting papers may be restricted. Conference fees are £60 (students £30) – further details at the conference website: www.cas.ed.ac.uk/events/annual_conference/2010.

Those who are interested in presenting a paper should send an abstract of no more than 300 words in simple Word format to African.Studies@ed.ac.uk, placing 'ICT' in the subject heading. With the conference date now set at 4th-5th May, the abstract submission deadline is now **25th February** 2010 and those who have submitted abstracts will be notified shortly after this date.