



**OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE TANZANIA KNOWLEDGE NETWORK, NEW AFRICA HOTEL,
DAR ES SALAAM, 30TH JANUARY 2009 AT 9.30 AM**

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PRESS RELEASE

The Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) will launch the Tanzania Knowledge Network (TAKNET) at the New Africa Hotel, Dar es Salaam, on Friday, the 30th January, 2009 from 9.30 am to 11.00 am. This programme is supported by the United Nations through its Joint Programme on Capacity Development under one UN initiative.

The Tanzania Knowledge Network (TAKNET) will provide Tanzanians with a facility for sharing information and knowledge on various pertinent agenda of social and economic development, using state-of-the-art technology. The objective of the network is to avail an opportunity to interested parties and stakeholders to discuss at length development issues critical for the country's development course, and encourage sharing of experiences and research outputs thereby promoting effective utilization of knowledge for development.

The network expects to close the gaps related to knowledge generation, knowledge sharing and utilization among Tanzanians. This platform is further expected not only to generate new knowledge, but also to disseminate and influence the use of knowledge to enhance the country's growth and development.

The network targets decision makers from various key organisations, government officials, development partners, academicians, and researchers, thus is a medium for the creation of stronger partnerships. Organisations are encouraged to partner with ESRF in making the network as effective as possible.

To start with TAKNET has come up with three moderated topics that will attract attention of contributor and other users.

1. The first topic will deliberate on "divergence between growth and poverty Reduction in Tanzania" The objective of this topic is to uncover the barriers which have been obstructing spillovers from economic growth achieved in Tanzania since early 1990s, thus permitting trickle down of the benefits
2. The second topic will deliberate on "the role of information and communication technology in enhancing the livelihoods of the rural poor". This topic intends to generate discussion and collect peoples' opinion on the role ICT can play in the livelihood of the rural poor. And provide recommendations on what should be done to enable the rural poor harness fully the opportunities that come with the development of ICT.
3. Third topic is on "Incentive Package for FDI in Tanzania" This is part of a larger ongoing debate on Investment climate in the country. This topic will dwell on issues such as FDI incentive package, capital investment for foreign investors in the country and investor access to land and many other related issues.

These and many other issues are highly debatable. We invite you to join into discussion in these or other related matters of your concern. Information debated herein will be analyzed and a summary report shall be produced out of such analysis.

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