FACT SHEET FOR THE 2005 ICT STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION

"We are proud to launch the ICT Design Competition as a way to address inclusion of the "Graying Society" in the Information Society. Fostering practical research among the next generation of ICT designers and developers provides a unique opportunity to stimulate new thinking and globally to showcase meaningful solutions that enhance the quality of life for all ages."
Competition Chair: H.E. Dr. Leonel Fernandez, President of Dominican Republic

WHY A COMPETITION?

As 1.2 million people monthly turn 60 worldwide, new solutions and products are essential for that "Global Sleeping Giant: The Agequake," which is fast approaching. By 2050 the number of people over 60 will reach 2 billion and older persons will out-number children (1-14) by a ratio of 2:1.

In response to this the International Council for Caring Communities (ICCC) has organized the first worldwide ICT Competition focused on "ICT for All Generations". The competition is concerned to:

• **Stimulate** a bridge between research and practice. Future Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) professionals and researchers will be sensitized to the opportunities and responsibilities of enhancing the quality of life for a "graying society."

• **Promote** dialogue and solutions concerning older persons. The core opportunity will be through an event at the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Tunisia in November 2005 where the context winners will be announced. This event will be attended by decision-makers, world leaders, ICT experts, government officials, academics, media, NGOs and the private sector.

• **Challenge** students working with (ICTs) to apply their creative talents. Students from around the world are being asked to develop solutions towards integrating older persons into the fabric of the community and fully include them in all social, cultural and productive activities.

• **Emphasize** the message that the next generation must, and can, proactively plan for a society of diverse ages. It is, after all, going to fall on their shoulders to find solutions for sustaining ageing society and "converting" it into a society for all ages.

• **Harness** information technologies as instruments of social cohesion and social inclusion. In this sense, ICT enabled opportunities must be built for all generations at the grass-roots level and as elements of ICT strategies at local, city, national, sub-regional, regional and national levels.

COMPETITION DETAILS

Eligibility
Undergraduate and graduate students concerned with the design, development or implementation are eligible to submit projects.

Deadlines
Entry Forms are due by May 31, 2005. Competition entries are due by September 1, 2005.

Jury
ICT experts, gerontologists, United Nations experts and representatives of global organizations will judge the projects in September 2005.

Awards
First Prize: US $10,000, Second Prize: US $5,000; Third Prize: US $2,500. The prizes will be awarded in two categories:
- best hardware or software development supportive of ICT use, access or inclusion by older persons
- best or most innovative application including training or content related development supportive of "effective use" by older persons of ICTs.

At least three more projects in each category will receive Honourable Mentions. Finalists will be announced and prizes presented during the World Summit for the Information Society, (WSIS) Tunis, 13 thru 15, November 2005.

Exhibitions
An Exhibition of the project and the winning entries will be held in various related venues worldwide. The first exhibition is to be held at WSIS in November 2005. A further exhibition will be held at the United Nations Headquarters during the Commission for Social Development February 2006 (attended by 200 Government delegations from both the public and private sectors).

MAJOR PARTNERS (AS OF OCTOBER 2004)
United Nations ICT Task Force
The UN's Programme on Ageing
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
UN Department of Public Information (DPI)
The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Inter-American Development Bank
New Jersey Institute of Technology
(Global) Community Informatics Research Network

ABOUT THE ORGANISER
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CARING COMMUNITIES
Mainstream ageing issues, especially within the areas of the built environment and information, and communication technologies are the centerpieces of ICCC's endeavors. The ICCC serves not only as a leader and a catalyst, but it also is a bridge joining universities, government agencies, the private sector, and NGOs as well as UN agencies to promote a Society for All Generations.

For more information please contact: