

## Press Release

Contact: Niamh Brannigan  
Phone: (+254) 726 173 705  
**For Immediate Release**

### GESCI LAUNCHES AS AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

NAIROBI, KENYA, SEPTEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2011:

GESCI, Founded by the UN ICT Task Force 2003, has been awarded international status by the government of Kenya. GESCI will launch as an International organization at 12.30pm on September 29<sup>th</sup> at the Internet Governance Forum in Nairobi where the Kenya Minister for Education will congratulate GESCI on its achievement.



Jerome Morrissey GESCI CEO

Founded with a mandate to contribute to the development of **Knowledge Societies** in the developing world, GESCI was determined to earn the status that would reflect the pivotal role it plays in the development of knowledge society related policy around the world, with a special focus on Education.

GESCI began the process of relocating from Ireland to Kenya a year ago, determined to settle closer to its primary partners - **Ministries of Education, Higher Education, and Science and Technology** - across the African continent. Relocating to Nairobi with the support of the Kenyan government will enable GESCI's European and African staff of experts to more readily provide strategic advice and technical support on the integration of ICT in Education, Science,

Technology and Innovation systems in developing countries. Congratulations have been pouring in from governments and peers at other international institutions on the achievement of this remarkable feat.

*Congratulations to everyone who have been part of GESCI since the idea emerged so many years ago during the World Summit on the Information Society. Settling down in Kenya, and being recognized as an international organization is an enormous achievement. Wishing you all the best going forward.*

**Anriette Esterhuysen, Executive Director, Association for Progressive Communications**

*I am pleased that Ireland, through the support of Irish Aid, supports GESCI in its endeavors to promote knowledge society development in developing countries. As Minister with responsibility for developing eInclusion in Ireland, I am keenly aware of the digital divide and the need to actively address the problem of e-exclusion particularly among harder to reach groups in danger of being left behind. I wish GESCI continued success in their endeavors to address the digital divide in developing countries.*

**Pat Rabbitte T.D., Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, Ireland**

*Having GESCI established on the African continent as an international organization offers tremendous opportunities for innovative partnerships! My colleagues and I congratulate GESCI on this accomplishment.*

**Aida Opoku-Mensah, Director, ICTs and Science and Technology Division UNECA**

GESCI works with Ministries of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation to strengthen human and institutional capacity in ICT policy development, strategic implementation and large-scale planning, teacher, lecturer and instructor professional development, curriculum and assessment reform, e-content development, and monitoring and evaluation. GESCI is working with Governments in Kenya, Rwanda, Ghana, Tanzania, Mauritius, Zambia, South Africa, Uganda, Angola, Botswana and more. GESCI is a partner of the African Union Commission (AUC), the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

GESCI is funded by the governments of Finland, Sweden, Ireland and Switzerland.

- Please contact [niamh.brannigan@gesci.org](mailto:niamh.brannigan@gesci.org) for further information including requests for interviews.
- Please visit GESCI's website for more information [www.gesci.org](http://www.gesci.org)

-End-