

GESCI launches Leadership Network for Sustainable development

www.leadership4sd.org

GESCI, June 15, 2016. June 9, 2016, GESCI launched the 'Leadership Network for Sustainable Development' (LN4SD), an initiative to support African countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The leadership network was officially inaugurated during the 2nd African Ministerial Forum on ICT Integration in Education and Training, which took place in Abidjan, June 8-9, 2016. Over 150 participants participating in the Forum witnessed the event, including Ministers, officials and experts from 22 African countries and development agencies – active in education, ICT and other sectors of development.

The network comprises decision makers and mid-to-senior government officials from Ministries and public institutions, experts and researchers from universities, think tanks and other organizations as well as actors from the private sector joining together to strengthen Africa's capacities to implement the SDGs.

The Leadership Network for Sustainable Development will build on two programs implemented by GESCI with the support of the AUC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland:

- (1) The African Leadership in ICT and Knowledge Society Development (ALICT) program which has reached out to leaders in 16 African countries;
- (2) The new 'Leadership for SDGs Initiative', which is informed by ALICT and will strengthen the capacities of leaders to implement the 2016-2030 Global Agenda and achieve the SDGs.

Both programs address the need for government administration and public sector capacity building as a pre-condition for the implementation of the SDGs (SDG17) and strong leadership skills to direct and influence policy and practice are imparted for building inclusive knowledge societies through education, science, technology, innovation (STI), research.

Seven ALICT leaders having successfully participated and graduated from GESCI's ALICT program - among the 500 members to date who are joining the network - participated in the launching of LN4SD, which was officially inaugurated by GESCI's CEO, Jerome Morrissey.

Leaders from government administration and the public sectors and knowledge organisations in Africa intent on pushing the SDGs agenda are invited to join the 'Leadership Network for Sustainable development' and to participate in its activities at www.leadership4sd.org

The Leadership network is also looking for sponsors, and for partners to support and sustain the network and plan joint activities to achieve the network's goals.

The *Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative* (GESCI) is an international non-profit organization based in Nairobi, Kenya. It was established by the United Nations in 2003. GESCI supports governments in their efforts for socio-economic development, through the successful integration of ICTs for knowledge society development.

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