African Digital Schools Initiative is launched in Narok, Kenya

Nairobi, September 27, 2016.   On September 26, 2016, the Ministry of Education of Kenya and GESCI launched the African Digital Schools Initiative (ADSI) in Narok County, Kenya. The program, which will be rolled out starting 2017, is expected to transform 20 secondary schools in Narok County and 60 other schools in the counties of Kiambu, Taita Taveta and Nyamira into digital schools of distinction.

The event took place on the premises of ***Ole Tipis Girls High School in Narok Town, Narok County.*** It was attended by County officials, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST) of Kenya, the Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative (GESCI), The MasterCard Foundation representative (Programme Manager, Kenya) Parent Teacher Associations, county school principals and students.

The African Digital Schools Initiative is in line with Kenya's aspirations as spelt out in Vision 2030 and the National Education Sector Plan (NESP 2015 -2019). The two blue prints among other documents outline efforts - including ICT integration - towards improving the quality of education and by extension building a workforce that will steer the country towards transformation into a competitive economy and a progressive society.

Ivy Mwai, Programme, Manager, Education and Learning at the MasterCard Foundation expressed great optimism in the launch of the project and noted that MasterCard was pleased to support it and hoped that the Kenyan model will be adopted in Africa as a whole. She pointed out that, *"with the right kind of support, our young people including learners in the secondary schools, offer the African Continent the promise of desired change."*

GESCI's ADSI Programme Manager, Gregory Naulikha pointed out that *"ADSI also focuses on ensuring learners acquire 21st Century Skills including critical thinking, , problem solving, collaboration and team work , communication, life and social cultural skills. This will help schools breed better persons with skills fit for the job market and the 21st Century world."*

The Chief Guest of the event, Mrs Grace Ngacha, Assistant Director**,** representing the Director, Field and Other Services of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) of Kenya noted that ADSI is *"an initiative that will play a leading role in the adoption of ICT in the county. She also reminded teachers that this project is not out to replace them but to enhance modes and practice of teaching."*

The event in Narok comes after two other successful launches in Kiambu and Taita Taveta Counties. Altogether ADSI will be rolled out in 80 secondary schools in Kenya at the beginning of 2017 – reaching out to 20 schools in Taita Taveta, Kiambu, Narok and Nyamira.

ADSI will also be rolled out in Tanzania and Côte d'Ivoire starting 2017.

ADSI is implemented by GESCI with support from the MasterCard Foundation. It is a unique, innovative program that seeks to turn secondary schools into digital schools of distinction. The program facilitates the deep integration of ICT on a whole school basis. It is designed specifically to build student 21St century skills, including in Science Technology, English and Mathematics (STEM) subjects, and teachers' practice, using ICT in a way that is responsive to the needs of knowledge economies and societies and in the work place.

The *Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative* (GESCI) is an international non-profit organization based in Nairobi, Kenya. The United Nations Task Force on ICT established it in 2003. GESCI supports governments in their efforts towards socio-economic development, through the integration of ICTs in the development of knowledge-based societies. More on GESCI at www.gesci.org

---

Press contacts: Thanh-Hoa Desruelles, Senior Expert, Advocacy, Partner Relations and Communication, GESCI, thanh-hoa.desruelles@gesci.org, tel: + 33/(0) 6 7265 4425; **Shaylor Mwanje**, shaylor.mwanje@gesci.org

For more information on ADSI: Gregory Naulikha, Manager, African Digital Schools Initiative (ADSI), gregory.naulikha@gesci.org