

REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL  
One People - One Goal - One Faith



MINISTRY OF POSTS AND  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS



## Leadership programme in ICT and Knowledge Society development:

- GESCI and Senegal honour senior civil servants and officers trained in 2015;
- An MoU is signed between the Regional School for Telecommunications and GESCI to extend the ALICT programme to other government bodies and West African countries

**From GESCI, Nairobi, December 14, 2015.** An event honouring the development of ICTs and knowledge societies in Senegal was held in Dakar, December 11, 2015. The event was chaired by Mr. Abdoul Kane Yaya, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications of Senegal and Mr. Jerome Morrissey, CEO of the Global E-Schools and Communities Initiative (GESCI).

The ceremony, which took place at the Novotel hotel in Dakar officially awarded certificates to the senior civil servants and officers from various Senegalese ministries and universities who have successfully completed the African leadership in ICT and Knowledge Society Development (ALICT) programme. Twenty-six participants followed the programme in 2015. A special prize was also awarded to the best ALICT participant for Senegal, Roger Marcelin Faye, Professor at the Polytechnic Institute of Dakar's University Cheikh Anta Diop.

The event also featured the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by GESCI's CEO and the CEO of the *Ecole supérieure multinationale des télécommunications* (ESMT), Mr. Mohamadou A. Saibou. The partnership between GESCI and ESMT will facilitate the delivery of the ALICT program to other state bodies and West African countries, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Togo and Guinea Conakry.

Chairing the ceremony, the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications lauded the support provided by GESCI, which is strengthening leaders' skills in the area of ICTs, technological innovation and Knowledge Society development, indicating that the objectives sought by GESCI are aligned to those of the *Emerging Senegal Plan* (PSE). In addressing the graduates, he hoped that their newly acquired competencies would be useful in triggering and implementing policies that would lead to the emergence of Senegal. *"Today", he emphasized, "we must recognize that the integration of ICTs across priority sectors such as education, health and agriculture can significantly increase their productivity and performances."* He declared that his Ministry had committed itself to formulating « Digital Senegal », a strategy document that will « *specifically address the digital transformation of sectors, in the same vein as the education and training sectors.* »

The Minister also thanked the African Union, who instigated the development of ALICT as well as Finland, for the support it provides to ALICT.

Co-chairing the ceremony, GESCI's CEO said *"We are delighted with the positive response of Senegal to our Leadership in ICT and Knowledge Society Development programme". "We highly appreciate the presence of the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, who is here today to honour the Senegalese participants who have successfully completed the ALICT programme".* He drew the attention to the signing of the MoU between GESCI and ESMT, *"an important development which will enable wider access to the ALICT programme both in Senegal and throughout the region".*

The ALICT course aims to build the capacity of leaders to be agents of change within their organisations, countries and regions for the development of knowledge societies. In a globalized, rapidly changing world where competition is strong, integrating and strengthening ICT and scientific, technological and innovation skills has become crucial to foster economic and social progress.

ALICT is an initiative of the African Union Commission (AUC) supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland and implemented by GESCI.

Ecole Supérieure Multinationale des Télécommunications (ESMT) is a higher education institution of reference in its field, created by Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo to advance knowledge society in West Africa.

#### About GESCI

The Global e-Schools and Communities initiative (GESCI) is an international non-profit organisation based in Nairobi, Kenya. GESCI was founded in 2003, on the recommendation of the United Nation's Task Force on ICTs.

GESCI's mission is to assist governments in their efforts to promote socio-economic development, through the successful and widespread integration of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) for the development of knowledge societies.

*“The Global E-Schools and Communities Initiative matches the power of ICT with educational need, and has the potential not only to improve education, but also to empower people, strengthen governance, open up new markets and galvanize our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals” [Koffi Annan, former UN Secretary General, 2003].*

For more information about GESCI visit [www.gesci.org](http://www.gesci.org)

#### **For more information:**

- Fatou Thiam Coundoul, TIC Technical Advisor, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Senegal, [ftcoundoul@gmail.com](mailto:ftcoundoul@gmail.com) tel. +221/ 77 633 60 25
- Senthil Kumar, Programme Manager, ALICT program, Eastern and Western Africa, GESCI, [senthil.kumar@gesci.org](mailto:senthil.kumar@gesci.org)
- Dr. Tarek Chehidi, Senior Programme Specialist, Francophone Africa and North Africa, GESCI, [tarek.chehidi@gesci.org](mailto:tarek.chehidi@gesci.org)

#### **Press contacts:**

- Mr. Adama Ndione, Communication Officer, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Senegal, [adama.ndione@numeriquegouv.sn](mailto:adama.ndione@numeriquegouv.sn) tel. +221/ 77 740 43 76
- Mrs Thanh-Hoa Desruelles, Senior Expert in Advocacy, Partner Relations and Communication, GESCI, [thanh-hoa.desruelles@gesci.org](mailto:thanh-hoa.desruelles@gesci.org) tel. + 33 / (0) 4 99 43 59 22