



Leadership programme in ICT and Knowledge Society development: GESCI honours senior civil servants and officers trained in Morocco in 2015

From GESCI, Nairobi, December 16, 2015. Yesterday, the Global E-Schools and Communities Initiative (GESCI) officially honoured and awarded participants who successfully completed the leadership programme in ICT and Knowledge Society Development (ALICT) it delivered in Morocco in 2015.

The ceremony, which took place at Le Diwan Hotel in Rabat, conferred the ALICT certificates to 21 senior civil servants and officers from various Moroccan ministries, public institutions and universities and regional organizations based in Morocco.

It recognized the excellence of Morocco's participation in the ALICT programme in 2015. Morocco received three awards for the best ALICT research projects related to the three pillars for Knowledge Society development: ICT, Education, and Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).

The star performer for the 2015 ALICT programme, Mr. Abdellaziz Aichouni from the Ministry of Labour of Morocco, also received a special award.

ALICT was delivered across 3 Francophone countries in 2015 – in Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco and Senegal – with close to 90 participants enrolled in the programme.

In his speech, Mr. Senthil Kumar, Manager of GESCI's ALICT programme recognized the commitment and hard work of the graduates. He encouraged them in pursuing their efforts towards the development of knowledge societies (KS) in their country and region, and across the African continent.

On behalf of GESCI and its Chief Executive Officer, he declared: *"We are delighted with the positive response of Morocco to our Leadership in ICT and Knowledge Society Development programme and appreciate the work, application and excellence of the course participants who are being certified here today. GESCI looks forward to providing wider access to this programme in Morocco in 2016 and beyond."*

M. Aichouni stated that like other developing countries Morocco has conducted in the past decades important structural reforms including in the areas of ICT, Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) and Education, which are pillars for KS development. He said: *"The development and implementation of digital projects based on ICT as a vector for transforming and modernizing is vital for Morocco for it to be prosperous politically, economically and socially."*

GESCI will continue to provide technical expertise in Morocco. The ALICT Chapter for Morocco, set up during the final ALICT workshop nominated among the ALICT peers its coordinator, Mr. Aziz El Hajir from the Ministry of Education of Morocco. According to Mr. El Hajir *"LATIC has developed our leadership skills in ICT and the work we carry out within our organizations will fully benefit from this."*

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 globalised, 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.

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 on GESCI visit www.gesci.org

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