



**Leadership in ICT and Knowledge Society development program:
GESCI and the University of Mauritius honour and hand over Dublin City University
Graduate Diploma to Government officials and managers trained in 2015**

GESCI, Nairobi, January 22, 2016. Today in Cyber City, Mauritius, the Global e-schools and communities initiative (GESCI) officially honoured senior officials and managers from Mauritius who successfully completed the African Leadership in ICT and the development of Knowledge Society (ALICT) program.

The ceremony, which was presided by Dr. Mohammad Santally, Officer In-charge, Centre for Innovative and Lifelong Learning, University of Mauritius and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of GESCI, Jerome Morrissey, took place at the University of Mauritius branch in Cyber City.

The Graduate Diploma from Dublin City University (DCU) was handed over to senior officers and managers from several national institutions, including: the Central Informatics Bureau, the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, the National Computer Board at the Ministry of ICT, the Open University of Mauritius, the Tertiary Education Commission and the University of Mauritius.

The African Leadership in ICT (ALICT) is a leadership course in ICT equipping African leaders with the skills and a commanding understanding of the key elements needed for the planning and development of knowledge societies. The ALICT program was delivered by GESCI in Mauritius in 2015. The graduates honoured today had opted for the Dublin City University (DCU) Graduate Diploma.

The ceremony was also an opportunity to announce that the UOM had approved the Masters in Science (MSc) Programme for the ALICT Participants who hold the Graduate Diploma from DCU. The MSc in Leadership in ICT and the development of Knowledge Society will be delivered online by UOM through the Centre for Innovative and Lifelong Learning using the platform developed by UOM.

In his address, GESCI's Chief Executive Officer said: "On behalf of GESCI, I am delighted that, together with the University of Mauritius, we can announce that the University of Mauritius will provide follow-on opportunities to our graduate diploma holders to complete a Masters in Leadership in ICT and Knowledge Society Development". He added: "I am also grateful that UOM will also offer the graduate diploma in Leadership in ICT and Knowledge Society Development".

Dr. Santally lauded the opportunity given to ALICT graduates to continue the top up Masters programme and thanked GESCI for partnering with UOM to roll out the Leadership in ICT and development of Knowledge Society programme.

The ALICT course aims to build the capacity of leaders to be agents of change within their organisations, countries and regions and to acquire the skills to plan for the development of knowledge societies. In a globalized, increasingly competitive and rapidly changing world, the successful integration of ICTs at all levels and in all fields - in particular education - and the strengthening of scientific, technological and innovation skills have become crucial to foster economic and social progress.

ALICT is a flagship 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.

For more information about GESCI visit www.gesci.org

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