



## **St. Mary's University in Ethiopia and GESCI sign MoU for delivery of Masters in Leadership in ICT and Knowledge Society development**

**GESCI, June 3, 2016.** The Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative (GESCI), and Ethiopia's Saint Mary's University (SMU) signed this week a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly deliver a Master of Science in Leadership development in ICT and Knowledge Society.

The MoU was signed in Addis Ababa on May 30 by GESCI's Chief Executive Officer, Jerome Morrissey and St. Mary's University President, Wondwosen Tamrat, founder and owner of the University.

The signing was witnessed by senior officials from St. Mary's University, including, Tedla Haile, Executive Vice President, Dr. Misganaw Solomon, Academic Vice President. Desalegn Berie, Vice President for Business Administration; and Dr. Kebede Kassa Tsegaye, Director for Research and Knowledge Management. GESCI's African Leadership in ICT and Knowledge Society Development (ALICT) programme Manager, Senthil Kumar, was also present.

GESCI's CEO declared: "I am delighted that St. Mary's University of Ethiopia will be delivering the Masters of Science and Post-Graduate Diploma in Leadership development in ICT and Knowledge societies. For GESCI, which strives to build a knowledge society for all, and particularly in Africa, this is truly an important accomplishment."

On his part, the President of St Mary's University welcomed the new partnership with GESCI and observed that "the proposed training at post graduate level would be an opportunity to equip leaders with the capacity to use ICT for informed decision and enhancing productivity. SMU is committed to build skills and capabilities of national and international experts who would play a crucial role in realizing Africa's Agenda 2063 and the SDGs in the continent".

Signed for a period of 5 years, the agreement seeks to increase the capacity for ICT and Knowledge Society development in Ethiopia through effective leadership. As part of the agreement:

- SMU will be responsible for the academic delivery of the programme, including lecturing, conduct and organisation of workshops, national promotion of the course and recruitment of candidates;
- SMU will also be the awarding body, conferring the Masters of Science in Leadership Development in ICT and Knowledge Society and the Postgraduate Diploma in the same field;
- GESCI will provide the e-learning platform, the content course and self-instructional learning materials;
- GESCI will also assist in the quality assurance of the delivery and implementation of the courses.

The Masters in Leadership development in ICT and Knowledge Society, which will be offered over a period of 18 months, will include the following Modules: leadership in the knowledge age; new strategies for science, technology and innovation, telecommunications infrastructure and quality internet provision; ICT application and the role of governments; education in the knowledge age; and, knowledge society for Africa.

St. Mary's University (SMU) is Ethiopia's premier private university, established in 1998 and committed to offering conventional and distance education that is accessible to the larger society through reasonable tuition focusing on quality and standards in teaching, research and outreach services.

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.

To date, GESCI's African Leadership in ICT and Knowledge Society development (ALICT) program has been offered to senior government officials in 16 African countries. Starting 2016, the program's wider access model will also be offered through African universities.

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