African Digital Schools Initiative launched in Kenya

On 11 November GESCI (Global E-Schools and Communities Initiative)and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology launched the African Digital Schools Initiative (ADSI) in Nairobi.   The ADSI Project will be implemented in 80 secondary schools distributed across four counties in Kenya. The national launch follows successful launches of the programme in the four counties - Kiambu, Taita Taveta, Narok and Nyamira.The launch was attended by our partners from the Ministry of Education, the African Union Commission (AUC) stakeholders from the education sector in the country, Teachers Services Commission (TSC) UNESCO and UNESCO's Gender and Science unit, Kenya Education Management Institute (KEMI), the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), teacher representatives and officials from the participating counties in Kenya.

GESCI CEO, Jerome Morrissey, presented the ADSI project which aims at creating 80 *digital schools of distinction* at secondary level in Kenya through the incremental integration of ICT in teaching, learning on a whole schools basis over five years.

Representing the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education Science and Technology, Mr. John Opiyo, and stated that, in collaborating with GESCI on this programme, the Kenyan government is keen on ICT integration in educationand that ADSI will significantly help the country to move forward towards achieving Vision 2030. He officially declared ADSI launched in Kenya.

The launch of ADSI took place as an integral part of the African Union Commission's (AUC) partnership meeting to launch a thematic *ICT in Education cluster* towards the implementation of its Continental Education Strategy for Education (CESA) 2016 – 2025.
The Head of the Education Division at AUC, Beatrice Njenga, pointed out that the CESA ICT in Education Cluster seeks to revitalize the teaching profession to ensure relevance at all levels of education. She added that this will be made possible through partnerships and sharing knowledge by clusters coming forth with activities in their core areas to address the issue of Integrating ICT in Education. She said that the launch of ADSI today was a welcome and early response to CESA implementation and that it had a wide continental significance and relevance.

Ms. Ivy Mwai, from The MasterCard Foundation, said that the Foundation envisions a world where all have an equal opportunity to learn and to benefit in an equitable manner. Mr Winters Mulegi a teacher from Mumbuni boys in Machakos County,a beneficiary of an allied roject stated that the project has enabled him and his colleagues to gain ICT skills, confidence and enthuasism to conduct his teaching in a more effective manner and that   lesson planning and content sourcing had become easier.

In conjunction with similar GESCI initiatives in Tanzania and Côte D'Ivoire and utilising a new GESCI framework in 140 schools, ADSI will lead to the development of an effective and sustainable scaling model to transform secondary schools into digital schools of distinction as the pivotal programme outcome

ADSI is designed to:
- ➢ enable/capacitate school management to plan for whole school use and incorporation of ICT across the school curriculum
- ➢ build students' 21St century skills necessary for life and work
- ➢ in particular, to enrich teaching and learning in Science, Technology, English and Mathematics and
- ➢ enhance teachers' pedagogical skills in their teaching through the planned integration of ICT in their teaching and, thereby, enriching learning
- ➢ to create 80 ***digital schools of distinction*** through a yearly incremental and developmental pathway, which will become showcase centres for 21st teaching and learning

About GESCI

GESCI (Global E-Schools and Communities initiative) is an international UN - founded organisation, head quartered in Nairobi, Kenya. Its mission is to assist governments in leadership and capacity building for Knowledge Society development, through the effective and widespread integration of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) in planning and development. GESCI has a special remit in fostering and assisting Governments in the widespread integration of ICT in Education (Go to www. gesci.org)

<u>For more information:</u>
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