



## Event at the African Union honours successful graduates of AUC's ICT and Knowledge Society Development program delivered by GESCI

**GESCI, Nairobi, 20 April 2016.** April 14, 2016, in Addis Ababa, the African Union hosted an event to officially honour senior officials from the African Union Commission (AUC) and Ethiopian government institutions who have successfully completed the African leadership program on ICT integration and knowledge society development (ALICT) implemented by GESCI.

The ALICT program 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. ALICT was delivered by GESCI in Ethiopia in 2015.

The ceremony, which was presided by GESCI's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Jerome Morrissey and Mr. Adil Sulieman, Senior Policy Officer of Infrastructure and Energy department representing the AUC, took place at the African Union's headquarters in Addis Ababa.

Graduates included AUC senior officers and officials of several Ethiopian national institutions, including the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, the Addis Ababa Science and Technology University and the Ethiopian Roads Authority.

The graduates have completed both the ALICT leadership program and the Dublin City University (DCU) Graduate Diploma requirements.

The DCU Graduate Diploma was handed over to the graduates by Mr. Morrissey, GESCI's CEO, Mr. Jukka Pajarinen, representing the Embassy of Finland and Mr. Ron Hendrix, representing the EU Delegation to the African Union.

In his address, GESCI's Chief Executive Officer congratulated the graduates which he said "*are now well equipped to make significant contributions to policies in their organizations, in particular within the Ethiopian government, as the country drives progress to become a knowledge-based society*". Mr. Morrissey also thanked the AUC and the government of Finland for supporting the ALICT program.

Representing the AUC, Mr Sulieman thanked GESCI for implementing ALICT as well as Finland for its financial support. He also indicated the possibility of using ALICT materials for the new African Academy project.

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. 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](http://www.gesci.org)

**For more information:** Senthil Kumar, Programme Manager – ALICT, GESCI, [senthil.kumar@gesci.org](mailto:senthil.kumar@gesci.org)

**Press contact:** Thanh-Hoa Desruelles, Senior Expert, Advocacy, Partner Relations and Communication, GESCI, [thanh-hoa.desruelles@gesci.org](mailto:thanh-hoa.desruelles@gesci.org) Tel: + 33 / (0) 6 72 65 44 25