



Tanzania holds 1st Expert Working Group ahead of launch of the African Digital Schools Initiative (ADSI)

On 10th- 11th May 2017, The 1st meeting to launch the **African Digital Schools Initiative (ADSI)** Expert Working Group (EWG) in Tanzania was held at Peacock Hotel in Dar es salaam, Tanzania. The meeting, facilitated by GESCI Senior Education and GESCI's ADSI Project manager Tanzania, brought together participants from ministries, universities in the country and key educational institutions.

The goal for GESCI in partnership with Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MoEST) and Presidents' Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG) Tanzania is to provide an effective sustainable and replicable model of Whole School ICT Integration. In addition to School Based Teacher Professional Development, it seeks to enhance quality of teaching and learning and increase ICT integration in secondary education. Strategies for successful and sustainable project implementation include Institutionalization of ADSI within the existing education ministries and institutions through working with a Project Partners Group (PPG) and an Expert Working Group (EWG) at National level and a School Support Team (SST) at the Regional level

GESCI works with countries seeking to harness the potential of ICTs to increase access to, and improve the quality and effectiveness of education since 2005. In Tanzania ADSI will be implemented in 40 secondary schools and a minimum of 400 teachers in Science, Technical, English, and Mathematics (STEM) will be reached with an outreach to 20,000 STEM students from Morogoro and Coast regions.

Preliminary ADSI project activities including institutional visits to seek involvement of individuals and institutions in the Expert Working Group (EWG) project started in 2016. Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MoEST), Presidents' Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG), Education Agencies and Universities including Agency for the Development of Educational Management (ADEM), Dar es salaam University College of Education (DUCE), University of Dar es salaam College of ICT (COICT), Council for Science and Technology (COSTECH), The Open University of Tanzania (OUT), Tanzania Education Authority (TEA) and Tanzania Institute of Education (TIE) willing to collaborate with GESCI appointed members to join the EWG. The role of the EWG is to provide technical expertise, advice and experience to the ADSI programme with regard to current and relevant country policies, strategies and priority areas.

EWG members observed that ADSI was relevant in Tanzania to address challenge of poor performance in STEM subjects by improving leadership and teacher performance capacity and students learning in secondary schools. They participated in hands on activities to acquaint with and facilitate contextualization of tools and frameworks by initiating review of Leadership and Teacher Professional Development Modules. Overview of

MERL frameworks and tools enhanced reflection on the mandate and responsibilities in their positions to establish common areas for collaboration in ADSI implementation.

Members formed two sub groups through which EWG will operate. Module Development for Teacher Professional Development and School Leadership Development will align modules to Tanzanian context and Monitoring Evaluation Research and Learning (MERL) to work on research and baseline data collection. EWG members felt that the quarterly face-to-face meetings need to be improved by adopting online mechanisms in order to stay informed.

This Expert Working Group is held as part of the Institutionalization process for the ADSI project before launching and implementation in Tanzania. ADSI is ongoing in Kenya and is set to be launched in Cote d'Ivoire on 8th June, 2017.

About GESCI

The Global E-Schools and Communities initiative (GESCI) is an international non-profit organisation based in Nairobi, Kenya. GESCI was founded by the United Nations in 2003, 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. More information available at www.gesci.org

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