

African Digital Schools Initiative is launched in Taita Taveta County, Kenya

Nairobi, September 26, 2016. On September 22, 2016, the Ministry of Education of Kenya and GESCI launched the African Digital Schools Initiative (ADSI) in Taita Taveta County, Kenya. The program, which will be rolled out starting 2017, is expected to transform 20 secondary schools in Taita Taveta and 60 other schools in the counties of Kiambu, Narok and Nyamira into digital schools of distinction.

The event took place on the premises of **Voi Boys High School in Taita Taveta County**. It was attended by County officials, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST) of Kenya, the Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative (GESCI), Teacher Unions, Parent Teacher Associations, county school principals and students.

The initiative is in line with Kenya's aspirations as spelt out in Vision 2030 and the National Education Sector Plan (NESP 2015 -2019). The two blue prints among other documents outline efforts - including ICT integration - towards improving the quality of education and by extension building a workforce that will steer the country towards transformation into a competitive economy and a progressive society.

Addressing the audience, Taita Taveta County Quality Assurance Support Officer, **Mr. Ng'ang'a** expressed his appreciation of the ADSI programme and its teaching and learning approach, which strongly involves students.

The County Secretary General of Kenya's Union of Post-Primary Teachers (KUPPET), **Mr. Matungi** noted the Union's strong interest in ICT integration in schools and thanked the MasterCard Foundation for funding the initiative".

GESCI's ADSI Programme manager, Mr. Gregory Naulikha expressed hope that *"ADSI would become the preferred model for ICT integration in secondary schools in Kenya"*.

Mr. James Gachungi, An Assistant Director Tertiary and Secondary Education representing the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Kenya noted ADSI's whole school approach to ICT integration, as a specific feature *"in line with the priority given to ICT integration in education outlined in Kenya's education policies"*.

The Chief guest at the event, Mr. Mjomba, , representing the County Executive Member in charge of Education (CEC - Hon Jemima Tuja) noted that ADSI was an *"an initiative to change teaching and learning in the 21st century - one that would challenge scholars to go out of their way and be innovative at a time where ICTs are paramount."*

The event in Taita Taveta follows a first launch that took place on September 20 in Kiambu County. It precedes two other launches, which will take place this week in the counties of Narok and Nyamira. Altogether ADSI will be rolled out in 80 secondary schools in Kenya at the beginning of 2017 - reaching out to 20 schools in each of the four counties of Taita Taveta, Kiambu, Narok and Nyamira.

ADSI will also be rolled out in Tanzania and Côte d'Ivoire starting 2017.

ADSI is implemented by GESCI with support from the MasterCard Foundation. It is a unique, innovative program that seeks to turn secondary schools into digital schools of distinction. The program facilitates the deep integration of ICT on a whole school basis. It is designed specifically to build student 21st century skills, including improving outcomes in Science Technology, English and Mathematics (STEM) subjects, and teachers' practice, using ICT in a way that is responsive to the needs of knowledge economies/ societies and in the work place.

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 Task Force on ICT in 2003. GESCI supports governments in their efforts towards socio-economic development, through the integration of ICTs in the development of knowledge-based societies.. More on GESCI at www.gesci.org

Press contacts: **Thanh-Hoa Desruelles**, Senior Expert, Advocacy, Partner Relations and Communication, GESCI, thanh-hoa.desruelles@gesci.org, tel: + 33/(0) 6 7265 4425; **Shaylor Mwanje**, shaylor.mwanje@gesci.org

For more information on ADSI: **Gregory Naulikha**, Manager, African Digital Schools Initiative (ADSI), gregory.naulikha@gesci.org