



Leadership in ICT and Knowledge Society development program (ALICT): GESCI hands over Dublin City University Diploma to Government officials trained in Uganda in 2015

GESCI, Nairobi, February 5, 2016. Yesterday in Kampala, Uganda, the Global e-schools and communities initiative (GESCI) presented post-graduate diplomas in Leadership in ICT and Knowledge Society development to 14 senior Government officials in Uganda. The post-graduate diploma is awarded by Dublin City University (DCU) in Ireland.

The ceremony, which was chaired by GESCI's Chief Executive Officer, Jerome Morrissey and the Permanent Secretary of Uganda's Ministry of Information and Communications Technology, Dr. Jummy Pat Saamanya, took place at the Ministry.

The senior Government officials and managers are serving in several national institutions, including: the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development; the Ministry of East African Community Affairs; the Ministry of ICT; the National Information Technology Authority - Uganda; the National Library of Uganda; the National Planning Authority; the Parliament of Uganda; the Uganda Bureau of Statistics; the Ugandan Institute of Information and Communications Technology; the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST); Makerere University Business School; and Mbarara University of Science and Technology.

The graduates have both completed GESCI's African Leadership in ICT and Knowledge Society Development (ALICT) programme delivered in Uganda in 2015 and opted for the Dublin City University (DCU) diploma.

The African Leadership in ICT (ALICT) 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. The course aims to build the capacity of leaders to be agents of change within their organisations, countries and regions. 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.

The Chief Executive Officer of GESCI, Jerome Morrissey, asserted that the quality of the Ugandan participants' inputs to the programme was second to none. He said: *"These graduates are now well equipped to make a significant contribution to policy and implementation within Government as Uganda drives on to become a knowledge-based society."*

Presenting the diplomas, Dr. Jimmy Pat Saamanya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of ICT said: *"It is very satisfying to see so many of already well-qualified members of staff complete this very worthwhile and highly relevant programme."* He stated: *"Through this AUC programme implemented by GESCI and funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, the new skills acquired will tangibly help Uganda in its drive towards a knowledge-based economy where ICT is a key enabler across all sectors, as envisioned in the Government's VISION 2040 policy."*

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's Task Force on ICTs.

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

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