GESCI trains teachers on enhancement of 21st Century Skills through coding

Nairobi, January, 2020: GESCI has collaborated with iEARN Kenya to offer coding training to teachers from 80 secondary schools drawn from the counties of Kiambu, Nyamira, Narok and Taita Taveta.During the three-day training, teachers were introduced to the Arduino and Scratch Coding Softwares.

80 School Based Coordinators for the GESCI African Digital Schools Initiative (ADSI) Programme have been trained on Computational Design Thinking, which they will expose to their students who should be able to come up with coding projects. The training covered the following areas:

- **Minecraft one hour of Code**
- **Block based Coding Using Scratch**
- **Exposition to Arduino Integrated Development Environment (IDE) Software for Text Based Coding**

The School Based Coordinators will facilitate training of other teachers at school level and later on introduce students to the coding technology to enhance 21st century Skills (critical thinking, problem-based learning, collaboration & communication). In 6 weeks, 800 teachers, who are part of the programme are expected to benefit from the coding training.

After training, students and teachers will create coding projects. Best projects will be presented at the Young Scientists Kenya Exhibition and the Innovating Education in Africa Expo, which GESCI co-organizes with the African Union and other partners.

The teachers are enthusiastic about the project, Leornard Kirui, A teacher of English at Murkan Secondary School in Narok County said; *"This training will go a long way in creating the next generation of STEM programs while offering support to the needs of 21st century teachers and learners. It will also inculcate creativity, problem solving, collaboration and communication among the learners.''*

GESCI has since 2016 trained over 1200 teachers on 3 cycles of training on use of ICT in STEM teaching and learning. This aims at transforming secondary schools into Digital Schools of Distinction through whole school integration of ICTs.

The African Digital Schools Initiative (ADSI) Programme is also under implementation in Tanzania and Cotè d'Ivoire,it is funded by Mastercard Foundation, Canada.

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, for the enhancement of teaching and learning through ICT integration and for ICT skills for youth employment.
More information available at www.gesci.org

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