Kiambu Secondary Schools Awarded e-Confident Status under the African Digital Schools initiative (ADSI)

Nairobi, 30th August, 2019: 20 secondary schools in Kiambu County have been awarded e-Confident status under the African Digital Schools Initiative (ADSI) programme being implemented in the County. The programme leads schools through 4 stages of whole school digitisation from e-Initial to e-Enabled to e-Confident and, finally, to e-Mature. When the participating schools reach e-Mature stage, they will be classified as ***Digital Schools of Distinction.***

During a 2-day workshop in Juja, the school principals received certification in recognition of their lead roles in supporting their teachers to utilise and integrate digital technologies in their teaching. The programme has the enthusiastic support of the Kiambu county education authorities, the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) as well as the schools' boards of managements and parents' associations.

The teachers in the 20 schools are following a rigorous ICT training programme and have already successfully completed the first two cycles - 1st on Technology Literacy and 2nd on Knowledge Deepening, currently the teachers have gone through the Knowledge Creation Cycle which is the third and last phase of the ADSI training. Teachers are now competent in incorporating various ICT tools in their teaching which will enrich student learning.

Speaking at the event , Teachers Service Commission (TSC) Deputy Director Kiambu County Ms. Faith Kanana said that the commission and the ministry of education completely support ADSI.She mentioned that all teachers who excel through ADSI and are transferred will be traced and have the skills set acquired used in in-service of other teachers in the county.

Ms. Victoria Mulili, County Director of Education, Kiambu encouraged the head teachers to leverage on the goodwill of parents to finance infrastructure. Ms. Mulili also talked about having a waiver for performing teachers when it comes to applying for jobs as Principals and Deputies in schools.She requested the TSC to look at ways to educate, motivate and reward teachers.

Her remarks on sustainability were echoed by Dr. Maina, Deputy Secretary General of the Parents Association in Kiambu who said that *, 'Principals should not shy away from engaging parents to help them sustain the programme.Parents are the key school financiers.'*

Esther Mwiyeria, Country Project Manager for ADSI Kenya reminded participants that at the moment ; *'Education is becoming wider and going beyond the classroom door.'*

ADSI Programme Manager Senthil Kumar mentioned that the programme is used as a model in implementation of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) and its success in Kenya play a huge role in seeing the goals achieved. GESCI coordinates the CESA ICT in Education Cluster supported by the African Union Commission (AUC).

On the way forward, GESCI CEO, Jerome Morrissey, emphasized the need to have young people graduate with sufficient skills to fit in a technologically evolving environment. Mr. Morrissey reminded the participants that the ADSI Programme seeks to transform the whole school way of functioning by integrating ICTs.On learners, he said *' infuse skills, meet learning outcomes of the subjects they take. '*

A similar event will take place in Nyamira, Narok and Taita Taveta Counties where ADSI is being implemented. 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

For more information:

Christine Akello, African Digital Schools Initiative (ADSI), Project Coordinator, Kiambu County christine.akello@gesci.org +254 796 112791

Press contact: Shaylor Mwanje, Communications Assistant, GESCI shaylor.mwanje@gesci.org +254 702 098 501