

## The Statesman - Ghana, May 31, 2008

Source:

[http://www.thestatesmanonline.com/pages/news\\_detail.php?newsid=6424%A7ion=1](http://www.thestatesmanonline.com/pages/news_detail.php?newsid=6424%A7ion=1)

### Veep: Ghana to be transformed into ICT literate nation

Luca Cavaliere, 31/05/2008



Vice President Alhaji Aliu Mahama has said that, with the integration of technology in the training programmes of the country, Ghana can move from her current state of semi Information Communications Technology literacy to a literate nation.

He made this known in Accra on Thursday at the opening ceremony of the 3rd international conference on developing eLearning capabilities in Africa, when he addressed the hall on the importance of ICT for the future of the country.

The conference, which is aimed at creating a collaborative and sustainable network for technology supported learning experts on the continent, attracted about 1,500 participants from 83 countries.

The perspectives for using ITC on educational issues are clearly necessary to meet the challenges of 21st Century, Alhaji Aliu Mahama noted, and Africa is on the right track through initiative like the one expressed through NEPAD e-schools project. By 2015 this initiative will have gone a long way to bridge the digital divide.

Ghana has already taken some steps on her own through the development of the ICT for Accelerated Development Policy, the ICT in Education Policy, the GPRS and the establishment of the Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT.

Besides this, teachers have been trained to integrate technology in the teaching-learning process, participating in several in-service training programmes.

Alhaji Mahama indicated that, in the era of globalisation, technological knowledge proceeds faster and the interdependence strengthens the link between understanding and capabilities.

This is the reason why e- learning is the means to achieve competitiveness, increased wealth and prosperity and challenge the issue about brain drain. Digital Divide bridging has therefore to start from education and industry and convergence of computers, telecommunications and media is crucial for the knowledge-based economy of the future.

The Minister of Education, Science and Sport, Dominic Fobih, commented on the idea of "transforming Ghana into an information and knowledge-driven ICT literate nation". This will be possible only if the deployment and exploitation of information, knowledge and technology will be promoted and the educational system modernised using ICT.

Another step is to improve the human resource development capacity to meet the demands and requirement of knowledge-based economy and society.

Government is therefore committed to a comprehensive programme of rapid deployment, utilization and exploitation of ICTs within the educational system from primary school, he stated.

To set these objectives, the Ministry will work with strategic partnerships of multinational companies, intergovernmental, non governmental associations, Parent Teacher Associations and other stakeholders.

The development of the portal skool.com.gh., developed by Intel Corp in collaboration with the Ministries of Communication and Education, Science and Sports, the training programme for teachers and incentives to the development of digital content besides the provision of affordable Personal Computers, have been possible through the help of these partners.

Another goal which has been achieved is the establishment of a National Communications Backbone facility that provides non discriminatory modern high speed communication services. This has already been completed in the south of the country and is expected to target the north too.

He further disclosed that, coverage of optical fibre is nevertheless inadequate and its capacity cannot meet the demands of the ICT service industry.