

Technology Times – Nigeria, March 10, 2009

Source: <http://www.technologytimesng.com/post/elearning-africa-2009-holds-may-in-senegal>

eLearning Africa 2009 holds May in Senegal

By Bunmi Adeniyi



March 10, 2009: The major Pan-Africa eLearning network, eLearning Africa, has partnered with the Senegalese state IT agency, Agency de l'Informatique de l'Etat (ADIE) in organising the fourth edition of Pan-African conferences on ICT, eLearning Africa 2009, billed to hold May 27-29, 2009 at the Hotel Le Meridien in Dakar.

Now in its fourth year, eLearning Africa has established itself as a key event on ICT for development, education and training on the continent. Its mission is to bring together decision makers who are actively engaged in education and in the implementation of learning technologies in schools, universities, corporate training programmes as well as public sector.

The eLearning Africa 2009 will bring together high-level decision makers such as Ministers of Education, representatives from government agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), development agencies and international organizations, senior executives from businesses and practitioners from all fields of education.

Organisers said that eLearning Africa is moving to Senegal in 2009 just as the conference has continued to build and expand a network for people involved in all aspects of technology-enhanced education and training in Africa, including management and policymaking.



Also, as with previous conferences, eLearning Africa 2009 would be conducted in both English and French while its website would keep people up-to-date with the latest information, developments, the themes and other components of the event.

While giving the real world experience, organisers said that moving from one country

to another, the conference had built up support and interest in different parts of Africa, allowing for a strong local input, it has provided a window on what is happening on the ground in different regions.

Director ADIE, Tidiane Seck, said, "Senegal is delighted to be hosting this event. It will provide the opportunity to show what we can do, as well as discover the initiatives of other countries in terms of eTraining. I believe that experience-sharing is the best way to convince people who are reluctant or skeptical."

He said ADIE's mission is to encourage the use of new technology within government and also more broadly by all citizens, which for this purpose, the agency had set up an online training platform for both government personnel and corporate staff where everyone could develop their career.

According to Seck, at eLearning Africa 2009, major education institutions from Senegal will present to an international audience what the country has done to train government civil servants as well as what is happening in universities and in the medical field. In terms of infrastructure, this is possible thanks to the government's intranet resource centre, which is currently being completed.



As far as universities are concerned, the five Senegal universities would shortly be interconnected through fibre optics, thus being able to provide real-life teleconference experiences for training purposes. For example, a professor at Dakar University would deliver a lecture to the forum from Ziguinchor, he said

He said that in the medical field, information technology is already being used very broadly to exchange skills between establishments and also for training purposes.