

## **ICDL Africa Showcases Development Initiatives at eLearning Africa Conference (Zambia)**

May 25th, 2010

Now in its fifth year, the International Conference on ICT for Development, Education and Training (eLearning Africa) has established itself as the most important annual forum of its kind in Africa. The conference is this year being hosted in Zambia (26th-28th May), and promises another exciting event, filled with rigorous debate, discussion, networking and knowledge-sharing among practitioners and policymakers from all over the world.

Although eLearning Africa is the forum in which to share knowledge and best practices on all matters relating to ICT in Development, Education and Training, the specific themes treated in the speakers' sessions of this year's conference will fall under four main headings. These are: Conceptual Frameworks, Sectoral (i.e. developments in the sectors of: education, health, agriculture etc), Policy Planning & Design, Solutions & Technical Innovations. In addition to these lectures, there will also be wide variety of special events, workshops, and panel discussions taking place before the main Conference (which is on 27th May). These will provide an excellent opportunity for all attendees to engage interactively on topics and areas that of are particular interest to them.

ICDL Africa has been operating in Africa since 1999, and recognises that the eLearning Africa Conference is an ideal venue for all stakeholders to come together, share knowledge and experiences, and develop policy for the promotion of ICT for Development, Education, and Training across the entire continent. Given the scope and breadth of ICDL's involvement in the promotion of digital literacy globally, it is well placed to share the lessons learned in its involvement in a huge variety of projects – across all sectors – in the receptive environment of this eLearning Conference.

Additionally, ICDL programmes have been developed specifically to promote e-inclusion globally, and ICDL Africa has been at forefront of progressive measures throughout the African continent to improve the ICT skills of African educators (and as a result, those of their students) through a large number of government-sponsored, and private/partnership initiatives. As such, the eLearning conference presents an excellent framework in which to participate in the live issues relating to ICT for Development, Education and Training, such as the use of open source coursework in higher education, and Continuous Teacher Professional Development (CTPD).

ICDL Africa's presence at this conference will provide stakeholders in this sector with the opportunity to discuss the merits of a not-for-profit, vendor-independent, end-user certification as a successful tool for the promotion of ICT in African education, and in development.

**ENDS**

## About ICDL Africa

ICDL Africa, an initiative of the not-for-profit ECDL Foundation, was established as an African body, under the responsibility of Africans. Its purpose is to guide the implementation of the ICDL programmes in Africa, and to provide a focal point for the formation of partnerships with other organisations who share the same national economic development and capacity building goals.

ICDL (known as ECDL in Europe) is the international standard in end-user computer skills. It offers a high-quality certification, designed and approved by academic and industry experts from around the world, and supported by governments, informatics societies, international organisations and corporations globally. It is the world's largest end-user computer skills certification programme, with nearly 10 million candidates to date, and is available in 41 languages throughout 148 countries.

Some noteworthy ICDL Africa initiatives which have been developed to raise ICT standards and promote digital literacy in education across the African continent include:

**Baobab College of Zambia adopting ICDL** – Baobab College is an international secondary school whose students come from a variety of nationalities and backgrounds. The college authorities recognised the need to verify and benchmark its students' computer education, and bring their ICT skills up to an internationally recognised standard – using ICDL.

**The Institute of Advanced Technology of Kenya Implements ICDL** - The Institute of Advanced Technology (IAT) was founded under the country's Directorate of Industrial Training. It provided quality IT training to the Kenyan market. After ten years of operation in Kenya, IAT identified a lack of proper certification programmes for the end-users in the country, and intended to fill in the gap as quickly as possible. The adoption of ICDL was chosen as the best measure to bridge this gap – and its adoption has had an extremely beneficial effect.

*Please see ICDL Africa – Case Study Booklet to view a selection of our initiatives in Africa. This can be found at the ICDL Africa stand in the main hall of the eLearning Africa Conference.*

## About ECDL Foundation

ECDL Foundation is the certifying authority of ICDL, the world's leading end-user computer skills certification programme. ECDL Foundation's mission is to enable proficient use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) that empowers individuals, organisations and society, through the development, promotion, and delivery of quality certification programmes throughout the world.

## Contact Details

**Conor Brownlee**

**Communications Executive**

**Tel:** +353 1 630 6000

**Direct:** +353 1 630 6014

**Fax:** +353 1 630 6001

**E-mail:** [conor.brownlee@ecd.org](mailto:conor.brownlee@ecd.org)

**Web:** [www.ecdl.org](http://www.ecdl.org)