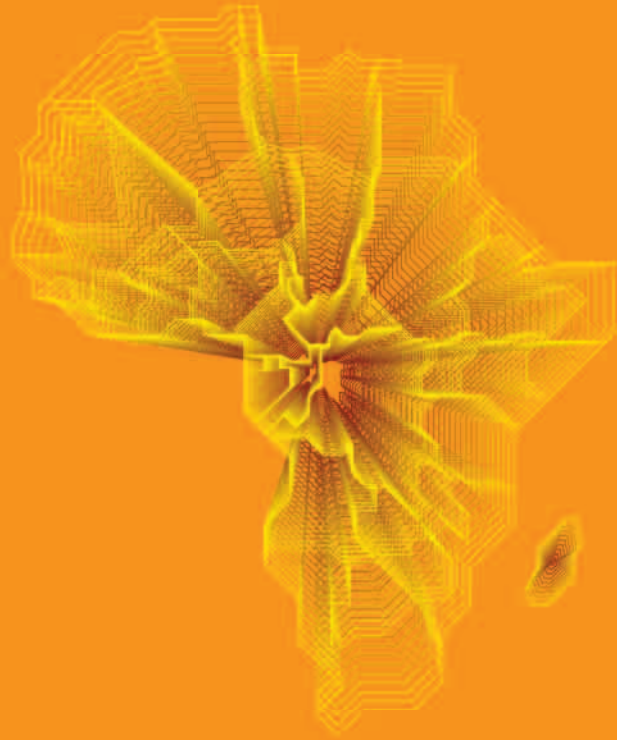




6th International Conference on ICT for Development, Education and Training

The Key Networking Event for Developing eLearning Capacities in Africa



Post-Conference Report

Mlimani City Conference Centre
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, May 25 – 27, 2011

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eLearning Africa has grown to become an essential fixture in the diaries of educators, entrepreneurs, officials and politicians from Africa and beyond. This year, it attracted a total of 1702 participants from over 90 countries. Some 322 speakers from 57 countries shared best practices and ideas in 65 parallel sessions, presenting new ways of learning in Africa and other parts of the world. The conference also brought together 25 ministers and deputy ministers and more than 50 government officials from 21 countries throughout Africa for a discussion at the annual Ministerial Round Table about the future role of ICTs in African education.

An exhibition with 52 exhibitors from 16 countries accompanied the conference, showcasing innovative technologies and educational resources. The conference was held in English, French and Kiswahili.

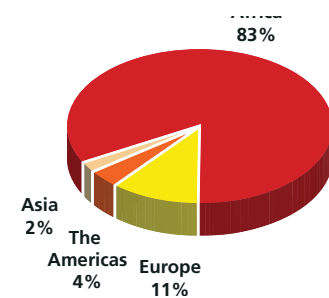
Conference participants were delighted with the many speeches, presentations, discussions and special networking events, which demonstrated a new mood of determination to innovate and improve learning for all. They described the event as “invigorating,” “inspiring” and “exhilarating.”

Top of the conference agenda were sessions on ‘Youth, Skills & Employability’ – this year’s core theme – with topics ranging from the use of ICTs to develop skills in the performing arts to making agriculture attractive for the young.

eLearning Africa 2011 in a nutshell

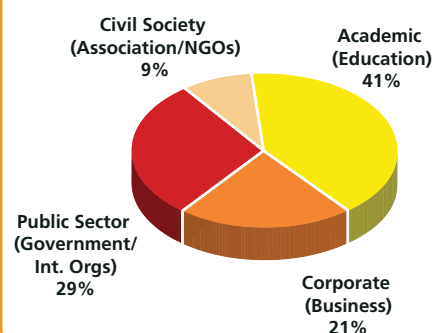
- 1702 participants from over 90 countries
- 322 speakers and chairpersons from 57 countries
- 25 ministers and one head of state from 10 countries (Angola, Djibouti, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe)
- 52 exhibitors from 16 countries

Geographical Representation



Sectoral Representation

The sectoral composition of participants comprised stakeholders from all key areas connected with eLearning in Africa.



COMMENTS

“I have been to ICT-related conferences in Europe and the USA but have never witnessed one with so much focus on the African Continent. A conference you cannot afford to miss if you are interested in ICT for development in Africa.”

Robert Okine Kabutey, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana

“This was my first time at a conference as a speaker. I shared my project proposal with participants and received very constructive feedback. It is very exciting to network with people from all over the world and I eagerly look forward to attending future eLearning conferences.”

Gladys Milimu, Macquarie University, Australia

“I have to thank you very much for being invited, and for the chance to express my opinions to such an audience! I gained a lot, met lots of interesting people.”

Karlheinz Viereck, Deputy Chief of Staff, Joint Force Training, NATO, Germany

“Thanks a lot for the opportunity to attend and speak at the eLearning Africa conference. I really enjoyed interacting and meeting all the different stakeholders at the conference. I look forward to next year’s conference.”

Allan Kakinda, SchoolNet / iEARN Uganda



HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATION AT eLA 2011

- ❖ **Dr Mohammed Gharib Bilal**, Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania
- ❖ **H.E. Prof Dr Narciso Damásio dos Santos Benedito**, Deputy Minister of Education, Ministry of Education for Technical Professional Education and Staff Development, Angola
- ❖ **Hon. Abdi Ibrahim Absieh**, Minister, Ministère de l'éducation nationale et de l'enseignement supérieur, Djibouti
- ❖ **Hon. Calist Mwatela**, MP, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Education, Kenya
- ❖ **Charles Mchacha**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Youth Development and Sports, Malawi
- ❖ **Stanley Simataa**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Information & Communication Technology, Namibia
- ❖ **S.E. Mamadou Youba Diallo**, Minister, Le Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique, Niger
- ❖ **Dr Alhaji Algasshim O. Jah**, Deputy Minister of Education, Ministry of Education, Science & Technology, Sierra Leone
- ❖ **Hon. Enver Surty**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Basic Education, South Africa
- ❖ **Hon. Mapaseka Letho**, Minister, Ministry of Higher Education and Training, South Africa
- ❖ **Hon. Dr Cyril A Chami**, MP, Minister, Ministry of Industries, Trade and Marketing, Tanzania
- ❖ **Hon. Dr Shukuru Kawambwa**, Minister, Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Tanzania
- ❖ **Hon. Dr. Athumani Mfutakamba**, MP, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transport, Tanzania
- ❖ **Hon. Gaudentia Kabaka**, MP, Minister, Ministry of Labour, Youth and Employment, Tanzania
- ❖ **Hon. Lazaro Nyalanda**, MP, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Industries, Trade and Marketing, Tanzania
- ❖ **Hon. Makongoro Milton Mahanga MP**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Labour and Employment
- ❖ **Hon. Omari R Nundu**, MP, Minister, Ministry of Transport, Tanzania
- ❖ **Hon. Philipo Mlugo**, MP, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Tanzania
- ❖ **Hon. Prof Jumanne A. Maghembe**, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives
- ❖ **Hon. Prof Makame M. Mbarawa**, Minister, Ministry of Communication, Science and Technology, Tanzania
- ❖ **Hon. L.D.K. Dokora**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, Zimbabwe
- ❖ **Hon. Tongai Matutu**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Youth Development, Indigenisation and Empowerment, Zimbabwe
- ❖ **Hon. Dr Emmanuel Nchimbi**, Minister, Ministry for Information, Youth, Culture and Sports, Tanzania
- ❖ **Hon. Dr Fenella Mukangara**, Deputy Minister, Ministry for Information, Youth, Culture and Sports, Tanzania

2

COMMENTS

"It was my first time at the eLearning Africa conference. I really appreciate what I learnt and am looking forward to attending the next eLearning Africa and to gaining more insights into the use of ICTs for training and education."

Stephen Tembo, Ministry of Livestock & Fisheries Development / University of Pretoria, South Africa

"I noticed from eLA 2011 a sort of a starting point in terms of real integration between Francophones and Anglophones in Africa. This way development can be facilitated and can happen more quickly on the Continent."

Mor Seck, Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) / Association of African Distance Learning Centres-(AADLC), Senegal

"It was an honour to have had an opportunity to speak at the event. It was a learning process for me as well."

MacDaniel Powell, Ministry of Youth & Sports, Liberia



THE PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS

- ❖ 5th Annual UNESCO-UNEVOC ICT in TVET Summit: Skills and Employability Through eLearning
- ❖ Free Your IT Business in Africa: Introduction and Intensive Training on Business Models in Free & Open Source Software in Africa: The ict@innovation Approach
- ❖ OER and Impact: Ensuring that Open Content Builds Educational Quality in Africa
- ❖ Pan Africa eLearning for the Environment Network
- ❖ Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships for Development of Regional eLearning Strategies: The Case for COMESA
- ❖ Sustaining Free Access Web Resources for Professional Development
- ❖ Publishing a Mobile Learning Research Paper
- ❖ Creating eLearning Innovations with a Lasting Impact
- ❖ Towards an Online eLearning Network Across African Universities
- ❖ Strategies to Introduce and Manage Technological Change and Innovation in Higher Education
- ❖ Tools and Frameworks for Assessing ICT Competencies and Skills of TVET Lecturers and Tutors
- ❖ Teaching with 3D
- ❖ Watch and Discuss: Using Digital Video Recording to Support Teacher Development
- ❖ Experiences in Latin America with Cooperation, Partnership and Resource Search for Project Development with Other Regions
- ❖ Video Streaming Classes: Extending Education Beyond the Classroom
- ❖ Creating Digital Content for and by Teachers: Voices from the Front Line

3

COMMENTS

"We greatly appreciate what you and your team do for eLearning in Africa and in particular for our African Network. AeLSNet's attendance at the conference was rewarded with a remarkable array of business contacts and personal exchange which greatly assisted us in our quest to pursue our vision of becoming the most valued eLearning implementation partner for all eLearning stakeholders in Africa. I found the selection of presentations, workshops and seminars tremendous. I thoroughly enjoyed the innovative joint presentation 27C1 of Tom Wambeke, Sheila Jagannathan and Atish Gonsalves, a format to be exploited more in the future. Thank you to Harold Elletson and his panellists for a superb eLearning Africa Debate on Friday."

Jens Schneider, Africa eLearning Service Network (AeLSNet), Namibia AeLSNet

"I really enjoyed networking with conference participants. The eLearning Africa debate this year was excellent. Well done!"

Igor Lesko, OpenCourseWare Consortium, USA

"This was my first eLearning Africa and I was very impressed with how various perspectives on education were successfully brought together under one roof. It seemed that the conference offered all participants some form of enrichment during the proceedings. The hosting by Tanzania was also very friendly and much appreciated."

Ron Wertlen, eKhaya ICT, South Africa

"eLA 2011 leads the way in harnessing the collective talent, ingenuity and spirit of elearning professionals in Africa. It was a privilege to share the session with so many fantastic speakers."

Leighton Forbes, University of Cape Town, South Africa

PLENARY SESSIONS



The eLA conference programme in a nutshell:

- 66 sessions in 11 parallel conference strands
- 4 plenary sessions
- 8 demonstration and best practice showcases
- 4 Umojas
- 16 pre-conference events



COMMENT

"The conference was very educative. Very lively, indeed it was fantastic."

Stella Masha, Diamond Trust Bank, Tanzania

His Excellency Dr Mohammed Gharib Bilal, Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, opened eLearning Africa 2011 on Wednesday, May 25th, with a stirring speech on the increasing engagement of African countries in the development of ICT-based solutions for education and training. The keynote speech addressed the crisis in education, skills development and employability among young African people. He told the conference delegates that "Africa's role is now shifting from spectator to active participant". **Michael Trucano**, the World Bank's ICT and Education expert, said that Africans were now asking "How can we innovate with what we have?" rather than relying on someone else to deliver successful learning by "air-dropping pre-packaged material."

They were joined by **Lieut. Gen. Karlheinz Viereck**, Deputy Chief of Staff, Joint Force Training, NATO, who spoke on the importance of information sharing and cooperation between the Western military alliance and the African Union in a bid to tackle today's world conflicts together. He said that he believes there is a need for "global training" to deal with many of the crises and emergencies affecting different countries. He said that there is currently a great deal of "duplication of effort" in training for emergency response but that online learning has created new opportunities for improving information sharing and cooperation.

A firm believer in closer cooperation with the African Union, General Viereck is convinced that international organisations could coordinate their training packages much more effectively in order to share their expertise and improve their response to emergencies. He said that often there was no need for different organisations to keep spending more money on developing very similar training programmes.

Mark Jordan, General Manager and Vice President EMEA, Wyse Technology, UK, used his keynote to address the need for innovative and cost-effective education solutions to provide inclusive education that leaves no one behind. According to Jordan, resources in the context of cloud computing present the biggest opportunity in our life time, as every aspect of computing is becoming more connected, simplified and knowledge-driven. "This shift will impact not only our global economy, but, more importantly, our globally interconnected social and political ecosystem. The fast rate of innovation in the cloud, virtual and green computing is now coupled with new ways of delivering and using rich, media-driven, flexible and collaborative data centres, networks, applications and content on the web. This is the biggest opportunity for all of us to live and work differently at the office, at home and on-the-go" he said.

Finally, Tanzanian entrepreneur **Emanuel Feruzi**, Managing Director Tri Labs Limited, Tanzania, gave his keynote speech a very personal note by sharing his learning biography, which started at a village primary school in Dodoma, Tanzania, moving to high schools in Nairobi, Kenya and Harare, Zimbabwe, and finishing at university in Pretoria, South Africa: "Learn to ask when in doubt. Swallowing our pride is the hardest thing to do, but we have to in order to learn. Learn to unlearn in order to learn what is there today," was one of the lessons he had learned.

PLENARY SESSIONS



The Thursday morning plenary was opened with a speech by **Hon. Dr Shukuru Jumanne Kawambwa** (MP), Minister for Education and Vocational Training, Tanzania, who said that investing in ICT opens up more opportunities for access to education and youth employability as well as global competitiveness. Furthermore, he highlighted that Tanzania had reached 90% Universal Primary Education in 2010; that the country had increased access to basic education from 5 million to 8.4 million students in primary schools in 2010 and from 383, 000 to 1.6 million in secondary schools – over a period of 8 years. This increase in student numbers meant that the country needed an increase in the number of qualified teachers and that currently, Tanzania has a shortage of 34,000 teachers.



A cost-effective example of desktop computing was introduced to the eLA delegates by Rev. **Emmanuel Kingsley Dadebo**, Co-ordinator, ICT in Education Programmes, Ghana Ministry of Education/Country Coordinator, The Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE). He discussed how NComputing's virtualised computing had made it possible for the Ghana Ministry of Education to expand computer access through new labs in K-12 schools and orphanages, as well as to provide updated computing infrastructure to support distance learning at universities and new Internet cafes in remote communities. At a fraction of the cost of a PC and easily and efficiently deployed and maintained, virtualised desktop computing is sustainable in even the most remote and resource-challenged of areas, he said.



Jenerali Ulimwengu, journalist and publisher, political commentator and active member of civil society, and well known in Tanzania and throughout East Africa as the host of a popular television talk show called 'Jenerali on Monday', focused on his vision of the '5 R's of education': – the normal three, plus Reason and finally Rhythm... "teaching African children the colours and cadences of their world which go back to the beginning of time". In his speech, which was described by many delegates as thrilling and engaging and drew standing ovations at the event, he also made a case for a more "localised" learning that takes into account the living conditions and requirements of African people. As an example he stated that 100% of Tanzanians live on food. 80% of them are habitually engaged in agriculture and nothing on this subject is taught in schools.



Coming from a war-torn country, **Mac Daniel A. Powell**, Director Department of Information Technology from the Liberian Ministry of Youth and Sports, identified the lack of access to education as the key driver behind the large number of young people turning to violence and conflict across Africa. In Liberia as well as many other countries in Africa, education is a resource that can mitigate fragility and enhance social cohesion, reduce the risk of civil unrest and violent conflict, he said. Powell also called for a paradigm shift in education in Africa. Young African people should be given the opportunity to "think outside the box", in the classroom as well as at home, as self-reliance is a major challenge young people in Africa had to deal with, he said.

The Friday morning plenary was opened by **Frannie Léautier**, Executive Secretary of the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), based in Zimbabwe. Léautier explained how the organisation uses ICTs to improve skills and employability. Africa is endowed with natural resources including minerals, tourism and agricultural products but the potential is its people, she said.

Jim Adams, Regional Vice President, East Asia and Pacific Regions, at the World Bank, drew on global experiences with the innovative use of educational technologies. **Erik Gregory**, responsible for the Alliance Programs at the Pearson Foundation, UK, introduced the Tanzanian eLearning initiative "Bridgeit", locally known as Elimu kwa Teknolojia or Education through Technology, to the conference. "Bridgeit" is now operating for nearly 80,000 pupils in 150 Tanzanian schools. The programme enables a teacher to download videos on maths, science or HIV/AIDS to mobile phones which are connected to a TV set in the classroom.

COMMENT

"As a first-time attendee, panellist and session chair, eLearning Africa has become a very important conference for me. I gained new insights into my own field - open education - both from conversations with other participants and from the very high-level discussion in the sessions. The conference has enriched my perspective on the future of distance and open education, both from the example set by African institutions, and by a renewed sense of the urgency of developing universal access to higher education, particularly as the next generation must cope with inherited and global problems of climate change, inequality and poverty."

Larry Cooperman, Director, OpenCourseWare, University of California, Irvine, USA

2011 CONFERENCE TOPICS IN BRIEF



eLA 2011: Web 2.0 and mobile learning are key trends in African education and training

Educational technology experts at eLearning Africa 2011 hailed the use of Web 2.0 technologies and mobile devices as new ways of mobilising learners and resources with the potential to revolutionise social and economic development.

New technologies for learning integration

A range of presentations explored the role of Web 2.0 tools and social media such as blogs, Wikipedia, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Skype and other interactive, Internet-based technologies for educational purposes.

Several experts emphasised that these technologies provided attractive, integrated, cheap and collaborative learning environments, especially for Africa's young 'digerati'. Even though the Internet remains largely unavailable in African classrooms, many believe that this will change in the near future, including access to the mobile web for African learners.

Dr Edda Tandi Lwoga from the Sokoine University of Tanzania pointed out that Web 2.0 is capable of mobilising learning resources, expanding research capacity, building strong academic networks and helping marginalised groups such as street children or disabled young people.

Steven Otieno from the Community Aid Development Fund International Kenya explained how blogs, podcasts and photographs can reach out to "groups most at risk", such as commercial sex workers in Kenya, the majority of whom are women, and how technology can help combat discrimination and prevent the spread of HIV infections.

Ronald Wertlen from eKhaya ICT, South Africa, highlighted how the open source platform 'awareNet' was significantly improving education in some of the poorest schools in South Africa. He said, "Many young Africans grow up in a culture where personal self-respect is squashed by gross disrespect for human life. Sub-standard services in terms of health, policing, education, etc., and subsequent high mortality rates, as well as dismantled cultural traditions, teach young people that intrinsic motivation is worthless since the self itself is worthless. awareNet teaches young people that their voice can be heard and that there is someone listening."

Terri Lynn Thompson from the Digital Opportunity Trust of Athabasca University, Canada, explained how her organisation used Internet-based technologies to enable young Africans, mainly in Rwanda, Kenya and Ethiopia, to develop the entrepreneurial skills necessary to take on a leadership role in community economic development.

COMMENTS

"What a fabulous event! Everything was over-the-top wonderful! And what a great cause! I thoroughly enjoyed it! You and your entire organisation are to be commended for a very well-conceived and well thought out, comprehensive programme. The entire venue was quite impressive and it was evident that a lot of time and effort went into the planning."

Karine Valin, Sigma Consultants, Sophia Antipolis, France

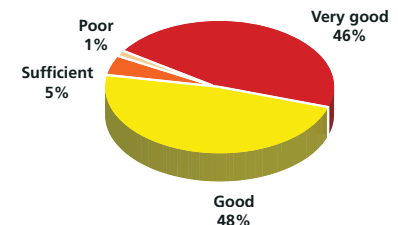
"eLearning Africa is a very good concept. Urge governments and private companies to endorse it, especially at decision-maker level, so that it would be easy to implement at grass roots level. Otherwise most technologies will simply go to waste."

Jardine Bothma, KCM Konkola Secondary Trust School, Zambia

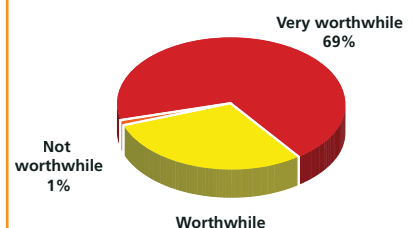
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Participant Satisfaction 2011

Overall Evaluation Conference Programme



How would you evaluate eLA 2011 overall?



COMMENT

"This is a very good and educative programme and should be encouraged."

Yusif Amadu, University of Ghana, Ghana

2011 CONFERENCE TOPICS IN BRIEF



Incorporating local customs and cultures

Even though Web 2.0 is still in its infancy in Africa, growth is staggering.

While the overall penetration rate of Facebook in Africa is only 2.6 percent (or 27,414,240 users, according to Internetworldstats, March 2011), many countries have doubled the number of users in the last few months. In Tanzania, Facebook has been very popular "because 'pamoja' - being together and being social - is the essence of Tanzanian culture," Dr Paula Uimonen from SPIDER, University of Stockholm, Sweden, explained.

Many experts stressed the need to localise content and integrate local customs and culture when using Web 2.0. Michael Trucano, the World Bank's Senior ICT and Education Policy Specialist, reminded the audience that in general, successful learning cannot be achieved by 'air-dropping pre-packaged material' into Africa.

However, it also became clear that the long-term impact of using Web 2.0 and social media within formal and informal education systems remains uncertain.

In addition, electricity supply, Internet access and computer ownership still pose big challenges for many Africans, especially in rural areas. eLearning Africa highlighted models for low cost and ultra-low cost bandwidth, and with the arrival of several undersea cables in East Africa, the situation has gradually been improving.



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COMMENTS

"It was my very first time attending an international conference of such magnitude. Each day unfolded with so much to look forward to: plenary sessions, exhibitions and presentations, networking, Umoja sessions and demonstrations. I was left with a feeling of real satisfaction. I came into contact with many individuals from diverse backgrounds who really taught me something, not forgetting the many things I learnt from the exhibitions and presentations. The defining moment came on Friday, Plenary D - The eLearning Africa debate. It was an experience."

Mubanga Lumai, Konkola Copper Mines plc, Zambia

"It was a great learning experience that has made a lasting impact on me. The choice of venue was also very conducive. It was my first time at the eLearning Africa conference and I look forward to future conferences."

Caroline Beth Nyambura Maringa, Regional AIDS Training Network (RATN, Kenya)

"Thank you so much for organising the kinds of event that enlightens us teachers about issues of technology in education so that we may improve our pupils' performance. I enjoyed the e-learning conference which took place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, so much - may you continue to help us teachers in that way, in particular with the scholarship which enabled us to get there."

Chalwe Musonda, Chingola High School, Zambia

"And thank you for the Dar es Salaam conference which I found very well organised. It could have been a terribly hectic few days, and it was not! I was excited by the sessions and the conversations I had with various colleagues from all over the world. In fact, I left feeling quite inspired! The final debate was a good example of the need for more conversation and less show and tell."

James Lees, University of the Western Cape, South Africa

2011 CONFERENCE TOPICS IN BRIEF

Easy access through mobile learning

As opposed to Web 2.0, mobile learning has already been a hot topic at eLearning Africa for several years. In 2011, interest in 'mLearning' has become even greater. One reason is that mobile phone penetration now far exceeds infrastructure development – access to electricity, the Internet and even toilets – making it possible for mobile learning to be made available to everyone.

At eLearning Africa, several organisations demonstrated how mobile learning has the potential to radically improve almost every aspect of life, especially in delivering healthcare to the ill and needy.

The K4Health project (USA) outlined its knowledge management activities in Malawi, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland and Lesotho, which included equipping health workers with mobile phones and solar chargers. Project members have seen how a simple text message has saved the life of a dying mother.

Sean Blaschke explained how UNICEF works with RapidSMS technology to collect education, health and birth/death registration data in Uganda.



Maths games and interactive storytelling

Riitta Vänskä described Nokia's mobile maths learning system for students in South Africa. It is designed around a competitive game. She said, "Children in South Africa are addicted to studying mathematics through mobile phones. There are hints for every subject and topic." She described the system as "cheap, efficient and very exciting".

Arndt Bubenzer, Common Sense, Austria, and Dennis Joseph Mazali, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Tanzania, presented the lessons learnt from iCall, interactive storytelling delivered via mobile phone. Here, different approaches are applied for the differing fields of formal education, community affairs and work-based learning. One application presented was designed to identify pregnant women at risk.

However, eLearning Africa also discussed technological challenges such as the disparate standards of mobile devices. With the cost of web-based smartphones falling, hope was expressed that web content can be accessed more easily and at more affordable rates in the near future.



COMMENTS

"The conference was an exceptional achievement. It lifted the technological vale from the African Continent and exposed the potential that is the key for digital transformation and development internationally. ITCs in the 21st century verses traditional pedagogy, being the greatest mail stone to be achieved"

Jones Chibasha Musonda, Children In Distress - Kitwe Project, Zambia

"It was a pleasure participating in this year's event. Looking forward to future eLearning events with a bigger exhibition area allowing for demonstrations of eLearning implementation scenarios."

Khalil Abdel Massih, Microsoft, Lebanon

"For those who did attend eLearning Africa 2011, it was a wonderful conference."

Dr Camilius Sanga, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania

"Thank you very much for the great work you did organising the eLearning Africa conference in Dar es Salaam. It was a great job well done. It was a great learning experience and I know that my life will not be the same."

Kyakoonye Richard, Gayaza High School, Uganda

2011 CONFERENCE TOPICS IN BRIEF

New skills for young people

eLearning Africa 2011 focused in particular on the use of ICTs to nurture young talent.

Dr Onyeka Iwuchukwu from the National Open University of Nigeria demonstrated the role of eLearning in the creation of jobs for young people in the performing arts sector. Mark Leclair from Farm Radio International, Canada, explained how Moodle can help promote the skills of young journalists for agricultural reporting.

Richard Chole from PMM's Girls' School in Uganda explained how the Adobe Youth Voices scheme, using video, multimedia, digital art, web animation and audio tools, had enabled teenagers to conduct voluntary HIV/AIDS counselling campaigns.

Supporting African research

This year's eLearning Africa introduced a 'research track' in an attempt to create a learning space both for the African and the broader research community to engage with research topics related to African experiences.

The intention is to create a space for African researchers to test their ideas and work in progress, share their work, collaborate with counterparts both within Africa and globally and, moreover, to engage in dominant discourses on ICTs in education from an African perspective.

eLA 2011 received very positive responses to its research track. A sizeable number of papers were presented, many of which were attempts to create new knowledge and a new understanding of how education transformation is unfolding with the support of ICTs in Africa. These sessions were well attended and presentations sparked thought-provoking discussion about conceptual and methodological matters within the research domain.

The research themes for this year focused on African youth and digital identity, collaborative learning and the use of ICTs in the context of marginalised schooling. Some of these featured doctoral and post-doctoral research.

Many who participated in these sessions indicated that the research track added significantly to the quality of the conversations at the conference and encouraged further development of this track for future eLearning Africa conferences.



COMMENTS

I enjoyed the interaction and the lessons from Africa and beyond. Thanks for inviting me to be part of the experience.

Harry Hare, CIO East Africa, Kenya

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to interact with the ICT world. It was a wonderful experience. Keep up the good work.

Onyeka Iwuchukwu, National Open University of Nigeria



COMMENTS

"I really want to thank you for the good organisation of this conference. Standards are improving. My focus in terms of the way I used to view elearning has changed for the better. Interaction with other teachers has taken me to another level."

Grant Chipunka, KCM Nchanga Trust School Chingola, Zambia

"For us this was a great learning experience but also a great success as we managed to share what we are doing in this area. We thank you for the support we received and we greatly appreciate your professionalism. The conference was truly a success in every respect!"

Dr Senga Pemba, Tanzanian Training Centre for International Health (TTCIH), Tanzania

"eLearning Africa a été pour moi un moyen de rencontrer des spécialistes et discuter et échanger pleine de choses avec ces personnes. J'ai trouvé une organisation très bien."

Dene Salifou, ISIG International, Burkina Faso

"It may sometimes sound in African traditional society like magic when I talk of the things that I saw at the eLearning Africa 2011 conference, starting with new technologies like Smart board, clever board, 3D technology, NComputing, to mention but a few. Of course, when you explain this to the man in the street it will look like what we in Uganda call African chemistry. Otherwise the exhibitions and plenary sessions were wonderful."

Simon Inyalio, Ngora High School, Uganda

THE eLEARNING AFRICA DEBATE



The eLearning Africa debate has become a classic feature of the conference since it was first introduced in 2008 and many participants say it is their favourite session of all. The atmosphere is high-energy, with plenty of opportunity to provoke, heckle and challenge – all within the strict rules of engagement based on the old-style UK Parliament. The motion this year was typically controversial: ‘This house believes that the Open Educational Resources (OER) movement is fundamentally flawed because it is based on the false assumption that education institutions are willing to share resources freely and openly.’



There were four debaters who spoke in turn, with **Larry Cooperman**, director of the OpenCourseWare project at the University of California and **Dr Bakary Diallo**, Rector of the African Virtual University (AVU) arguing in favour of the motion, and **Dr Rory McGreal**, UNESCO/COL Chair in OER and **Dr Neil Butcher**, OER Strategist for the Southern African Institute of Distance Education (SAIDE) against.

COMMENT

“I found the conference to be very informative and it provided excellent opportunities for networking, often the most important activity at such a conference.”

Prof Thomas Cook,
University of Iowa, USA

Former British parliamentarian **Dr Harold Elletson** of the New Security Foundation, UK and **Charles Senkondo**, Executive Director of Tanzania Global Development Learning Centre (TGDLC), presided as chairpersons.

When it came to the final count, the house voted against the motion with the majority deciding that the OER movement is not fundamentally flawed. The purpose of the eLearning Africa debate is not to try and reach consensus but rather to learn together, wrestling with controversial issues, recognising that we are diverse in our perspectives but united in our commitment to improve education. Thus the debate encapsulates the real spirit of the eLearning Africa community.

10

MINISTERIAL ROUND TABLE



The Fourth Ministerial Round Table eLearning Africa, which took place on May 25th in conjunction with eLearning Africa, focused on “Education Access, Quality and Equity for African Youth”. Some 25 ministers and deputy ministers and more than 50 high-level government officials from 21 countries throughout Africa discussed policy and financial issues concerning the integration of ICTs in education.



The MRT was jointly organised by ICWE and the Government of Tanzania and enjoyed the support of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the Association of African Distance Learning Centres (AADLC), the Global eSchools and Communities Initiative (GeSCI) and the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD).

The MRT highlighted critical issues about system-wide educational transformation and the enabling role of digital technologies in varying African contexts. One of the key points discussed was the need to enable entrepreneurship. For example, by setting up funds for business start-ups, and encouraging entrepreneurial spirit amongst youth in the educational process. Special attention was also given to improving completion rates in secondary education, which was considered to be the cornerstone of education for youth.

COMMENT

“Très belle initiative, le eLearning Africa. Ce fut une grande découverte pour moi et j’en suis sortie avec un plus et surtout avec un ardent désir de faire encore plus qu’hier et moins que demain pour mon pays et ... pour l’Afrique”

Ginette Lama Osako Ginette,
Commissariat Général à l’Energie Atomique, Congo (DRC)

This high-level event provided an opportunity for an open and animated sharing of ideas and experiences as well as a space for building relationships and networks in a collective endeavour to reach the Millennium Development Goals and the related Education for All goals in Africa. It has laid the basis for a learning community of policy makers and practitioners and will be continued next year.

MOBILE MONDAY

The Tanzanian chapter of Mobile Monday, MoMo Dar, held one of its famous meetings at eLearning Africa. The theme was "Innovative use of mobile technologies for learning". The event attracted about 100 experts in mlearning from both Tanzania and abroad. Developers of mobile learning apps for example showcased a project to provide poultry farming extension officers with educational content on their mobile phones. Other SMS-based applications - developed and widely used in Africa - include services for money transfer (M-Pesa), for paying electricity, water and cable TV bills or services for job vacancy alerts.

TIGA AWARDS 2011

The second leg of the 2011 Technology in Government Awards (TIGA) in the 'ICT in Education' category was celebrated at eLearning Africa on Friday, May 27. The awards are co-organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the Government of Finland in collaboration with the eLearning Africa Scholarship Trust. The awards are given in recognition of initiatives aimed at exploiting Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for education and training in Africa.

The following projects won this year's awards in the 'ICT in Education' category:



The Speaking Book: This project aims to make education about critical issues accessible to all, regardless of literacy or education level. This 'world first' is created by South Africans for Africans and focuses on rural, vulnerable and excluded people living in disadvantaged regions of sub-Saharan Africa and communities around the world. Improving healthcare is a top priority for Africa and through the Speaking Books (www.sadag.co.za, www.booksofhope.com), access to essential medical information for low literacy, rural, and vulnerable Africans is improved.

Dr Math, South Africa – Dr. Math (www.csir.co.za) is a mobile tutoring service that provides access to credible, personal, on-demand tutoring in the subject of mathematics.

eLimika e-learning programme, KENYA – eLimika (www.elimika.ac.ke), which is a Kiswahili word for "get educated", is the vehicle through which Kenya Institute of Education (KIE) delivers its courses.

Plate-forme de formation à distance de l'Academia Aberta de Angola: Formation partout et à tout moment!, ANGOLA (www.academia-aberta.com) is the training platform of the Open Academy of Angola 2 and provides a distance training space and collaborative working environment.

POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP ON eLEARNING IN THE TOURISM SECTOR



eLearning Africa specialists in tourism and learning held a one-day workshop with the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, immediately following the main conference in Dar es Salaam. The spice island of Zanzibar, which lies some 22 miles off the East African mainland, is part of the United Republic of Tanzania and has enormous potential as a holiday destination. The Zanzibar Government is determined to develop the island's potential as a destination for high quality tourism sensitively, taking proper account of the unique environment and a fragile marine eco-system.

"Sensitive development requires knowledge and skill," said Dr Harold Elletson, one of the experts taking part in the workshop. "Distance learning provides a way for Zanzibar quickly to acquire the necessary skills to develop the highly trained workforce that is essential for a high quality tourist destination."

The eLearning Africa group, which included media and communications specialists Adam Salkeld, Shafika Isaacs and Rebecca Stromeyer, discussed how Zanzibar could use eLearning to facilitate the development of high quality tourism. The group visited Zanzibar at the invitation of the Revolutionary Government.

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EXHIBITORS

eLearning Africa 2011 was accompanied by a parallel exhibition that established itself as a central meeting and networking point within the conference and provided participants with the opportunity to find out about the latest services and products available. Representatives and attendees expressed their appreciation for the display and presentations.

List of Exhibitors 2011

- African Virtual University
- Association of African Distance Learning Centres
- Basic IT Education in Schools
- CNED
- common sense - eLearning & training consultants GmbH
- Computers 4 Kids
- Computer Zentrum Strausberg GmbH
- CoZa Cares (UniForum SA)
- Designmate (I) Pvt. Ltd.
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- Distance Education For Africa (DeAfrica)
- e-Learning for Kids
- Economic and Social Research Foundation
- eInstruction
- Emerald Group Publishing Limited
- Enterprise Ireland
- Future Managers
- GESCI
- Founded by the UN ICT Task Force
- GOPAS, a.s.
- Harbinger Knowledge Products Pvt Ltd.
- Hewlett Packard
- IBM East Africa
- ICDL Africa
- Inventions Company Limited
- JSTOR
- Kenya Literature Bureau
- Kineo Africa
- Let's Do It!
- LJ Create Ltd
- LRMG Performance Agency
- Lucas Nülle Lehr- und Meßgeräte GmbH
- Marsden Grant UK
- Microsoft
- National eLearning Support Centre (NeSC)
- NComputing, Inc.
- Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development
- Oracle
- Pearson
- Présidence de la République du Sénégal
- RDI
- SEACOM Tanzania Limited
- SMART Technologies
- Tanzania Global Development Learning Centre (TGDLC)
- Tanzanian Training Centre for International Health
- Televic Education
- The Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa
- The Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Tanzania
- The Open University of Tanzania (OUT)
- Institute of Educational Technology (IET)
- ThirdForce
- WebScience
- World Bank Institute GDLN Global Secretariat
- Wyse Technology



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COMMENT

"Everything ran smoothly and the speakers were good. I learned a lot about new ICT innovation technologies from the exhibition area. It was not just a conference but a world-class event. All I can say is what a wonderful time, spent at a wonderful place in the company of good people."

Mutangadura Tendayi,
Midlands State University, Zimbabwe



COMMENTS

"It was a good attempt at making sure Africa is part of the train that moves technology and education forward."

Kehinde Williams, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

"This was my first time at this annual conference. It was a tremendous success for me because it has helped me network with resourceful, like-minded individuals in other parts of the world who are also eager to collaborate with me in carrying out educational programmes."

Richard Chole, PMM's Girls' School, Uganda

"My experience was thrilling in that after attending and learning so much for three days I had the opportunity to meet the eLearning staff and contribute towards future eLearning planning. During this session it was encouraging to see that eLA brought together different people from all walks of life, because we even had a Chief from Cameroon."

Rachel Tembo, Rhodes Park School, Zambia

"Absolutely loved it, this was a terrific event, you guys rock..... Thanks to the organisers for bringing us together."

Eric Osiakwan, African Internet Service Provider Associations (AfrISPA), Ghana

"Many thanks for the support you rendered to me to see that I do attend the eLA2011 conference. It was a pleasure meeting you out there and may you keep the candle burning in the upcoming conferences."

Peter Zizinga, Makerere College School, Uganda

"Kudos to the ICWE team as well for making this event an even bigger success year after year. We as Africans really appreciate this a lot."

Maggy Beukes-Amiss, Namibia e-Learning Centre (NeLC), Namibia

"I think you guys pulled it off real good."

Nnenna Nwakanma, Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa (FOSSFA), Ghana

"It was both a pleasure and privilege to be part of a very successful event such as the one you staged in Dar es Salaam last week."

Ali Mufuruki, Chairman & CEO, Infotech Investment Group LTD, Tanzania

"I have been to a lot of conferences before but eLearning Africa was really different and special in many ways."

Hala Nur, University of Khartoum, Sudan

"Many thanks for giving me the opportunity to attend such a world-class event. The conference was so beneficial to me and I have learned a lot of things and was also able to network a lot. Let me say thanks again for such an opportunity."

Fabian Hamza, Student, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania

"eLearning Africa has proven to be the best conference I have attended so far. Many thanks to your team. It was an opportunity for me to see new trends in the ICT world and meet various people with outstanding talents and skills."

James Okhakhu, Day Waterman College, Nigeria

"The conference was a huge success and I really enjoyed it and learnt a lot."

Anthony Gioko, Aga Khan Academy, Kenya

"Great conference, great people! Looking forward to eLearning Africa 2012!!!!"

Unity Chipunza, Africa University, Zimbabwe

ORGANISERS

ICWE GmbH is an international conference organiser with a focus on education and training. The company's flagship event "ONLINE EDUCA BERLIN" is the world's largest annual international eLearning conference and has been convening since 1995: www.online-educa.com

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