

AFRICAN LEADERSHIP IN ICT



AFRICAN UNION



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND



African Leadership in ICT Course

Building Leadership for Knowledge Society Development in Africa

About ALICT

African Leadership in ICT (ALICT) is an African Union Commission initiative, supported by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and implemented by GESCI (Founded by the UN ICT Task Force).

Course Vision

Work with future African leaders in ministries and organisations to advance knowledge society development across Africa.



Course Objectives

- Equip future African leaders with a commanding understanding of the key elements in the development of knowledge societies.
- Build future leaders' capacities to be agents of change in their ministries, organisations and regions for the development of knowledge societies.

Course Details

- 7 months
- Online, Offline, and Applied Learning
- Next intake of participants starts June 2012
- Course commences October 2012
- Go to www.gesci.org to apply

Course Delivery

Blended learning approach whereby participants learn both online and in face-to-face settings:

Through the **ALICT virtual workspace** participants will access learning materials, engage in discussion, and complete group assignments with the support of e-tutors.

Key elements of the course will be delivered in face-to-face workshops: **Orientation, Mid-term Evaluation and 360 Leadership assessment feedback; Futures Thinking, and the development of a Policy Coherence Roadmap.**

Course Structure

Module 1

Introduction to the Knowledge Society

This module will introduce participants to the key concepts and definitions associated with the knowledge society. It begins with a workshop at which participants will be presented with and will discuss the key elements of policy and implementation for knowledge society development. An overview of Leadership and futures thinking tools, which underpin the course, will be presented to allow participants to reflect on and to prepare for their fuller analysis, interrogation and application in later modules and throughout the course.

Learning outcomes:

- Familiarisation with key knowledge society concepts.
- Familiarisation with leadership and futures thinking tools.
- Immersion in course technologies.
- Awareness of course requirements and expectations.
- Familiarisation with mandatory and recommended reading material.

Module 2

Leadership in the Knowledge Age

This module will equip participants with new leadership approaches in the context of knowledge-based organisational and national development. Awareness of personal leadership strengths will be enhanced and areas for improvement will be identified. Approaches and tools for change management will be provided, and leadership capacity for cross-organisational engagement on knowledge society policies and strategies will be developed.

Learning outcomes:

- Understand how to critically analyse personal leadership and organisational managerial practices.
- Possess fresh approaches for improving leadership practice in organisational and country contexts.
- Strengthen personal initiative to improve leadership at the organisational and network level.
- Acquire new leadership approaches and utilise tools for organisational knowledge strategy discourse and interventions.
- Demonstrate transformational leadership capacity in reflection and reporting on organisational interventions.

Module 3

New Strategies for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)

This module will take participants through the components of innovation systems and better their understanding of what elements and characteristics are required within policies, plans and strategies to spur economic growth in their countries. At the organisational and government level participants will learn how innovation is linked to positive changes in efficiency, productivity, quality, and competitiveness.

Learning outcomes:

- Possess a solid understanding of the key role of STI in the development of knowledge societies.
- Enhance ability to identify the elements/characteristics of innovation systems that support economic growth and social development.
- Increase awareness of new approaches to fostering innovation from the policy level right down to the grass-roots level.
- Integration of futures thinking into STI through group assignment.

Module 4

Telecommunications Infrastructure and Quality Internet

This module will ensure that participants understand the central role of high-speed internet for social and economic development. The key outcome of this module will be the ability to champion the best approaches to the development, deployment and application of core broadband infrastructures for economic development. The merits and demerits of private versus public ownership or a combination of both will be explored as well as the emerging trends in this area. Case studies of what went well and poorly in other countries will be drawn on. The need for both ongoing investment in upgraded infrastructure and the importance of competition for consequent downstream costs will be explored.



Learning outcomes:

- Acquire a working knowledge of the technology and its terminology and understand the telecoms marketplace (including local, international suppliers; media/broadcasting, etc.).
- Understand the current funding and ownership models and the best options for the future availability of adequate and affordable broadband in the respective African countries.
- Know about the current backbone and fibre loops and linkages already in place within Africa and what developments are being planned for.
- Learn about the capabilities and limitations of Fibre, Wimax, DSL, 3G and their appropriateness in different scenarios to provide quality broadband internet in African countries contexts.
- Explore and understand the merits and demerits of public private partnerships in broadband service delivery.
- Appreciate the difficulties and possible technology solution/alleviations to the growing digital divides – urban versus rural: skilled users versus non users.
- Explore best technical and funding options in the provision of internet to the user, i.e. last mile solutions.
- An action plan summarising the appropriate interventions and supports possible by government and the public sector will be developed and presented.

Module 5

ICT Applications and the role of Government

This module will facilitate a review of the role of government and the public sector in developing knowledge societies. Case studies will be presented. Approaches to regulatory and internet governance frameworks and how they can be tailored to country needs will be explored. Participants will understand the role of ICT in corporate governance and in improving public services to citizens. The ongoing digitisation of media and broadcasting services will be examined and in the contexts of possible revenue streams from electromagnetic spectrum, intellectual property/digital rights, patents and domain name registry. Geographic information systems (GIS) and mapping for planning at national and local levels will be presented and discussed. Participants will understand and explore the nature of globalisation and how ICT is a key driver for doing business in a global world. An exploration of the role of ICT in diplomacy and the furtherance of good international relations, peace and justice.

Learning outcomes:

- Acquire an overview of ICT use and application in government and society.
- Understand how government can facilitate the adoption of ICT for the better delivery of public services.
- Thorough market understanding of telecommunications assets, electromagnetic spectrum and emerging services which are valuable natural resources.
- Know how government can institute effective regulatory approaches and adopt appropriate internet governance frameworks.

- Understand and appreciate the issues of social inclusion, online privacy, internet safety and the increasing use of social media.
- Explore possible solutions (technical and financial) to the growing digital divides.
- Appreciate how ICT can assist in diplomacy and good relations on an international basis and the furtherance of peace and justice.
- Development of a summary roadmap for the future with respect to individual countries.

Module 6 Education in the Knowledge Age

This module will provide participants with the opportunity to examine and understand the pivotal role of education in the development of knowledge societies. It will explore how ICT integration can contribute to both the quality of teaching and learning and the equality of access to educational opportunity. Participants will learn how to apply leadership skills and futures thinking tools to promote policy analysis of education and development issues in their country contexts and in the context of the transformative role of digital technologies.



Learning outcomes:

- Understand critical issues (e.g. population growth) and their implications for African education systems.
- Identify and map the educational context, needs and trends at the country level – futures thinking in action!
- Understand and examine the transformative role of technology in the provision of educational opportunity at both the formal and informal levels of provision.
- Understand how the knowledge society can act as a trigger for educational change.

Module 7 Knowledge Society for Africa

This module will provide participants with opportunities to apply leadership and futures thinking tools to their own country and system contexts. Participants will use the outputs from the previous modules to develop a policy coherence roadmap in a Futures Thinking workshop. They will return to their organisations equipped with practical knowledge and tools to support policy development and implementation for knowledge societies.

Learning outcomes:

- Complete final assignments.
- Develop a deep understanding of one pillar of the knowledge society through completion of their assignments.
- Possess a complete picture of the state of knowledge society development in Africa and its developmental pathways.
- Possess enhanced research and writing skills.
- Have their papers published if satisfactory.

Assignments

All module assignments undertaken individually and in groups throughout the course will culminate in the development of a Policy Coherence Roadmap for Knowledge Society development in Module 7 at the Futures Thinking Workshop.

Certification

Participants who successfully complete the course will receive a professional certificate in African Leadership in ICT. In addition, the course is under review by Dublin City University (Ireland) for credit accumulation towards postgraduate qualifications.

Course Benefits

- Strengthened career- advancement opportunities.
- 21st Century skills for the development of Knowledge Societies.
- Membership to a continent-wide professional network of ALICT alumni.
- Expected accumulated credits for post-graduate qualifications.
- Working knowledge of Futures Thinking Tools and web 2.0 tools.
- Appreciation for the importance of innovation and creativity in strategy formulation.
- Improved project management, policy planning and implementation skills.
- Mastery of Leadership Toolkit for Knowledge Societies.

To find out more about the ALICT course please visit www.gesci.org

You can also contact us directly by emailing senthil.kumar@gesci.org and helena.tapper@gesci.org or by calling this number +254 20 3746060/1/2

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