



eLearning Africa 2013: In Review

Organisers



MAY 29 – 31, 2013

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THE EVENT

eLearning Africa 2013 saw 1,480 participants from 65 countries gather in Windhoek for three days of learning, knowledge exchange and networking. The Continent's largest gathering of eLearning and ICT-supported education and training professionals, eLearning Africa brought together over 300 speakers from across Africa and the world to explore the latest innovations and issues in the fields of technology and education.

Under the overall theme of Tradition, Change and Innovation and through a wide variety of workshops, seminars, discussions, networking and plenary sessions, participants had ample opportunity to enhance their knowledge, expertise and abilities as well as to develop multinational and cross-industry contacts.

Featuring over 62 exhibitors from 19 countries, the exhibition area was a hub for the latest technological innovations in education and training. Participants were able to see, test and compare vendors' most recent technologies, as well as to learn about new ways of using familiar products, while suppliers could present their products and services to decision-makers from all over Africa.

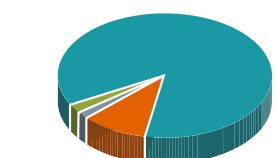
The conference came to a successful close with the lively annual eLearning Africa Debate, in which experts and participants argued passionately about whether too much attention has been paid to innovation in education and not enough to sustainability. After a knowledge- and networking-packed few days, participants were treated to a display of traditional dancing and singing, as thoughts turned to continuing and building on discussions in the future.

eLEARNING AFRICA 2013 IN A NUTSHELL

- 1480 participants from 65 countries
- Over 300 speakers and chairpersons from 43 countries
- 15 government ministers and one prime minister
- 69 exhibitors & sponsors from 19 countries

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GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION



Africa 86%
Europe 10%
North & South America 2%
Asia / ME / Australia 2%

SECTORAL REPRESENTATION

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



Academic 40%
Corporate 26%
Public Sector (Government/Int. Orgs) 27%
Civil Society (Association/NGOs) 7%

COMMENTS

"I am very impressed with the whole conference – the quality of the presentations and the speakers have been inspirational and excellent."

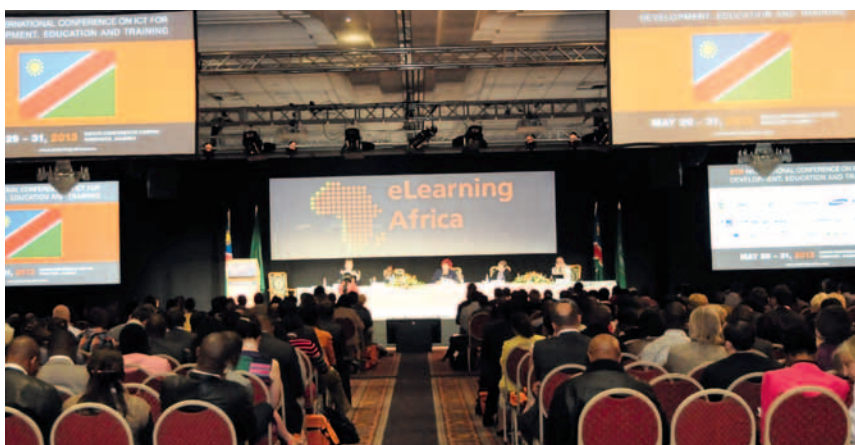
Dr Sarah Younie, De Montfort University, UK

"It was so empowering and asserting - and gave me access to various technological tools - especially through the exhibition and the various presentations. I really appreciate the opportunity granted to me and I shall always treasure it. I shall continue to spread the message of eLearning Africa from now on... I really learnt so much. I have become so passionate about my experience and have been sharing it with my Facebook friends and fellow employees in my division. I benefitted a lot from eLearning Africa, not only as a chairperson, but as a participant too. It was my first experience and I walked away a very rich person in terms of ICT-tools usage information and innovation.

The organisation of the conference is so impressive - and I am not only talking about the pre-conference, as the after conference organisation is so amazing too."

Menesia Muinjo, Namibian Broadcasting Corporation, Namibia

PLENARY SESSIONS



OPENING PLENARY

Under the theme “Learning and Innovation: In the Cloud and on the Ground with a Spirit of Ubuntu”, the opening plenary session provided an in-depth look at the education landscape in Africa, where new technologies and vibrant creativity still coexist with more traditional methods.

Chaired by **Dr David Richard Namwandi**, Minister of Education of Namibia, and **Honourable Minister Joel Kaapanda**, Minister of Information and Communication, the conference was officially opened by Namibia’s Prime Minister, the **Right Honorable Dr Hage Geingob**.

Dr Geingob explained that the eLearning Africa conference was “tantamount to our national development objectives since it has mission to grow a learning and knowledgeable network of practitioners, investors, policymakers and partnerships that can enhance and improve eLearning practice, as part of the collective endeavour to support the Education For All and Millennium Development Goals in Africa.” Highlighting the tremendous opportunities offered by ICT, Dr Geingob acknowledged the challenge facing Namibia and the Continent to “capitalise on these opportunities and ensure that we transform our economies into engines of growth and innovation”.

THE eLA CONFERENCE PROGRAMME IN A NUTSHELL

- 15 preconference events
- Over 60 parallel sessions
- 4 plenary sessions

Four speakers then took to the podium to discuss the important issues at stake. **Prof. Sugata Mitra** of Newcastle University, one of the biggest names in eLearning worldwide, outlined his vision of the future of eLearning and his “school in the cloud”. “The school in the cloud is as school that is operated by and operated with the internet... using media the children consider their own, brought inside their schools. In two years’ time we’ll know how well this works in one of the most remote parts of the world... at that point perhaps I can give you a glimpse of the future.”

Mac-Jordan Degadjor of Blogging Ghana talked about his life experiences, starting out from a small village in Accra to become part of a group determined to change Africa’s future. One of his major emphases was innovation hubs,



COMMENTS

“In my experience this was the best eLearning Africa yet! It was made all the more current by the inclusion of controversial and cutting edge speakers who really know the field and were able to speak honestly and to expose some of the unnecessary hype. I really love the way you organise the programme by grouping themes as closely as you can – and the venue this year lent itself to this format superbly.”

Janet Thomson, SchoolNet South Africa, South Africa

“I greatly enjoyed and learned from the various interactions, and I remain deeply impressed by the quality of your team and its logistical, management, diplomatic and delivery competences.”

Monika Weber-Fahr, Director Knowledge * Learning * Results, Sustainable Development Network, The World Bank, USA

PLENARY SESSIONS

which, he said, “foster and promote local technology innovation. The hubs serve as incubators, meeting points for the local technology community as well as points of knowledge exchange”.

Stewart van Graan, Managing Director of Dell Central and Southern Africa, spoke of innovation and mobility as the catalysts of Africa’s great leap forward. “We are raising our hand to get ourselves involved in the education transformation in Africa - we commit ourselves to it - we think it’s very important to prepare African children, to compete globally; we need to ensure our children grow in a world where their talents are matched by the opportunities,” he explained.

Bobana Badisang, poet and Director of the Botswanan National Library Service, stood up last, and delivered her own verse titled “Virtual eMancipation”, an inspiring, innovative poem conveying her message in a powerful and unexpected way.

THURSDAY PLENARY

The second plenary took as its subject “Towards an (Upwardly) Mobile Africa?” and was chaired by **Dr Maggy Beukes-Amiss** of the University of Namibia. With the growth of the mobile market on the Continent showing no signs of stalling, the session examined more closely the factors related to this growth, and explored the ways in which mobility is renewing hopes to bring about an end to poverty.

Honourable Minister Joel Kaapanda opened the plenary, speaking of his own country’s achievements in the technology sector, with a particular emphasis on mobile technology and eHealth. He also expressed his pleasure at being able to welcome the eLearning Africa Conference to Namibia, and formally launched the *eLearning Africa Report 2013*, a comprehensive survey of the experience and opinions of professionals and practitioners from 42 African countries.

Mark East, General Manager, EMEA and ASIA Education Industry Group, Microsoft, took as his central point the fact that “Learning has changed. Schools for the most part have not.” He went on to describe ways in which schools would have to develop in order to participate fully in the digital revolution that is taking place in education.

Donald Clark went on to ask whether mobiles were “the new pen and pencil”. His speech examined diverse new media, explaining the advantages and disadvantages of using such platforms as Facebook, Twitter, and Google docs in the classroom, while stressing that in mobile learning, education must come first and the devices second.

As Director of Knowledge * Learning * Results at the World Bank’s Sustainable Development Network, **Dr Monika Weber-Fahr** was able to give an important economic and humanitarian standpoint on the subject of mobility. She spoke of shared prosperity, and the sort of mobility which helps the poorest 40% of populations to escape from poverty faster. A very positive piece of evidence for this sort of change today, she said, was the fact that there are over three times more mobile subscriptions in the developing world than in the developed world.



COMMENT

“I was most impressed with the organisation of the eLearning Africa Conference, the hospitality of the Namibian government and people, and the level of knowledge and interest from the delegates. With conferences like this, it is clear to see that Africa is rising!”

Barbara Mallinson, OBAMI, South Africa

PLENARY SESSIONS



FRIDAY PLENARY

The overarching theme of eLearning Africa 2013, Tradition, Change and Innovation, placed a spotlight on traditional African languages and the challenges they pose for educators. “Education Renewal through eLearning, MOOCs and Mother Tongue”, the Friday plenary, chaired by **Honourable Deputy Minister Stanley Simatra** explored the interface between the latest trends in eLearning which are sweeping across Africa and the complexities involved in dealing with Africa’s many indigenous tongues.

Prof. Dr Johannes Cronje of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, South Africa, first outlined his experiences with MOOCs. As a participant in several online courses and author of one himself, he was able to talk with considerable expertise on the challenges facing MOOCs today, the solutions they could offer, and where he thought they would go in the future.

“Accelerating eLearning with NComputing” was the subject of **Mark Pilgrim’s** talk. The Vice-President of NComputing in Europe, the Middle East and Africa told a selection of stories from schools across Africa which have been helped by his organisation has helped.

Prof. Kwesi Kwaa Prah is an expert on African Languages and Director of the Africa-wide Centre for Advanced Studies of African Society. In a rigorous and thorough presentation, he outlined the necessity of taking into account the language factor when integrating ICT in education, training and development.

Ambrose Ruyooka led the discussion into the important area of government policy, using his home country, Uganda, as an example. As Commissioner for IT, he is at the centre of ICT development in the country and was able to bring the audience up to date on the initiatives being driven there at the government level.

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COMMENT

“I really enjoyed the inspiring sessions, and over all the kind and receptive folks I met at eLearning Africa. The conference gave me a new perspective on how ICT can help greatly in the development and educational sectors in Liberia after the 14 years of civil war. From the sessions and networking in Windhoek, I believe that eLearning could become an integral part of Liberia’s virgin ICT and Education sectors.”

Luther D. Jeke, iLab Liberia, Liberia

PLENARY SESSIONS



THE eLEARNING AFRICA DEBATE

The eLearning Africa Debate is one of the most popular conference events. Stimulating, lively and authoritative, the debate pits four top experts in the eLearning field against each other to argue a key issue in African eLearning and win the support of the crowd.

The provocative motion of this year's debate was: *"This House believes that sustainability is more important than innovation for education in Africa"* and throwing the proverbial punches in favour were **Dr Maggy Beukes-Amiss**, Head of Department and a Lecturer in the Department of Information and Communication Studies at the University of Namibia, and **Donald Clark**, an agitative blogger and writer from the UK. Leading the opposition were **Dr Adele Botha**, principal researcher at CSIR Meraka, and **Angelo Gitonga**, Deputy Head of ICT for Education Unit in the Kenya's Ministry of Education.

Starting in 2009, over 4,000 people have now taken part in the yearly eLearning Africa Debate. This year, each speaker had an opportunity to take to the microphone and lay down their persuasive, if not always sincerely held, arguments under the watchful eyes of the Namibian Deputy Minister of Education, **Silvia Makgone**, and **Dr Harold Elletson**, initiator and seasoned chairperson of the eLearning Africa Debate series. In amongst the high-spirits of the occasion there were serious arguments posed by both sides and the audience was treated to a broad scope of opinion on the motion that reflected many of the discussions and presentations that took place during the conference.

Taking the lead, Donald Clark kicked off the proceedings by comparing innovation to an "annoying and short-lived" mosquito, whilst choosing a far more mellow and agreeable tortoise as the representative of sustainability. Despite some distracting buzzing noises which seemed to emanate from the direction of his opponents, Clark pressed on to pick holes in some widely-lauded beacons of innovation. He then went on to point towards the dangers of high costs and low return, at least for the intended beneficiaries, which can often befall such headline-grabbing projects.

Unperturbed by this performance, Angelo Gitonga took to the podium and made sure that the audience was under no doubt about what the real meaning of innovation is. "Innovations are processes we undertake to sort out the problems we encounter on a daily basis," he declared, "Innovations are not inventions". Technology in and of itself, Gitonga argued, is not innovation. Using his microphone as a persuasive case in point, he explained that the microphone may be an invention but using it to be heard by a large audience across a large space was the true innovation.

COMMENT

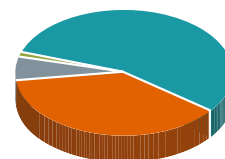
"eLearning Africa 2013 was perfectly well packaged and implemented without comparison yet in the history of eLearning Africa, by my evaluation. Congratulations again to your entire team. As long as the conference continues and I am alive, I will never miss it. I am just passionate about eLearning Africa and the education, training and development knowledge and skills it impacts, along with the productive networking opportunity in Africa and the entire world."

Adejare Amoo, Corporatemind, Nigeria

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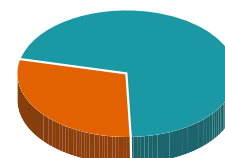
PARTICIPANT SATISFACTION

HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE eLEARNING AFRICA 2013 CONFERENCE PROGRAMME?



very good 55%
good 38%
sufficient 6%
poor 1%

HOW WOULD YOU EVALUATE eLEARNING AFRICA 2013 OVERALL?



Very worthwhile 71%
Worthwhile 29%
Not Worthwhile 0%



The third speaker to make her case was Maggy Beukes-Amiss, who refused to dilute the argument for sustainability, comparing herself and her team mate to an exclusive single malt whiskey that should be savoured on its own, and never mixed.

The final expert to lay down the gauntlet was Adele Botha, as she descended from the stage to walk amongst the audience and bring them along with her on a charge against the competing team. Whipping up general support, Botha spoke on behalf of her fellow Africans and their inherent inclination towards innovation, declaring to the crowd, “we are born innovators, we do not become innovators!” She went on to insist that innovation will be done “our way: by Africans, for Africans”, and cast the closing blow as she kindly let Clark and Beukes-Amiss know that, once she and her fellows had found out what best practice looked like for Africa, they would share it with them, “when it’s done”.

The presentations were followed by an animated round of questions both for and against the motion and both serious and light-hearted. Finally, it came down to the two chairs to call for a vote and announce the winners. Although it was a close run thing, it was decided that the house had failed the motion, and that the innovative mosquitoes had come out ahead of their slower tortoise colleagues.

After the Debate, **Dr Richard Namwandi**, Minister of Education of Namibia, officially closed eLearning Africa 2013.



PARALLEL SESSIONS

Under the overall theme of Tradition, Change and Innovation, the focus of many conversations at this year’s conference turned to local innovations in education, as well as agriculture, healthcare and livelihoods, especially for rural communities. Sessions provided the broadest possible view of the different developments taking place in all sectors, across Africa.

Digital, Traditional and Social Media

Although Africa is, by all accounts, a hotbed of innovation, new technologies are frequently to be found coexisting with the old – a sometimes surprising symbiosis, given how often innovations replace or marginalise older inventions. In “Video did not kill Community Radio”, **Godfrey Mwemba** of the University of Zambia and **Adam Salkeld**, one of educational video’s most passionate exponents, discussed the value of radio as an educational resource when used alongside satellite TV. Perhaps it is even this interaction between traditional and digital media that inspires much

COMMENT

“I was delighted with the level of knowledge of all speakers in their subject areas as this made the learning and sharing a worthwhile experience for all. The participants themselves made interesting contributions which any scholar would jot down for future reference or make use in their own personal and professional lives.

Thank you for hosting a well-coordinated, fun, enjoyable and memorable event in Windhoek. There is no limit to your potential, and hence we look forward to eLearning Africa 2014.”

Justin Mupinda, Computers for Zimbabwean Schools, Zimbabwe

PARALLEL SESSIONS

innovation in the first place, as Africans find ways around the challenges they face – challenges highlighted in the session “New Hues for Connectivity Blues”, in which **Shakeel Padamsey** of Camara Education outlined the ways in which the Camara Model had overcome connectivity issues to bring education to rural schools in Ethiopia, and **Paul Damasen Ikwaba** of the Open University of Tanzania addressed the all-important power supply problems which pose such a challenge for the progress of eLearning.



The Mobility of Learning, of the Learner and Mobile Technologies

Mobile technology brings huge benefits to many aspects of life: supporting education, personal finance, agriculture, social networking, community cohesion, literacy, government and health. At eLearning Africa 2013, these were all on the agenda, as experts shared their experiences of mobility in diverse fields. In “The rise of mFarmers in Africa”, concrete examples were given of a range of eAgriculture initiatives. **Darlington Kahilu** of the Zambian Agricultural Ministry detailed an SMS platform for farmers introduced in his country; **Robert Kibaya**, CwBs Uganda, spoke of his experiences in helping rural communities raise funds through mobile technology; and **John Gushit** of the University of Jos, Nigeria, outlined the ways in which mFarming was helping to improve pesticide use amongst peasant farmers. After the launch in the last year of the first African tablet, it was not surprising to find eLearning practitioners talking about their applications


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of the technology in a session entitled “Tablet-enabled Learning: a sweet or bitter pill?” which was chaired by **Ivan Lumula** of Microsoft 4Afrika Initiatives, Kenya. Here, **Omashani Naidoo**, SchoolNet South Africa, discussed the current use of tablets in classrooms, while **Tutaleni I. Asino** of Penn State University and Namibia spoke of research conducted in Namibia, America and South Africa in which children were allowed to act as their own education designers.

IMPROVING HEALTHCARE DELIVERY, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS AND PUBLIC HEALTH AWARENESS



eHealth initiatives are becoming more and more important in Africa, with mobility enabling the penetration of medical expertise into areas it rarely reached before, and scalable eLearning programmes expanding opportunities for large-scale, high-quality training of healthcare professionals. These trends were particularly well represented at eLearning Africa, where experts from all over the world delivered sessions on the potential of eLearning for maternal health, medical education, and growing healthcare professionals in Africa. In a session entitled “eLearning in Medical Education” **Dativa Tibyampansha** of the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College, Tanzania, and **Gladys Msiska** of the Kamuzu College of Nursing, Malawi, came together to give a broad portrait of how eLearning is changing medicine and healthcare right across the continent.

COMMENTS

“I just wanted to say that the conference was a great experience so please pass my thanks over to the organisers - it was truly world class!”

Paul Oosthuizen, Wyse Technology, South Africa

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Also of interest was the session delivered by **Fabrice Laurentin** of the UN, **Ana Jimenez-Castellanos** of the Madrid Politecnica, and **Leszek Wojnowski** of Mainz University, who presented cutting edge ICT-enabled solutions for HIV pre-counselling services, and the delivery of medical prescriptions.

OPEN ARCHITECTURE, ACCESS, STANDARDS AND CONTENT

Open-access has become one of the buzzwords of modern education, with the explosion of MOOCs and other free online resources opening up learning to more people than ever before. On hand to discuss the ramifications of these developments was **Anne Boyer** from the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research. Most notable was the collection of 23,000 free online French educational resources, collected and published by her ministry, which she presented at the talk, "Higher Education Open to All". **Gertjan van Stam** of IEEE Zimbabwe, gave one of the most radical views of MOOCs in his talk during the session, "Mad about MOOCs? But what makes a MOOC good?" He saw them not only in terms of their current advantages in providing quality education to vast numbers of students, but also as an opportunity for African education to influence the entire world. But MOOCs were not the only exciting developments on the table this year. **Joris Komen** of FOSSFA, Namibia, and **Geraldine de Bastion** provided a lively audience discussion with "Promoting Innovation in Africa through Free and Open-Source Technology". Chaired by **John Matogo**, of Kenya's Strathmore University, this session provided an overview of successes in creating stimulating learning and business environments, and a discussion of the wider implications, apparent to all, in making education available for free online.



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ACADEMIC AND SCHOLARLY RESEARCH, EVIDENCE BASED RESEARCH, ACTION RESEARCH AND THEORY DEVELOPMENT

The *eLearning Africa Report 2013* was just one of the important pieces of research promulgated at the conference in Namibia. The latest findings on subjects such as unequal access to ICT in classrooms or the cultural and policy implications of ICT integration in universities were also presented by academics from every corner of Africa and Europe. Though eLearning Africa always generates a dynamic, forward-looking atmosphere, some of this research presented disappointing findings, such as that of **Nokulunga Sithabile Ndlovu**, of the Wits School of Education South Africa, who demonstrated that eLearning in his country's townships is still very much a myth. Nevertheless, there was more to be excited about here too, with important news coming in from educational establishments across the Continent: **Javier Fotsing**, Université de Yaoundé I, Cameroon, delivered his research on the innovative use of ICTs in young African engineers' training, while **Kwami Aqbéco Tallaqbé Dayé** of Benin's Higher Education Ministry (MESFTRPIJ) spoke of the usage of ICTs by secondary school teachers in his country.

PRE-SERVICE AND IN-SERVICE TEACHERS, TEACHER SUPPORT, TEACHING AND TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

Growing the competency of teachers and addressing the critical education shortages faced by some parts of Africa are key priorities for many eLearning practitioners who submitted proposals for this year's eLearning Africa, especially as the most far-sighted are seeing huge changes about to take place in the traditional structures of teaching. "Flipped Learning and the Future of Teaching" was the subject of one session, with **Gary Brooking** of the University of Zimbabwe, **Andrew Manu** of Iowa State University and **Angela Ney** of Teachers Media International delivering their own opinions on the future of the flipped classroom and the new pedagogies that will emerge when students are put in charge of their own learning.



PARALLEL SESSIONS

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS, EXPERIENCES AND STORIES

Some of the most inspiring sessions on offer at eLearning Africa 2013 were those in which speakers told their own stories of implementing technology-enabled education on the ground. It was here that the versatility of eLearning was made undeniably clear: talks were given on the new uses of digital libraries, of interactive lessons between schools in South Africa, of reaching nomadic children in Sudan – the list of personal tales was both long and extraordinarily varied. One of the most fascinating was “eLearning Experiences in Refugee Contexts”, a session delivered by **Ernst Jan Suur** of War Child Holland Uganda, and **Erin Hayba** of UNHCR, on the pressing need for education amongst displaced populations, and how they have used eLearning techniques to restore some sense of normality to children’s and adults’ lives in refugee camps.

INTERACTIVE AND NETWORKING SESSIONS

The interactive and networking sessions at eLearning Africa offered participants a chance to meet, greet, and compare ideas. They fell into three categories: the **Networking Café**, a boisterous session in which participants “speed-networked” with each other; the **Oxungi Knowledge Exchange** sessions where small groups held informal discussions on specific topics, sharing their own problems and solutions; and the **Talking Heads** sessions, a chance to get to know the latest products through face-to-face discussion with presenters, delivering practical applications and examples simultaneously.

With the discovery in this year’s *eLearning Africa Report* that nearly half of eLearning practitioners experience failure in their initiatives, the **Kushindwa Bazaar** could not have come at a better time! This chance to celebrate failure saw participants get together to tell all about their eLearning mishaps, to learn from the past and aim for new successes in the future – and enjoy a good laugh, on occasions!

The **Video Africa Clinics** saw participants come together to learn about the use of video in the classroom from Adam Salkeld. Many brought their own videos along to the session for a spot of professional criticism from the video guru.



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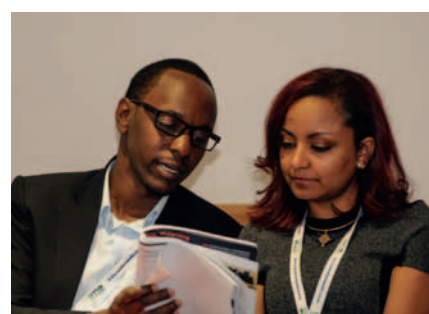
COMMENTS

“We shared our experiences but also we learned a lot from other countries. We shall make use of all the experiences we learned to advance eLearning at our centre but also in Tanzania and in the African region!”

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

“Overall organisation of the event has been excellent, both before the actual event as well as during. ICWE has been very efficient and extremely helpful in all aspects.”

Stacey Henn, South African College of Business, South Africa



THE eLEARNING AFRICA 2013 REPORT

The conference saw the launch of the *eLearning Africa Report 2013* by the Namibian Minister for ICT, the Honorable Joel Kaapanda. Building on the findings of the 2012 edition, the Report provides a unique snapshot of ICT developments across the Continent, going beyond statistics and giving a voice to hundreds of Africans involved in eLearning practice at grassroots level. Its aim is to reflect the stories, views and experiences of African practitioners and their contribution to the broader African eLearning narrative.



The Report explores key issues in the field of technology-enhanced learning, including:

- Which digital technologies are most popular for learning
- How technology is being used to support learning
- What has succeeded and what has failed
- What experts think post-2015 development priorities should be

The Report contains some surprising findings, including the fact that more practitioners use radio in eLearning than tablets, and that 40% of practitioners create local content, but only 16% do so using indigenous languages.

To download a free copy of the Report, please visit:
www.elearning-africa.com/report2013

THE 6TH MINISTERIAL ROUND TABLE ON “POLICY AND INNOVATION IN EDUCATION IN AFRICA”



This 6th Ministerial Round Table (MRT) on “Policy and Innovation in Education in Africa” took place on Wednesday 29th May in conjunction with eLearning Africa. It was attended by ministers, deputy ministers and ministerial representatives of Basic and Higher Education, ICT, Finance, Foreign Affairs, Post and Telecommunications from Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia, as well as a delegation from ECOWAS, led by the ECOWAS Vice President.

Participants in the Ministerial Round Table:

- reviewed both Africa’s experience of ICT in education and the development of policy to date,
- discussed emerging trends in the way Africans are learning and the increasing influence of innovative technologies, and
- shared ideas on appropriate policy responses to the influence of rapid technological change on the African learning landscape

The day began with a rousing keynote from Honourable Dr David Namwandi, the Namibian Minister of Education, who recognised that ICTs are an enabler for transformation, change and innovation in education, whilst also acknowledging the complexities of developing and implementing effective policy. The Honourable Minister praised policies that take account of the particular circumstances of specific countries, setting realistic and achievable targets, but went on to suggest that the real challenge is not so much in the formulation of a policy but in its proper implementation.

In response, the day’s lively and productive round table discussion focussed on sharing and assessing the collective policy experiences of the attendant ministers. Attendees also heard presentations from a range of expert speakers who offered insights into a variety of fields, including self-directed learning initiatives, Public-Private Partnerships and affordable options for boosting bandwidth in rural areas. Ministers were also given a preview of the *eLearning Africa Report 2013*, which was officially launched the following day at eLearning Africa.

In response to the MRT, a Communiqué was drawn up detailing the observations and recommendations made by participants. Key recommendations included bolstering the role of Ministries of Finance in planning and executing ICT in Education programmes, developing well-structured Public-Private Partnerships to provide affordable and quality ICT services to rural and remote areas and engaging with parents and communities on issues of cyber safety.

Ministers also suggested regular policy reviews to ensure that policies remain relevant and cater for changing needs and advances in technology and highlighted the urgent need to attract larger numbers of young people, especially women, to science and technology from an early age to spur innovation and development.



PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS



eLearning Africa 2013 featured 15 pre-conference workshops which provided participants with practical knowledge and insight from leading international experts, as well as the chance to network with like-minded professionals before the official opening of the conference. Sessions covered a wide range of areas, including innovation hubs, blogging, Open Education Resources, video in education, quality assurance and new media.

Social media and its uses for enhancing education was a popular topic throughout the conference and was addressed specifically in the pre-conference workshop “Practical Innovative Blogging and Online Group Collaboration for Development,” which was led by Robert Kibaya of Communication without Borders (CwBs), while the media workshop “New media, new image?” focused on how tools such as social media, blogs and new technologies can help African journalists and citizens to shape and sell their own stories to local international media.

Another heavily debated topic, Open Education Resources, was the subject of several workshops. **Abel Makonga** of Zambia’s Chalimbana Basic School and **Bjoern Hassler** of the University of Cambridge presented practical tips and tools for the interactive teaching of mathematics and science, while **Sarah Younie** of De Montfort University and **Sarah-Louise Jones** of the University of Bedfordshire & Core Education taught participants how online education resources can be used to support digital literacy in university teaching staff.

Other workshops covered topics such as ICT use for education, educating students and teachers on digital skills, how to create and use digital video content, innovation hubs in Africa, and the launch of several digital education resources and technologies.

With half- and full-day workshops covering everything from social media to video, moodle and MOOCs, there was something for everyone.



COMMENT

“My experiences at eLearning Africa have reinforced the conviction that our ability to change, adapt and promote the use of ICTs can unlock great potential, especially within public institutions which currently have underused ICT facilities.”

**Professor Itanna, Addis Ababa
University, Ethiopia**



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Supporting African Participation



EXHIBITORS

After the powerhouse of ideas that was the first plenary session of eLearning Africa 2013, the Exhibition Area opened in style, with drinks (including the famous Windhoek Lager) and a delicious buffet. This was a chance for all conference participants to relax and get to know each other, before the conference really got into full swing.

The spacious Exhibition Area is the arena for one of eLearning Africa's most lively attractions, as exhibitors demonstrate their latest products and services to an excited audience of decision-makers, practitioners and policy makers. An impressive total of 62 sponsors and exhibitors set up stalls this year to show off some of the most cutting-edge developments on the eLearning scene.

In addition to presenting their wares at their impressive stand, Dell-Wyse arranged many other activities throughout the conference including talks on Cloud Client Computing, their new solar-powered classroom, and the integration of games in learning.

Always a popular draw were the competitions run by NComputing and Microsoft. NComputing's "Lucky Key" competition gave away up to ten special prizes a day to anyone who was able to unlock a treasure chest exhibited at their stand. Meanwhile, NComputing and Microsoft ran a prize draw to win a "Classroom in a Box", an easy-to-deploy, fully-functioning computer classroom to be installed in a school in Africa.

It was in the Exhibition Area that the GIZ (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit), together with **Mr Uahekua Herunga**, Minister for Tourism of Namibia, launched a new Tourism Training Platform for Namibia: an online platform, where training providers can advertise their services, catering to the needs of the Namibian tourism industry.

There was a strong turnout of African exhibitors, with Telekom Namibia, MTN, Egypt On, PC Training and MTC standing alongside Samsung, JP - inspiring knowledge and the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research. All of this lent the exhibition area a buzzing, worldwide-yet-local feel, as much Namibian as African and international.



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COMMENT

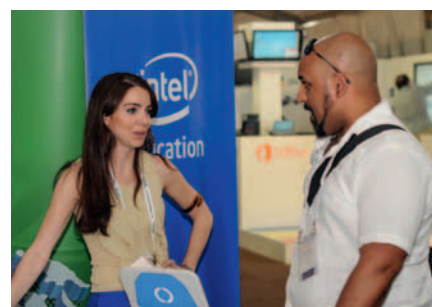
"Just wanted to say thank you for an amazing event and excellent management of our sponsorship. We are really happy with the outcome: we made a lot of contacts in the African market and met amazing people! Thank you for the social media mentions as well, great effort from your team! Looking forward to working with you again, I will surely see you in Uganda next year."

Silvia Boblea, NComputing, UK

List of Exhibitors at eLearning Africa 2013

- AeLSNet - Africa eLearning Service Network
- African Journals OnLine (AJOL)
- African Virtual University
- Blue Future ICT
- Business Connexion Namibia (Pty) Ltd
- Centre for Educational Technology, University of Cape Town
- Certiport
- Computer Zentrum Strausberg GmbH
- CREALOGIX Education
- Dell
- Designmate (I) Pvt. Ltd.
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- Dialog Education GmbH / Software "School Champions"
- DRS Data Services Limited
- Éditions Éburnie
- Emerald Group Publishing
- ETS Global
- Festo Didactic
- Future Managers Pty Ltd
- Genius Educational Software
- Gilat Satellite Networks Ltd.
- Harbinger Knowledge Products
- ICDL Africa
- IFADEM
- Inmarsat
- Innovacia Sdn. Bhd.
- Institute for Open Learning
- JP-Inspiring Knowledge
- Kagiso Activ Training Pty Ltd
- Kalleo People Group
- Kineo Africa
- Lenovo South Africa
- Lifeline Technologies Trading Ltd.
- Lucas Nülle GmbH
- Maccauvlei Learning Academy
- Microsoft
- Ministry of Education, Namibia
- Ministry of Higher Education and Research, France
- Ministry of Information and Communications Technology, Uganda
- MoE + MICT for infinite learning, Namibia
- Namibia Technology College
- Namibian Knowledge Portal Project
- NComputing
- NetLearn Update CC
- Obami Networks
- PC Training & Business College (PTY) LTD
- PHYWE Systeme GmbH & Co. KG
- Presentations 2Go / CourseReady MOOCS
- Samsung Electronics Africa
- Sangari Africa
- South African College of Business
- Spider (The Swedish Program for ICT in Developing Regions)
- Tanzania Training Center for International Health - Ifakara (TTCIH)
- Teachers Media International
- Technica Online Training Resources
- Telecom Namibia
- Televic Education
- The CoZa Cares Foundation
- The International University of Management
- Toon Boom Animation
- Uganda Communications Commission
- Xnet -Development Alliance Trust

Should you wish to become a sponsor or book a stand at eLearning Africa, please contact us at marketing@elearning-africa.com.



COMMENT

"We really look forward to eLearning Africa 2014: our dedicated recognition of your organisation and professionalism goes to you and your team for the well organised event. Keep it up!"

Zabron Abel, Training Centre for International Health, Tanzania

"We enjoyed the conference and found it a very worthwhile endeavour overall."

Sharon Hulley, Product & Media Manager, Future Managers, South Africa

NETWORKING AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Participants at eLearning Africa were treated to an unforgettable party on Thursday evening, courtesy of the Namibian Local Organising Committee. Held in the beautiful surroundings of the Hotel Safari, the traditional Braai brought together delegates from over sixty countries to enjoy a culinary tour of Namibia and show off their best moves on the dance floor.

The party kicked off with a welcoming note from **Maggy Beukes-Amiss**, the Chairperson of the LOC, and **Rebecca Stromeyer**, the founder of eLearning Africa, along with a spirited introduction from Namibian comedian **Neville Basson**, who invited some brave international delegates to greet fellow guests in their mother tongue and risk being the subject of some risqué jokes.

Participants were then offered the chance to sample a diverse range of traditional Namibian foods laid on by representatives from Namibia's many tribes. 'Braai' is the Afrikaans word for barbeque, although a real braai requires far more than just grilled meat; socialising and dancing are also essential ingredients, so even when the food was finished the party carried on and participants danced the night away under the stars.

Following the closing of the conference, some adventurous participants chose to take part in the EAST Challenge, a five-day trek to the top of the Brandberg, Namibia's highest mountain, to take in its exhilarating views and scenery. Proceeds went to the eLearning Africa Scholarship Trust, sponsoring the conference participation of as many low-income practitioners, educators and researchers as possible.



COMMENT

"I'm a Social Entrepreneur and make mobile apps and solutions for education. In my opinion the networking at the event was excellent. I now have the lay of the land in terms of players in the industry (e.g. policymakers) and the general direction eLearning is heading in Africa, which is very exciting."

Paul Njenga, Vargatex (Pty) Ltd, South Africa

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NAMIBIAN SESSIONS

eLearning Africa 2013 was proud to showcase many of the latest developments from Namibia, our host country. Foremost amongst these was the Teachers' Competition, for which Namibian schoolteachers had been invited to submit their eLearning work. The three finalists were **Leon Feris** of Van Rhyn Primary School, Khomas region; **Wendy Ilukena** of Eden Primary School, Otjizondjupa Region; and **Joe Sasa** of Hage Geingob Secondary School, Khomas Region. They presented their work at a session entitled "Integrating ICTs in the Teaching-Learning Process: Outstanding Developments in Namibia".

Other examples of Namibian excellence were given in "Local Initiatives: a Namibian Perspective", detailing the most up-to-date initiatives to have come out of the country. Topics ranged from policy and development to technology training and the Namibian Digital Archive – and it was the general consensus that Namibia has a lot to teach Africa about the implementation of eLearning in educational contexts.

But the number and quality of the Namibian submissions to eLearning Africa is only half the story. The whole conference was shaped by Namibian culture – with the presence of so many delegates from the Namibian government, representatives from many of the tribes attending the Braai and Dance, and a performance by Namibian comedian Neville Basson adding to the tremendous sense of friendliness and hospitality. It is certain that all participants will remember the warmth of their Namibian hosts for a very long time indeed.



eLearning Africa 2014

eLearning Africa 2014 will be held in Kampala, Uganda. To ensure you keep up with the latest eLearning Africa developments, be sure to visit our [news portal](#), sign up for our [newsletter](#), and join our communities on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).



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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