eLearning Africa

9th International Conference on ICT for Development, Education & Training

Kampala
Uganda
May 28→30
2014

Post-Conference→ Report



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eLearning Africa

9th International Conference on ICT for Development, Education and Training

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> This is a great event and I definitely want to be part of it again. One of the most memorable moments in my working life. It was inspired and inspirational, bringing a sense of great optimism and potential.
>
> Carla Aerts,
> Cambridge University Press, UK

> eLearning Africa is a worthwhile event that provides a forum for African stakeholders from all walks of life to deliberate on vital issues in eLearning across the continent. It should continue!
>
> Gilbert Nakweya,
> SciDev.net, Kenya

> I believe for quite a while now that the discussions around eLearning have not been 'out of the box' enough. eLearning Africa provides us with a great opportunity to look at almost a decade of this experience and say, 'where are we now, as Africans?'. This is the place to be!
>
> Bright Simons,
> mPedigree, Nigeria

> As a country, Uganda has been highly honoured to host the 9th eLearning Africa conference. It is of high value, especially when it comes at a time when ICT is one of the priorities that have been identified by the government as part of our strategic plan.
>
> We have come to see the many packages that are tailored to learning and especially to children. There are very, very many exciting examples that we have seen!
>
> Dr Jimmy Samanyaa, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of ICT, Uganda

Numbers

Key figures of eLearning Africa 2014

eLearning Africa

1,497 Participants

3,371 tweets using #eLA14

48 Exhibitors

64 Sessions

10 Workshops

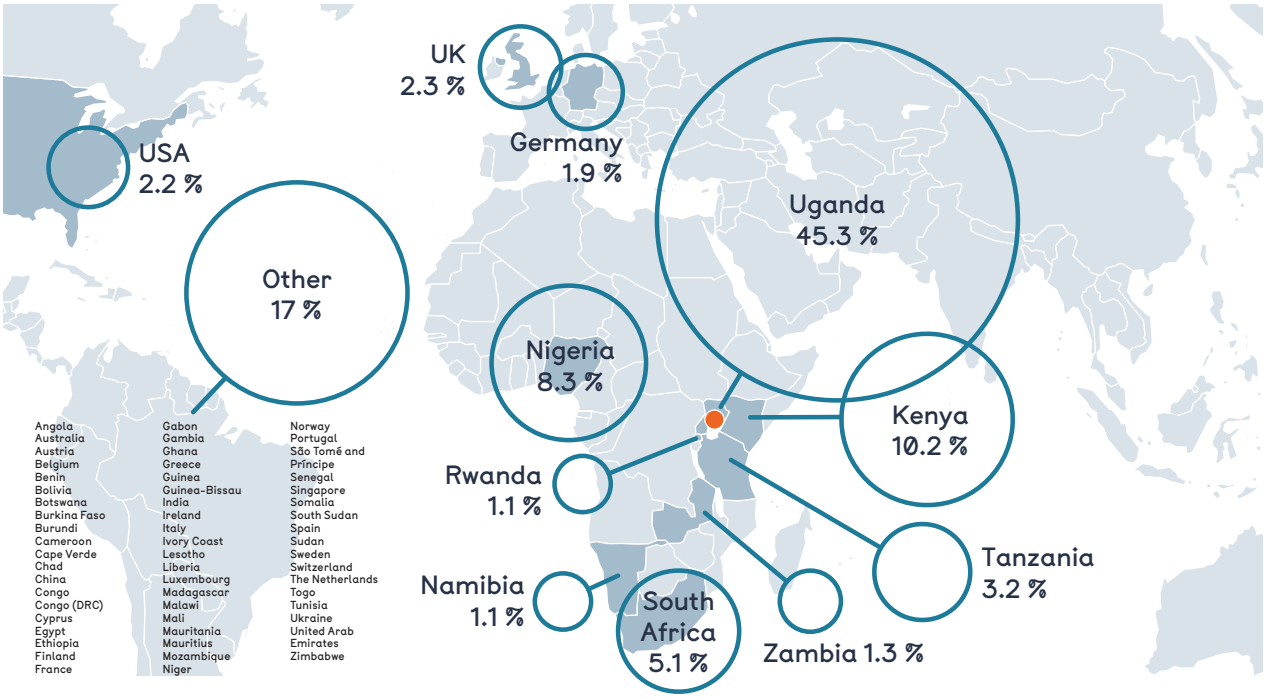
68 Countries

over **300** Speakers

18 Keynotes

Countries

Where participants came from



Sectors

Occupation of participants



Education 37 %

Public Sector 31 %

Business 32 %

Pre-Conference Workshops & Special Events



The eLearning Africa pre-conference events offered participants the opportunity to gain practical knowledge and insight from leading experts in a variety of specialised fields.

- A Practical Introduction to OER4Schools: Supporting Interactive Teaching of Mathematics and Science
- Developing eLearning Systems Using Drupal
- Hands-On Workshop for Digital Video Media Authorship and Implementation: Creativity in Education
- Hubs Are Doing It for Themselves: Creating Skill and Capacity Development Opportunities for Entrepreneurs
- Innovative Micro & Macro Blogging for Rural Interventions
- Learning Development in the Open: Moving from Course Design to Development Using FOSS
- Quality Assurance in eLearning: Good Practice and Strategies
- Start Your Learning Transformation Journey Today
- The eLearning Africa Newcomer's Workshop
- The Teachers in the 21st Century: Opportunities Provided by e & mLearning

The Uganda Dinner & Dance



On Thursday evening, the government of Uganda and the Uganda Communications Commission treated participants to a night of of dancing, more dancing, a little drinking, and even more dancing!

Lured to the shores of Lake Victoria by the beating of drums, participants were treated to a grand tour of African dance and music by the world-famous Ndere Troupe, otherwise known as Africa's dancing encyclopaedia. Starting their high-energy performance with traditional Ugandan dances and songs, the Troupe led the audience on an authentic cultural extravaganza across the continent.

Next, hit singer and songwriter Irene Ntale took to the stage to wow the crowd with her beautiful voice and guitar playing, followed by Ugandan superstar Cindy Sanyu, who inspired the audience to start showing off some dance moves of their own.

Once the performances were all over, the DJ took charge and kept the dancing going into the small hours.

> **The most interesting part for me was meeting and networking with people after the sessions, getting to know what each person does and seeing how my organisation can work with them.**
>
> Modupe Darabidan, Women's Technology Empowerment Centre (W.TEC), Nigeria

Launch of the eLearning Africa Report 2014



The 2014 eLearning Africa Report was officially launched at the opening plenary by Edward Ssekandi, Vice-President of the Republic of Uganda. With a combination of features, interviews, literature and survey results, the Report provides a yearly snapshot of progress and perspectives in the field of technology-enabled learning across the continent. eLearning Africa Report Editor Dr Harold Elletson was joined by other contributing authors and editors to share the results of their research and learning at a special Friday session.



The Opening Plenary

Under the general conference theme 'Opening Frontiers to the Future', the esteemed panel of speakers in the opening plenary addressed a number of vital issues that formed the core of the agenda for eLearning Africa 2014.

Chaired by the Honourable John Nasasira, Minister for Information and Communications Technology, Uganda, the plenary highlighted, amongst other things, the need to develop productive partnerships between the government and private sectors, as well as to create an environment that rewards entrepreneurship and encourages African-born innovation.

Iyadunni Olubode

Executive Director, LEAP Africa Ltd/Gte., Nigeria

Equipping Africans for Transformation

"Everyone knows that knowledge is growing at an increasing depth and an increasing breadth, so you need people which can constantly learn and bridge that gap even while they're in their current jobs [...]. We inspire young people and provide them with the skills and the tools to bring out these changes."

"In Nigeria, about 200 girls were abducted [...] by young men who could be sitting in this audience as well. But they didn't know better, so they were led into terrorism and violence.[...] My question is: are we going to let our young people grow up that way; are we going to collectively invest in the structures that are needed to support our young people?"

Noah Samara

Chairman and CEO, Yazmi, USA

Game-Changers for Learning Outcomes

"To truly educate 200 million students what do we need? We need many, many things, but at minimum we need teachers that know the subject matter, that are teaching and have been taught the art and science of teaching. You need an environment that supports professional development and learning for teachers, you need tools, learning tools, textbooks, books, at minimum to be delivered to schools."

Dr Bitange Ndemo

Honorary Chair, Alliance for Affordable Internet, Kenya

Leveraging Technology to Improve Local Efficiencies

"One of the secrets we did in Kenya a few years ago was that first we worked on the infrastructure, universal access to infrastructure, then we looked at how we could leverage content, local content, applications and innovations, empowering people through open beta. Then, capacity building through Massive Open Online Courses, MOOCS."

"Africa must free up its data so we can start to use that data to make decisions. A good example is the agricultural sector where new applications can tell the farmers how much fertiliser to use in order to maximise productivity."

Dr Kasirim Nwuke

Chief, New Technologies & Innovation Division, Representative of Carlos Lopez, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Skills, Technology and the African Transformation Agenda: Are MOOCs a Viable Response to the Skills Gap?

"What prospects are there for MOOCs on the continent? The evidence that I reviewed for this paper showed that less than 13 per cent of those who enrolled in MOOCs completed the course. The evidence does not support the narrative that MOOCs can be a panacea to African skills shortage. The most that MOOCs can be, according to evidence, is a complement to our education."

Honourable John Nasasira

The Minister for Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Uganda

The Role of ICT in Socio-Economic Development from a Ugandan Perspective

"It's our belief that everyone should have the necessary skills to benefit fully from the information society, therefore capacity building and ICT literacy are essential."

His Excellency Edward Ssekandi

Vice President of the Republic of Uganda

The Impact of Uganda's Macro-Economic Policy on the Education Sector and Opening Remarks

"I'm optimistic that we shall use this conference to share the knowledge and experiences in establishing efficient and effective strategies for developing, enhancing and sustaining the eLearning culture in Africa."

"The need to promote and support innovations and initiatives, for production of appropriate and cost-effective technologies that will enhance eLearning and creation of conducive and enabling environment for, and to form appropriate policies, laws and strategies."















Thursday Plenary

In the Thursday morning plenary, experts shared their inspiring stories of how in a fast-changing, globalised world, technology can be an engine for education and capacity development.

Chaired by the Honourable Kamanda Bataringaya, Minister of State for Education, Uganda, the plenary highlighted some of the promising progress made across policy, technology and development.





Prof. Sozinho Francisco Matsinhe

Executive Secretary, African Academy of Languages (ACALAN), African Union, Mali

eLearning and the Quest for Sustainable Development in Africa: Opportunities and Challenges

"The content of eLearning has to be localised. It has to be in our own pot, it can't be in a borrowed pot. We need to have partnerships between the former colonial languages and the African languages spoken by the vast majority of people. So, unless eLearning has content that has something to do with our life it will be like cooking food in a borrowed pot, and we know for a fact that doesn't kill hunger."

"eLearning needs to thrive in an environment made of linguistic equity; otherwise it will render itself irrelevant and defeat the purpose it was meant to serve – to provide education for all, to take education to everybody."

"African linguistic diversity is an asset that needs to be harnessed to foster the development of ICT-enhanced learning programmes and eLearning implementation."

Jochen Polster

Vice President EMEA, NComputing

Transforming Education with Unique Desktop Virtualisation Technology

"We set out to bring computing to as many people as possible in the world. That has a lot to do with pricing, we need to have affordable solutions, but it also has a lot to do with simplicity and being able in any environment to bring good and simple-to-use computing to education."

> **The conference is worthwhile and it showcases vital technologies for education. It is also an opportunity to network with other eLearning practitioners and eLearning technologies providers.**
>
> Alfred Mutanga, Instituto Superior Politecnico e Universitario (ISPU), Mozambique

Friday Plenary

The tone of the Friday morning plenary had an entrepreneurial spirit. A group of passionate keynote speakers, who know how to think global and act local, shared their fist-hand experiences of changes made at grassroots level.

Chaired by the Honourable William Nyombi Thembo, Minister of State for Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Uganda, the plenary addressed the overarching question: How can governments, organisations and institutions lead and impact societies?

Godfrey Mutabazi

Executive Director, Uganda Communication Commission

Supporting education using ICTs

"In regard to ICT in education, we have set up ICT laboratories in schools, tertiary schools, institutions and universities. We are about to hit about 1,000 secondary schools with ICT laboratories. We give them averages of about 40 pieces if you're on the national grid, if you're not we give you about 10 when you're running on solar panels. It's one of the best projects in Africa, and we believe that by the end of next year all schools in Uganda will have computer laboratories."

"There's been a lot of progress, to be honest with you. The other day I was travelling to Kenya and there was this small family with a small kid, about five years, who said 'oh, this plane has no Internet, what's wrong?', and I wondered 'things have moved, really!'"

Mark East

General Manager (Education), Microsoft

Transformation in Education

"By the year 2050, 25 per cent of the global labour force will be Africans, so we need to work now to prepare the next generation."

"Data is showing that different skills are needed. There's going to be more abstract tasks than standard, routine tasks and manual tasks. So, we have to focus on our curriculum change and start focusing on what I call competences; core competences in the curriculum. How do students make better decisions? How do they work in teams? How do they communicate more effectively? These are the core things that we have to be teaching them during the general curriculum."

Beate Wedekind

Journalist, Author, Producer and Founder, THE NEW//AFRICA, Interim Germany Director of ONE, Germany/Ethiopia

From Headlines to Real Lives: Africa Really Is Rising

"Change is really not about new buildings, change is about you. You make it happen."

"You have to get attention, and in order to get attention you have to talk about yourself, and you have to talk about what you're doing. You really have to let us know what you are doing so that we are really able to react all together. You are the frontrunners – it's not the governments, it's not the institutions, it's not the organisations, it's really you the people."

"The African proverb, there's a professor from Mozambique that told us yesterday: 'Cross the river in a crowd and the crocodile won't eat you.' So let's cross that river together and let's walk together and let's drive together in the future. It's about time for a new image of Africa."

Bright Simons

President of the mPedigree Network, Ghana

"As ICT providers, we have come up with an ecosystem for supply chain transparency which is having a massive impact on health. It may well be the case that in the case of eLearning that not all the dramatic impact, or the revolution, will come from those who are delivering actual content or delivering actual education. There could be a much wider range of impact coming from a much wider degree of opportunities that you might consider."

"Fundamentally, the whole of the educational experience is one of the human relationship. We cannot begin to build e-content and build eLearning platforms until we understand the Africa within which we are preaching; until we have people who are sociologically sound, who have taken the time to immerse themselves in the African culture and who understand African norms of pedagogy, as well as African norms of learning and appreciation."











The eLearning Africa Debate

"This house believes that there is now nothing more important to education than access to the Internet"

As the conference drew to a close on Friday night, participants came together for one final showdown. The annual eLearning Africa Debate is a grand finale not to be missed, and as the audience settled down and the speakers took to the stage to take on the controversial motion, the anticipation was palpable.

Professor Venasius Baryamureeba, of the Uganda Technology and Management University (UTAMU), opened the floor in defence of the motion. He started out by stating that everything – politics, education and business – is going online, and the best universities in the world have already put their libraries online. Therefore, he argued, "any school that decides not to go online will be out-competed in a few years."

Dr Peter Bateman, from the Association of International Schools in Africa (AISA), Kenya, responded by setting out five things that he said were more important than the Internet, with the number one position being held by "YOU": addressing the educators present, Dr Bateman asked, "will the Internet ever be more important than well-trained professionals?"

Next to take the podium was Valerie Wood-Gaiger MBE, founder of Learn with Grandma. Having just completed a month-long tour of Uganda, Valerie described how coming to Uganda was the cherry on the cake that, by using the Internet to arrange meetings and make plans, was already baked before she even left her home in Wales. She urged the audience to take action and become leaders in their communities, working to share the vast knowledge that the Internet gave them access to.

The final speaker, Athambile Masola, a high school teacher and blogger from South Africa, supported her teammate by invoking the role of teachers: "I am a teacher," she declared, "and I use the Internet as a tool. It is a means to an end. Teachers are the most important." This statement provoked the professor to interrupt – "get out of South Africa! In Uganda we have a very high student to teacher ratio. There are just not enough teachers." But Masola was unperturbed, replying passionately, "then we need to encourage more people to become teachers!"

As she returned to her seat, she playfully added that the conference itself couldn't have taken place on Skype and exchanged a triumphant high-five with Dr Bateman.

Once all the combatants had made their cases, Dr Harold Elletson, Editor of the eLearning Africa Report 2014 and chairman of the debate, opened up the discussion to the floor for a heated round of statements and questions. Support came in for both sides, with one audience member explaining, "It's not an either-or!", but a final show of hands – for some people that was both hands – saw the contras winning by a hair. The motion was defeated.

Parallel Sessions

This year saw 60 parallel sessions take place across two days, featuring expert speakers from around the world. Sessions were arranged in nine thematic tracks:

- Case Studies Highlighting Community-Based ICT Initiatives
- ICT for Large-Scale Sustainable Development and Training
- Stories and Case Studies from ICT Programmes at Higher Education Institutions
- Use of ICT to Support Healthcare Initiatives / Training for Healthcare Workers
- The Latest Innovations in ICT Technology
- Ensisinkano - Knowledge Exchange Sessions
- Academic and Evidence-Based Research from Higher Education and Research Institutions
- Practical Examples of Successful ICT Programmes in Schools
- The Latest ICT Tools for the Support and Development of Teachers









> I was really inspired by this session [Developing eLearning Systems Using Drupal] because it is something I have always wanted to learn, it was engaging and the speaker did a very good job.
>
> Rebecca Ikpeme,
> West African Institute For Financial And Economic Management, Nigeria



> Very interesting and topical discussions and a very well run session [Engaging with MOOCs] by a highly competent chair.
>
> Mignon Hardie,
> FunDza Literary Trust

eLearning Africa 2014 in 20 words

By analysing the 2014 programme and after removing any words contained in the name of the conference (eLearning, ICT, education, development etc.), these are the top twenty occurring words, which give a pretty good representation of what eLearning Africa 2014 was all about:

Word	Rank
teaching/teacher	1
mobile	2
access	2
health	2
implementation	3
open	4
online	5
research	5
challenges	5
experiences	5
digital	6
experts	6
Internet	6
experience	7
professional	7
quality	7
skills	7
Uganda	7
youth	7
video	8

Parallel Sessions





All Eyes on Uganda

With Ugandans making up 45.3% of all conference participants, Ugandan projects and initiatives really had a chance to shine at this year's edition of the conference. In addition to a special session dedicated to local government ICT initiatives, there were plenty of other presentations showcasing the great diversity of innovation taking place in the host country.

Highlights included a session dedicated to young people from post-conflict Northern Uganda reporting on how ICTs have provided them with education, protection and psychosocial support; speaker Gerald Abila sharing how his non-profit, BarefootLaw, is using social media to deliver free legal education to underserved communities; director of the Maendeleo Foundation Asia Kamukama explaining how some solar panels on the roof of a 4X4 have helped to provide basic ICT skills to over 40,000 people living in rural areas; and Neema Iyler, from Text to Change, revealing how mobile technology is being leveraged to enable youth participation in the consultation on post-2015 development .

> In a special way, thank you for the opportunity given to me to be one of the speakers. Sharing knowledge was a great experience. The networks created are incalculable.
>
> Paul Kiguba,
> Mbazzi Farmers Association, Uganda – Speaker, 2014

> I was thrilled by the learning experience of conducting a session of very resourceful people of diverse backgrounds from the African continent and beyond.
>
> Richard Chole,
> PMM Girls' School, Uganda – Chairperson, 2014

> eLearning Africa 2014 has been an eye-opener for me; with a lot of networks created and opportunities for partnerships and collaborations. Actually, I have started getting emails from different universities to which I can apply to, for my PHD Study. This was all the outcome of eLearning Africa 2014.
>
> Florence Barbara Awino,
> International University of East Africa, Uganda

> The positive exposure this platform gave to BarefootLaw, by allowing us to present our services before local and international delegates, and media went a long way in informing the world not only about our existence, but services as well. More so, it greatly inspired our team of volunteers beyond all expectations [...] It might please you to know that ever since the conference, interest in my activities, and BarefootLaw has dramatically increased and this is clearly visible in website traffic and publications.
>
> Gerald Abila,
> BarefootLaw

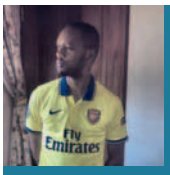


#eLA14

Between 28th and 30th May 2014, 3,371 tweets used the hashtag #eLA14, sent by 506 unique Twitter users.

This means that 528,000 unique Twitter accounts received tweets about #eLA14!

Top Tweets



@Marc0braw (Mark Nasasira):

It's absolutely amazing here at the exhibition hub @eLAconference. Lots of amazing products being showcased by passionate people #eLA14



@RosebellK (Rosebell Kagumire):

Yazmi CEO Samara wat a journey! Inspiring us to dream and use satellites to enhance education in Africa #eLA14

@Rhamulah (Bukirwa Rhamulah):

Its really great here #eLA14 hands-on on making a blog. At this rate Uganda is to become a home of ict in educ.



@geralbine (Geraldine de Bastion):

What a great group of participants! So much expertise in one room. This is going to be a great #eLA14 day!





@Pctechmagazine:

eLearning africa conference opening plenary session officially underway now. Uganda's vice president in attendance. #ela14

@TheNewAfrica:

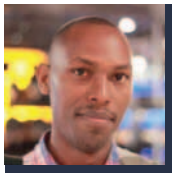
Day started with prof matsinhe (African academy of languages). He greeted the audience in 7 different languages #eLA14



@ErnstSuur: (Ernst Suur):

Thanks @RosebellK for talking to the #ela14 Social Media Reporters! Inspiring! #sharing = #caring



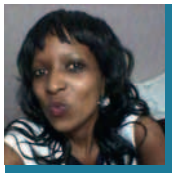


@rmugabi (Ricky Mugabi):

Someone who has attended 6yrs of @eLAconference says that #Uganda's the best so far. #eLa14

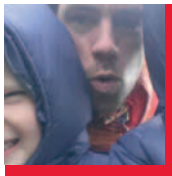
@KimNooij (Kim Nooij):

Great #foss tools sharing session by @sskiden at #eLA14 thanks for that!



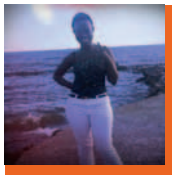
@Endyagenda (Nikita Ndyagenda):

Just got done with #eLA14.. Am excited.. It was fun while it lasted .



@entropicbear: (Keith Magee):

End of powerful #eLA14 conference w/ game changers in the African Ed system. Thanks @eLAconference @ CamaraEducation



@ritahashley:

Am so enjoying this closing eLearning plenary debate. Hot topics eeehh!! #eLA14



@pkahill: (Patricia Kahill):

To all who presented at #ela14, the organising team, the press guys & the social media reporters, thank you very much.

Numbers

Key figures of the exhibition

eLearning Africa

48 Exhibitors

22 Countries

16 Sectors and Industries

Satisfaction

What exhibitors think

100 % rated the service provided during the event as excellent or good

92 % rated the opportunity to establish new contacts as excellent or good

82 % rated the opportunity to consolidate existing relationships as excellent or good

88 % rated the number of visitors to their stand as excellent or good

Voices

Quotations from sponsors and exhibitors

"We enjoyed ourselves and made many new friends and business contacts. Being the platinum sponsor [...] made a huge difference and we feel it was very much worth the money."
Noel Atkinson, Yazmi – Platinum Sponsor

"This is one of the best ways to expose our brand, especially to the education sectors. One of the greatest things about this event is that we can network with people from the education sector, which is really valuable to us."
Jay Son, NComputing – Gold Sponsor

"Great Location, very well organised with excellent exhibition, activities, sessions and valuable content. The "must attend" event for any organisation working in the Africa ICT sector."
Marie-Claire Walsh, ICDL Africa






Exhibitors

- African Development Bank Group
- AH Consulting
- Amity Directorate of Distance and Online Education
- common sense eLearning & training consultants GmbH
- Computer Zentrum Strausberg GmbH
- Computers 4 Kids
- Cyber School Technology Solutions Limited
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- Digisoft.tv
- Distance Education for Africa (Deafrica)
- DRS Data Services Limited
- e/merge Africa Network
- Edutech Advanced Business Technologies
- eLearning Solutions Zimbabwe
- Emerald Group Publishing
- ETS Global
- Festo Didactic GmbH & Co. KG
- Future Managers
- Hewlett Packard
- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
- ICDL Africa
- IFADEM
- Inmarsat
- iSchool
- Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD)
- learndirect
- Lifeline Technologies
- Lucas Nuelle GmbH
- McGraw-Hill Education
- MIB Technology (PTY)
- Microsoft East & Southern Africa
- Mitsumi Distribution
- NComputing
- Neo-Tech sa
- Presentations 2Go
- SkoolDesk
- SES
- SMARTUR 3D
- Spider - The Swedish Program for ICT in Developing Regions
- Studytech
- Tanzanian Training Centre for International Health
- Teachers Media International
- Televic Education
- Texila American University, Guyana
- The Government of Uganda
- Uconnect
- Uganda Communications Commission
- Yazmi

> It's great to see so many footfalls and response on the booth. The event was handled excellently. The team was always willing to help.
>
> Abhishek Khaitan, Smartur3D

> It was an amazing layout! Probably close to the best exhibition we've had in Uganda. The group of people we had to work with was an excellent team. Keep it up!
>
> Eunice Ndyagenda, AH Consulting

> This conference was a tremendous success, allowing us to meet many wonderful professionals whom we would have not likely met otherwise.
>
> Bill Knapp, EduTech

> The whole event was fantastic – we were incredibly busy on our stand ... our experience was second to none!"
>
> Gavin Hubbard, LearnDirect

