

## Title

e-LEARNING ACTIVITIES AT THE E-LEARNING COORDINATING CENTRE  
PRESENTER: DR. SPFRANZA NDFGF

## Institution

KENYATTA UNIVERSITY, NAIROBI, KENYA

## Short Description

Kenyatta University, Kenya, is an educational institution offering certificate, undergraduate diploma and degree, and postgraduate (Masters and PhD) courses. The University is comprised of 23,000 students, 720 teaching staff and about 1,600 non-teaching staff. There are thirteen Schools with 51 teaching departments. The University has also thirty-one Centers that coordinate various educational activities crucial to the needs of staff and students. In addition, it has four campuses and one constituent college. The University has thousands of distance learning students and the coordination of their learning is done from the University's e-Learning Coordinating Centre and Institute of Open Learning.

## Target Group

- Teaching Staff
- Students
- Technical Staff

## Methodology/ Approach

We use two approaches to e-Learning

1. Constructivist (Collaborative learning among the learners)
2. Socio- Constructivist

## Goal

### Mission

e-LCC 's mission is to provide a flexible access to knowledge to the global population

### Vision

e-LCC aspires to use e-Learning as a mode of delivery to provide access to quality higher education to both local and

### Goal

The University aims to use the e-Learning mode of delivery to provide flexibility in education through application of combined Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

## Main challenges

- Attitude change towards e-Learning by older members of staff
- Training hundreds of teaching staff on Moodle e-Platform
- Training thousands of students in computer literacy, Internet Technology and Moodle e-Platform
- Training of the Technical staff on e-content development using a combination of software eg. Macromedia flash, Adobe Photoshop, CorelDraw , animations using 2D and 3 D etc.
- Retention of technical staff once they are trained. They are 'poached' by industry, so we have source for other persons
- and to re-train all over again.
- Access to computers by staff and students
- High cost of Bandwidth – not sustainable unless subsidized
- Ensuring Quality is maintained
- Resources to build capacity
- Software – such as anti virus

## Main strengths

- Support by University Management Board
- Young academic staff and students are very eager to adapt to e-Learning
- Support by Ministries of Basic Education, Higher Education, Science and Technology and Information and Communication
- Stable e-Learning Management System (Moodle)

## Partners

The University has a wealth of experience in e-Learning and its success is partly due to collaborative initiatives with institutions, organizations and companies such as:

- Worcester University, UK
- Computer Aid International, UK
- Kenya Institute of Education (KIE), and Crystal Animation in Kenya

Best practices and skills in online programmes have also been acquired from offering joint online programs with:

- African Virtual University (AVU)
- Royal Melbourne institute of Technology (RMIT) University
- Curtin University in Australia
- Cornell University
- New Jersey Institute of Technology
- Georgetown University and Indiana University in USA
- EDUCA- ICWE, Berlin, Germany
- University of North Carolina, USA
- Arkansas University, USA
- Champlain University, USA
- Umea University, Sweden
- Global Virtual University

**And many more...**



1. e-content Development Unit at our e-Learning Coordinating Centre – Technical Team at work

2. - Kenyatta Vice Chancellor at Opening Ceremony



4. Conference Participants listening attentively



5. Assistant Minister, Ministry of Higher Education Science & Technology touring the Exhibition

## Future Plans

Enhance our e-Learning Activities in the East African Region by working with institutions, organizations, companies, ministries, corporations, colleges and schools involved in e-Learning initiatives. Kenyatta University is currently involved in a number of activities namely:

1. Capacity Building
  - a) Training of Students in:
    - . Computer literacy
    - . Internet Technology
    - . e-Learning Management System (Moodle)
  - b) Training of Staff
  - c) Training of Technical Staff
2. e-Content Development
3. Uploading of e-content on the LMS
4. Packaging of e-Content on CDs, DVDs and VCDs
5. Business Process outsourcing (BPO)  
*and many more...*

## Additional Information

### Our Specific Objectives for the e-Learning Centre

- Development of e-content (digital content) for e-learning.
- Training teaching staff in all departments in the general use of ICTs including operation of e-Learning equipment
- Integrating the use of ICTs in the educational programmes
- To develop capacity across all departments in Instructional Design, Graphic and Multimedia, and Management of e-Learning portfolio.
- Training students on how to access digitized course materials using the University's e-platform (Moodle software) including digital libraries.
- Training staff and students best practices in Netiquette
- Establishing quality assurance mechanisms in e-Learning
- Processing and packaging e-content (including video clips) into CD-ROMs, VCDs and DVDs
- Encouraging use of m-Learning (mobile phone) text messaging for educational purposes among students/teaching staff.
- Creating awareness/sensitize the University community and its environs on benefits of e-Learning (through workshops, seminars, conferences, public lectures etc).
- Using e-Learning as a means of creating and increasing gender balance within the programmes
- Providing students with special needs an opportunity to enroll for programmes and study as distance learners
- To provide teaching staff and learners with links to digital libraries for access of thousands of e-books and e-journals to keep teaching staff and students updated on new e-Learning methods
- To increase enrollment of distance learning students

## **Our Programs at Kenyatta University**

The e-Learning programmes are within departments in the respective Schools.

One can enroll in the any of the University Programmes and study through e-Learning. To enroll in to a programme of your choice, please contact your preferred School for further information:

- School of Pure and Applied Sciences
- School of Humanities and Social Sciences
- School of Business
- School of Education
- School of Applied Human Sciences
- School of Environmental Sciences
- School of Environmental Studies
- School of Visual and Performing Arts
- School of Engineering and Technology
- School of Law
- School of Agriculture and Enterprise Development
- School of Economic
- School of Graduate Studies

## 1<sup>ST</sup> REGIONAL E-LEARNING CONFERENCE WAS HELD BETWEEN 18<sup>TH</sup> – 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2008.

The conference was very very successful .

### FAST DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF E-LEARNING IN EAST AFRICAN REGION

#### THE WAY FORWARD

Arising from the deliberations of the Round Table Discussion on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2008, the members agreed on the way forward to promote adoption and utilization of e Learning. It was agreed that:

1. The members form a Regional e-Learning forum and community for the East Africa Region East Africa Region as defined by NEPAD<sup>++</sup>, "**The East African Regional e-Learning Forum**". The purpose of the forum is to steer the fast adoption of e learning for collaboration and development.
2. A Steering committee for e-Learning was formed to steer the activities of the Regional community with Dr. Speranza Ndege as the Interim Chairperson.
3. The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the steering committee are:
  1. Create a Regional Open and Distance Learning Policy that can be cascaded down to national and institutional level.
  2. Propagate and coordinate Distance and Open Learning activities in the East Africa Region. In this reference, the committee should create a mailing list for e-learning champions in the institutions in the region starting with those who indicated their interest for e-Learning activities of the Community.
  3. Organize and chart the theme and resources required for then next e-Learning conference for the region, to be held once a year.
  4. Create a Regional e-Learning international and quality Journal on e Learning from the proceedings of the conference (This will require sourcing for good reviewers).
  5. Create capacity to support e-Learning activities in the East African Region. This includes human capacity for technical support, content development and e-facilitators, training workshops to create awareness and sensitization of the role of e-Learning in national development and formation of local communities to support e-Learning similar to the Moodle Community in UK.
  6. Create an electronic database for to support the various sectors involved in e-Learning such education, environment, health and e-government.
  7. Create collaboration and linkages with other institutions and initiatives in the region involved in e Learning such as NEPAD and UNEP in order to avoid duplication of resources and optimization of resources.
  8. Liaise with relevant government, national and international bodies and stakeholders in e-Learning.
  9. To do funding raising for joint projects and activities in e-Learning of the forum such training workshops, annual conference and Journal on e-Learning.
  10. Create a website for the forum to facilitate communication wit the members of the community.

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<sup>++</sup> East Africa Region Comprises 12 countries : Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Seychelles, Djibouti, Comoros and Mauritius