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↓ eLearning Africa
Key Figures of eLearning Africa 2017

WHERE PARTICIPANTS CAME FROM

- Sub-Saharan Africa 78.3%
- North Africa 4.4%
- Europe 11%
- The Americas 3.5%
- Asia, Middle East & Australia 2.8%

WHERE PARTICIPANTS CAME FROM (BY AFRICAN REGION)

- Southern Africa 47.7%
- Western Africa 31.07%
- Central Africa 5.06%
- Southern Africa 13.07%
- Central Africa 3.06%

OCCUPATION OF PARTICIPANTS

- Education 33%
- Government 32%
- Business 29%
- NGOs and Non-Profits 4%
- Associations 2%

765 delegates
50 sessions
10 workshops

65 countries
18 exhibitors
23 keynotes

149 speakers
The 10th eLearning Africa Ministerial Round Table (MRT) focused on the theme “Meeting the Sustainable Development goals for Education – How eLearning and Digitalisation can support Inclusivity, Boost Training and Encourage Skills Development.”

This year, MRT brought together Ministers and policy-makers to discuss challenges and exchange knowledge about leveraging technology for development, education and training. The meeting was comprised of more than 30 Ministers, Deputy Ministers and ministerial representatives from ministries of basic and higher education, youth and sports, and ICT from 17 African countries (Cameroon, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Namibia, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe).

The day was divided into three sessions:

1. The Opening Session of the Round Table, “Creating Tomorrow’s Jobs in Africa”, was devoted to a discussion of some of the issues most likely to affect labour markets and job creation in Africa in the future. Participants recognised that education is, in many ways, the key to reducing unemployment and increasing competition in Africa but they were keen to examine how exactly ICTs could boost training and increase skills development to create jobs. They wanted to know how African countries could develop world-class entrepreneurial and tech-based education but, at the same time, there was some anxiety that education and training might not be able to make a difference if African labour markets and societies are not ready to make use of the new skills.

2. The second session, entitled “Linking Education to Employment”, participants considered the link between education and employment in what is likely to continue to be a rapidly changing world in which technology will continually re-shape markets. In this context, participants considered the possible future development of both higher education and vocational training, whilst speculating about how technology-assisted learning might help to prepare Africa’s workforce for the future.

3. The closing panel, “Entrepreneurship in Africa,” focused on the creation and development of a new generation of African entrepreneurs. Whilst there have been many stories of successful new African entrepreneurs, little analysis has been done into their educational background and how they have been able to succeed. Participants considered how educational initiatives might lead to the creation of successful entrepreneurs. They also looked both at the role of technology and at how improvements in education might be matched by better funding for start-ups.
The eLearning Africa 2017 pre-conference events offered 10 half- or full-day workshops, seminars and meetings with activities designed to help participants to develop practical skills, in-depth insights and concrete knowledge:

- Interactive Materials Development for eLearning
- Implementing Mauritius FOSS Policy
- Re-imagining Learning for the VUCA World: Designing the Learnscape and Re-Imagining the Workplace
- Designing Learning Journeys – Exploring Motivation and Gamification
- From Script to Screen – An Introduction to Screenwriting and Presentation to Camera
- Cyberlaws for African Nations
- Convincing with Content and Design: Creating Successful Presentations
- Global Perspectives on Design Thinking for Technology Supported Learning: A Workshop for Education and Training
- Designing Online and Blended Learning Experiences in African Higher Education
- Key Issues to Design and Implement a National Declaration about Open Education
The opening plenary, chaired by Ms B. Kissoon-Luckputtya, Deputy Permanent Secretary, MTCI, Republic of Mauritius, saw a panel of esteemed speakers discuss a range of topics around this year’s theme, “Learning in Context”.

**SPEAKERS**

→ Prof. Vinayagum Chinapah, Stockholm University, Sweden
→ Prof. Huang Ronghuai, Director of UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education (INRULED) and Dean of Smart Learning Institute of Beijing Normal University, China
→ Dr Amany Asfour, Secretary General, African Society for Scientific Research and Technology (ASSRT), Egypt
→ Hon. Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun, Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research, Republic of Mauritius
→ Hon. Yogida Sawmynaden, Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation, Republic of Mauritius

An understanding of context is essential in education and training. As new communication technologies extend the reach of opportunity, educators, policy makers and investors need to take account of local context and conditions. How does context affect education in Africa? What are the opportunities of a properly contextualised approach to education and training? How can respect for the local context be built into major education initiatives? How can eLearning and digitalisation support inclusivity and increase access to information, including Africa’s own rich heritage of traditional knowledge? How can digitalisation boost training and help to meet the UN SDGs for education?
UNESCO’s “Overcoming Divides and Achieving the SDGs in Africa, celebrating the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI)”

In celebration of the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI), UNESCO hosted a Plenary focusing on the importance of the universal right to information, which is vital for societies to develop, function democratically, and ensure the well-being of individual citizens. Among other topics, renowned panelists deliberate questions such as, how successful have African countries been at building inclusive and open knowledge societies? What role ensures access to information and meeting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? What more needs to be done?

Chaired by Dr Indrajit Banerjee, UNESCO Knowledge Societies Division, France
→ Firmin Eduard Matoko, Assistant Director-General for the Africa Department, UNESCO, France
→ H.E. Günter Nooke, German Chancellor’s Personal Representative for Africa and Commissioner for Africa in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany
→ Xiao Hu, Talkmate, China
→ Parsuramen Armoogum, Global Rainbow Foundation, Republic of Mauritius
→ Kenneth Kam Boon Hee, Kenn Foundation, Singapore
→ H.E. Barlen Vyapoory, Vice-President of Government of the Republic of Mauritius, Republic of Mauritius
“Shaping the Future: How Can We Influence the Development of Education”

The plenary discussed the questions: What does the future hold in store for us? How will learning technologies develop? What will these developments mean for African educators, students and businesses? How can Africans influence the development of education? Technology is changing African education. The process of change is at once exhilarating and disruptive, bringing with it both difficulties and opportunities. Our panel of experts looked into the future and provided an assessment of those challenges facing Africa.

The chairperson for this session was Dr Roobah Y. Moorghen, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation, Republic of Mauritius, while the panelists consisted of Dr Aida Opaku-Mensah, Special Advisor on Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Ethiopia; Dr Sharmila Seetulsingh-Goorah, Director General, University of Technology, Mauritius; and Ms Patricia Ngoy A., Kiongozi Group, DRC.
The highlight of eLearning Africa for many people, every year the eLearning Africa debate provides an opportunity for all to take part in a lively discussion about an important issue for African education. This year, in a traditional Parliamentary format, our panel of speakers debated the Motion: “This house believes that grandiose Silicon Valley education initiatives have rarely taken account of local contexts and are not what Africa needs.” With the announcement of several major education initiatives by external corporations, the Closing Plenary became an opportunity to discuss the merits of the plans that outsiders have for African students.

CHAIRPERSONS:
→ Dr Harold Elletson, Editor, eLearning Africa Report, Senior Fellow, Institute for Statecraft, UK
→ H.E. Ambassador Kheswar Jankee, Ambassador to the Embassy of the Republic of Mauritius to Germany, Germany

“I loved the final debate. It was wonderfully interactive but non-combative, which worked really well. The debate topic was pertinent and relevant, and while the truth always lies somewhere in between the two poles, I think that it sparked fruitful discussion.”

Mignon Hardie, FunDza Literacy Trust, South Africa

“Africa doesn’t need its own Silicon Valley but instead can benefit from Silicon Valley technologies.”

Steve Vosloo, Senior Project Officer at UNESCO, Paris & Mobile Learning Specialist, South Africa

“Dr Alice Barlow-Zambodla, e/merge Africa Network, South Africa

“The field of technology in Africa seems to be represented by pictures of smiling children who are receiving technology which they are nevertheless unprepared to understand or handle.”

Dr Daniel Wagner, Director of International Literacy Institute & International Educational Development Program, Professor of Education, University of Pennsylvania, USA

“The aftermath of the colonisation and exploitation of Africa is still being experienced by many African states and African people.”

Dr Bitange Ndemo, Senior Lecturer of Entrepreneurship and Research Methods, University of Nairobi, Kenya

“For a long time, Africans have not been able to tell their own narratives and it is high time to take things back, with rules of engagement to be set on our own terms...but while there is a growing argument to develop new, localised content, it makes sense to use existing tools as it would take too much time and resources to start from scratch.”

Dr Alice Barlow-Zambodla, e/merge Africa Network, South Africa

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Sessions were arranged into nine themes:

→ Digital Collaboration Methods
→ Engagement Initiatives
→ Best practices in and for Higher Education Institutions
→ Implementation Processes
→ Skills Development Opportunities
→ Teachers and Educators Focused
→ Workplace Learning Experiences
→ Demonstrations and Posters Exhibition
→ Edtech Meeting

This year saw 50 parallel sessions take place across two days, featuring expert speakers from across the continent and around the world.
Nucleos @NucleosInc
Honored to be at eLearning Africa in Mauritius. Looking to connect with content partners at #eLA17

Jigsaw Consult @wearejigsaw
loving listening, chairing, and presenting our research at #eLA17 - brilliant conference and big thanks to the organisers!

Maria Stanton @mariastanton
#ela17 @JonathanAspelI3 ELearning critical for occupational qualifications: companies in 15 different countries - 130K people, 12k outliers elearning... only way to build skills development.

Avinash Meetoo @AvinashMeetoo
It’s time to stop NATO (No Action Talk Only) in Africa #eLA17

Nat A Lee D @MoodleMuse
The founder of @Kiongozi is making me cry for women in technology and the challenges we face... #eLA17

David Rurangirwa @drurangirwa
Kudoz to the organizers of #eLA17 conference and the gov't of Mauritius for a successful conference. Welcome to #Rwanda next year.

Aida Opoku-Mensah @AidaOpokuMensah
Enjoyed being part of an all woman panel (so rare) on future of education in Africa during #eLA17 plenary on Friday Sept 29th Sept #mauritius

Kirsty @KirstyBromford
Another smashing day at #ELA17 you will only get back what you put in @BromfordHomes #alwayslearning #teamworkmadethedreamwork

Moyomola Bolarin @Embee2
#eLA17 more than 600 delegates from around the world. Apart from Mauritius, Nigeria is the next with highest delegates.

UNESCOEastAfrica @UnescoEast
“Old ways of teaching continues, & deeper use of technology is necessary, especially in STEM” - Minister ICT #Uganda #AccessToInfoDay #eLA17

Steve Vosloo @stevevosloo
eLearning Africa kicks off in Mauritius on the occasion of International Day of Access to Information #eLA17

MrJSonny @MrJSonny
eLearning Africa an international event! #eLA17

Andrés Moreno @andresI4D
WhatsApp for education in Sudan? Sounds interesting and worth considering #eLA17

Isabelle Zaugg @IsabelleZaugg
@eLAconference enjoyed learning about ways to decolonise the university curriculum from Jess Auerbach #ela17

Yeka William @YekaWilliam
My country Uganda is also well represented #eLA17 @FrankTumwebazek

Nilam Ashra-McGrath @TalkingEvidence
Really loving what’s coming out of #eLA17 at the moment... #openaccess
18 Exhibitors

- Mauritius Telecom
- common sense
- eLearning
- Learnbox
- Blackboard
- Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation
- Learn & Progress Ltd
- Proctorio
- Université Virtuelle du Sénégal
- mElimu
- OPENCOLLAB
- Avanti Communications
- IL&FS Education and Technology Services LTD
- Pearson Education Africa
- Adapt IT
- Online Business School
- Oracle Academy
- Presentations2Go Video Solutions
- Altissia International SA