

Taking e-Services to the last mile

Launch of ALIN's Isinya Community Knowledge Centre



Official Opening of the Isinya CKC

The Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN) launched one of its containerized Community knowledge Centre at Isinya on Thursday 2nd April 2009. The centre, housed at the Maasai Rural Training Institute will offer the community members and neighboring institutions a shared ICT resource for internet connectivity, local content generation and dissemination on better agricultural practices, marketing and environmental management among others.

The centre will also facilitate delivery of e-Government services, e-Education and support skills building among the youth from the area.

The launch was to celebrate the official handing over of the container to the Isinya community by the Finish Embassy in a project being implemented by ALIN. The project will focus on empowering communities through knowledge exchange.

Present users

The Isinya centre is in the process of establishing information clubs targeting training of school-going children on computers. Regular users of the facility include staff of government departments, community members and NGO workers. They use the centre for knowledge search, knowledge sharing, e-mails, job search and research



Users inside the centre

Quotes from speakers at the launch

Ms. Theresa Zitting, Deputy Head of Mission, the Embassy of Finland

"If appropriately used, we (the Finish Government) believe that access to information will improve agricultural productivity and strengthen market linkages, thus improve the well being of the community"

Dr. Bitange Ndemo, The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communications

"I challenge you Isinya community members to make good use of the Centre to document your unique stories, local knowledge and culture and share it with the rest of the world and in the process earn income from it."

Dr. Susan Kaaria, Program Officer, The Ford Foundation

"I have previously visited other ALIN centres and learnt of the many individual success stories of people whose lives have been transformed by the ALIN centres."

Ambassador Peter ole Nkuraiya, Executive Director, NGO Coordination Board

"ALIN has consistently demonstrated good NGO practice which is evidenced by their submission of annual returns without fail for the last seven years and their funding increasing from 19 million in 2002 to over 30 million in 2008. Only an NGO with sound governance systems and desired impact can maintain such donor confidence."

Ms. Eunice Kariuki, Deputy CEO, Kenya ICT Board

"I wish to hail ALIN for establishing this centre and to re-affirm my Board's commitment to offer training, technical support and bandwidth capacity support to those engaging in such like ventures."

Partnerships

The centre is a clear demonstration of a public-private partnerships and is also supported by other players such as Oxfam Novib and Kenya Data Networks.

Press coverage:

The East African Standard; 'Rural town becomes internet Savvy.' -<http://www.eastandard.net/InsidePage.php?id=1144010873&catid=4&a=1>.

The People Daily; 'Finland to use Shs 4m to set up digital village.' 8th April 2009 page 4



Ms Theresa Zitting inside the centre. Looking on are James Nguo ALIN Regional Director and volunteers who work at the centre



Dr. Bitange Ndemo, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communication addresses the occasion



(From Right) Ms. Eunice Kariuki, Ambassador Peter Ole Nkuraiya, Dr. Joyce Nyairo and Dr. Susan Kaaria inside the centre

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