ITU Regional Development Forum for Africa (RDF-AFR)

'Digital transformation for a sustainable and equitable digital future: Accelerating the implementation of the SDGs in Africa"

organized by the International Telecommunication Union in collaboration with the
Ministry of Innovation and Technology, Ethiopia

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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Please note that submitted information will be presented during the RDF-AFR P2C Roundtables and it will also be reflected on the pledging platform of the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition.

CONTRIBUTION FORM

ORGANIZATION: Uganda Institute of Information and Communications Technology, Uganda

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TITLE: UICT contributions to a sustainable and equitable digital future in Uganda

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION:

Executive Summary

The Uganda Institute of Information and Communications Technology (UICT) plays a pivotal role in advancing Uganda's digital landscape by offering practical-oriented ICT training at short courses, professional certification, certificate and diploma levels. This report outlines UICT's significant contributions to fostering a sustainable and equitable digital future in Uganda. It highlights the institute's role in addressing the digital divide, promoting digital literacy, and building a skilled workforce that drives innovation and economic growth in the ICT sector.

Introduction

UICT is a government institution specializing in skills-based middle-level ICT training. It offers an alternative to traditionally theoretical ICT degrees, focusing on practical skills in various fields related to the communications sector, including telecommunications services, computer engineering, IT, and business management. This unique approach positions UICT as a critical contributor to Uganda's digital future. UICT works with ITU-DTC initiative, JICA, JSCE, Enabel, Huawei, Cisco, AWS, Coursera, etc.,

Bridging the Digital Divide

Accessible Education

UICT provides accessible and affordable ICT education, reducing barriers to entry for individuals from diverse backgrounds. This inclusivity helps bridge the digital divide by equipping a wider range of Ugandans with valuable digital skills. LMS and collaborative tools developed to enable virtual delivery of training programs.

Regional Outreach

UICT's commitment to equitable access extends to regional outreach programs. It reaches underserved areas, empowering local communities with ICT training and opportunities. This has a

ripple effect on local development and digital inclusion. UICT has access to course portfolio for visually impaired persons.

Digital Literacy Promotion

Practical Skill Development

UICT's practical-oriented approach ensures that graduates possess hands-on skills. This empowers them to navigate the digital landscape confidently, contributing to a digitally literate society.

Industry-Relevant Curriculum

UICT's curriculum is aligned with industry needs, ensuring that graduates are not only digitally literate but also well-prepared to meet the demands of the rapidly evolving communications sector. A number of need assessments have been conducted recently to determine the current ICT skill pipelines in Uganda.

Skilled Workforce Development

Industry-Ready Graduates

UICT produces graduates who are industry-ready, reducing the skills gap in the communications sector. These skilled professionals drive innovation, efficiency, and competitiveness in the digital economy.

Entrepreneurship Support

UICT fosters entrepreneurship by equipping entrepreneurs with the knowledge and skills needed to start and manage ICT-related businesses. This promotes economic growth and job creation.

Research and Innovation

UICT is home to the National Innovation Hub in Uganda, under Ministry of ICT &NG we encourage research and innovation in ICT. Innovators collaborate on projects that address local challenges, such as healthcare, agriculture, and education, through technology solutions. This innovation ecosystem contributes to sustainable development.

Conclusion

UICT is at the forefront of creating a sustainable and equitable digital future in Uganda. Through accessible education, digital literacy promotion, workforce development, and innovation, UICT is empowering individuals and communities, bridging the digital divide, and driving economic growth. Its contributions are instrumental in positioning Uganda as a competitive player in the global digital landscape. Uganda Digital transformation roadmap lists UICT as key player in digital skilling in Uganda's digital future.

COUNTRIES in FOCUS:

Countries within the East Africa Community, SADC Members states

YEARS of IMPLEMENTATION:

⊠ 2023

⊠ 2024

☒ 2025

RELEVANT ITU REGIONAL INITIATIVE:

☒ AFR1: Supporting digital transformation to usher in a rapid transition to a digital economy while accelerating innovation in Africa

Please find more information on the ITU Regional Initiatives 2023-2025, as defined by WTDC-22, here.

RELATED ITU-D PRIORITIES AS DEFINED BY THE ITU WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2022

☐ Affordable connectivity

☐ Digital transformation

☐ Enabling policy and regulatory environment

☐ Resource mobilization and international cooperation

☐ Inclusive and secure telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development

Please find more information on the ITU-D Priorities, as defined by WTDC-22, here.

RELATED ITU PRIORITIES AS DEFINED BY ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2022

☐ Spectrum use for space and terrestrial services

☐ International telecommunication numbering resources

☐ Inclusive and secure telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services

☐ Digital applications

☐ Enabling environment

Please find more information on the ITU Priorities, as defined by PP-22, here

RELATED WSIS ACTION LINE:

☒ C1: The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development

☒ C2: Information and communication infrastructure

☒ C3: Access to information and knowledge

☒ C4: Capacity building

☒ C5: Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs

☒ C6: Enabling environment

☒ C7: ICT applications

☒ C8: Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content

☒ C9: Media

☒ C10: Ethical dimensions the Information Society

☒ C11: International and regional cooperation

RELATED SDG: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

☒ SDG 1: No Poverty

☒ SDG 2: Zero Hunger

☒ SDG 3: Good Health and Well- being

☒ SDG 4: Quality Education

☒ SDG 5: Gender Equality

☒ SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

☒ SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

☐ SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

☒ SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

☒ SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

☒ SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

☒ SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

☒ SDG 13: Climate Action

☒ SDG 14: Life Below Water

☒ SDG 15: Life on Land

☐ SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

☐ SDG 17: Partnerships for the SDGs