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Kenya Hosts the Connected summit 2022 in Kwale



Kenya hosted a regional ICT conference dubbed Connected Summit between 11th and 14th April 2022 in Kwale to review progress and achievements in the sector. The theme for Connected Summit 2022 "Accelerating Digital Transformation" sought to build on foundations set in the last decade to drive conversations on accelerating digital gains, opportunities in transformation of villages to Smart cities and accelerating business, closing the digital skills gap.

The objectives of the conference was to:- Identify Digital divide strategy to deliver affordable and accessible broadband connectivity for all, Point out factors limiting Digital transformation and to increase impact of ICT on service delivery, Identify working models to close the skills gap and narrowing digital divide by building an inclusive digital society where all citizens and workers are equipped with the necessary digital skills and capacities for the job market and business life , Review progress, gaps and achievements of the sector by private sector & Government; share knowledge, case studies, best practice and lessons learnt based on experiences in the area of service delivery & accelerating digital services leveraging on technology, Provide a platform for meaningful networking that will result in fruitful relationships that contribute to economic development as well as develop and recommend policy, regulatory and operational interventions necessary to ensure management of citizens' data for mutual benefit (Government and Private Sector)



In his opening remarks, the labour cabinet secretary Hon Simon Chelugui made reference to research conducted by his Ministry which revealed that only 22.4 percent of business owners and 17 percent of employees in the informal sector had any TIVET training, however only 6 percent of them had any ICT related skill. He further said that 53 percent of businesses could not get personnel with the right skills while 31 percent could not afford the cost of hiring someone with ICT skills. The CS therefore urged all stakeholders to support favourable environment for productivity through capacity building" As government and stakeholders in the ICT sector, we must endeavour to create an environment that supports increased productivity of organizations by upgrading the skills of informal business owners and workers." He said.



On her part, The National Employment Authority's Ag Director General, Edith Okoki called upon industry players to bridge the gap in the digital space by aligning digital skills to the job market. "The key to success in this changing era is to identify market needs and align training that provides knowledge that today's professionals require. Skills can be aligned to the labour market by having real time data on the skills demanded by the employer and a data base on the skills from training institution for ease matching, having apps that help jobseekers search for opportunities and provision of information through media insights and occupational barometers" said the DG. She further noted that the demand of skilled workforce has provided excellent opportunity for a number of countries to develop a high-quality trained workforce for the rest of the world especially for countries and regions with an ageing or declining national population. Mrs. Okoki underscored the important of focusing the training the market-relevant skills, with emphasis on the emerging technologies to leverage the job opportunities in global job market.

The previous similar summits have seen the birth of key public service innovations namely: Huduma, e-citizen, Digital Literacy Programme, the Presidential Digital Talent Program and the National ICT Master Plan through which the government has built on the country's digital skills.

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