

**Signing Ceremony for the
African Leadership in ICT Program**

**October 15th 2010
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Draft Remarks By;

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**Commissioner for
Human Resources, Science and
Technology Department
African Union Commission**

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished Members of the
Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased to welcome you to today's signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding to support the implementation of the African Leadership in ICT (ALICT) program.

Science & Technology and ICT are on top of the African Development Agenda. This has been demonstrated by dedicating themes on both sectors to two Summits of

the AU Heads of State and Government in the last five years.

The African Leadership in ICT programme is one of needed responses to the Addis Ababa 2010 declaration on information and communication technologies in Africa: challenges and prospects for development made by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union at their Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 31 January 2010

ALICT is also one of the concrete developments achieved under the 8th Partnership of the Africa-EU strategy (2008-2010). May I remind

here that this 8th Partnership aims at addressing the Africa's challenges in the thematic areas of science, Information Society and Space.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

ICT skills are critical for the new knowledge economy. The creation and application of knowledge to produce new goods and services in general is the product of a well developed higher education and research sector working closely in tandem with the private sector.

It is in this context that the pilot program of the African Leadership in ICT will develop a curriculum

and a multi-stakeholder knowledge exchange platform for public, private and civil society to train and build the capacity of potential leaders and policy makers in Ministries of ICT, S&T , Education, and Human resources development in Southern and Eastern Africa.

I wish to thank the Government of Finland and the Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative (GeSCI) for partnering with the African Union Commission to support the implementation of ALICT program which is a flagship project from ARAPKE.

The Human Resources, Science and Technology Department of the African Union Commission is committed to working with all stakeholders for its success.

I thank you.