

Digital transformation in education key to stirring growth in East Africa

There's an ongoing discussion about development in East Africa and a new narrative has emerged in recent years of a story of resilience, self-reliance and a passion for growth facilitated largely by technology.



One of Samsung's solar power internet schools

It is therefore encouraging to see trade investments being committed by South Korea and its East African counterparts, as it will allow more people to access technology and address the issues of skills and employment.

A case in point is the signing of a bilateral deal to set up a key science and technology institute in Kenya for a tune of 10 billion Kenyan Shillings which could prove to be an important accelerator of growth.

But the issue of education, skills and employment are not for the public sector alone. It is against this backdrop that Samsung Electronics Africa have adopted an attitude of innovation - introducing world-class technology where it previously hasn't existed.

In a press release, Samsung says its aim is to make sure that every African child have access to education no matter where they are - be it in a rural area lacking infrastructure or perhaps in an existing infrastructure but lacks educational resources - by providing access to technology.

“Samsung sees education as the seed of innovation and we believe digital technology can completely transform the learning process, as well as the nature of teaching and learning, to create inclusive environments for everyone.

“Our Solar Powered Internet Schools, Smart Schools and E-Learning Centres provide

solutions that deliver on this vision, and improve the quality of learning, enhance teaching effectiveness and allow administrators to run institutions more effectively. We work with educators around the world to improve learning experiences through the use of technology, facilitating a classroom environment that gives students access to a world of knowledge.”

Through these initiatives, Samsung hopes to instill a love of learning in students so that they may have equal access to opportunities and go on to become active participants in the economy.

The Samsung Electronics Engineering Academy provides extensive, hands-on training to learners in the technical field; and the programme forms a core part of Samsung's vision to fast-track the entry of African youths into the electronics job market and to reduce the shortage of scarce skills in the IT industry.

“We see our efforts - along with those of our government and NPO partners - as an ecosystem. Samsung's aim is to increase the number of learners accessing technology, an aspect vital to their education process. This in turn allows learners to learn apt skills which will prepare them for the workplace of the future and acquiring in-demand skills is a critical step not only for individual, but also for social and economic development and the upliftment of the continent.

“Africa has a beautiful story to tell. And a responsible corporate citizen, Samsung is committed to help write this story through the innovation, expertise and technology we provide,” Samsung stated.

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