

AVU and iHub Research partner for mobile learning research

African Virtual University (AVU) and the iHub Research yesterday, 4 June 2012, signed an agreement to strengthen research on mobile learning in Africa. The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed by Dr. Bakary Diallo, rector of AVU and Jessica Colaco, research lead and manager at the iHub Research.



L to R: Jessica Colaco and Dr. Bakary Diallo signing the memorandum of understanding

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Diallo said, "The signing of this MoU is significant because AVU is in a process of setting up a mobile learning lab in Nairobi. Mobile penetration in Africa provides an opportunity to increase access education. In this regard, it is important for AVU to join effort with leading grassroots developers like iHub in order to find and implement innovative mobile solutions adapted to the African context."

The MoU between AVU and the iHub Research is an important step in strengthening the relationship between the academic and developers' communities.

The agreement demonstrates AVU's commitment to work with various partners across Africa to promote use of ICTs in education. The AVU recently signed with the African Union Commission to promote education and the innovative use of ICT in Africa, in particular through eLearning program delivery with focus on teacher education, content development, infrastructure, quality assurance, open education resources, capacity building and networking.

In January 2012, AVU received a US\$15.6 million grant from the African Development Bank to assist 22 African countries in improving their infrastructure and programs, and to provide technical assistance on the ICT in education policies and strategies. The grant will also support a peace and conflict resolution program research and development with focus on mobile learning, open educational resources and gender mainstreaming through the award of scholarships to women enrolled in science programs.