

Esri Eastern Africa signs MoU with Kenyatta University



Left: Willy Simmons, Managing Director Eastern Africa signs the MOU Right: Kenyatta University (KU), Deputy Director, Research, Capacity Building & Dissemination, Dr. Simon Onywere on behalf of the Vice Chancellor KU, exchange copies of the MOU with Esri Eastern Africa Managing Director.

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Esri Eastern Africa has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kenyatta University, making the university the first beneficiary of Esri's 100 African Universities program in Eastern Africa. Under the MoU, Esri Eastern Africa will provide the University Site License to Kenyatta University allowing university-wide unlimited access to Esri Desktop, Mobile, Server, Developer technology and Esri's Virtual Campus which offers self-paced courses on GIS technology.

Esri has been actively engaged with Universities in Africa for many years and the 100 African Universities program has the objective of moving universities which are already using Esri GIS technology, to a higher level of GIS exploitation across campus. This will help accelerate GIS education opportunities in Africa, resulting in greater availability of skilled GIS professionals.

During the colourful signing ceremony at Esri Eastern Africa offices in Upper Hill, Nairobi, on 14th June, 2012, Dr. Simon Onywere, the Deputy Director, Research, Capacity Building & Dissemination at Kenyatta University on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Kenyatta University Prof Olive Mugenda said that the venture will accelerate the transfer of GIS knowledge and support research advancements. Dr. Onywere further affirmed the university's commitment to provide all necessary infrastructures to support this initiative.

Esri Eastern Africa's Managing Director Mr. Willy Simons noted that the partnership is a huge step towards nurturing suitably knowledgeable and well-trained graduates in GIS Technology. "Access to GIS

technology provides students with the essential knowledge and skills demanded by the market” stated Willy in recognizing the benefits that will accrue to both organizations during the life of the MoU.

Esri Eastern Africa acknowledges the critical value of working closely with universities and colleges in the region and interested universities currently teaching and conducting research using GIS are welcome to apply to the 100 African Universities program.

Contact mmabeya@esria.co.ke for more information on Esri Eastern Africa’s solutions for education.