

Kigali Institute of Education (KIE): EdQual Dissemination event 24/09/10

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EdQual Kigali Institute of Education (KIE) held their dissemination event last month at the Laico Hotel. Beside the EdQual RPC Director, Professor Leon Tikly, and the KIE Rector, Professor George K. Njoroge, about 50 participants from the partner institutions (universities of Bath and Wits), KIE academic staff members, primary and secondary headteachers, teachers from EdQual partner schools and government officials attended the event. The guest of honor was Mrs Christine Gasingirwa, the Director General for Science, Technology and Research in the Ministry of Education. Both the KIE Rector and the Director General highlighted the country's vision of the nation wide use of ICT. In the director general's words: "countries with low income are trying to promote the ICT as one of veritable tools to development; Rwanda has taken the floor to implement the ICT Basic Education".

Professor Leon Tikly spoke on what we understand by 'Education Quality' in general, where this notion is important and where it is useful in the development process of a country.

The KIE EdQual institutional coordinator, Mr Karangwa Evariste presenting the report highlighted that the computer could be a catalyst for a learner centered teaching approach and that teachers need to be well prepared and develop this ability. It has been demonstrated that school leaders have a key role to play in improving education quality and in designing innovative strategies to address the difficulties in providing quality education.

Mr Alphonse Uworwabayeho and Paul Denley introduced participants to the aspect of TwIKs (Teaching with ICT kits) developed from classroom scenarios. The TwIK is built around a simple PowerPoint presentation to illustrate an application of ICT in the teaching of mathematics or science. TwIKs have been developed from teaching and learning scenarios devised by EdQual participant teachers in their classes. The importance of using classroom video was stressed so that teachers would be able to see

ICT used in real Rwandan contexts and thereby be encouraged to try out the activities shown or develop their own along similar lines. The team expect the availability of TwIKs for Science and Mathematics DVDs so that school teachers or teacher training centres might use and refer to them.

Mr Edmond Were has demonstrated the finding from a Small Scale Project (SSP) attached to the Large Scale Project (LSP) about NEPAD e-school initiative. The research was conducted in Rwanda and in Kenya with focus on the level of ICT know-how in schools among teachers, learners, school administrators, the school PTAs and the adjoining community. The presenter highlighted the major findings on the contribution of ICT in NEPAD e-school to community development especially with regard to resolution of current development problems that include poverty alleviation and HIV. It found reluctance (due to cultural aspects from educators and parents) to allow pupils to explore the information contained in the Encarta program that was provided with computers in those e-schools.

Mr Kisso Tumuhimbaze, a teacher from one of the EdQual projects, presented prospects and challenges in using ICT. It was revealed that all teachers would like to be trained in ICT skills and on using ICT in schools. He suggested this can be done through more workshops or teachers' networks within or between schools.

Mrs Audrey Msimanga from University of the Witwatersrand introduced the audience to different aspects of diversity in teaching and learning contexts in South Africa with focus on Mathematics and Science.

Participants' comments all recommended the extension of the EdQual program to the use of ICT for inclusive education so that all Rwanda can have access to high quality education, teaching languages as well as addressing social development in Rwanda.