

ITU, UKTA and KIST join forces to provide Fibre Optic Workshop



Forty Rwandan computer and telecommunication engineers participated on a four-day fibre optics training workshop this week in Kigali Rwanda, providing the opportunity for delegates to enhance their skills on fibre optics, basic practical hands-on experience on fusion splicing and the operation of best equipment. During the workshop, participants were given practical lessons on fibre optics stripping tools and techniques, cleaving bare fibres as well installation and maintenance. The workshop also covered practical testing exercises and troubleshooting.

The workshop was jointly organized by the United Kingdom Telecommunications Academy (UKTA), Kigali Institute of Science of Science and technology (KIST) and the Cable Communications Training Services (CTTS) one of the members of the UKTA.

Dr. Ignace Gatere, a Minister of ICT in the President's Office opened the workshop and said that 'the training was intended to build a critical mass of technicians who will play a key role in implementing cost-effective ICT programmes in the country'. In addition, Dr. Gatere added that 'backbone networks are increasingly relying on fibre-optic which will also expand the last mile access networks'.

Prof. David Mellor, OBE, Chairman of the UKTA, stated that 'Without doubt, this workshop would provide the necessary technical skills required by delegates'.

The Rwandan Government recently imported from the UK, equipment for fibre splicing practical exercises valued at some US\$120,000. Prof. Mellor urged Kigali Institute of Science & Technology (KIST) to set up at least one laboratory with the equipment to facilitate students undertaking the Master of Science in Operational Communications since fibre splicing practical exercises were mandatory for all students undertaking the course. UKTA provide a team of visiting professors who conduct two Masters' courses at KIST; the Master of Communications Management (MCM) programme and, the Master of Science in Operational Communications (MOC).