

BUILDING CAPACITY IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN RWANDA

THE CASE OF KIGALI INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (KIST)

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PRESENTATION ON KIST

- Background on Rwanda
- KIST – The Beginnings
- KIST - Ten years later
- Barriers
- Way Forward
- Conclusion

Rwanda - Land of a Thousand Hills



- Land area 26,340 sq.kms
- Location 120km South of Equator
- Population approximately 8 million
- Population Density = 400+ per sq.km
- Pop. Growth rate = 3%
- 54% Female & 46% Male
- Capital City: Kigali
- Kinyarwanda, English, French, Swahili
- Agriculture-46% GDP,90% labour force,72% exports

KIST

The Beginnings

KIST

- Established in November 1997
- Government response to manpower loss during war and genocide (1990 – 94)
- Hitherto, very low level of S & T training
- Number of technologically trained < 50
- Gross tertiary enrol < 1%
- Workers trained beyond secondary < 5%
- Trained managers < 0.1%

Cont.

- KIST established after a study by German experts for UNDP
- The experts recommended a Fachhochschule system
- Initial funding by UNDP, Japan and The Netherlands
- GTZ – The Executing Agency

From Military to Education



*KIST.....ten years on
Additional Built area=19,750 m²*



Faculties & Centres

- Engineering
- Science
- ICT , RITC Training Centres,
Satellite Centres
- AVU and Distance Learning
- CITT



Variety of Programmes

- **Full-time** – Degrees
- **Part-time** – Diploma and Degrees **Incl. AVU**
• **and Distance Learning**
- **Short-term** – Diploma and certificate courses under ICT and RITC centres
- **Outreach Programmes** – Under CITT and Cottage Industries



The Programmes are non-conventional



- Computer skills for all
- Bilingual Training (French & English) for all
- Practical training in labs & workshops
- Industrial attachment
- Community attachment

ICT Capacity Building at KIST

- Department of Computer Engineering & Information Technology
- ICT Center-ICT Technician Training under DFID
- **RITC-ICT Regional Training and Research Centre** under the World Bank Development Gateway Foundation
- African Virtual University-Distance Learning Center



BARRIERS




Barriers

- Lack of trained and experienced personnel
- Brain Drain
- Training and Research institutions not well developed or supported
- Poor access to ICT
- Low R&D investment



WAY FORWARD

Possible Interventions

- 
- **Support in accelerated training of S&T Personnel**
 - Adequate funding for S&T Training and Research institutions
 - Increase efforts to provide better access to ICT
 - Consider proper retention schemes for best talents
 - Facilitate **Virtual Networks of Researchers and Scientists** between developed and developing countries.

Conclusion

In view of the current rapid rate of training given in S & T, a better future is within our grasp.

If there is a digital divide, then we gathered here, are the bridge and together can and will propel Rwanda to the fore front of the digital economy.

Merci Beaucoup
Thank you!