

Government partners with the ICDL to address Information and Communication Technology skills shortage

28 September 2010, Cape Town, South Africa

The Department of Communications (DoC), through the Meraka e-Skills Institute (Meraka e-SI), and the ICDL SA (International Computer Driving Licence of South Africa) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) confirming the development of centres of excellence dedicated to delivering ICT skills to the people of South Africa.

The signing took place in a public ceremony on 27 September 2010 at the 2010 Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Career Expo, hosted by the DoC, in Olifantsfontein, Johannesburg.

The aim of the expo is to provide young people with information on career opportunities, and options available, in the information and communications technology sector and allows them the opportunity to interact with ICT professionals across a broad spectrum.

The DoC has used the expo to re-inforce Governments commitment to enable effective training in e-skills, by increasing the involvement of institutions and corporate partners in a more comprehensive and systematic way. A diverse range of learning sites and training providers will be used to deliver e-skills training, and non-government training institutions will be encouraged to play an increased role in the provision of training opportunities. The Memorandum of Understanding confirms the ICDL's integral role in this process.

The ICDL is the international licensee responsible for the provision of internationally recognised end-user certification in South Africa and in other countries throughout Africa. ICDL programmes are available globally in 148 countries, and with over ten million candidates worldwide the organisation sets the global standard for end-user computer skills.

ICDL South Africa is a non-profit organization, which was established, to promote computer training and certification. The organisation aims to enable proficient use of ICT to empower individuals and society at large through the development, promotion and delivery of quality certification programmes throughout the world.

ICDL SA already provides ICT certification through hundreds of accredited training centres throughout the nine provinces of South Africa, and in 20 other countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Over 300 000 students are registered with the organisation, and the numbers are set to increase rapidly due to the signing of the MOU with the DoC.

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ICDL CEO, Jenny van Niekerk says: “We are delighted to be working with the Department of Communications, through the Meraka e-SI, and look forward to establishing a solid relationship geared towards delivering e-skills development for all South Africans, and in so doing contribute positively to the growth of our economy.”

ICDL Contact Information

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Signing of the MOU: Jennifer van Niekerk, ICDL SA CEO and Dr Harold Wesso, Acting Director General of the Department of Communications.

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