Varsity launches online tool for measuring broadband quality

The University of Nairobi Computing for Development Lab (C4DLab) has launched M-Lab (Measurement Lab), an open and distributed online tool used to measure and monitor the utilization of internet bandwidth.

M-Lab will enable internet users to get objective data on the speed and quality of broadband connections by conducting measurement tests on their computers or phones. This will enhance internet transparency as well as enable internet users to compare performance of broadband. In addition it will provide information that can be used to diagnose the performance of the connection.

C4DLab's objective for M-Lab launch is to increase its use in Kenya as a resource for broadband data. Also, it will provide consumers and network operators with reliable data and demonstrate to the communications regulator and policy makers the value of M-lab tools for Kenya's broadband ecosystem. Google is the sponsoring partner for M-Lab.

Presiding over the launch on behalf of the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology, Mr Joseph Tiampati, Dr. Kate Getao, said that M-Lab will enhance transparency as well as expand infrastructure for delivery of bandwidth to the user.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro noted that UoN management will support the successful running of MLAB. He reiterated the importance of strengthening partners noting that it is the linkages with partners that have contributed to building the University.

M-Lab covers over 130 servers in the US, Europe, Australia and Parts of Africa. Presently M-Lab is the largest open measurement platform and data repository in the world, supporting research, policy and user empowerment.

Prof. Okelo-Odongo, Director, School of Computing and Informatics, Dr. Tonny Omwansa, Prof. Timothy Waema, School of Computing and Informatics and Chairman Management Board Kenya Education Network (KENET), Eng. Fancis Wangusi, Prof. Meoli Kashorda CEO (KENET), Google NetLab Project Manager, Collins Ndukwe are among the distinguished guests at the M-Lab launch. Representatives from Communication Authority of Kenya (CAK), Strathmore University and Chuka University were also present.