

Uganda and Chinese charity strike deal to skill youth in AI, digital economy

PHOTO BY MPALANYI SSENTONGO

By Derrick Muduku

The Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, alongside the United Nations Health Industry Foundation (UNHIF) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enhance digital skills among young people in Uganda.

The MOU contains three main components, which include leveraging on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies, international exchange programmes and youth capacity building. The initiative has an aim of providing employment to over 50,000 Ugandans within its three-year time span.

While speaking at the ICT Ministry headquarters in Kampala, Chunxiao Huang, the chairman of UNHIF, highlighted the need for technological advancement in the country.

"It will make life easier and better for the people. We intend to bring in drones to help Ugandans spray their gardens by simply commanding them on their phones. They will realise better farm yields," he said.



L-R: Huang, Dr Zawedde and Dr Kimbugwe displaying copies of the MOU signed between the ICT ministry and UNHIF

Huang said the scholarships available will benefit over 500 Ugandans.

He said Ugandans must stay healthy to benefit from the promising prospects of AI. "We shall promote Chinese medicine by bringing some trees with high medicinal value," Huang stated. UNHIF will also set up an Industrial Hub in Buyende on a

40-acre piece of land.

HOW THE MOU WILL BE IMPLEMENTED

Aminah Zawedde, the ICT Ministry permanent secretary, noted that Ugandans will be skilled in the new emerging technologies within the various regional hubs spread throughout the country. "We have one at Muni University in the north. In the

east, there is one in Soroti and other upcoming ones, like in Busitema. These will be learning centres for our people," she said.

Through the learning exchange programmes, Ugandans will be trained in China and return with skills to train others.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IS KEY

Prince Edward Kimbugwe, the founder of the Prince Kimbugwe Foundation, called 'on the local community to embrace this partnership, particularly on the idea of SMART agriculture. "Our people in the rural areas should be able to farm with ease and efficiency," he remarked..

PRESIDENT'S SUPPORT

Charles Muwonge, a research practitioner in the office of the President, affirmed that President Museveni is committed to promoting digitisation in areas that affect Ugandans, like farming and aquaculture, where digital usage has been embraced.

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
DOLLAR	3735	3800
EURO	4230	4400
POUND	4870	5150
KENYA SH	28.6	30.5
TZ SH	1.35	1.58
DHIRAM	925	1050
S. A. RAND	220	1000
JAPANESE YEN	20	45
RWANDA FRANCS	2.1	3.2
\$ SMALLER&OLD	3500	3800

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