

Samsung comes to Africa's rescue.

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Samsung Technologies who are exhibiting at this year's Innovation Africa 2013 summit say they are willing to see an Africa that is in step with modern technologies in all areas and sphere of existence.

Speaking to **ANTHILL NEWS** on the sidelines of the summit registration process, Ntutule Tshenye, who is the Head of Public Affairs and Shared Values, said they had a lot of facilities that they brought along and which were specifically "built for Africa."

"We have here the Solar Powered Internet School (SPIS) which brings state of the art technology to enhance learning and teaching especially in rural Africa where there are major challenges relating to basic infrastructure such as electricity and connectivity."

According to Tshenye, the SPIS is a self contained classroom that has got solar panels on the roof that then provides the much needed power to drive or run the technology inside which includes the netbooks, e-boards, multifunction printer, K-12 content an IP camera for remote monitoring and then provide teacher development to ensure that the teachers can use the technological level and most importantly integrate into the curriculum.

Samsung has a school in Botswana, at Nxau Nxau which is about 1300 kilometres from the capital Gaborone and also which uses the SPIS and another one in Phumulong, Thembisa South Africa, and a secondary school an SPIS as well. There are two schools in both Zambia and Tanzania that are experimenting with the Solar Powered Generator (SPG) for their e-learning centres.

In addition, the IT giant was also into telemedicine and at the summit had brought along the telemedical centre. "The other major challenge almost similar to the educational challenge is access to quality health. Because of the sociological challenges that the people in Africa have, they don't do medical diagnosis so often and only leave it until the last minute. People will only go to the hospital or clinics at the very last minute and when their chances of recovery are thin."

He added that because of this, many lives are lost because people could not detect the illness when there is still time. "We engage the services of medical officers who will then administer the diagnosis with the information that will be sent to a central location where an expert doctor or doctors will diagnose and analyse then send back through the internet appropriate remedial action to the rural mock clinic where accordingly the inhabitants would not be having expert medical care. According to Tshenye, the technology offered by Samsung brings "affordable, relevant and accessible services" to the rural and remote parts of Africa. "This also offers other services such as eye diagnosis, ear diagnosis and most importantly acts as a mother to child clinic," he explained.

Another crucial innovation that Samsung has developed as a stop gap measure to curtail suffering as well as bring modernisation is the Solar Powered Generator or SPG for short. "This generates clean solar energy to power ICTs in education infrastructure." According to Tshenye, these are deployed in areas where you have brick and mortar classrooms but lack the power to run the e-learning centres. "You can power comfortably a computer lab with up to 30 laptops. It provides about 15KVA of power which is an equivalent of a huge diesel generator."

The innovation summit kicks off from the 16th to the 17th October and has attracted big names in the practice and delivery and development of ICT innovation the world over.

By John Churu

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Regional **On** October 16, 2013.

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