

ACEIE seals collaboration with UNESCO

The African Centre of Excellence for Information Ethics (ACEIE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the South African National Commission (SA NatCom) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) on 29 July 2015. Mr Carlton Mukwevho, Secretary-General of SA Natcom, and Prof Sunil Maharaj, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations.



→ Celebrating the signing of the MoU between the ACEIE and UNESCO: front (from left): Prof Sunil Maharaj, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology, Carlton Mukwevho, Secretary-General of SA NatCom, Reabetswe Thole of SA NatCom and Coetzee Bester, Director of ACEIE; back (from left): Prof Theo Bothma, Head of the Department of Information Science, Andile Mgweba of the Department of Telecommunication and Postal Services, Gabriella Bettoni of the ACEIE, George Molepo, Communication and Information Programme Officer of SA NatCom, and Daniella Bettoni, Rachel Fischer and Benson Lechaba of the ACEIE.

The MoU follows on a history of collaboration between UNESCO and the ACEIE since the Centre's establishment in 2012, and commits UNESCO to provide funding for five regional projects until December 2015. This marks the occasion of another contract guaranteeing successful collaboration opportunities that will strengthen the ACEIE's current interaction with 80 institutions across 19 African countries.

The ACEIE is housed in the Department of Information Science, and its main objectives are to act as a facilitator, to conduct research in information ethics locally

and internationally, and to coordinate awareness and knowledge-enhancing activities locally and across the continent.

The five projects sponsored by UNESCO support these goals.

Project 1: Learners with disabilities, cyberbullying and sexting

This project formed part of the ACEIE's Digital Wellness Programme and Inclusion of Disability Awareness activities between 23 and 26 June 2015 in Cape Town, South Africa. It focused on raising awareness on cyber safety issues affecting people with disabilities.

Project 2: Community rollout of information ethics within a volunteer programme

In July 2015, a volunteer programme, championed by Intel as a UNESCO-recognised partner, was launched in Nairobi, Kenya. Furthermore, an Information Ethics teaching and curriculum conference was hosted by the Kenyatta University.

Project 3: Information Ethics school curriculum development

The ACEIE, in collaboration with the University of Pretoria, Intel and the Department of Basic



Education, is participating in research to develop a school curriculum specifically targeted at basic education and community training. A workshop on this development project was held in Pretoria in July 2015.

Project 4: Policy design workshop: digital safety and wellness in schools

Together with the National Science and Technology Forum and the Civilian Secretariat for Police, the ACEIE hosted a Digital Safety and Wellness Policy design workshop in Kempton Park on 21 August 2015. At the workshop, security and safety issues for the public sphere, as well as for the cyber sphere, were highlighted.

Project 5: Conference on Digital Wellness in Africa

A three-day conference on digital wellness in Africa is being held at the University of Pretoria in November 2015. It will combine the theme of digital wellness with the UNESCO communication and information sector programmes of the Information for All Programme (IFAP) and the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), and will be co-hosted by the Institute for the Advancement of Journalism. ➔



The African Centre of Excellence for Information Ethics (ACEIE)

Coetzee Bester heads up national IFAP Committee

The Director of the African Centre of Excellence for Information Ethics, Coetzee Bester, was elected as the Chairperson of the National Information for All Programme (IFAP) Committee on 15 October 2014.

This coincided with the establishment of the National IFAP Committee on the same day.

Bester has been involved in the African Network for Information Ethics (ANIE) and the ACEIE for some years, and has been an invaluable partner in several activities related to IFAP at national, regional and international level. Conversely, the support of the UNESCO structures related to information ethics has enabled the ACEIE to do groundbreaking research that has benefited more than 50 academic and training institutions in Africa who are members of ANIE.

Established in 2001, IFAP is an intergovernmental programme of UNESCO. It serves as a platform for international policy discussions, cooperation and the development of guidelines for action

with regard to access to information and knowledge. Member states receive support in developing and implementing their national information policy and strategy frameworks.

The National IFAP Committee consists of members from government, as well as non-governmental and civil society organisations. Its work focuses on IFAP's six priority areas.

The Committee's aim is to support the development and implementation of information policy strategies and frameworks in South Africa. It will also contribute to strengthening IFAP's contribution in Southern Africa. A regional meeting of Southern African national IFAP committees took place in April 2015.

The ACEIE will provide office space to the South African National IFAP Committee. ➔