African Union Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology paid a courtesy call on the AVU Headquarters

Nairobi, 8th, July, 2014. Dr Martial De-Paul Ikounga, the Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology at the African Union Commission paid a courtesy call on the AVU Headquarters in Nairobi on July 7th 2014.

Dr Martial De-Paul Ikounga along with his team and Dr Bakary Diallo, Rector of the AVU along with AVU team.

This visit follows the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two institutions in April 2012. Under the terms of this MOU, AUC and AVU agree to promote education and the innovative use of ICT in Africa.

Dr. Bakary Diallo, the Rector of the African Virtual University welcomed him and briefed him about the activities of the AVU, including the Multinational Project II funded by the African Development and being implementing in 27 universities from 21 countries, Dr Diallo said “I am very happy to see the AUC consider virtual education as one of its strategy to tackle access to quality and affordable education. AVU has been working in this field since 1997 and we are ready to assist with our experience”.

Dr Martial De-Paul Ikounga stated that he was happy to visit AVU at the right in order to strengthen the relationship between AUC and AVU. Some of the main projects highlighted by the Commissioner for a very near
future were a study on what Africa should do to adapt to the concept of virtual university, the involvement of the AVU in Pan-African University, and a mapping exercise of the stake holders involved in distance education in Africa. This study will be presented by the Commissioner himself at the 24th Ordinary Session at the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 30-31 January 2015.

The AUC want to use AVU’s extensive experience for the development of virtual education in Africa. Dr Martial De-Paul Ikounga said: “We have 4 months to lay, on the table of Africans’ Chief of States, a new vision and a new paradigm for virtual education in Africa.”

The Commissioner and his team then visited AVU new facility, the Center for Virtual Education Innovation, and the AVU Center established at the College for Education and External Studies of the University of Nairobi.

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About AVU
African Virtual University (AVU) is a Pan African Intergovernmental Organization with a mandate to significantly increase access to quality higher education and training through the innovative use of Information and Communication Technologies.

The AVU was established in 1997 when eLearning was still in its infancy in the West and it has since trained more than 43,000 students and established the largest network of Distance and eLearning institutions in 29 African Countries. The AVU works across language divide in Anglophone, Francophone and Lusophone Africa. The AVU is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya with a regional office in Dakar, Senegal.