1.3M young Africans learnt coding during Africa Code Week 2017

Continent-wide skills development initiative on track to achieve target of 5 million youth trained well ahead of 2025 deadline

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa – December 05, 2017 – With an ambitious target of training half a million African youth between 18 and 25 October, Africa Code Week again this year exceeded all expectations by empowering 1.3 million youth across 35 countries with basic coding skills. This is also a 203% increase over the 2016 iteration, which had seen nearly 427 000 youth trained across 30 African countries.

Launched in 2015 by SAP CSR EMEA in partnership with the Cape Town Science Centre and the Galway Education Centre, Africa Code Week is an award-winning initiative that is now actively supported by UNESCO YouthMobile, Google, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), 15 African governments, over 100 partners and 100 ambassadors across the continent.

Claire Gillissen-Duval, Director of EMEA Corporate Social Responsibility at SAP and Global Project Lead for Africa Code Week, noted that "Participation in the Southern African region increased by nearly 142, with more than 116,800 youth trained in total. We also saw unprecedented collaboration between our public and private sector partners, as well as from NGOs such as Code For Change that leveraged their participation in Africa Code Week 2017 to scale coding classes across 100 secondary schools in South Africa over the next 12 months."

In 2017, Africa Code Week and key partner UNESCO joined the #eSkills4girls initiative launched by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to overcome the gender digital divide. The latter awarded 20 grants to 20 organisations, improving digital skills and employment perspectives for 8,259 girls and women in emerging and developing countries.

"With an average ratio of 43% female participation in coding workshops, Africa Code Week 2017 unveils a huge appetite for digital skills development among Africa's girls. Female representation in African companies in STEM-related fields currently stands at only 30%, requiring powerful public-private partnerships to start turning the tide and creating more equitable opportunities for African youth to contribute to the continent's economic development and success," says Gillissen-Duval.

With the highest engagement ratio of 1,622 youth per 100,000 population and a total of more than 390 000 introduced to coding during this year's edition, Cameroon wins the Africa Code Week 2017 championship. While Morocco's total engagement of 378,000 placed it second for overall participation, Mauritius sported the second-best engagement ratio of 1,545 youth engaged per 100,000 population. Botswana took third place with an engagement ratio of 1,168 per 100,000.

Key highlights from Southern Africa include:
• 8,348 teachers trained in Train-the-Trainer workshops held across the region
• Over 39% of Southern African participants in this year's Africa Code Week were girls

One of the key strengths of Africa Code Week is its focus on collaboration and partnership with a variety of public and private sector stakeholders - such as Google that supports Africa Code Week as part of its own commitment to preparing 10 million people in Africa for tomorrow's workplace. This year, 60 Google Micro Grants were awarded to community organizations in 10 African countries running initiatives to expose over 83,800 students to computer science.

The Botswana Ministry of Basic Education also partnered with Africa Code Week in 2017 to provide coding training to 80 teachers and 100 pupils in preparation of Africa Code Week. More than 500 teachers in Botswana have been trained in basic coding skills over the past three years.

According to Claas Kuehnemann, Acting Managing Director of SAP Africa, much of Africa Code

Week's success lies in the strength and support of its partners and collaborators. "Over the past three years Africa Code Week has grown into one of the best-supported and most far-reaching digital skills development initiatives on the African continent, with a broad range of governments, NGOs, private sector companies, educators, students and scholars all contributing to empowering one of the largest and most youthful workforces on the planet. We extend our gratitude to everyone who made this year such a resounding success, and look forward to building on its best practices over the years to come."

For more information about Africa Code Week please visit http://africacodeweek.org/. For information about SAP Africa, visit the SAP News Center. Or follow SAP and Africa Code Week on Twitter at @sapnewsand @africacodeweek