

<http://chronicle.com/weekly/v51/i34/34a03703.htm>

From the issue dated April 29, 2005

WORLD BEAT

Internet Link Will Give 3 African Universities Access to MIT Labs

By WACHIRA KIGOTHO

Students and researchers at three African universities will soon be able to perform sophisticated science and engineering experiments using Internet links to laboratory equipment at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The collaboration with Makerere University, in Uganda; the University of Dar-es-Salaam, in Tanzania; and Obafemi Awolowo University, in Nigeria, is part of a larger project (<http://icampus.mit.edu/ilabs>). Students and researchers at MIT and universities in Britain, Greece, Singapore, Sweden, and Taiwan have used the iLabs, but this is the first time that African universities will have access.

The Carnegie Corporation of New York provided \$800,000 for the African project. The grant will also pay for six MIT students to travel to Africa for the project, and for six African students to study at MIT.

Lawrence Kehinde, a computer scientist who is coordinator of the iLab project at Obafemi Awolowo, says the cross-cultural project will give students access to important experiments. So far researchers have identified online-experimentation topics in microelectronics, earthquake engineering, chemical and mechanical engineering, and physics.

Jesus del Alamo, a professor of electrical engineering and computer science at MIT, is the principal coordinator of the African iLab project. He developed the concept of online laboratories in 1998, devising a method for students to test and probe sensitive microelectronic devices over the Internet from different locations at the university.

As he likes to say, "If you can't come to the lab, the lab will come to you."

<http://chronicle.com>

Section: International

Volume 51, Issue 34, Page A37

[Copyright](#) © 2005 by [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#)

[Subscribe](#) | [About The Chronicle](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Terms of use](#) | [Privacy policy](#) | [Help](#)