# UNESCO prepares for Africa Code Week



The company SAP (a German multinational software corporation) and the Cape Town Science Centre in partnership with UNESCO conducted a Train–The–Trainer workshop in computer coding for up to 200 school teachers in Namibia in preparation for Africa Code Week 2017 which ran from 18 to 25 October 2017.

Coding is the literacy of the digital age, a completely new language for children to speak fluently and express themselves in the 21st century, and the aim of the training was to equip the teachers with coding skills, to allow them to train children and youth in Namibia. In 2016, Africa Code Week engaged 426,758 young Africans across 30 countries, and the target this year was to reach 500,000 young Africans from 35 countries.

Ms. Theresa Ely-Felino the Global Coordinator of Africa Code Week, Mr. Emmet Power, Software Developer at SAP and Mr. Daniel Angermann, Support Engineer at SAP facilitated the training. The participants were trained to code using a software called scratch, which is relatively easy to grasp. Coding, entails giving clear instructions to a device by telling it what to do. Scratch is a very interactive program built upon building blocks where teachers and learners will use the program to give instruction to an animated figure also known as a Sprite. The commands given to the Sprite will then be performed.

In his welcoming remarks, Head of UNESCO and Representative to Namibia, Dr. Jean-Pierre Ilboudo expressed his gratitude to SAP and the Cape Town Science Centre for sponsoring Africa Code Week and bringing the initiative to Namibia through UNESCO.

"The new partnership between UNESCO and the Cape Town Science Centre will promote the mainstreaming of Information Communication Technology (ICT) within the development of the country, through the National Development Plan (NDP 5), Vision 2030, the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP) and the SDGs which is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all," he said.