

TO BE WORLDWIDE ACTIVITIES FROM JULY- DECEMBER 2006 PROGRESS REPORT AND OPENING OF NEW COMPUTER CLASSROOM

A: General Pictures



Takoradi Educational Resource Centre



Kenneth (former basic course student) helping others in old classroom



Students dressed up for the opening



New computer classroom ready to be viewed



At opening of new classroom



Parents viewing the classroom



Kids excited about their new classroom



An interested parent

B. Narrative of Opening of New Computer Classroom and ICT in general

B1. Activities

The opening of the new computer classroom for the Takoradi Educational Resource Centre took place on Saturday the 25th of November. About 100 parents, children and community leaders were present. Guests included Mr. Bruce of the Metro Education Board and a representative of the Traditional Council of Komenda, the next located for a TBWW Centre. First there was an official address followed by a spontaneous appeal to parents about the importance of our work by Mr. Asare, local teachers. We were then able to show everybody the new Computer classroom. The children were in particular very excited. They had seen the building process but had never had the opportunity to go upstairs to see what was going on. Needless to say they were very happy. The opening was a great event, refreshments were served and a small book and toy raffle was held for the children.

B2. Results

Despite the delay in building and exceeding the budget we are very happy with the results of the new classroom. The classroom was well received by students and parents. The new facilities have already resulted in 17 new registrations in a single day. We hope to reach many more children now. Children rush to their classes now so that they can sit at their favourite spot.



The classroom is now fully operational, including Internet on all the computers. We did require the assistance of Internet Ghana and some new equipment to realise this.

The ICT program at the Takoradi Educational Resource Centre has provided and is providing to date, training for 327 (active) students. We are still working very hard to “kick start” the program we were running during school hours. This program is presently on a voluntary basis, resulting in the participation of children who are interested and who’s parents realise the importance of the skills. Now that we have met the new Metro Director and we have put a new proposal forward, we hope we can make sure no child misses out on this opportunity.

B3. Analysis

To Be Worldwide is committed to bringing ICT education to children. With our new facilities we will be able to fulfil our commitment. The classroom provides a roomy, fresh and inspiring location to learn.

B4. Progress report

The next 6 months will show to what extent the new classroom is being used. Children will follow their courses and the Teachers course will be completed. We will embark our next objective of realising an Internet Café at the Centre.

B5. Concluding comments

The process of realising the new computer classroom has been satisfactory. It is however unfortunate that issues beyond our control, such as inflation, ever increasing prices of commodities (cement etc) and reliability of labour, have such an effect on our time schedule and budget. We learn as we move on to the next project.

ICT General

The past 6 month included the summer holiday period. This meant that the centre was less occupied as children travelled. During this period we completed the building process of the computer classroom and the setting up and installation of all computers. Naturally courses were still given, but now more on an individual basis.

The first shipment of computers received from Computers for Development was a wrong shipment and contained mostly Pentium 2 computers. We had to arrange for new (Pentium 3) computers to be shipped. They arrived in the week of the 15th of October. The Exchange program we had hoped to participate in fell through. The organisation wasn’t able to find students for the projects they support in Ghana. This was unfortunate, not only would the exchange students have brought knowledge, the organisation would also have provided funds for e.g. shipment of computers etc. These slight set backs caused a delay but did not deter us.

On our trip to Ghana in November we met with representatives of the local and national Ministry of Education. We were seeking support for our work and exploring suitable forms of cooperation. In Takoradi, we received the support of the **new** Metro Education Board Director - Mr. Morgan - for our continued work with the 6 schools (Primary and Junior Secondary) in his district. In an effort to bring the To Be Worldwide concept to more children, we agreed with the Director to create an attractive package, which will convince more parents of the importance of the ICT courses given. Mr. Morgan confirmed that the area in which we work is indeed a needy area. Most parents here are illiterates and need assistance and convincing to offer their children a better future.

The children participated in the UNESCO Digital Art project. Unfortunately due to the unreliable nature of our Internet connection, we were not able to upload our work on time. We sent the work of the children on a CD-rom to UNESCO Paris and hope that they will place the work on the site. We are continuously looking out for improved Internet connectivity solutions in our region.

Our search for educational software that contributes to the learning process has resulted in the following sets software:



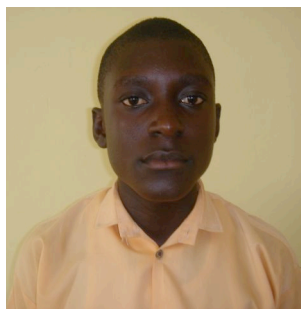
Learning ladder on Maths, Reading and Writing for every class

This software will be placed on the server so that it can be accessed from every computer.

We will continue to find educational software that reflects the school curriculum and that is compatible with the Ghanaian culture and customs, looks promising. Through a recent contact we made with the Intel Corporation we were informed of their plans to help the Ghanaian government develop content for the (Junior) Secondary School level. We are hoping to participate in this program and to offer the Centre as a stage for testing and piloting the content.

Francis Akcon, our head computer Tutor has left the employment of To Be Worldwide after 2,5 years. He has left to continue his education at the University. We are very grateful to Francis for his commitment and contribution to the Takoradi Educational Resource Centre. **Prince Kafui Buamah** has joined the Team and together with Norbert, he will be responsible for the ICT department of the Centre. Prince was educated the same institutes as Francis and Norbert. He has experience teaching and has a broad technical knowledge of computers and accessories (he has already been able to fix 2 monitors that were considered out of order). Prince is being trained in our standards of performance. We are confident he will succeed.

An Essay from one of our students



HOW INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) HAS HELPED ME

MY FAMILY

I'm Joel Bamfo Appiah. Fourteen years of age and a pupil of the Nana Brempong Yaw Complex J.S.S in form two. The name of my father is Mr. Jerry Bamfo-Appiah. He works at the Bremen- Brakwa Rural Bank. And the name of my mother is Mrs. Theresa Bamfo- Appiah. She also works as a teacher in God Is Able International School. We are five children to my parents. We are Christians and attend the Church of Pentecost.

ICT had been useful to me in so many ways. At first I didn't know anything about ICT which includes Mobile Communication, Computer Technology, and many more. Now I have got a little knowledge about ICT, I can communicate with friends and parents at any time I like with the help of the telephone and the mobile phone. At first it could take me more than one month to post or receive a letter, but now with the help of the internet and its e-mail programme, I can receive mails in few

two seconds, if only I have an e-mail address.

It could have taken me so many years to talk or tell the world any important thing about my country, but with the help of ICT, I can design a website and tell all people in the world about my self and my country.

ICT has helped us through the use of telephone to contact the fire service personnels when ever there is a fire out break in an area with the help of their emergency help line which we can dial freely. When we come to the computer aspect it has helped me with the intensive training I got from To be Worldwide Training center. Listed are some of the programs I have studied. Introduction to computers, Windows basics, Microsoft word, Excel, PowerPoint and Internet information. These programs I have Studied has helped me to do tedious works like typing letters, calculating figures and designing which a computer can do in the shortest possible time. The most important aspect of it now is that ,every body or companies want their work to be done very fast so it has helped me in advance to getting employment on the job market in future. Really ICT is very important and useful, it is good for everybody in this World to get a some knowledge about the **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY** and It will help us in so many ways.

Name: JOEL BAMFO – APPIAH, School: NANA BREMPONG YAW COMPLEX, Age: 14 years

LIBRARY



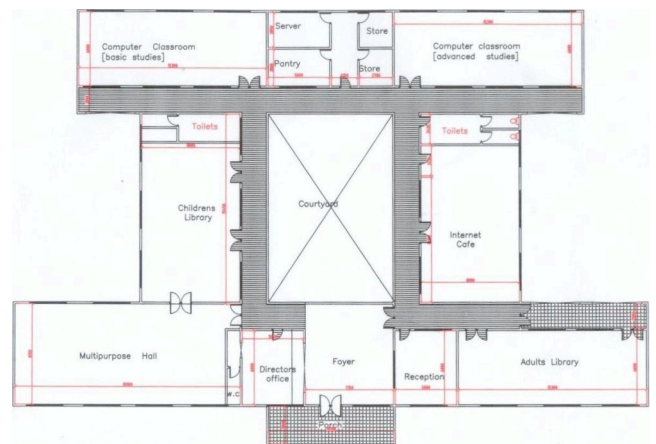
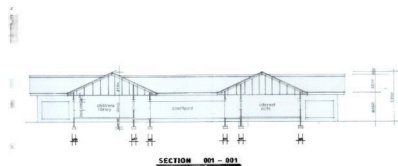
The library has **1673** registered members. This includes the primary schools in the vicinity of the Centre who visit the library during school hours with their class.

We are presently recruiting to add a teacher to our Library Team. The teacher will work together with the librarian, but will be better equipped to work with children who need extra assistance when it comes to reading. Mr. Asare and Mrs. Mills are teachers at the schools we work with. They have been very supportive of our work. We are working on involving them in an Educational Taskforce to help advise us on issues that involve aligning our work with the objectives the educational system.

It is with their assistance that we intend to organise more library activities. The two old computer classrooms near the library will be used for library related activities, such as working with digital interactive books and the reading programs such as Headsprout.

Komenda

On our recent visit to Ghana, we had the privilege to speak to members of the District Assembly of the Komenda Rural Area. We are very happy with their support and are awaiting the result of final land claims search performed by their office. In the mean time our architect is preparing the building plans on the basis of our floor and size plans and we are awaiting an estimate from a building company that uses the prefab method “Proform systems” to build houses and schools in Ghana. This technique is relatively new to Ghana and is proven to be less expensive and yielding quicker results.



Activities

The activities at the Centre are very popular with the children. Now they have the opportunity to engage in regular Arts and Crafts activities. With the recent shipment of computers we were also able to send a Beamer, which we received through the **Nixave Foundation**. With funds from the Maagdenhuis, we will be able to provide the children with a good Audio Visual experience. We look forward to organising “Movie Afternoons” on the Saturdays. We have also purchased more Arts and Crafts material and games for the children at the Centre. In the future we hope to introduce them to a photography project. We are presently working with a photographer Caro Bonink to link a school in the Netherlands and our children through a photography project called “Similarities”

