

## Proposal for Facilitation of an IT Training Centre in Uganda

### Past Performance

In 2004, the **education-africa** project was initiated at the University of Cologne with the major goal of *facilitating ICT use in teacher education*. Meanwhile, the University of Cologne has signed Memorandums of Understanding with Kenyatta University, Kyambogo University and Mbarara University of Science and Technology. In 2008 Linuxola in cooperation with the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Cologne formed a partnership to provide three African universities with computer hardware and software. The major aim was to support teaching staff and student teachers in these universities in developing ICT skills both for general use and for teaching. This concept was proposed in response to the study carried out by Justine Magambo<sup>1</sup> in 2007 which explored the use ICT in teacher education in universities in sub-Saharan Africa.

### Objectives and activities

Within this framework, Linuxola donated 20 computers to each of the three universities: Kenyatta University (Kenya), Kyambogo University and Mbarara University of Science and Technology in Uganda. Linuxola was in charge of fundraising for the computers, while the University of Cologne financed shipping. The African universities were to ensure space or rooms for the computers as well as identify IT focal points. Justine Magambo, who coordinated and managed the project and the partnership, visited all three universities to appraise their preparedness for the computer consignment. Her report showed that all three universities had appointed IT focal points and set up computer rooms.

In February 2010 the computers for Mbarara and Kyambogo were delivered and cleared by Mbarara University as agreed by both university officials. Mr. Christian Rose of Linuxola went to Uganda for one week to help assemble the computers and train staff in computer use and maintenance, as well as apply software like Open Office. The training was hosted by Mbarara University and all three universities were obliged to participate. Judging from the feedback of the participants, this activity was a great success. Kenyatta University could not participate but made arrangements to be trained by Mbarara University staff selected by Mr. Christian Rose for this purpose. Kyambogo University made arrangements with Mbarara University for the delivery of their computers and eventual training.

### Lessons learned

The joint project of Linuxola and University of Cologne was well received and has further confirmed the need for training in ICT use in African education institutions. Africa is increasingly embracing technology, computer and the Internet and yet the

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<sup>1</sup> Magambo, Justine. 2007. Use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) in teacher education in Sub-Saharan Africa: case studies of selected African universities. <http://en.scientificcommons.org/23444726>.

core actor for transferring this knowledge, - the teacher - still lacks the basic skills to use these technologies or prepare his students for the information technology society. There is thus the need for the education-africa project to put more emphasis on empowering teacher institutions and thereby enable the teacher to acquire the IT skills required of a modern educator.

### **Proposed - IT Training Centre**

Thus proposed here is an IT training centre which would serve both the in-service and in-training teachers. Initially targeted will be universities, teacher training institutions and schools based in Uganda, but eventually operations will expand to include other partner institutions in Kenya and DR Congo. This training centre will be used to hold workshops and block seminars for training of teacher IT trainers from education institutions and schools. The ToTs will provide training for teachers and administrators in the various affiliated university training centres in the country. Mbarara University of Science and Technology will be the main centre for west and southern Uganda, while Kyambogo University, which is the biggest teacher university in the country, will be used to train teachers from central and eastern Uganda. Contacts have been made with Gulu University for eventual recruitment for IT teacher training in northern Uganda.

At the center, one project director, one administrator and one secretary will administrate and organise training clients, trainers and locations. For effective networking and liaising with the teacher institutions in the country as well as with other stakeholders like the ministries of education and ICT the centre will be located in the capital city Kampala.

To sustain itself the centre will generate income by charging teachers and institutions minimal fees for these services. Funding will also be sourced from line institutions like the ministries of ICT, Education, Local Government and Public Service.

### **Proposed - IT expert network**

A network of IT experts will be developed and serviced. The training centre will serve as a consultancy and will develop an IT trainers or expert pool from the following institutions:

- Linuxola
- University of Cologne
- University of Kenyatta
- Mbarara University of Science and Technology
- University of Kinshasa