

# Imfundo: Partnership for IT in Education

DFID, 1 Palace Street, London, SW1E 5HE

[www.imfundo.org](http://www.imfundo.org)

## Newsletter 26 – June 2003

This month's newsletter provides updates on Imfundo's work in Ghana, South Africa and Ethiopia, as well as events in which Imfundo has and will be involved: the World Education Market in Lisbon, IICD's strategic dialogue, and the Interactive Health Network's HIV/AIDS video-conference to be held during the African Union Summit on July 10<sup>th</sup>.

*Tim Unwin*  
10<sup>th</sup> June 2003

### UNESCO becomes a Liaison Partner

We are delighted to report that UNESCO ([www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)) has become Imfundo's latest Liaison Partner. We are already working together on a range of activities, and we look forward to incorporating UNESCO's considerable ICT and content expertise in our programmes of support to African governments.

### Update on Imfundo's support for the Ghana Education Service

The latest contribution to Imfundo's support for the development of an ICT enhanced Open and Distance Learning strategy for teacher education in Ghana was a workshop for the Teacher Education Division's Working Group, held from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> May at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration. This was facilitated by Chris Yates (from the International Extension College) and Caroline Pontefract (Imfundo's Education Adviser) and focused on the fleshing out of a national strategy for teacher education. Dr. Kwame Akyeampong (University of Cape Coast, Institute of Education) provided a particularly valuable contribution on the Multi-Site Teacher Education Research Project (MUSTER) in Ghana. Tim Unwin and Mathy Vanbuel (ATIT) will be returning to Ghana at the end of June to take forward this work, and will in particular be exploring ways in which

ResourceBank and Local Partners can contribute effectively to the Teacher Education Division's work.

### Khanyisa – South Africa

Bas Kotterink was in South Africa in early May to participate in the official launch of Limpopo Province's Khanyisa Education Sector Programme, of which Imfundo is supporting the knowledge and communication strategy. He met with existing and potential partners, and also attended a workshop on 8<sup>th</sup> May for all partners involved in Khanyisa.

### IFORUM update – Ethiopia

Liz Harmer and Jason Monty, together with support from Ed Holcroft of NetDay were in Ethiopia from 11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> May to take forward Imfundo's work in support of Forum for Street Children in Ethiopia. This included planning of the layout of facilities for IFORUM's work in Nazareth, and discussions of technological inputs required from Imfundo's partners.

### How (not) to regulate cyberspace! Imfundo at the World Education Market

Imfundo, with the assistance of UNESCO, hosted the 'Governments advising Governments' session at the World Education Market ([www.wemex.com](http://www.wemex.com)) in Lisbon on 21<sup>st</sup> May. The session began with four provocative presentations by Pedro Dajer (Vice Minister of Education, Dominican Republic), Stephen Downes (Canada), Mohammed Dahbi (Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco) and Bildad Kagai (Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa) exploring various aspects of the way in which education can benefit effectively from ICT, focusing particularly on open educational resources, Open Source solutions and the regulation of



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cyberspace. Delegates then debated the issues raised over lunch. The full presentations, as well as a

summary of the discussions are available at <http://imfundo.digitalbrain.com/imfundo/web/papers/wem/?verb=view>

## Interactive Health Network HIV/AIDS video-conference during African Union meeting in Maputo - London site to be hosted by Imfundo at Palace Street on July 10<sup>th</sup>

The Interactive Health Network (IHN) has been commissioned by the Government of Mozambique to organise the international video-conference on HIV/AIDS and malaria to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> July during the African Union Summit. The London site will be hosted by Imfundo at DFID's Palace Street offices, and this event will also provide an opportunity to launch the interactive evaluation of HIV/AIDS digital resources undertaken for Imfundo by IHN.

## Resources from the Commonwealth of Learning: *Expanding Learning Horizons*; and new Knowledge Series guides

- In 2002, the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) updated its CD ROM containing its most popular knowledge resources along with a video on COL and its work. Copies are available on request from [info@col.org](mailto:info@col.org).
- COL has also recently released six new titles in its Knowledge Series: designing online learning; audio/audioconferencing; video/videoconferencing; community radio; use of telecentres in distance education; analysing costs/benefits for distance

education programmes [see [www.col.org/knowledge](http://www.col.org/knowledge)]

## Use of mobile telephones for education purposes?

Mobile telephony has expanded very rapidly in some parts of Africa, as in Tanzania. Whilst there are now various instances where such communication technology is being used for 'development' purposes, as through the provision of market information for farmers, there is as yet little evidence of its effective use for education, particularly for teacher training. If you know of any good educational examples, please let Tim Unwin ([t-unwin@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:t-unwin@dfid.gov.uk)) know, so that we can circulate this information more widely.

## IICD Strategic Dialogue

Bas Kotterink participated in the International Institute for Communication and Development's strategic dialogue on Ownership and Partnership held in The Hague from 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> May. This was not only an opportunity to support one of Imfundo's ResourceBank partners, but also provided an occasion to meet colleagues from Ghana and India working at the interface of ICT and education.

## World Bank lifelong learning resources

For update and resources on lifelong learning, from birth to grave and in different learning environments, formal, non-formal and informal, look at the World Bank's Lifelong Learning site at [www1.worldbank.org/education/lifelong\\_learning](http://www1.worldbank.org/education/lifelong_learning).

## Qualified teachers needed for Distance Learning Masters course in IT

The International Technological University ([www.ituedu.ca](http://www.ituedu.ca)) is looking for experienced teachers in the field of IT to participate in teaching their Distance Learning Masters course in IT. Interested people should contact Ehsan Shahrestani at [ehsan@ituedu.ca](mailto:ehsan@ituedu.ca).

