

# Imfundo: Partnership for IT in Education

DFID, 1 Palace Street, London, SW1E 5HE

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

## Newsletter 15 - July 2002

June was yet another busy month for the Imfundo team, with highlights being the visit of Caroline Pontefract, Bas Kotterink and Tim Unwin to Ghana, and Richard Stallman's seminar on GNU and free software hosted by Imfundo in DFID's Palace Street offices. We are also delighted to welcome Pooja Shah who has joined the Imfundo team for two months as a Windsor Fellow.

*Tim Unwin*  
1<sup>st</sup> July 2002

### Windsor Fellow - Pooja Shah

Last year, Imfundo made a bid to be a recipient of a Windsor Fellowship, and we are delighted that Pooja Shah has now joined the Imfundo team for two months under this scheme. The prestigious Windsor Fellowships are intended to enable students from ethnic minority groups to gain experience of working in the Civil Service. Pooja joins us from the University of Cambridge where she is studying medicine, and she will be undertaking a range of different tasks within the team to give her a comprehensive taste of life in DFID. Given her medical expertise, she will be focusing particularly on our work at the interface of education and health. We are delighted that she has joined the team, and we look forward to the additional health related expertise that she brings.

### Imfundo in Ghana

Three members of the Imfundo team visited Ghana from 10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> June at the request of the Ghana Education Service (GES) and through the invitation of the DFID country office, to explore ways in which ICT might be used to enhance teacher education in the country. During a very busy week, we visited a number of schools, teacher training colleges, and education offices, as well as holding

discussions with Ministry of Education and Teacher Education



Department officials, and staff from the University College of Education

Winneba (UCEW) and the University of Cape Coast (UCC). Based on these discussions, we are preparing an aide-memoire and hope to take this forward with GES and other key stakeholders later this year. We would all like to take this opportunity to thank Malcolm Watson in the DFID country office for hosting and organising our visit, and also all of those who offered their hospitality during our stay in the country. I particularly liked this notice in the Ministry of Education's offices in Koforidua!

THE BEST WAY TO  
PREDICT THE FUTURE  
IS TO CREATE IT

### Richard Stallman seminar in DFID, 7<sup>th</sup> June

The Imfundo team hosted a well-attended seminar by Richard Stallman on 7<sup>th</sup> June in DFID which focused particularly on the origins and principles of the Free Software movement. It provided fascinating insights into his work in developing GNU. The talk largely revolved around the four freedoms: the freedom to use programmes in the way you want, the freedom to learn through adapting programmes, the freedom to help your neighbour by copying and distributing material, and the freedom to build the community by publishing the additions you make to programmes. Richard also emphasised the value that free software solutions can



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contribute to education, particularly in the poorer countries of the world.

## **Atticmedia - malaria education materials in Swahili**

One of Imfundo's ResourceBank partners, Atticmedia, has been working with the Imfundo team over the last few months at the request of the DFID office in Tanzania to convert educational and information booklets about malaria written in Swahili into digital format. Darshana Tailor has now completed the first phase of this work, and a preliminary flash version is now available at [www.atticmedia.com/imfundo](http://www.atticmedia.com/imfundo). Do check this out and pass the information on to anyone who may be interested. Eventually, this material will be incorporated into a CD ROM together with other materials prepared by the Ministry of Health in Tanzania, and funded by a range of international partners and donors. We are extremely grateful to Atticmedia for this commitment of resources to enable this material to be disseminated more widely in this way.

## **Imfundo contributes to Department for Education and Skills programmes on Youth FM**

We were delighted to be asked by our ResourceBank partner the Department for Education and Skills to contribute to a series of radio broadcasts about the ways in which ICT can transform the way we learn. Imfundo featured on Youth FM on 19<sup>th</sup> June.

## **Imfundo social events - Partners evening 9<sup>th</sup> July**

For effective partnerships, it is essential that we get to know each other. As all the best guides on team-working emphasise, activities spent off-task are crucial to the success of team working. So, Imfundo is arranging a number of events and activities to facilitate the way in which we work. On the July 9, for

example, we are inviting all our ResourceBank and liaison partners to join us to meet other colleagues here in the DFID offices at Palace Street in London. Please let Sue Ramsay (020-7023-0980) know if you can be there. We very much hope that this will provide an opportunity for our partners to see the progress that we have made over the last six months.

## **Street children in Ethiopia - Imfundo returns from 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> July**

Regular readers of this newsletter will recall Imfundo's earlier visits to Ethiopia (see No.11, March 2002). We are returning from 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> July to set up a steering group for our work in exploring ways of using ICT to support children at risk of living and working on the streets, and shortly thereafter will be finalising the precise activities and partnership contributions required to deliver this.

## **New ResourceBank partner - International Literacy Institute**

We are delighted that the International Literacy Institute ([www.literacy.org](http://www.literacy.org)) has agreed to become a ResourceBank partner. They have a wealth of literacy related materials available through their web-site, and we look forward to working closely with them to deliver our core objectives of delivering gender equality and universal primary education in Africa.

## **Guidelines for the introduction of computers in African schools**

Our last newsletter mentioned the publication of our evaluation of the work of the Computer Education Trust in providing second-hand equipment and computer training in Swaziland. This is now available at [www.imfundo.org/cet/cet/htm](http://www.imfundo.org/cet/cet/htm), and includes comprehensive guidelines for future such work.

