



**UNESCO Chair in ICT for Development**

established in 2007 at Royal Holloway, University of London, UK

UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs – Twinning networks and university networks



## **ICT4D Collective, report of visit of colleagues from African partnership, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2007**

### **Original purpose of visit**

This visit was originally intended to build on previous workshops in Ghana and Kenya hosted by members of the DeLPHE funded partnership during 2007. These meetings highlighted several needs, of which the December visit to the UK was initially intended to fulfil the following:

- Wish by African partners to gain a better understanding of UK university ICT strategies
- Opportunity for UK partner to benefit from African partners teaching on undergraduate and postgraduate courses relating to ICT4D
- Participation in a workshop – to be held on mobile technologies
- Opportunity to download freely available digital resources (Open Educational Resources) using a high bandwidth connection so that these can provide the basis of digital resource collections in African institutions
- Visits to other UK universities with interests in ICT4D
- Participation in ICT4D activities organised by the Collective/UNESCO Centre for ICT4D
- Develop research agenda for 2008

The visit was timed to follow on from Online Educa Berlin (28-30 November 2007), thus enabling colleagues who participated in that conference to travel on to London afterwards.

### **African Participants**

In selecting participants for this visit, partner institutions placed particular emphasis on choosing younger members of staff and to ensuring a reasonable gender balance. Originally, it was intended to have a maximum of two people from each of three African institutions, but eventually it was possible to accommodate a total of nine participants, three of whom were women. Summary details of participants are as follows:

#### Mozambique, Eduardo Mondlane University

- Feliciano Eduardo – Lecturer, Department of Curriculum and Teacher Education ([felicianoeduardo@yahoo.com.br](mailto:felicianoeduardo@yahoo.com.br))



- Xavier Muianga – Lecturer ICT for Education  
([xavier.muianga@uem.mz](mailto:xavier.muianga@uem.mz))

#### Kenya, Maseno University

- Leonard Mware Oloo - Coordinator E-Learning, Maseno University  
([leonard.mware@icwe.net](mailto:leonard.mware@icwe.net))
- Oscar Olima - Director/IT Centre, Maseno University  
([Olima@maseno.ac.ke](mailto:Olima@maseno.ac.ke))
- Dr. Catherine Muhoma, the Director of Town Campus, Maseno University ([cmuhoma@yahoo.com](mailto:cmuhoma@yahoo.com))

#### Ghana, University of Education, Winneba

- Prof. Jophus Anamuah-Mensah (former Vice Chancellor, University of Education Winneba) ([jophusam@gmail.com](mailto:jophusam@gmail.com))
- Mr. James B. Williams, University of Education Winneba  
([jbwilliams@uew.edu.gh](mailto:jbwilliams@uew.edu.gh))
- Mr. Kafui A. Prebbie - Administrator, ICT Center, University of Education, Winneba; West Africa Coordinator, FLOSS4Edu Project; Country Director, oneVillage Foundation-Ghana; Team Leader Winneba Linux User Group ([kafui@kafui.com](mailto:kafui@kafui.com))
- Dr. Mary McPalm, University of Education Winneba  
([mdmcpalm@uew.edu.gh](mailto:mdmcpalm@uew.edu.gh))

All members of the ICT4D Collective were also invited to participate in the range of events provided, and there was a particularly high rate of attendance by postgraduate students.

Overall, colleagues from 18 different countries (Australia, Brazil, Burma, Chile, China, Denmark, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Kenya, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Spain, Sweden, Thailand and the UK) participated in the events organised during the week.

## **Programme and Outputs**

Details of the programme are attached at Annex A.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Number of people</b>
Meeting at London Knowledge Lab	This meeting (hosted by Rose Luckin and Josh Underwood) was designed for mutual sharing of information about ongoing research being done by colleagues in the London Knowledge Lab (especially Vesel) and our DelPHE funded partnership. Key outputs included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing of e-mails for subsequent networking</li> <li>• Enhanced content on ICT4D Moodle</li> </ul>	29

- environment
- Agreement on closer collaboration between the Lab and the Collective

Research planning meeting

This highly productive meeting confirmed:

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- Difficulties of engaging in practical research together given limited funding available from DelPHE
- Noted new grant applications under consideration (Edulink)
- Importance of submitting applications from our partnership to the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission's schemes (notably split-site)
- eLearning Africa 2008 will be in Ghana, and it was agreed we would host:
  - pre-conference (a) workshop and (b) high profile lectures at Winneba
  - half day workshop on monitoring and evaluation (David Hollow)
  - half day workshop on partnerships for ICT4D (Kafui Prebbie)
  - One research paper session (theme to be finalised)
- Winneba will lead on research on partnerships for ICT4D (James Williams)
  - Draft methodology to be circulated early 2008 (James)
  - Tim Unwin to circulate theoretical materials being produced by World Economic Forum/UNESCO
  - National teams to undertake research (interviews, questionnaires, Focus Groups) in February-March 2008
  - Materials to be prepared for papers presented at eLA April-May 2008
- Additional research being developed by Kenyan and Mozambican colleagues
- Need to submit further research grant proposals and to begin thinking about

- long-term sustainability of our partnership
- Invitation from ICT4D Collective to host African colleagues whenever they wish to spend time in the UK

CEDAR workshop: <i>Contemporary issues in African Higher Education</i>	This lively workshop was particularly designed to promote discussions around the key issues facing African HEIs. It was presented as part of the Centre for Developing Areas Research seminar series, and was especially relevant for Master's students undertaking the programme in Practising Sustainable Development	35
e-benchmarking seminar by Stephen Marshall, New Zealand, followed by discussion with Centre for Distance Education (CDE), University of London	<p>Stephen Marshall presented an interesting seminar on issues to do with e-benchmarking, convened by the CDE at the Institute of Historical Research.</p> <p>This was followed by a detailed discussion with three members of the CDE that addressed issues relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing structure of distance education</li> <li>• Platforms for e-learning</li> <li>• OER and IPR</li> <li>• University of London's experiences in digital and distance-learning</li> </ul>	35
Discussion with Computer Centre senior management on ICT strategies	<p>Two IT Directors from UK HEIs (Laura Gibbs, RHUL; Mike Roach, Reading) hosted a two-hour workshop that addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IT policies and strategies in HEIs</li> <li>• Practical provision of ICT delivery in African HEIs</li> <li>• Shared understandings of future initiatives</li> <li>• Importance of institutional intranets</li> <li>• Future opportunities for collaboration</li> </ul>	12
ICT4D Day to include Peer Supervisory Meeting (10.00-12.00) McCrea 218, lunch and an exploration	<p>The core purpose of this day was to share experiences of the ways in which the Collective supports postgraduate students.</p> <p>Colleagues from partner institutions therefore began the day by participating</p>	20

in the Collective's peer supervisory meeting, in which postgraduate students discussed the current status of their research, and raised issues about which they sought advice from their peers. This was followed by lunch in a local hostelry where small groups of people discussed issues that had arisen in the morning, as well as wider matters relating to ICT4D. The later part of the afternoon was spent walking around the town of Windsor, which also provided an opportunity to get to know each other better whilst also discussing aspects of our research.

Mobile Technologies workshop	Mobile technologies are of increasing importance in ICT4D. An all day workshop was led by two of the leading practitioners in the field (John Traxler from the University of Wolverhampton, and Jon Gregson from SOAS). Additional participants attended from Sweden, and several other people who were not part of the Collective also participated, including a representative from the BBC (see Annexes B and C for more information)	32
Digital online resource acquisition	Adrian Machiraju from Royal Holloway's library provided a valuable introduction to the different freely available online resources available to academic researchers. There were also opportunities for participants to use the digital learning and research environments at Royal Holloway during their time on the campus	
Visits to other institutions	Opportunities arose during the week for engagement with colleagues from other UK HEIs, and additional meetings for some participants were arranged with staff from the Open University and the University of Wolverhampton.	

## Social events

Social events held during the week provided an important opportunity for networking and cementing the partnership. We are grateful to the following for their hospitality:

- e Worldwide Group (dinner on 5<sup>th</sup> December)
- London Knowledge Lab (Lunch on 3<sup>rd</sup> December)
- Centre for Distance Education, University of London (Lunch on 5<sup>th</sup> December)
- Centre for Developing Areas Research, Royal Holloway, University of London (reception on 4<sup>th</sup> December)

There was also a final buffet supper on 7<sup>th</sup> December to which people in the local community were also invited.

## Follow up and action points

Action	Who	Deadline	Done
• Send revisions and comments on report to Tim	All	13 Dec 2007	some
• Niels Peter to provide summary of feedback on mobile workshop to Tim	Niels Peter	13 Dec 2007	✓
• Send final accounts for 2007 to Jophus for forwarding to British Council	All	a.s.a.p.	✓
• Initiate partnership research	James	Jan 2008	✓
• Liaise with e-Learning Africa over programme	Tim	a.s.a.p.	✓
• Submit CSC Split-site scholarship applications	All	31 Dec 2007	?
• Revise report, adding graphics and comments	Tim	1 Jan 2008	✓
• Explore funding for digital online resources with British Council, CSC and DFID	Tim	Jan 2008	
• Enhance use of Moodle environment	All	ongoing	✓
• Prepare M&E workshop for eLA	David	Feb 2008	ongoing
• Prepare partnership workshop at eLA	Kafui/ James	Feb 2008	ongoing
• Prepare pre-eLA workshop and lectures at Winneba	James/ Kafui	March 2008	ongoing

## Annex A

### Final Programme for DeIPHE partnership visit to the UK, 2<sup>nd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> December 2007

	Activities	Colleagues responsible
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delegates arrive</li> </ul>	David Hollow, Tim Unwin, Niels Peter Nielsen, Uduak Okon
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to Royal Holloway – meet in Queen’s Building foyer (35 on map)</li> </ul>	Dorothea Kleine Uduak Okon Marije Geldof David Hollow Xingmin Meng
10.00-11.00		
11.11	Walk to station	David Hollow
11.50	Train to London	
13.00-16.30	Meeting at London Knowledge Lab	Josh Underwood Rose Luckin
late afternoon	Informal guide to London’s ‘ICT4D’ sites	David Hollow
evening	free	Own return to Egham
<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b>		
10.00-12.00	Research planning meeting, including eLearning Africa 2008	Location Q 136 Chair: Tim Unwin
12.00-14.00	CEDAR workshop: <i>Contemporary issues in African Higher Education</i>	Dorothea Kleine; Jay Mistry (Chair) Location: Q170
14.00-17.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital resource acquisition</li> </ul>	Xingmin Meng; Win Tun
17.00-18.30	Reception hosted by Centre for Developing Areas Research (CEDAR)	David Simon, Jay Mistry, Dorothea Kleine
evening	free	

<p><b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b></p> <p>10.45 11.19</p> <p>12.30</p> <p>14.00-17.00</p> <p>evening</p>	<p>Walk to station Train to London</p> <p>e-benchmarking seminar by Stephen Marshall, New Zealand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centre for Distance Education, University of London</li> </ul> <p>Dinner in London hosted by e World Wide Group</p>	<p>David Hollow</p> <p>Institute of Historical Research, Germany Room</p> <p>Brian Sayer Jon Gregson (also to meet with Narend Bajinath, PVC UNISA)</p> <p>Salma Abbasi</p>
<p><b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b></p> <p>10.00-12.00</p> <p>13.00-14.00</p> <p>14.00</p> <p>remainder of the day</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion with Computer Centre senior management on ICT strategies</li> </ul> <p>Seminar: Ed Soja – Putting Space First</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital resource acquisition – meeting with Library staff (PC Lab 3)</li> <li>Opportunity for alternative and additional activities</li> </ul>	<p>Laura Gibbs (IT Director, Royal Holloway, University of London), Mike Roach (IT Director, Reading University) Bourne 6-01</p> <p>Adrian Machiraju</p>
<p>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December</p>	<p>ICT4D Day to include Peer Supervisory Meeting (10.00-12.00) McCrea 218, lunch and an exploration</p> <p>Pre-Christmas party for invited guests</p>	<p>Tim Unwin</p> <p>Tim Unwin</p>
<p>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December</p>	<p>All day workshop on mobile technologies</p>	<p>John Traxler Jon Gregson</p>

	(see separate programme) Participants depart	Niels Peter Nielsen Tim Unwin
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Participants depart	tbc

## Annex B



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### **Programme for Mobile workshop, Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

Location: Room 136, Geography Department, Queen's Building, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, Surrey

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 09.30              | Arrival   |
| 10.00              | Welcome: Tim Unwin  |
| 10.05              | Why Go Mobile - Examples and Affordances of Mobile Learning<br>John Traxler                                     |
| 11.00              | Using Handhelds - Some Practical Work in Groups (Group Work)<br>Jon Gregson, John Traxler                       |
| 11.30              | BBC Future Media and Technology<br>Barnabas Aspray (Software Engineer, Mobile, BBC)                             |
| 12.00 <sup>1</sup> | m-Learning and distance education (introduction and Group Work)<br>Jon Gregson                                  |
| 12.30              | Informal working lunch (sandwiches will be provided)  |
| 13.00              | Continuation of m-Learning and Distance Education   |
| 14.00              | Messaging (examples eg Kenya, Wolves, SA) and demos of SMS and Bluetooth messaging <sup>2</sup><br>John Traxler |
| 15.00              | Tea/Coffee  |
| 15.15              | Annika Andersson and Andreas Ask: A Bangladesh Virtual Classroom  |
| 15.40              | Discussion and exercises around the theme of 'possibilities, and futures'                                       |
| 16.30              | Close with distribution of certificates   |

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<sup>1</sup> Tea and coffee will be available on a self service basis throughout the day

<sup>2</sup> Delegates wishing to participate actively in these demos should send their mobile phone numbers to Niels Peter Nielsen by 1<sup>st</sup> December (n.p.nielsen@rhul.ac.uk)

## Annex C

### Feedback from participants

- “Highlights of the event -
  - first of all the conversation on e-learning we had on Wednesday afternoon (at Senate House), except there were more questions than answers
  - the mobile workshop, especially the morning session
  - (of course all the parties as they were not just fun but a good way to strengthen ties with our colleagues)
- “I think for me the highlights of the week were mostly the informal spontaneous things that happened, such as interesting conversations over lunch in the Hub, walking to Windsor castle through the park ... and having dinner in the Happy Man after the mobile workshop with [colleagues] from Ghana (they both expressed that after a week with everything planned for them, they really enjoyed this spontaneous experience of British culture).”
- “The visit of the DeLPHE partners to Royal Holloway was a resounding success. We had a packed and varied schedule, with great interaction between the African academics and stakeholders from across London and beyond. A personal highlight for me was the Friday morning session between the DeLPHE contingent and seven PhD students from the ICT4D Collective with valuable discussion regarding the issues of conducting research within an African context. In addition to the great visits to the London Knowledge Lab and Centre for Distance Education we also enjoyed lots of social engagement where relationships were formed and useful connections established. The visit also had significant impact upon the staff and students of the geography department and wider community at Royal Holloway. We look forward to carrying out the planned collaborative research in the forthcoming months and will meet again in Accra for eLearning Africa in May 2008.”
- “The best aspect to the visit was simply getting to know each other better, and having the chance to discuss our shared research agendas in a relaxed and informal environment”.

## Annex D Imagery of the visit



Visitors in the Geography Department at Royal Holloway, University of London



Peer Supervisory Meeting



Exploring the London Tube



Lunch at edge of Windsor Great Park



Evening reception



Mobile workshop

Note: higher resolution versions of all images are available from Tim Unwin