



**Plenary round-up: thoughts on "OER in an African context" from travelling...**

**Group north**

- analysing on the part of Africa - the great problem is not communication and technology, but human
  - When education is understood as the future of Africa, people will open doors
  - there is money once one realises the value of education
  - problem is personal interests..
  - the blockage is to do with 'people'
- need also for interaction with other parts of Africa, and also linkages across the Portuguese speaking world
  - technology contributes to this
    - interaction with Skype
    - but problems is to do with hierarchical politics
  - Involving students is important
    - helps spread things faster
    - students as an OER virus!

**Group west**

- meeting with some old faces, and still discussing the same problem
  - How much progress have we made
  - OER introduction is important, but how best to do this
- HEI decision makers are a real problem - they need to be convinced
  - from a different generation
  - working better together
- value of projects between different universities
- Main challenge is lack of qualified teachers
- translation/making content locally specific
  - often on a voluntary basis
- strong grassroots movement
  - need to identify where the main drivers are for OER
  - difference between Francophone and other countries
- need for critical mass!

**Group east**

- If people have control/mastery over the tool, they can do a lot of things
  - individuals as a rallying point for others: a resource for her peers
- still very much focused on content building rather than educating users about HOW to make best use of it

**Group south**

- TESSA example
  - very important that initiatives link up with government policies
  - needs to reach the grassroots
- How does Europe deal with OER?
  - should share experiences with African users
  - cost models
  - how do African universities recover their costs?
- 'we need to help Africans produce their own resource material' - uncomfortable with this
  - traditional knowledge mechanisms
  - use of allegory
  - 'Africans' DO have their own materials
  - technology permits audio/video which might be more relevant in African contexts...
  - but Europeans do not necessarily see this as 'course content'
- funding for OER is problematic
  - often a view that African knowledge is not valuable
  - African HEIs DO have really good content - this is not just 'traditional'
  - should fund African universities to

**Frank**

- does it always have to be text? What about other sorts of media?
  - Is there any good audio out there?
- cultural impact: impact can be different in other parts of the world
  - parts of existing courses made available externally
  - how much does this make cultural assumptions
- Internet for TESSA is only a delivery mechanism
  - a problem is that valid knowledge is out there somewhere else
  - what you are doing yourselves is real knowledge

**Philipp**

- discipline based collaboration - how does OER fit into this
  - a good starting point
- mobile technologies
  - perhaps also for audio
- links to OER are not clear; why is it interesting to people here at OEB
  - outside the traditional HE context

**Fred**

- Someone has to talk to the management of African HEIs to make clear that flexible OER use is a way to keep staff professional and changing teaching strategies
  - allows distance based learning
  - can attract new types of students

**Günther**

- many questions about the functionality of wikis
- content - finding out what is already there on wikieducator
  - what is used by African users now?
  - need to get more Africans as authors producing their own content in their own cultural context
  - focus on needs and driven on African user needs