

School Partnerships for ICT 4 Development



Mr. Bob Wilson from Seattle shares technology stories with headmasters Mr. Seth Laizer (C) of Ngateu Secondary School and Mr. Mike Mollel (R) of Olchoki Primary School at Siwandeti Computer Center, Arusha.

On 2 April, a group of twenty-two American students and teachers from the Global Technology Academy (GTA) at Garfield High School in Seattle, Washington landed at Kilimanjaro International Airport carrying with them almost 2,500 lbs. of computer technology.

The team was in Tanzania for two weeks assisting Terrawatu in a project that has installed two computer labs in village schools in Arumeru District. Each lab has thirty desktop computers with Internet connectivity provided via wireless radio tower by Elimu on Line (EOL), a philanthropic arm of local ISP (Internet Service Provider) Habari.co.tz.

A team of Tanzanian technology students and teachers from Ilkiding'a Primary and Secondary Schools, Olchoki and Natema Primary Schools, Ngateu Secondary School and St. Thomas School in Moshono were selected by Terrawatu to partner with the Seattle team members.

During the two-week visit the partners worked to set-up the computer labs with upgraded computer processing units (CPUs), refurbish the older machines and participate in workshops to share experiences, challenges and opportunities of using computer technology in classrooms in both America and Tanzania. The American team members stayed in the village homes of their partners. In working together to set up these two labs, the teachers and students from Tanzania and America formed a close bond between them that helps foster better understanding of two cultures. This bond helps to keep communications open over time and distance.

The "Linking Lands" project began in 2002 as a partnership between the World Affairs Council in Seattle, Terrawatu and Seattle Public Schools. USAID has been the primary funding source, together with the World IT Aid Group of Denmark, DANIDA, Microsoft, and individual donors from the United States. In May, Terrawatu turned the centers over to the school communities to manage into the future. Terrawatu staff will remain in a consulting role in order to assist sustainability.

The feature article section of this newsletter includes a write-up of the visit by the GTA student leader as well as excerpts from Co-Director Pergola's opening address to the team members.

Cross-Cultural Journeys

There are still a few spaces left for the Tanzanian Reality Tour set for October 21st – November 1st 2006. This popular tour "Culture, Economy and Sustainable Development" can be booked with Terrawatu's partner Global Exchange in San Francisco, California. Contact Masumi by phone at +1.800.497.1994 ext. 225 or by email at masumi@globalexchange.org



Terrawatu/Global Exchange Tanzanian Reality Tours include visits to Madrasa Pre-primary Community Schools in Zanzibar.

For the second year in a row Terrawatu led a group of students from Washington College in Maryland on a Tanzanian Reality Tour in May-June. Students earn college credits for participating in the 3-week tour that includes visits to villages, NGOs, national parks, schools, universities, health clinics and historical places. Lectures and discussions are held throughout the journey to provide context and in-depth information about what is seen along the way.

All of Terrawatu's People-to-People Safaris begin in Maasai villages far from the tourist track. We then visit world famous national parks to see amazing wildlife and learn about community and environmental conservation.

The tour then proceeds to the Swahili Coast to explore Islamic culture in Africa and experience the exotic spice island of Zanzibar. If you would like more information about our ecological-cultural safaris in Tanzania contact us by email at info@terrawatu.org



Organizational News

Terrawatu's Co-Directors Ole Sululu and Dr. Tanya Pergola have recently been dedicating more time consulting with businesses and non-governmental organizations interested in making connections between Tanzania and America and Europe. Working through Rotary Clubs, universities, tour companies, and health care businesses Terrawatu has helped dozens of people direct their financial and in-kind resources to specific project sites.

Terrawatu's Co-Director, Tanya Pergola is now in America cultivating Terrawatu USA. In the weeks ahead, she will be in Seattle, Florida, the San Francisco Bay Area, Orange County California, and New York City meeting friends and speaking about Terrawatu's work in Tanzania. To book her for an event in your area, call Terrawatu's Seattle office at 1.206.226.3882.

A volunteer team from St. Constantine's International School (SCIS) in Arusha continue to work with Terrawatu to assist the Mkonoo tree-planting network by fundraising for a water pump that will alleviate problems in this drought-prone area.

What You Can Do

There are several ways to get involved in Terrawatu activities:

- ❖ **Sponsor a Child's Education.** Terrawatu's Child School Sponsorship program has been very successful. A sponsor's financial support helps a girl to successfully complete Primary School and proceed onto Secondary School (not common in Tanzania). More information can be found on our Website – www.terrawatu.org - under Child School Sponsorship (CSS) program.
- ❖ **Resources for computer labs.** Terrawatu's IT centers are in need of educational DVDs, CDs and other materials for classroom use. Entertaining DVDs are needed for village movie nights that raise funds for sustaining the centers. If you have these materials and would like to make a donation please contact us at info@terrawatu.org and we can arrange for you to get them to someone we know who is traveling to Tanzania in the very near future and can hand-carry them.
- ❖ **Keep us in mind when you hear about grant opportunities and/or partnering** possibilities with other foundations and organizations that work in similar projects as Terrawatu. Many of you have already provided Terrawatu with excellent contacts and recommendations that have helped us grow and blossom. Thank you!
- ❖ **Tell your colleagues and friends about our work.** Forward this newsletter and Web address - www.terrawatu.org - to those you think may be interested in hearing about Terrawatu.



Recipe- East African specialties

Grilled Zanzibar Queen Prawns

Perfect for a summer BBQ...

What you need:

- ½ teaspoon fresh lime zest
- ½ teaspoon cumin
- ½ teaspoon oregano
- ½ - 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon fresh green peppercorns, lightly smashed (sold in jars, often from Spain)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 tablespoons lime juice
- 3 cloves garlic, mashed
- 1 Kg (2.2 lbs) deveined, uncooked queen prawns (shell on)

What you do:

- Mix all the ingredients together and marinate the prawns. Leave in refrigerator until ready to start grilling.
- Make sure grill is not too hot. Thread the prawns on skewers to make it easier to grill.
- When you start grilling very slowly the shells of the prawns will start changing color. In the process of grilling remember to brush the prawns with the marinade. Make sure you don't overcook...keep 'em nice and moist.



Linking Lands with IT

The following piece is written by Sophie Depillis, student leader for the Global Technology Academy's Tanzania trip in April 2006...

From the moment our plane landed in Arusha, Tanzania, the 16 students and four teachers from Global Technology Academy (GTA) based out of Garfield High School were met with open arms from our friends at Terrawatu. We had been planning our journey for months, with countless days spent working on refurbishing computers in Seattle and ironing out logistical plans. Once we arrived in Tanzania, few of us having been to Africa before and many never out of the country, our group was treated to the kindness and generosity inherent to the Tanzanian people. Separating into three teams located in the villages of Siwandeti and Ilkiding'a and the area of Moshono, the American students, with the help of our Tanzanian counterparts, installed three computer labs of 20 computers each in primary and secondary schools. Most of the group stayed with Tanzanian families or teachers from the schools, and those experiences were some of the most interesting and fulfilling of the trip. We have returned home invigorated, with a greater scope of what the world presents to us, and a desire to stay connected to the friends we have met and the relationships cultivated.

The following are excerpts from Terrawatu Co-Director Tanya Pergola's opening address to the team members...



Terrawatu Co-Director Tanya Pergola briefing teams from Seattle and Tanzania about IT for Development project in Arusha.

"The original motivation for the project emerged at a time when some of the downsides of our globalized world were making themselves known. There are incredible tools available now for people to communicate easily with each other, but many people are not really getting clear messages about each other's beliefs, life circumstances, hopes and dreams. Linking Lands started as a way to peacefully address global misunderstandings.

From the beginning, Sululu and I knew it was going to take some time to introduce the concept of IT into the village schools outside of Arusha town. The villages of Siwandeti and Ilkiding'a are financially very

poor, parents have a hard time paying for basic necessities and are still in the process of learning that supporting their child's education in computers may contribute to building a better future. Terrawatu computer teachers and staff have been working closely with the school communities to encourage acceptance of this new technology and to explain the opportunities afforded by computers such as distance learning courses and having the world's libraries available in a place where textbooks are scarce.

Terrawatu contacted GTA's Director Kjell Rye to help upgrade the technology at the centers instead of simply buying new machines in Arusha town to have the added value of creating people-to-people ties. We have learned over the years working on development projects that the visitors we bring from America and Europe go a long way towards building confidence and pride in the communities. Emails only go so far...eventually people need to meet and understand the foundations of each other's lifestyles especially when it comes to something like computer technology.

If this goes well, Terrawatu and GTA plan to facilitate similar projects in other parts of the country. We have all the pieces of the puzzle in place. There is a well-spring of good will and resources in the developed world towards Tanzania at this moment, the sticking point is sharing with local Tanzanians that Americans don't want to simply give money and perpetuate the "hand-out" mentality that has plagued places like Tanzania. Bridging and creating authentic partnerships takes equal give and take from both sides."



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Lekoko Ole Sululu - Co-Director
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Angel Marcel – IT Manager
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Mahatma Gandhi