

Computer Labs in Village Schools Pioneer New Educational Opportunities

A group of twenty-six (26) students and teachers from the Global Technology Academy (GTA) in Seattle, Washington departed Tanzania in April after maintaining two computer centers and outfitting six new ones in Arusha region:



Global Technology Academy (GTA) team members from Seattle visited Ngorongoro Conservation Area during their stay in Tanzania.

- Ilkiding'a and Ngateu Secondary School Computer Labs were inspected and fixed up;
- St. Thomas Primary School received 30 new desktop computers and 10 laptops;
- Kinyak Secondary School received 10 desktops;
- Mukulat Secondary School received 5 desktops;
- Lake Manyara Secondary School received 10 desktops;
- Einoti Secondary School received 10 desktops;
- St. Patrick Primary/Secondary received 10 laptops.

The GTA team provided training to Tanzanian students and teachers in computer maintenance and lab sustainability. This visit was part of Terrawatu's continuing "Linking Lands" program. The focus is on improving education in Tanzania through the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT). Co-Director Ole Sululu and supporting staff managed the successful visit.

Thank you very much GTA for this wonderful partnership.

In May, two volunteers – Christina Corodimas from the Clinton School of Public Service and Ziemowit Bednarek from the Haas School of Business at University of California at Berkeley – began a 3-month internship with Terrawatu to assist the development of the computer centers at St. Thomas and Ilkiding'a Schools. Read about their eye-opening experiences regarding the introduction of computer technology into Tanzanian schools in the feature article of this newsletter.

Experience Tanzania with Terrawatu's People-to-People Safaris

The People-to-People Safari company, sponsored by Terrawatu, is looking forward to hosting several groups on eco-educational tours of Tanzania in the coming months. Customized itineraries for several Universities and private clients have been created to give visitors a truly unique perspective of Africa. Students obtain global service learning credit during the experience.

Working closely with Terrawatu, visitors choose the projects they wish to visit, according to their own interests, and the style of accommodation and travel they prefer while in-country.

The itinerary can include visits to Tanzania's world famous national parks for wildlife viewing and a visit to the Swahili Coast to explore Islamic culture in Africa and experience the exotic spice island of Zanzibar.

People-to-People Safaris (PPS) was created to help support Terrawatu's projects and those developed by other community service organizations that excel in sustainable project creation.

To find out more about People-to-People Safaris with Terrawatu, read testimonials, and view a slideshow visit www.terrawatu.org and click on *Journeys*.

To begin the process of creating your own customized tour of Tanzania, contact us at info@terrawatu.org.



Exploring Tanzania with Terrawatu leads you into People-to-People interactions in villages. Here Terrawatu staff and visitors discuss progress with re-forestation project.



Organizational News



Bono (musician/campaigner) addressing TEDGlobal on African aid issue before heading up to the G8 Summit in Germany.

Co-Director Dr. Tanya Pergola was the featured speaker at the Rotary Club of Miami on 24 May 2007. She spoke about Terrawatu's projects in Tanzania and their placement within the bigger picture of foreign aid to Africa. Pergola is the Head of the African Affairs Committee of the Rotary Club of Miami.

Terrawatu is in the process of receiving 501(c)(3) status in the United States of America. Individuals and corporations interested in supporting Terrawatu's projects can now donate directly to Terrawatu Inc. and receive the associated tax deduction.

Co-Director Pergola participated in the TED Global Conference from 4-7 June. This invitation-only event entitled 'Africa: The Next Chapter' took place in Arusha, Tanzania and brought together inventors, business-leaders, entrepreneurs, scientists, designers, artists, writers, activists, and visionaries from around the world. Conference highlights and Blog can be found at www.ted.com.

Terrawatu has been invited to participate in the opening activities of the Nyerere Center for Peace Research in Arusha, Tanzania from 12-14 July 2007. A project of Arcadia University in Glenside, Pennsylvania, the Center seeks to be a leader in identifying cross-cultural symbols of peace and early warning indicators that could help prevent global conflicts in the future.

How You Can Help

There are several ways to contribute to Terrawatu's work:

- ❖ **Make a donation directly to Terrawatu.** The mission of Terrawatu is to empower communities to improve education and health, protect the environment, and promote cultures of peace. Wouldn't it be nice to have the personal satisfaction of knowing you have directly contributed to this effort? As compared to larger aid organizations that retain 75% or more of financial contributions for administrative costs, Terrawatu uses only 35% for administrative costs. All of the remaining goes directly for on-the-ground project implementation in Tanzania.

Donations can be made ONLINE, by MAIL or through a CORPORATE MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM. You can direct your donation to a specific area or program or make a gift for general support. Go to www.terrawatu.org and click on "Contribute". **Checks can be mailed to: Terrawatu Inc., 3225 Franklin Ave. Suite #407, Miami, Florida, 33133.**

- ❖ **Keep Terrawatu in mind when you hear about grant opportunities and/or partnering** possibilities with foundations and organizations with a similar mission. Many of you have already provided Terrawatu with excellent connections that have helped us prosper. 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 learning about Terrawatu.



Recipe

Potato Salad with Zanzibar Spice

Lovely for a summer barbeque. A healthy, low-fat (no mayo) potato salad...spiced up with the flavors of Zanzibar. Serves 6.

What you need:

- 25 tiny new potatoes (1kg/2.2lbs)
- 1 teaspoon black mustard seeds
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon cumin seeds
- 1 clove crushed garlic
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- ¼ cup chopped fresh coriander (cilantro)

What you do:

- You can leave the skin on the potatoes, or partially peel. Leave them whole if really tiny, or halve them. Boil or steam until just tender, rinse under cold water; drain, cool.
- Heat dry frying pan. Add mustard seeds, ground cumin and cumin seeds. Cook gently, stirring, until fragrant. Combine potatoes, spices, crushed garlic, lemon juice and fresh coriander in a bowl. Mix well.



"Finding a Bridge across Cultures...Helping to Boost Education in Tanzania"

by Christina Corodimas, Clinton School of Public Service, Little Rock, Arkansas

As part of my graduate schooling at the Clinton School of Public Service I must complete an International Public Service Project. I knew that the experience had to be something that would build on what I had learned at school, while giving me the opportunity to work alongside an NGO to implement a project. I was excited to learn about Terrawatu and its work in Tanzania and eager to help. I recruited my boyfriend Ziemowit Bednarek, a Ph.D. candidate at UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business to help too and we are now in Arusha for three months, working on Terrawatu's Linking Lands project.

The computer labs that we are working with are located in schools. These labs have been equipped with computers by Terrawatu and are impressive. The schools take much pride in having these labs on their campuses as it is a privilege to even have one computer in a school -- so having an entire lab of thirty or more computers is a big deal for Tanzania. For some perspective -- a principal's office for example -- is sparsely equipped with a desk, plastic garden chair, a wall-mounted bookshelf and perhaps a ceiling light—no telephone, no typewriter, definitely no computer. The schools have provided the desks, chairs and teachers for the computer labs. Our job is to assess what is working well; what could be improved upon; and ultimately help to make these computer labs sustainable.

Tanzanians for the most part do not quite grasp how awesome computer technology is and how beneficial it can be to their lives. The government of Tanzania does not include computers in its national school curriculum although they have recently announced they will purchase 130 computers, one for each school district in the country, for record keeping purposes. So as they say here, "pole pole" (meaning slowly, slowly) the government is realizing the importance of computers in the business of running their schools, but not yet the importance of computers to their students. One school we visited had five computers the government had given them a few years ago that were no less than 20 years old. Much work has to be done to educate Tanzanians at every level about computers and their many applications.

If Internet access were available in the computer labs, they would truly be brought to life. Internet access here is slower than I have experienced in my life, including my memories of dial-up service in the US more than 14 years ago. Because of the lack of undersea fiber optic cable, East Africa is one of the only places in the world that relies on satellites for Internet access. Service is not only slow, but expensive too. Schools have a difficult time paying their Internet provider fees, as computer labs are not supported with government dollars. We are working with the schools to educate students and teachers, and ultimately the community about the many ways a computer lab can be integrated into the full school experience, as well as providing a service to the community. These labs will only be sustainable in the long term if the community realizes the immense benefits to their daily lives of having access to such technology. Once the benefits are realized by the community, individuals may begin to use the labs and fees can be collected, much like Internet cafes. Only then will student fee increases be justified for access to computer technology and the Internet.

We are learning so much about Tanzanians and from the Tanzanians we are working with. Life here is vastly different from our lives in the States and from Poland where Ziemowit spent most of his life. We appreciate so much the uncomplicated nature of life here and have quickly adjusted to a nice routine. The Linking Lands project seeks to blend the traditional Tanzanian way of life with technology; enhancing opportunities and life for locals; and ultimately creating a global opportunity for understanding. We hope that our work this summer is a step towards this goal.



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Zawadi David – Board member
Dorice Cleopa – Board member

Contact Information

Postal address:

Terrawatu
P.O. Box 2652
Arusha, Tanzania

3225 Franklin Ave. Suite #407
Miami, Florida, 33133 USA

In Tanzania: +255 (0)78 469 3826
In USA: +1 305 213 7106

Email: info@terrawatu.org
Website: www.terrawatu.org

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with the Registrar of Societies in The United Republic of Tanzania (So. No. 11220).

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"When the power of love overcomes the love of power the world will know peace."
- Jimmy Hendrix