

2009

ANNUAL REPORT



Daniel Kwaku Ganyoame
Executive Director/Founder
Africa ICT Right



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After Green Hostel near Asanka local
Madina New-Road
P.O. Box MB663,
Ministries-Accra
Cell: (233) 277-137473
E-mail: africaictright@yahoo.com
Website: www.africaictright.org

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1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A word of thanks to the individuals and organizations who successfully contributed their support, time and experiences in helping Africa ICT Right in its activities since its incorporation in 2007.

Donors and Partners

AIR is proud to have developed partnerships and membership affiliations with the following organizations:

1. CompTIA Foundation
2. Microsoft
3. Canadian Education and Training Awards (CETAA)
4. Action Care International

Individuals

Mr. Emmanuel kobby Yawson, *Hyperlink Network System Ltd*

Mr. David McNally, *Associate Director, Peace Corps.*

Mr. Sam Adeyemi, *Unlimited Potential Group Project Manager, Microsoft, Nigeria*

Mr. Bright Appiah, *Executive Director, Children's Rights International*

Governing Council

Mr. Emmanuel Mensah Appiah - *Chairman*

Mr. Emmanuel Owusu Oware - *Vice Chair*

Mrs. Victoria Kunbour- *Member*

Mr. Charles Nornoo - *Member*

Mr. Micheal Adumatta - *Member*

Mr. Daniel Kwaku Ganyoame, *Executive Director, Africa ICT Right-Member*

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Organizational Profile

Africa ICT Right (AIR) is an ICT-oriented non-profit organization established in 2007 with its Head Office in Accra in Ghana. It is registered as an NGO (under the Companies code 1963, Act 179) with the Registrar General's Department (Registration No. G.20,276) and also with the Department of Social Welfare (Registration No. DSW/3613).

Africa ICT Right's aim is to uplift rural and urban communities in developing countries by providing educational resources, technology resources and training to empower the youth to improve their lives and also to bridge the digital gap.

Africa ICT Right (AIR) was created out of a belief that the modern world is in the midst of a profound transformation in which personal computer and Internet technologies play a critical role. However, some groups in our society are not being included in this progress, which we believe is a detriment not only to the disenfranchised, but also to our society. A recent study showed that Africa households are increasingly falling behind the rest of the world population in computer ownership. We believe that people must have access to computing and Internet resources in order to participate in the emerging information economy.

Currently, a 5-member Governing Council composed of dedicated corporate and community leaders who volunteer their time and resources, governs Africa ICT Right and decides its priorities. Africa ICT Right expects to take a leadership role through helping build a community that cares about its citizens by bringing together business, labour, the non-governmental organizations, and the government where appropriate. It is clear that regional or community needs can rarely be met by just one organization or institution. Africa ICT Right would therefore develop the organized capacity for people to care for one another; leveraging resources to get this accomplished. Through this approach, Africa ICT Right will act as a natural interface and a representative link between donors and communities. AIR will provide support for donors who are interested in making contributions to meet the education, development and other critical needs of Ghanaian communities.

2.2 Our Vision

Our vision is to build a computer literate society by providing access to computers and inspiring people to use ICT to make a positive difference in their communities.

2.3 Mission Statement

Our mission is to become an ICT champion in Ghana by providing technology resources and literacy to less privileged youth and communities with no access to computer, to empower the youth and to bridge the digital divide by helping to establish Community Technology Centers with at least one computer in each classroom by 2020.

In our five-point strategic approach to ICT for development, we aim at:

- Connectivity
- Access
- Education
- Content
- Research

2.4 Values

The values governing Africa ICT Right development are as follows:

- We must pursue excellence in everything we do.
- We are sustained by supporting each other professionally and personally.
- Our culture requires personal growth, respect, honesty, openness, and humility.
- We are responsible for making prudent and wise use of all of our resources in ways that achieve goals most efficiently.
- We will make a meaningful difference by recognizing and pursuing opportunities, thinking creatively, and taking thoughtful action.
- Our grant decisions must be guided by research, purposeful discussion, fact-based judgments, fairness, and clearly articulated expectations.
- We must hold ourselves to high standards of effective grant making and our granters to high standards of performance.
- We will advance the areas in which we work by acknowledging and sharing our failures and successes with others.
- We are privileged to do this work.

Each associate of the AIR is responsible for bringing these words to life.

2.5 Core Service Areas

Our major program areas include:

CONNECTIVITY

- ICT Centers for schools and communities
- Libraries

ACCESS

- To supply computers to schools and communities
- To set up computer recycling centers

EDUCATION

- ICT training for youth and teachers
- ICT Awareness & Sensitization

CONTENT

- IT training content (on CDs and Website based)

RESEARCH

- ICT research (mobile phone technology, e-governance, solar energy, telecentres, mobile van, e-agriculture, telemedicine, e-banking etc.)

3.0 COMMITTEES

Africa ICT Right's Committees established by the Governing Council consist entirely of volunteers. Each committee is chaired by a member of the Governing Council who presents recommendations of his/her committee to the Governing Council for approval.

3.1 Fund Raising Committee

This committee plans and implements a yearly campaign and action plans for obtaining donor funds.

3.2 Programmes Committee

This committee:

- ⌚ Identifies potential projects based on eligibility criteria.
- ⌚ Organize workshops and seminars for selected staff and governing council members to further enhance their capability.
- ⌚ Tracks progress and results of funded programs to ensure targets and objectives are met.

3.3 Disbursement Committee

This committee works hand-in-hand with the Programmes Committee. This committee:

- ⌚ Develops eligibility criteria for target programmes
- ⌚ Disburse funds for approved programmes / projects
- ⌚ Monitor programme implementation and accountability

3.4 Public Relations Committee

This committee serves as the public relations outfit of the organization. The Public Relation Committee:

- ⌚ Develops communication materials like booklets, brochures, print and electronic advertising etc.
- ⌚ Builds a relationship between Africa ICT Right and the Ghanaian community through the media.

4.0 ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR

The following targets were accomplished in the year.



November 2009: Global Partners Junior is an award-winning student exchange program that connects youth in New York City with students around the world via the web. It is sponsored by New York City Global Partners, the non-profit organization that connects the Mayor's Office for the City of New York to cities around the world. This program fosters global understanding and communication through web-based exchanges and media projects. Global Partners Junior was the recipient of the 2006 Innovation Award for Youth and Education from Sister Cities

International. AIR was authorized by New York City Global Partners to recruit a school from Ghana for the Global Partners Junior program since they have no schools or cities in Africa connected to this program. We were able to connect a British International School situated in East Legon to this program.



September 2009: AIR received a request from the Chief of Likpe Todoma through a Peace Corps volunteer to help them set up a Computer/Library center in their community. So we paid a working visit to Likpe Todoma in the Hohoe District. We held formal meeting with the chief and elders of this community, who showed great interest in the project and later supplied 5 cartons of books for their school library.



August 2009: We converted the AIR office into an ICT training center, which enabled us to offer basic ICT training for 10 youth and teachers in Madina. The training course covered areas such as Microsoft Windows, Microsoft Office (including Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint) as well as general web concepts such as navigation and searching.



June 2009: As part of our initiative to make ICT work for the poor, we started a project aimed at designing a community-owned ICT center. This center is intended to empower the poor people, especially in rural areas, with reliable access to ICT resources and facilities. AIR's technical team reviewed the existing Community Information Centers (CIC) built by the government in the Dangme West District,

Asikuma/Odoben/Brakwa and the Ajumako / Essiam Districts to evaluate their impact as well as identify the challenges facing them. The objective of this research was to obtain relevant data to plan our pilot ICT projects across the country.

5.0 UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

5.1 ICT Training Program for Teachers

As our contribution towards the national policy of making ICT education available, accessible and affordable, especially at the grassroots level, we have designed this ICT training to equip 150 teachers in the Ga-East District with the basic knowledge and skills that will enable them teach ICT at least up to Junior High School level.

The total cost for the ICT Training Program for Teachers will be GH₵8,000.00

6.2 Our Schools PC Program

Under this project, we will supply 400 computers and accessories to schools across the 10 regions of Ghana of which each school will have access to 10 computers for their computer laboratory.

This program is under the auspices of Computers 4 Africa (C4A). C4A is a UK registered charity that promotes and enables environmentally responsible reuse of decommissioned corporate computers, to empower technologically disadvantaged schools and communities in Africa and elsewhere. The increase of student enrollment across the regions had not matched the educational infrastructure to enhance academic work. With the introduction of ICT as a core subject by Ghana Education Service (GES) when most schools do not have the ICT infrastructure and materials has been a recipe for mass failure in that subject area across the regions.

The total cost for the Our Schools PC Program will be GH₵12,000.00

6.3 Community Innovation Center (CIC)

We will equip the New Takoradi community in the Takoradi Metropolis with computer laboratory. This program will give us the opportunity to bridge the digital divide in this community as well as understand the challenges of establishing an ICT laboratory in a rural setting. We will work closely with all stakeholders in the community including the chief, Member of Parliament, the District Assembly and schools. AIR will transfer ownership of the facility to a management committee which will be chosen by the community.

The total cost for the Community Innovation Center (CIC) will be GH¢37,500.00.

6.0 CONCLUSION

2009 was a busy year. Quite a lot of time was spent on research, volunteers and funding, with mixed results. However the organization has made some progress during the year. Even though most of the planned activities didn't take place, those that did brought positive results.

In accomplishing these targets, we made sure our services and operations were conducted in accordance with the generally accepted standards. These standards require that we plan and perform the delivery of assistance to attain reasonable assurance even though we have been faced with financial and unforeseen obstacles.

The organization maintains a low budget due to financial constrains and the difficulty to secure enough financial support. Never the less, contributions through personal donations of the Executive Director as well as from volunteers especially Ronan Caffrey has made our success commendable.

One of the challenges facing our organization is to find funding for our programs/projects and also the lack of a permanent secretariat for our operation.

In the meantime, Africa ICT Right would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers for their passionate involvement in all our activities.