2011

ANNUAL REPORT

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Africa ICT Right

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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. Crossroads International
2. eLearning 4 Kids
3. CompTIA Foundation
4. Microsoft
5. Canadian Education and Training Awards (CETAA)
6. Action Care International

Individuals

Mr. Emmanuel kobby Yawson*, Hyperlink Network System Ltd*
Mr. Ronan Caffrey, Village by village

Governing Council

Mr. Emmanuel Mensah Appiah - *Chairman*
Mr. Emmanuel Owusu Oware - *Vice Chair*
Mrs. Victoria Kunbour- *Member*
Mr. Charles Nornoo - *Member*
Mr. Michael Adumatta Nyantakyie - *Member*
Mr. Daniel Kwaku Ganyoame*, Executive Director, Africa ICT Right-Member*

2.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Running an organization as important and ambitious as Africa ICT Right (AIR) can be a challenging task. We started the year with only three volunteers and very meager funds. But our strong desire and determination to bridge the digital gap of our people living in deprived communities in Ghana has kept us going.

Our resilient volunteers have worked tirelessly to move the organization to its present state. In 2011, our volunteers' membership has increased from just three to ten in all.

With generous support from our members and supporters, we successfully implemented programmes totaling more than $8,000. Our work impacted over 3,143 people in Ghana. Our ground breaking ICT training program in Winneba provided ICT training to over 500 students every week.

We are resolved to work harder in 2012, as we expand our operations to improve the quality of life of Ghanaians, especially those living in underserved communities, and vulnerable groups.

I would like to thank all our committed volunteers, partner NGOs, supporters, and trainers for their generous contributions and support. 2011 was an exciting and challenging year.

Finally, it is our hope that you will continue to be committed and supportive of AIR in the years to come.

Thank you.

Daniel Kwaku Ganyoame
Executive Director/ Founder

3.0 INTRODUCTION

3.1 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 youth to improve their lives.

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 African 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.

AIR has pioneered affordable strategies, technology and educational resource solutions for schools and communities. Its models combine low-cost refurbished computers, free and open source operating systems, software applications and educational content, significantly discounted access to the 24/7 Internet using wireless in remote parts of Ghana, and the offer of ICT volunteers to provide support and training after installation.

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.

3.2 Our Vision

Our vision is to build a computer literate society in Ghana and to inspire people to use ICT to make a positive difference in their communities.

3.3 Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide technology resources, training and technical support to less privileged schools, to empower youth to use information technology, and to establish Computer Technology Centers in underserved communities.

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

- Connectivity
- Access
- Education
- Content
- Research

3.4 Objectives

AIR's main and broad objectives are:

- To ensure that schools and communities have access to ICT labs.
- To provide low-power and low-cost computers.
- To provide ICT training for teachers and youth.
- To identify critical national problems pertaining to education and technology.
- To work in close collaboration with schools, communities, institutions, governmental and private organizations to implement ICT awareness programs.

3.5 Our Main Programmes

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
- ICT clubs in schools

CONTENT

- ICT training content (on CDs and Website based)
- Content training for youth and teachers

RESEARCH

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

4.0 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.

4.1 Fund Raising Committee

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

4.2 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.

4.3 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

4.4 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.

5.0 ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR

The following targets were accomplished in the year.

December 2011-January 2012

The end of the year was a busy time for AIR, as we brought computers and resources to communities in Winneba, Takoradi, and Accra. Thanks to an ICT donation valued at $7,300 from Crossroads International, Hong Kong.

In Winneba, AIR was able to give Arkcity-Link Foundation a shipment of 8 computers, 1 overhead projector, and 1 box of duvets. This donation was in response to a request from Arkcity Link for computers for their computer lab, which supports 16 schools in the Effutu Municipality. We paid a working visit to their center on November 22, 2011 to assess their needs and held a formal meeting with the Executive Director, Mrs. Felicity Arkhurst and her staff. We also had the opportunity to visit some of the schools that use the center for their computer lessons.

In Takoradi, Trinity Presbyterian Primary School received an ICT donation valued at $4,000 consisting of 8 computers, 1 overhead projector, 1 television set, 1 DVD/VHC player, 1 bookshelf, 10 cartons of assorted books, 2 boxes of computer discs, and 1 box of duvets.

This was a follow up to four requests from four schools in Takoradi for computers for their computer lab. We paid a working visit to these schools on June 30, 2011 to assess their ICT needs. The schools visited were Trinity Presbyterian School, Bishop Essuah Memorial School, Chapel Hill School, and Effia Methodist JHS.

In Accra, Rightway International School in Tema received an educational donation valued at $1,200.

Donated items include: 1 bookshelf, 25 cartons of assorted educational toys, and 1 carton of assorted books.

In Accra, Africa ICT Right received 3 computers, 3 overhead projectors, 3 television sets, 1 DVD/VHS player, 5 computer desks, 2 LCD monitors, 1 LaserJet printer, 3 boxes of duvets, and 1 scanner for its headquarters.

November 2011

AIR expanded its partnerships in a meeting with Martine Koopman from IICD, an ICT NGO based in the Hague. Held on November 23, 2011, the meeting was an opportunity to discuss how AIR and IICD could collaborate. At the end of the meeting, IICD promised to share their experiences in implementing ICT in the education sector, as well as educational resources. IICD donated four full DVDs with good educational teaching and learning materials for our ICT training program.

October 2011

AIR pursued its research mandate at the inaugural Alcatel Lucent- mPedigree- Ostec *ICT 4 Education* conference, which we were privileged to receive an invitation to attend. The conference theme was "Unlocking the potential of our people through enhanced connectivity and innovation: ICT4 Education Platforms." The conference brought together stakeholders including Alcatel Lucent, Ostec, mPedigree Network, the World Bank, the Ministry of Communication, the Ministry of Education, and the Ghana Chamber of Telecom. Overall, the conference was an eye opener, exposing us to research that Alcatel Lucent and Bell Labs are conducting to find solutions to the connectivity gap in Africa. We also had the opportunity to tell participants about our grassroots work at AIR to help bridge the digital gap.

May 2011

AIR learned about resources for NGOs at Google's NGO Day Workshop. Organized by Google Ghana at the Ghana India Kofi Annan Center for Excellence in ICT in Accra, the workshop informed members of the NGO community about how to use Google and YouTube to market their NGOs at zero cost.

6.0 CONCLUSION

As we look ahead to 2012, we aim to continue bridging the digital gap in Ghana. Having increased our volunteer pool and revised our goals so that they are in line with our organization's capacity, in 2012 we look forward to completing the following projects:

- Setting up 2 computer labs
- Soliciting 100 computers for 8 schools
- Training 50 teachers and 200 student in the use of basic computer skills

The challenge posed by the digital gap is great, but we believe that even a small group of committed people can create changes that reverberate throughout communities. Time and again the people who have benefitted from AIR remind us that they are not the sole beneficiaries. As AIR trainee Mary Mensah attests, she is now "teach[ing] friends who have difficulty in using the computer." Every new AIR trainee is a potential teacher, an ongoing participant in AIR's vision. That vision is both practical and transformative, connecting more Ghanaians with a globalized world. As Mary puts it, "I can now move around the world with my knowledge in IT." Our hope is that in 2012 AIR will help even more people like Mary move around the world.