



CLCWA-SL Newsletter

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From the National Coordinator’s Desk

Sierra Leone is ranked as one of the least developed countries in the world by the UNDP Human Development report. Having gone through a decade of devastating civil war, this ranking is seen as a challenge for young people who perceive themselves as both the pillars and engines of development. Indeed, if Sierra Leone is to succeed in its post-war rehabilitation efforts, then the youths must be able to play an integral role in the rehabilitation and reconstruction processes.

As a third world and largely underdeveloped country, access to, training and use of the internet is far beyond the reach of the majority of under-privileged youths and young people, especially those who have organizations that are engaged in community and human resource development programmes.

Access to Information Technologies, specifically the internet services, by young people will enhance their capabilities in networking, promote socio-economic development and will go a long way to transform Sierra Leone from the unenviable position as being one of the least developed in the world to a fast developing Country.

The Creating Local Connections West Africa Sierra Leone project has been specifically designed in realizing the above and to also help young people

gain adequate access to Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) for projects, ideas and resources within a national network that will make better the integral role that is expected of young people in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the war-ravaged nation.

The Project further aims at providing relevant information to youth groups, Internet and website facilities and promote national development through information and communication technologies (ICTs).

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I am so excited with the launch of the Newsletter for the Creating Local Connections West Africa Sierra Leone (CLCWA-SL) project.

This newsletter will not only permit national youth to be informed and involved in local activities, events, opportunities etc, but also to become aware of these same elements throughout the entire West African region. Simultaneously, the project page (<http://projects.takingitglobal.org/CLCWA-SL>) will be fully updated with news, contest submis-



Sylvanus S. Murray,
National Project Coordinator

sion, photos and other elements found in this publication.

Furthermore, the newsletter will simply enable youth or organizations that do not have constant or easy access to the internet to have the opportunity to stay informed on all aspects of the project.

Let me take this opportunity to inform the general youth populace that they will be granted space to dish out information about their activities, events, opportunities etc for free in this our monthly newsletter!

I look forward to periodic publications of the Newsletter, which will not just showcase our activities to our fellow Sierra Leoneans, but the entire CLCWA region.

Please feel free to send in comments and/or suggestions which in your view can help in maintaining a vibrant CLCWA-SL Newsletter.

Background on CLCWA

Creating Local Connections West Africa (CLC WA) aims to realize the potential of youth and engage them as development actors in the improvement of their communities, countries, and region. CLC WA will achieve this through peer-led trainings, networking, national youth meetings, media creation, award processes, research and development of strategic use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) during its implementation in Sierra

Leone, Nigeria, Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, and Liberia.

Youth in West Africa present a demographically powerful and, simultaneously, vulnerable group. They are more likely than any other to be victims of violence, infected with HIV, and without a sustainable livelihood. CLC West Africa will scope, coordinate, support and enhance existing local level efforts of youth within the region to deal with common challenges. These common challenges the project will focus on include

emergence from conflict, advancement of democracy, economic empowerment, reducing stigma and raising awareness about HIV/AIDS. Thus, the ultimate project objective focuses on increased levels of issue awareness, leadership and entrepreneurship skill development, gender equality, information and communication technologies, economic accessibility, geographic accessibility and engagement and empowerment of the West African youth community.

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1st Training of Trainers (ToT) Workshop

The Training of Trainers (ToT) programmes are meant to train other partner youth organizations representatives to pass down skills through actual trainings of youth using the three part technical training curriculums (Basic ICTs, ICTs and leadership, ICTs and entrepreneurship).

After series of meetings with over 20 youth groups/organizations, we were able to recruit the first set of training of trainers (ToT) participants. A total of eight youths from eight different youth groups/organizations were recruited.

We've just concluded the first ToT workshop which lasted for five days, from Monday 4th – Friday 8th June, 2007 (<http://projects.takingitglobal.org/CLCWA-SL/photos/>). A full report on the above trainings will be included in our next edition.



A participant registering himself on the CLCWA-SL project page (<http://projects.takingitglobal.org/CLCWA-SL>)



Member Story



For a very long time now, I have been waiting to get such unique opportunity of being a computer literate. Being a participant of the training, I am now proud to say that I can conveniently

been able to reach out to many youths from around the world on the Internet through the <http://www.takingitglobal.org> platform. Through the knowledge I have gained from the training, I would be able to help other young people and members of my organization to use the computer and the Internet. As a member of CLCWA-SL, I am always ready to give personal sacrifices and total commitment whenever I am called upon.

My name is Abu Bakarr Koroma. I am a member of Creating Local Connections West Africa, Sierra Leone (CLCWA-SL). I became a member when my organization was invited into a coalition by Peacelinks which is hosting the CLCWA project in Sierra Leone. Fortunately, I was selected for the first "Training of Trainers (ToT)" workshop that was conducted in early June (4th-8th). The training was based on Information Communication Technologies (ICTs).

use the computer at any time in any place. These are the opportunities young people are looking out for because the world we now live in is eclipsed with Technologies especially the computer and Internet. This opportunity was timely, as I am also working as a volunteer in a youth led organization for blind people. This has enabled me to work with them more effectively especially in preparing their reports. I am proud to say that because of the CLCWA project in Sierra Leone, I've

I would conclude by saying that CLCWA-SL is more of a blessing to young people, particularly in Sierra Leone which is a post war country and I have devoted myself to the programmes and activities of CLCWA-SL in order for young people to experience a brighter future. I am calling on all youths to be part of CLCWA-SL so that we as young people can join hands in addressing some of the problems affecting our colleagues through the use of

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CLCWA-SL Network Meetings



The Creating Local Connections West Africa Sierra Leone (CLCWA-SL) network meets regularly at the Peacelinks office, 14 Williams Street in order to assess progress and to also discuss the way forward. The coordinating team also uses these meetings to brief members on the status of the project.



Announcements

Youth Action International: will be having a three day workshop which will be held in Bo.

Youth Alliance for Peace and Development (YAPAD) will be releasing the “State of the youth report” in September 2007. For more details visit web: www.yapad.com.

Peacelinks Sierra Leone is currently recruiting beneficiaries for their Vocational Skills Training in Tailoring that will start in August. To know more, please contact them at the following address: 14 Williams Street, Freetown or peacelinks2@yahoo.com.



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**Youth Empowerment for Development Ministries (YEDM) International is in the process of recruiting beneficiaries for its Wellington Skills Training Centre. For further information, please contact them at info@yedem.org.
Website: www.yedem.org**

Special Announcement!

We are pleased to announce that the CLCWA Global Coordinator, Francis Cardinal will be visiting us, from 8th - 19th July 2007.

**Check this out...
www.takingitglobal.org**