



*Welcome to the third edition of the Creating Local Connections West Africa Sierra Leone (CLCWA-SL) Bi-monthly Newsletter.*

*We would like to appeal to our fellow Sierra Leonean youths to do their best in contributing information about their organization's activities and programmes.. You don't have to worry about cost... CLCWA-SL is offering you this unique opportunity FREE of Charge!!!*

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## CLCWA-SL Update

The CLWA-SL project continues to enthuse the Sierra Leonean youths, especially the rural youths and many who have benefited from another series of technical training on basic computing skills and use of ICT's for Entrepreneurship and Leadership. The training sessions were specifically designed for community youth development organizations and agencies. The training was aimed at equipping participants to become familiar with basic office suite software functions:

- Creating reports and letters in MS Word
- Creating simple budgets or data tracking spreadsheets in MS Excel

The training also equipped participants to become familiar with basic Internet skills

- Common browser functions
- Basic e-mail skills
- Search

By the end of these training sessions participants were able to:

- Create a letter using MS Word
- Create a budget using MS Excel
- Read and send emails
- Add and download attachments in e-mail
- Use search tools to find information relevant to their work

In a brief chat with the Newsletter team both Fatima Sahid and Abdul Mustapha Kuyateh congratulated the organizers for a well organized training workshop which they say has been very useful in enhancing their contribution to the development of the country through the use of ICTs.

*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.*

## Member Story



*Fatmata Kuntuomi Savage (Trader and Women's Advocate): Wow!!! My experience gained from these training is one I will never forget. Spending most of time selling wares and advocating for women's right and development I did not have the slightest idea of what benefits the computer holds for people like us doing business and how through the computer we can be able to engage in E-commerce as means of economic empowerment for business women.*

# Photo News

## Technical Training Workshops



Please visit the following link for more photos: <http://projects.takingitglobal.org/CLCWA-SL/photos>

## Opportunities

### ❖ CLCWA-SL 1<sup>st</sup> National Youth Meeting

CLCWA-SL will be coming up with a **National Youth Meeting**, which is an integral component of the CLCWA-SL project from the 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> December 2007 at the National Stadium Hostel. For further information please contact the office at Peacelinks, 14A Williams Street or the National Coordinator on 033-423823.

### ❖ Free eye treatment

Four American Doctors led by Dr. Joseph Copritti will be visiting Southern Eye Clinic, Serabu, Bumpe Gahun Chiefdom Bo District to treat eye diseases free of charge.

### ❖ **National youth consultative meeting**

There will be a National Youth Consultative Meeting at the Sierra Leone Library Board, organized by the National Youth Coalition (NYC) on Saturday November 27, starting at 11:00am prompt. Among other things, youths will have the opportunity to discuss the Youth Policy and explore the possibility of reviewing the policy.

### ❖ **Voice of the impaired heard in parliament**

Hon. Julius Nye Cuffie of the APC, representing Constituency 109, who is physically impaired, has broken the syndrome of marginalization against the physically impaired communities.

Hon. Julius Nye Cuffie has a multiple task of not only representing the voice of the people of his constituency, but also the voices of the physically challenged.

At the parliamentary session last Wednesday, Hon. Cuffie youthfully occupied a podium in advocating for the welfare of the different categories of the physically challenged in the country. Hon. Cuffie expressed appreciation on behalf of the physically challenged for the interest and concern of President Koroma over their affairs.

He lamented in his presentation that the physically and mentally impaired for far too long has suffered discrimination in all aspects of social, political, economically and educational life in the society.

### ❖ **Enabling e-Commerce**

Communities can now market and sell local products through e-commerce sites. Today the bulk of the producers are separated from the buyers by a long chain of middlemen. By connecting producers immediately with ultimate consumers, five links in the commercial chain can be eliminated. These receives are so significant for poor communities and can be used to further several local projects empowering grassroots organizations to conduct global e-commerce, thus making the use of Information Technology the best tools for development and democracy.

# Event Report

## **Technical Training Workshops**

In continuation of the implementation of the CLCWA-SL project, another 6-day technical training session took place at the Frandie Hall Waterloo for rural youths in acquiring basic computer skills that will aid them in the work of their organizations.

A total of twenty five youths drawn from different organizations within and around the Waterloo Village area participated in the technical training sessions.

Before the program commenced the National Coordinator, Sylvanus S. Murray gave a brief overview of the CLCWA-SL project for participants to gain an insight into the project components.

He informed them that the project aims at creating opportunities for youths to acquire basic skills in ICTs which will be most appropriate and useful to them in their different community development work. He further noted that the project also aims at creating a platform through which youths can converge, dialogue, articulate their concerns in the strive for socio economic empowerment and nation building.

The training commenced with an overview of the history of the introduction of computers in the world, how it has grown to be an indispensable tool in the modern world, the basic parts of the computers and how to boot the computer.

The Workshop facilitators, Sylvanus S. Murray and Cornelius Deveaux explained the importance of the computer in Sierra Leone's post war period highlighting the immense benefits that will be derived if young people take advantage of the many opportunities that computer offers.

He further spoke about the World Wide Web and the internet explaining also the difference between LAN and WAN. He highlighted the many opportunities that the internet holds for the country and even the youths. He stated that through the internet the youths will be able to establish contacts, make friends, chat and be abreast with events around the world. He directed the participants to the TIG website ([www.takingitglobal.org](http://www.takingitglobal.org)) which he described as a useful resource centre for youths wanting to grasp the benefits of ICTs for development.

Cornelius Deveaux noted that the youth can also market their produce or engage in buying and selling, furthering their education online through the use of the internet whilst dealing with ICTs and Entrepreneurship.

Considering that the community for the training was a rural community where the issue of regular electricity is still a nightmare, the issue of the Digital Divide became a primary focus of consideration if youths in the rural communities will be able to take advantage of ICTs to change their living conditions and enhance their socio economic status.

The training workshop also focused on how ICTs could be used to develop youth leadership capabilities, networking/partnership development and sharing of idea and events. Sylvanus demonstrated how through the use of the internet, youth leaders would be in the position to source contacts, relevant information on global youth issues and to also relate such issues to their local environments.

At the end of the training workshops, participants were able to create reports and letters in MS Word and to create simple budgets or data tracking spreadsheets in MS Excel.

The training also equipped participants to become familiar with basic Internet skills

- Common browser functions
- Basic e-mail skills
- Search

By the end of these training sessions participants were able to:

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# Editorial

## The trouble with Sierra Leone is us the youths – Kadiatu Sesay

Now let us take a close look at our society; and I would like to start looking from the bottom to up approach. I mean from the kitchen to the citadel of power and see how the youths have been part and parcel of the making of the problems affecting Sierra Leone.

All too often the focus on corruption has been on the upper stratum of our society. The high-ups have received more than their fair share of our reprobation for most of the setbacks which this country is suffering.

Seldom have the ordinary folks of our society looked down at their own feet, right where they stand, to see what they are doing which, although perhaps of less magnitude is, all the same, detrimental to our collective high purpose.

Just the other day, a group of young women were given the responsibility to cook for a group of people attending a wedding, to my greatest surprise; the women began sharing the meat before even putting the pots on the fire. Can you imagine from the kitchen to citadel of power.

The young public official who steals Le 10, 000 may get more fingers pointed at him as a villain, but the young driver who receives a few thousand Leones to purchase oil for an organization's vehicle and instead uses the money to purchase a packet of cigarettes or a bottle of beer which may ruin the car which costs more than Le 10, 000 goes unscathed.

Let the young typists or secretaries stop today and think about how much of the substance of the nation's wealth they waste whenever they decide not to be conscientious enough about their work and thereby waste paper and other supplies. When the computer is down (as result of some negligence) and it has to be sent to the I.T specialist, think of what damage you are doing to the nation.

If you are revenue officer, an immigration officer or City Council Police, think of what you are doing to the country which you claim to love and pledge your loyalty when you help a man to dodge paying taxes due the state because he/she is willing to put a few Leones in your pocket.

Are you a teacher? Have you ever stopped to think of how much you have contributed to the demoralization of the country when you give grades that student do not deserve? Or when you are out in a bar with your male students next door having a beer when you should be in the class room, and especially when you accommodate a student who joins you?

Think of how many students you have given passing grades when you should have failed them for their own good and that of the country. And you dare to talk about incompetence in the system and low standard of education?

The youths should awaken from their state of oblivion and carefully map out their conducts to be in tune with those virtues that will make the country progress. The CLCWA-SL project provides opportunity, through Open Forums, National Youth Meetings and Art competition for emerging youths, to express our vision of a Sierra Leone where youths would be seen as a necessary good to the development of the country. These opportunities created by the CLCWA-SL Project provide fora for dialogue, negotiation and charting a new course for the youth empowerment and development. These in turn enable us to imbibe a spirit of selflessness, change of attitude in the youths.

# Announcements

- ❖ The CLCWA-SL project continues. Interested participants should contact the National Coordinator on 232-33-423-823.
- ❖ Maximum Ladies, a women's empowerment group, will be coming up with a workshop on December 1<sup>st</sup> in commemoration of World Aids Day. The workshop aims at raising funds for the establishment of an orphanage for children living with HIV/AIDS.
- ❖ The President of the National Youth Council Al Sankoh Conteh has said that the government will be establishing the National Youth Commission as part of its commitment to empower the youths.
- ❖ CLCWA-SL will be coming up with a National Youth Meeting, which is an integral component of the CLCWA-SL project from the 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> December 2007 at the National Stadium Hostel. For further information please contact the office at Peacelinks, 14A Williams Street or the National Coordinator on 033-423823.
- ❖ CLCWA-SL project has decided to extend the deadline for submissions of entries for the Arts Competition which is a component of the CLCWA-SL project National Youth Awards from 26<sup>th</sup> October 2007 to 15<sup>th</sup> November 2007.
- ❖ Students and other youths are encouraged to send in their submissions on theme: "Redefining the Youth Perspective for Socio Economic Development". A lot attractive prizes could be won. Don't be late then, hurray and send in your entries.

## National Youth Awards

The CLCWA-SL project conducted an Arts Competition for Secondary School Students. Submission of entries has been slow. Therefore CLCWA-SL project has decided to extend the deadline for submissions from 26<sup>th</sup> October 2007 to 16<sup>th</sup> November 2007.

Students are encouraged to send in their submissions on the theme: "The future of Sierra Leone". A lot attractive prizes could be won. Don't be late then, hurry and send in your entries.

### Contact Details:

Sylvanus S. Murray  
National Coordinator,  
CLCWA Sierra Leone  
C/o Peacelinks,  
14A Williams Street, Freetown  
Tel: +232-22-222552  
Cell: +232-33-423823  
E-mail: [sierraleone@takingitglobal.org](mailto:sierraleone@takingitglobal.org)  
Web: <http://projects.takingitglobal.org/CLCWA-SL>