

LAPTOP-PER-CHILD FOUNDATION TO BE LAUNCHED

A foundation to help bring Ghanaian children into contact with information and communication technology at early childhood will be launched in the third week of November 2007. The work of the foundation will complement government effort within the Laptop-per-Child initiative announced in the 2007 Budget Statement.

2. The implementation of this programme is being undertaken in a phased manner:
 - a. Training Workshop for identified persons from both the public and private sector to educate all stakeholders including teachers (MoESS and Kofi Annan Centre for Excellence in ICT - AITI)
 - b. Setting up, launching and raising funds for a Foundation (MoFEP)
 - c. Running a pilot programme involving 50 Laptops for class 3 school children at Kanda Cluster of Schools (GES, AITI, GNAT, Kanda Cluster of Schools)
 - d. Signing an agreement with One Laptop per Child Organisation (MoFEP, MoESS and MoC)
 - e. Rollout to all basic schools starting with class one children in the rural areas of the country.
3. It is expected that the government, the general public and other foundations will all contribute resources into the foundation's fund. The foundation will then acquire laptops for distribution to basic school children.
4. The project will use the laptops developed by the Delaware-based non-profit organization that was created by faculty members from the MIT Media Laboratory. The first prototype of this cost-effective laptop was unveiled by Busumuru Kofi Annan, then the United Nations Secretary General in November 2005 at the Worlds Summit on Information Society in Tunis.
5. The Ghana project will receive technical advice and support from the Kofi Annan ICT Centre. The Centre will also offer training to teachers and resource persons who will provide assistance to pupils.
6. The foundation will also be tasked to facilitate the setting up of an assembling factory to assemble some of the laptops here in Ghana.
7. Currently:
 - a. initial meeting and approval has been given by Cabinet and His Excellency the President of the Republic of Ghana

- b. Four Laptops have been received by Kofi Annan Centre for study and preparation for the provision of technical support for the project
 - c. Workshop for the key stakeholders will be organised from 15 -16 October 2007
 - d. Four ICT experts will travel for a training programme in Cambridge Massachusetts from 5 – 7 November 2007
 - e. Pilot project will begin by mid November 2007
8. It is anticipated that through the project, children, especially in rural communities will have access to the computer at the start of school, producing a more ICT literate population. It would also bridge the current gap between ICT literacy of urban school children and that of their rural counterparts. This will help bridge the digital divide between Ghana and developing countries.
9. The target for the first year is 1,000,000 laptops. Total number of laptops for all basic school children including the school teachers is 4,000,000.