



www.TogoInternetVillage.org

Project Proposal: Phase One of Togo Internet Village (TIV).
Cyber Café, Vo Pedakonji Village, Togo, Western Africa.

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May 2009 (revised July 2009)

Project Summary:

Togo is one of the poorest and smallest countries in the world, its literacy and overall life expectancy levels are way below that of the western world, or even some other countries in Africa. Over 65% of its population live in rural areas and are dependent upon subsistence farming and have very little access to communications technologies or computers. In fact less than 5% of the total population has access to a computer (compared to > 75% in the USA) with even worse statistics for children in rural areas. This growing disparity (or “digital divide”) is severely disadvantaging a whole generation of children growing up in the villages of Africa. Many rural schools do not have electricity and have teacher to pupil ratios in excess of 60 pupils to 1 teacher.

In close collaboration with local community sponsors, including rural village schools, the Togo Internet Village Project (TIV) was formed to provide children in the rural villages of Togo, Western Africa with computing skills and internet access. The project was conceived to deliver facilities, equipment and training to help bridge the “digital divide”.

General Business Model:

The vehicle for addressing this disparity are the establishment of Cyber Cafes in strategic rural villages in Togo, working closely with local partners who will provide permanent staffing, ongoing administration, and share in both the establishment and operational costs.

Given the nature of the environment it has to be recognized that each location (or phase) will have specific characteristics and collaboration structures, based on the strengths of the local community partnership. However, based on our projections the likely initial start up costs for each new facility is anticipated to be between \$25,000 and \$30,000 dependent largely on the

arrangements regarding facilities. Ongoing running costs are estimated to be approximately \$10,000 including supplies, electricity, maintenance and staffing.

It is envisioned that each facility will be equipped with 10 to 20 workstations plus some units in local schools to reinforce the training and help with the administration of the school (currently even large town based schools do not have any computers to perform even basic administrative tasks). By training local school teachers, supplemented with permanent staffing each Café is expected to provide basic computing skills and simple internet access to between 1000 to 1500 children annually, free of any charges. In addition to providing these services, for a token amount the facilities will also enable access to adults in the villages; this would help offset some of the ongoing operational costs.

All equipment will be sourced locally to help the domestic economy and to ensure consistent, local supportability.

Phase one: Cyber Café @Vo Pedakonji, in the Vogan region of Togo:

The village is some 40km NE of the capital Lome and has a population of approximately 1800, largely involved in subsistence farming. It has three schools which also support the broader surrounding areas, with many children walking 5km to and from the village from remote small holdings. The village was selected as the initial site based on very strong local community partners who have provided considerable local support including temporary accommodation for the facility and a purpose renovated site that will be completed in August 2009.



Training is already underway in the temporary facility.



The new facility is on schedule to be completed in August 2009

Triggered by successfully achieving the initial fund raising threshold of \$25,000 thirteen new workstations have been purchased and ten have been installed in this temporary facility, together with all of the necessary ancillary equipment (furniture, laser printers, networking equipment and initial supplies). The remaining three stations have been installed in each of the three village schools as part of distributing the training and reinforcing the training at the Cyber Café.



Many of the local teachers have already been trained and the temporary facility opened to undertake the training of the first children in June 2009. Local permanent staff has also been trained and the permanent facility is on track to be completed in August 2009 as planned.

Future plans for use of additional funds:

Based on the successful operation of the first site outlined below, and dependent upon future funding the intent is to replicate these capabilities in other rural Togo locations.

Additional fundraising may also be used to expand the Pedakonji capacity, place more computers in the local schools and from time to time fund hardship cases for local children's schooling (\$15, per year per child).

Over the next three years the organization intends to raise some \$100,000 to establish more facilities, contribute towards their ongoing operating costs and provide a sustainable platform to help "close the digital divide" for 1000s of village children each year.

More detailed budgetary projections for phase one of the project are highlighted on the next page, under Financial Summary.

Phase One – Financial summary: (Budgetary projections only)

Facilities:

The local community will finance the facilities component of the project in its entirety, to include: Procurement of suitable premises, including undertaking any necessary renovations and extension work.

- The facility is to be configured for approximately 60m² in two zones (classrooms).*
- Separate office and administration room*
- Separate area suitable for archives and secure storage*
- Installation of toilets*
- Provision of suitable power, cabling to workstations, back up generator, air conditioning and fans.*

Equipment Cost: (note: unit costs are budgetary only and are inclusive of all local taxes - not to exceed)

| <i>1) Workstations</i> | <u><i>Unit Cost</i></u> | <u><i>Totals</i></u> |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>- 13 Pentium IV Computers, monitors and keyboards</i> | <i>\$1,300</i> | <i>\$16,900</i> |
| <i>2) Ancillary Equipment</i> | | |
| <i>- 2 Laser-jet printers</i> | <i>\$350</i> | <i>\$700</i> |
| <i>- 3 Desk-jet printers</i> | <i>\$250</i> | <i>\$750</i> |
| <i>- 13 Battery back-up power units</i> | <i>\$100</i> | <i>\$1300</i> |
| <i>- 1 Ethernet 16 port switch and NTE devices</i> | <i>\$240</i> | <i>\$240</i> |
| <i>- Initial Printer cartridges</i> | | <i>\$700</i> |
| <i>- Initial Paper supplies</i> | | <i>\$250</i> |
| <i>- Provisioning of ADSL line</i> | | <i>\$400</i> |
| <i>- 2 Phone lines with 4 terminals</i> | | <i>\$480</i> |
| <i>3) Furniture</i> | | |
| <i>- 10 tables</i> | <i>\$80</i> | <i>\$800</i> |
| <i>- 30 portable chairs</i> | <i>\$25</i> | <i>\$750</i> |
| <i>- 2 desks, 4 Chairs, 2 large filing cabinets, secure data storage (administration)</i> | | <i>\$500</i> |
| <i>4) Other</i> | | |
| <i>- Transportation</i> | | |
| <i>- Monthly ADSL subscription for the first year</i> | | <i>\$1200</i> |

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| Total initial costs to be funded by contributions | \$24,970 |
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(Note: Excepting ADSL subscriptions, this does not include annual operating costs which are estimated at approximately \$10,000).