



Afrinspire Newsletter

November 2005

Afrinspire is proving to be an effective channel for the support of indigenous African development and poverty reduction. One reason is the network of people and partners around Afrinspire which continues to grow, not only in the UK but also in Africa.

We are currently planning our first mini-conference in early 2006 for our key contacts from Uganda, Sudan, Rwanda and Tanzania. To facilitate this we will use one of our principle partners in Uganda which is the Agency for Integrated Development and Training Services (AIDTS) and the Development Study Centre, which AIDTS is currently building. In this newsletter we want the primary focus to be on this Development Study Centre. This is because we have received an amazing offer at a critical time. A Trust has offered to match pound for pound all donations made to the Development Study Centre during the next six months, with the aim of completing it rapidly. We need the help of our supporters to realise this opportunity which is given to us. Please read on and consider what you can do to help.

The Development Study Centre

The Development Study Centre is at the heart of the strategy of AIDTS and Afrinspire in helping community based organisations in their development programmes. AIDTS was founded in 1996 by Nkamuhebwa Willy, and since then has been assisting all types and sizes of organisation in their training, growth and development plans for their communities. The vision of AIDTS is to have a training and



resource centre of high calibre to serve the Great Lakes Region. This builds on a very sound track record of knowledge and expertise which exists within AIDTS, and is verified by the constant stream of clients looking for help. The Centre comprises of 4 main training rooms, a library, computer training centre, administration office, a large events hall / dining room and 16 rooms of accommodation to sleep 32 students. AIDTS already runs short course of further education at a high standard designed to especially suit the

development challenges of Central Africa, and these courses will increase significantly when the Centre becomes fully operational. Some key points about progress on the Centre so far.

- The DSC was conceived as a plan in 2000. There have been four years of construction.
- £25,000 has been spent so far. The main training rooms and library are fully operational.
- The accommodation and the main dining hall/kitchen block are constructed as shells, but still need substantial interior fitting out.
- 75% has been funded by income earned by AIDTS, and 25% has been from UK donations.
- The remaining work is estimated to cost £25,000.
- £1,000 will complete a twin room of accommodation and these rooms are the most pressing need to bring the Centre into fuller use, allowing trainees to stay at the Centre and avoid travelling to and using hotels which are both costly and inconvenient. The DSC will be a conducive and appropriate learning environment far superior to the current alternatives.

AIDTS became aware that it would take another five years at the current rate to bring this centre into full operational use. This is too slow. To avoid this delay an idea was mooted of looking for a soft loan of £25,000 so that the DSC could be completed in one year, bringing it into full operation and generating income to repay the loan. This need was promoted during the visit of Nkamuhebwa Willy to the UK in September and October.

An Amazing Offer

But, instead of a loan, one Trust has made an amazing offer to match pound for pound any money which is donated for the Development Study Centre. For example, a donation of £100 which is gift aided becomes £128, then matched with £128 from the Trust it becomes a donation of £256 to the DSC. A donation of £1,000 becomes £2,000 if not gift aided, or £2,560 if a tax reclaim is possible. The one condition from the Trust is that this offer is only open for the next six months up to a ceiling of £12,500. I am sure you can appreciate the significance of this offer and I would like to ask that you help us in making the most of it. Donations are needed to release this money. The £25,000 to complete this Centre can be reached with your help.