

LEAD Uganda's Computer Learning Center

Kampala, Uganda

The [Stephen Shames Foundation](#) and its' Ugandan partner, [Concern for the Future](#) plan to create a state-of-the-art computer learning center, which will train and prepare individuals from all over East Africa, including all of LEAD Uganda's scholars, in technology skills, which are essential for today's competitive global job market. The computer center will not only imbue our scholars with marketable 21st century skills, but will produce income for Concern for the Future.

The Plan

The Computer Learning Center (CLC) will be self-supporting. The Center will rely on tuition fees from students and fees from conferences and meetings. The Center will provide free education to orphans and vulnerable children. All of CFTF's students would attend the center during school breaks.

[Dr. John C. Musingo](#), headmaster of Uganda Martyr's Secondary School — Namugongo, the #1 high school in Uganda will administer the center. Dr. Musingo agreed to give us land at Seeta High, one of three schools he runs. Dr. Musingo is Minister of Education for the Buganda Kingdom. (The Buganda are Uganda's largest tribe.) . Dr. Musingo's involvement insures our computer center will be a well run, academically advanced school with full enrollment.

We will set up a school on the Seeta campus for students interested in computer technology. Profits from the school will be shared by Seeta School and Concern for the Future.

Dr. Musingo thinks the school at the Center should educate A level (11th & 12th graders) and university students during the school year. We need to consider whether younger students ought to attend also. What is the best age to start?

The Computer Center will run educational workshops during school breaks. The Center can also host conferences for business and government. We could include a restaurant and guest house on the grounds for conference use.

[The Ecosa Institute](#), an architectural college, has agreed to design the center in an environmentally friendly way, using local materials. (www.ecosainstitute.org/) The mission of the Ecosa Institute is to restore health to the natural environment, and thus the human environment, through education in design. The Ecosa Institute was founded in the belief that design based on nature is critical to the search for a new design philosophy. It is certainly critical to the future survival of our species, and is indispensable to creating a sustainable future.

The Ecosa Institute and Dr. Muyingo will oversee construction. The Stephen Shames Foundation will be the fiduciary agency.

Issues in Uganda

1. The Computer Learning Center will need its' own power source. Power is not reliable in Uganda. There is not enough power for the country's needs, so electricity is off every other day in various sections of the country.
2. Telephone lines are not good. Most people and businesses use cellular phones. The Center will have to rely on satellite links for our internet connection.

Next Steps

We have good partners in Uganda: Concern for the Future and Dr. Muyingo. John Nagenda, the President's media advisor and a principal in a Ugandan communications company has also expressed interest.

What we need is a good plan for the center. We need to consider design, what technology is needed, and how to insure this will not be outdated. We need a budget and a time-line. We need to find partners who can provide technical assistance and donate equipment.

We will look for a university partner to help develop the curriculum or a "computer" corporation that wants to help us undertake this project.

Summary

Our vision is an Africa that is independent and which makes contributions to the solutions of its' issues and to the world.

Why can't Africa follow the path India and China are taking? Why can't it be an innovative leader in ideas? The success of Concern for the Future's students shows that the potential is there. If Africa is going to escape from dependency (which is a form of colonialism), its' young people need 21st Century skills. The Computer Learning Center will give young people in East Africa the training in computer skills and imaginative thinking.

The creation of a computer learning center is not just a dream; it will become a reality that changes the future of Africa.