



## *Global Teenager Project Quarterly Report 1- 2004*

### **'BETTER, THEN BIGGER'**

In January and February 2004, the preparatory process of the handover of the Global Teenager Project (GTP) to SchoolNet Africa was finalised. The International Institute for Communications and Development (IICD) maintains its position as the major resource partner of the GTP.

By mid-February 2004, the new Global Teenager Project (GTP) team, Andrea Aranguren and Titi Akinsanmi began the joint task of management from the SchoolNet Africa (SNA) offices in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The teams' first five weeks were spent in close transfer consultations with the outgoing Program Managers, Nathan Ducastel and Neeltje Blommestein, and Bob Hoffman a founding member of GTP. A major outcome of the transfer period is the proposed formation of an Advisory Committee made up of a diverse group of well versed individuals from the North and South.



*Andrea & Titi*

### **MANAGEMENT**

The strategy for the year 2004 - 2005 is captured in the words 'Better, then bigger'. For the year 2004 - 2005, we have identified the need to concentrate in the first half of the year on further building and caring for the project team in terms of work delivery and virtual delivery management. The logo has been retouched as a first step to fulfilling the 'Better' section of the strategy.

The expansion plans for the year focuses on involving first, more participation from Latin American Countries in the English and French Learning Circles in September (Bolivia and Surinam currently participates) as a prelude to developing Spanish Learning Circles in the next financial year. Secondly there is a drive for diverse participation from more countries in the French Learning Circles – thus far participants have been from French speaking West Africa and The Netherlands.

In light of management shift to SchoolNet Africa we an in-depth integration with SNA's projects including the African Teachers Network, ThinkQuest Africa and the 1 Million PC





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campaign is also underway. You can read more about these projects at [www.schoolnet africa.org](http://www.schoolnet africa.org).

#### **PROGRAM CONTENT**

The GTP has two major flagship projects and one yearly network event for coordinators.

##### ***Learning Circles***

The English Learning Circle is in its seventh week when classes exchange answers to questions. For this Learning circle and judging from the weekly overview reports, there has been a 75% successful participation so far. The French LC ended its fifth week of questions exchange by classes with a 70% successful participation.

##### ***Understanding Diversity***

The Understanding diversity Project for 2003 is coming to an end with the twinned Schools from the US and Egypt having completed their research. Their submissions can be found at [www.globalteenager.org/virtualcampus](http://www.globalteenager.org/virtualcampus). This project done in partnership with the Anne Frank is to be scaled up in its next phase.

##### ***Johan Kooij Fellowship Network Event and Training activities***

The annual Johan Kooij Fellowship will be from June 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> 2004 in Pretoria, South Africa. It will be attended by GTP Country Coordinators, one of the out-gone Project Managers as well as a fraction of the proposed Advisory Committee members. This will be a very good opportunity for the GTP team as a whole to meet with the new project management and the SchoolNet Africa Team as a whole.





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*LC Students of National Grammar School, Nike, Enugu*

### **From a GTP Team member:**

*I have been involved in the Learning Circle Facilitation process since September 1999. It has really improved my interaction with different people from different countries. My interpersonal relations with people and my computer skills have been enhanced. The LC's gives me the opportunity to coach and mentor teachers and students virtually and during this process I have got insight into various cultures... I enjoy the facilitating the Learning Circle – Mr. Ebenezer Malcolm, Facilitator Basic Learning Circle, Ghana*

### **From a GTP Learning Circle Participant:**

*What attracted us to join this project {is} the opportunity it gives us to gain more information about the world we live in and to deal with other people from other nations to know more about their cultures and ways of life...it gave us the chance to look at the ideas and thoughts of people through out the world and to communicate with them and we think that this is a very good step in the way of world understanding and we think that such projects will make a very good advance in the globalization we are living nowadays – Mr. Ashraf Mokhtar, LC Teacher, Egypt*

### ***BITS & BYTES ON GTP***

*“Mission: to offer educational virtual exchange programmes to secondary school students worldwide, dedicated to promote cross-cultural understanding through new ways of learning, using ICTs”*

In a world that is paradoxically growing smaller and smaller and developing towards an information or knowledge society, new ways of learning are needed – ways of learning aimed at developing respect and understanding for other cultures; learning aimed at developing skills to process information and turn it into genuine knowledge; learning aimed at using the tools that today's world offers for effective and efficient learning.

Since the first pilot experiment in 1999 between South Africa and the Netherlands, Global Teenager has expanded to 26 countries, each with a country coordinator. The project involves approximately 200 classes from 130 schools. The project is designed in such a way that it can be integrated in the school curriculum or utilised by learners outside 'formal' educational structures.

To learn more about the project, please go to [www.globalteenager.org](http://www.globalteenager.org) or [www.schoolnet africa.org](http://www.schoolnet africa.org) or contact [globalteenager@schoolnet africa.org](mailto:globalteenager@schoolnet africa.org)

