

NairoBits Digital Design School

African youth online



PS in the Ministry of information and communication visit to NairoBits

On the 5th of September Nairobits was honored by a visit from the PS Ministry information and communication, Dr. Ndemo Bitange He was impressed by the great work being done by Nairobits in training youth from the non formal settlements in ICT.

He had a chance to interact with the students and see their work.



The PS Dr Bitange looks at the students work; Nairobits General Manager Anne Ikiara looks on.

He was greatly impressed by the level of creativity expressed by the students in the websites they have designed during their training period. Nairobits staff and the PS held fruitful discussions on possible synergies between his Ministry and Nairobits.

Training Updates

Training program has continued to flourish at Nairobits with many students having their lives changed at both their social and technical levels. The last group of course

one training this year graduated on 14th September 2007 after successfully finishing their training. They have amassed great skills in MS Office and Photoshop. They were able to present some of the works they have done like their poster, CD cover and business cards. In addition to that they have gained a lot of self esteem and life skills which will help them make informed decisions in life.

Out of the 40 course one graduates trained in the last few months; a selection was done with twenty students getting an opportunity to proceed to the next level dubbed course two. The course 2 lessons commenced on 19th September 2007. At this level, the students are exposed more to the internet technology with an aim of teaching them how to research for information.

The media lab students did a research for their class project for one week. They were able to identify clients whom they are making websites for. This gives them an experience on project management and how to deal with real clients. They are currently going through the process of building websites as per their clients' preferences. By the end of the year they will be ready for internships in web design companies.

NEWS ROUNDUP

Nairobits have received software donation from Microsoft towards enhancing the NairoBits training program. This has marked an enormous milestone for Nairobits Trust. Our gratitude goes to Microsoft and the International Youth Foundation for this goodwill gesture.

Nairobits have also received Funding from a Dutch development organization CordAID towards the "information for poverty

alleviation program". Under this program, NairobiBits, in partnership with selected Community Based Organizations, will start youth friendly information centers in the informal settlements. These centers will avail youth friendly information and offer basic computer training to youth.

NAIROBITS MEETINGS Reports

During the month of September, Ineke Aquarius, one of the founders of NairobiBits, visited NairobiBits. She spent two days meeting different people in the organization and the students. Ineke and Anne Ikiara, NairobiBits General Manager, paid a visit to the Netherlands Embassy and had a good meeting with Kees Van Baar, the First secretary in the Netherlands embassy in Kenya Kees Van Baar. Kees was greatly impressed by the work NairobiBits is doing transforming lives of hundreds of youths living in the informal settlements.

In addition NairobiBits had a meeting with the newly appointed ICT Board of Kenya. Various issues around common areas of interest between the NairobiBits and the Board were explored. Follow up and additional discussions are ongoing.

In an effort to communicate effectively with the students who do not proceed to the next level, NairobiBits held a meeting with all (40) course one student on 17th September 2007. The students had a good discussion and counseling session with NairobiBits staff. By the end of the meeting, the students had the understanding that there are many opportunities available and everyone needs to unlock their potential in the areas of their strength to make ends meet in life.

NairobiBits held another meeting on 21st September 2007 with the Partner organizations. Various issues were discussed in the meeting. The partners had time to bond with each other and learn more from each others strengths.

Student's articles

My name is Fatuma Roba of 21 years of age living in kibera slums of Nairobi Kenya. I am a child of single parent after my dad died in the year 1998 and my mother left with the responsibility of raise the five of us, three girls' two brothers. She was luckily able to resist being inherited as per the dictates of our culture. She further, refused to marry us off at the tender age as prescribed by the BORAN culture and instead educated us. This makes her an outcast in the society.

Life in kibera slum is not an easy considering the poor sanitation, Crime, environmental degradation, poor housing and among other challenges. I count myself lucky first for not being married off at the tender age of fourteen year old and being in NairobiBits School of design to fulfill my passion in information technology (ICT) and improve my chances in life. My biggest dream is to become a positive role model to my community who are backward due lack of education and gender based inequalities.

Not only do I want to be an outstanding female web design but also be the best lawyer and an African author.

I am very grateful to NairobiBits for the greatest opportunity to improve lives of youth from the non formal in Kenya. How I wish we had thousands of such institution in our country! Within some few years we would count our Kenya as one of the African developed countries of the world. Bravo NairobiBits!!!!

Article by Fatuma Roba
A Course two student.