School2School Connectivity Project
2010-2013

Millennium Cities Initiative *partners with* Columbia Teachers College **&** **Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly** *Working for a cleaner city* **ERICSSON** **airtel**

to set up a 3-year **School2School Connectivity Project...**

...in Kumasi, Ghana, to help teachers use the Internet as a resource in teaching science, technology, engineering and math.

S T E M

It also connected Kumasi and New York City math and science junior high school teachers so that they might collaborate in teaching these subjects and consider how best to integrate instruction related to the Millennium Development Goals.

"One of the Millennium Development Goals is achievement of universal primary education by 2015. We must ensure that information and communication technologies are used to help unlock the door to education."
Kofi Annan, Former UN Secretary-General and son of the city of Kumasi, Ghana

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FINAL REPORT

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES

CONNECTIONS

15 Kumasi + 5 NYC teachers

connected to:
- share lessons and experiences
- work collaboratively to create lessons that address both schools' curricula and the MDGs

SHARING A PLATFORM

NYC and Kumasi teachers used an online platform to communicate

1968 *site visits, 2012-2013*

MESSAGES

247 messages exchanged by participating schools

LESSONS

72 joint lessons, including:
- "Getting to Know You" (Year 1)
- "Introducing the MDGs (Year 2)
- "A Typical 24-Hour Day" (Year 3)
- "Conversations on the MDGs and Related Topics" (Year 3)

Smiling students after building their own "lungs" out of water bottles and balloons - a lesson addressing the respiratory system and relevant MDG 6 targets.

USING THE COMPUTER AND INTERNET EFFECTIVELY AS EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

CONFIDENCE USING THE INTERNET

ALL felt confident connecting to the Internet at the end of the project – compared with just over 30% in 2010.

NAVIGATING THE INTERNET

At the conclusion of the project, **7.5 OUT OF 10** teachers felt confident navigating the Internet.

"It's become part of my teaching ... I do research and find better information and practical activities to help my students better understand."
S2S participating teacher

ICT SKILLS

83% felt confident typing

- Teachers' comfort managing files grew from 68% ('10) to 97.4% in ('13)
- Word processing abilities increased from 57.5% ('10) to 92.4% in ('13)

LESSON PLANNING

By the end of Year 3, to plan lessons,
- 85% visited the Internet
- 93% used the project's Wikispaces

56% of teachers spent 3 or more hours/week preparing lessons

IMPORTANCE OF TECH SUPPORT

The overwhelming majority of teachers said that on-the-ground tech support was essential to the project.

UNEXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Teachers purchase their own equipment after finding the Internet and computer valuable
- Teachers/schools develop learning communities – sharing lessons and ideas

TECH ACQUISITION AND MAINTENANCE

TECH ASSISTANCE

- Setting up/testing equipment
- Negotiating Internet plans
- Conducting trainings to resolve technical issues
- Developing a computer lab maintenance protocol

EQUIPMENT

Protocol and support enabled schools to take initiative to acquire MORE equipment – from banks, parent/teacher organizations and government – and to maintain it.

Download the S2S Connectivity Project: Final Report.
Email sblaustein@ei.columbia.edu with questions.