



# PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION (WATU)

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## WATU newsletter November 2010.

Dear Friends of WATU,

Welcome to the WATU Newsletter No 4 which sees our organization at an important turning point in its development. The pre-primary school is in its second year and flourishing and, all being well, 60 A-Level students are expected in March 2011. Our facilities continue to develop with the hostel, the science laboratory and (thanks to a very generous donation of 25 laptops from The World Economic Forum in Geneva) the computer laboratory nearly completed. We have held our third teacher training workshop and our sponsored student programme has expanded. We have received excellent feedback from schools on the distribution of science and mathematics textbooks last February and a small local fund raising project has been successful. Four European volunteers (Shadi Ekman, Lara Bernard, Phillip Von Arbin, Casper Nilson Wrede) joined us for a couple of weeks in July and worked with the pre-primary children in English towards preparing an open day for parents, and we also were able to welcome students from The International School of Geneva who made a very generous donation and who made an important contribution to our extra tuition seminars for our sponsored local students. We are also grateful to Pontus Wallsten who is in the process of making a documentary film about WATU's work which we expect to be finished by the end of the year. Theo Mbise and Philippe Mbise have improved the website considerably for which many thanks. In late August we had the visit of George Justo, who has helped us with the IT side and also created our youtube channel, which is now available at [www.youtube.com/watutanzania](http://www.youtube.com/watutanzania).



### Shiri Mgungani on target to welcome A Level students in March 2011

All being well, it is expected that up to 60 students will begin studying for their A levels at Shiri Mgungani in March 2011. By the end of the year hostel accommodation for girls will be



completed and accommodation for boys has already been secured opposite the school. The new science laboratory is now furnished with benches and funds are in place to provide basic equipment and materials for practical lessons in physics, chemistry and biology. A new classroom, which will eventually become the computer laboratory is under construction and is expected to be finished at the beginning of 2011.

The new students will be able to choose from 5 A Level combinations: three science options, one economics option, and one arts option. In addition the school will offer intensive English language instruction and information technology.

The majority of the students at the school will be from families in the lower income bracket who would normally not be able to avail themselves of education at this level.

WATU would like to thank all our many donors for their generosity in supporting this important building programme, and in particular Mr Henrik Svernas of Expand International and friends, The Procter and Gamble Alumni Association in Geneva, The Righ Foundation in UK and the school communities at The International School of Geneva and The International School of Florence.

### **Local students enjoy WATU's second extra tuition programme**

During June and July many of the local students whose education is being sponsored by WATU, through donations from the friends of the international schools of Geneva, Florence and Munich enjoyed the benefit of an intensive programme of extra tuition in science subjects, mathematics and English language. The rigorous programme, which was co-ordinated by local teacher Mr Mathew Temba, was very enthusiastically received by the students. Attendance was good and all students received weekly examination in the various topics.

Last year's similar extra tuition sessions led to an average increase of 39% in the grades received by the participating students in their following reports. It is to be hoped that there will be a similar, if not greater, level of improvement this year.

WATU would like particularly to thank FOTIS of Geneva for funding this vital extra tuition session.



### **Expansion of Sponsored Students Programme**

Thanks mainly to our donors in Florence WATU has been able to considerably expand the sponsored student programme in 2010. We are pleased to announce that currently 104 students in the Kilimanjaro region have either the entirety or a part of their school fees paid by WATU. Mr Odran Tarimo has been appointed Administrative Assistant of the Sponsored Student programme. A new policy has been drawn up and Mr Tarimo will report regularly to donors. He is also responsible for ensuring that sponsored students are closely monitored in their progress and given all appropriate support.



It is expected that some of our sponsored students will join the Shiri Mgungani A Level Programme next March. It has been very exciting to witness how the sponsored students, who come from many different schools in the region, are beginning to form a cohesive group. This was very much in evidence this July when they joined students

from The International School of Geneva in working at Shiri Mgungani.

We are also very pleased to announce that our first three graduates from the sponsored students programme have succeeded well in their final examinations, Hamidu with Division 1, Flora with Division 2 and Dalia with Division 3. Congratulations to them. We will report their progress at university in our next issue.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> in-service teacher training seminar workshop greatly appreciated by local teachers.**

July 5th to 7th saw the third of WATU's in-service training workshops for local teachers. This one was a follow-up to March's workshop and focused on English teaching methodology, the teaching of poetry, and English Across The Curriculum . Workshops were presented by Mr A. W. Munuo, a retired school inspector, Mr P. Bureta, an English teacher from St. Mary Goreth Secondary School in Moshi, Mr S Britten from The International School of Geneva and Mr R. Heery, co-director of WATU. We are very grateful to Mr A. Maclehose for funding this workshop.

At the end of the workshop Mr Josiah Mchome, Director of WATU was able to announce that the first local fund raising event had been successful. His target was to raise 2,000,000 Tanzanian shillings. He read out the names of local donors and publicly thanked them.

### **The Strategic Plan; An Update**

WATU's strategic plan for the next five years focuses on:

- developing a successful upper secondary school for A-level students (see above) most of whom will be from economically impoverished families;
- developing the teacher training programme especially in English language and Science with occasional publications;
- offering the science laboratory to local schools who do not have such a facility;
- offering our computer facilities to local schools;
- consolidating the pre-primary school and making it self-supporting;
- moving towards a position where our organization is less dependent upon foreign donors.

As we begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel and look forward to a time when People's Participation in Education (WATU) might become self-sustaining Josiah and Richard would like to thank all donors for their continued support without which none of our work would be possible.

Josiah Mchome and Richard Heery.

### **Latest news!**

The Volkswagen Sharan 4WD kindly donated by the Svennas family is now on the high seas. It is packed with academic textbooks, some microscopes and other equipment for the science laboratory as well as blankets and sheets for the student hostel. We expect to be able to report its safe arrival in Dar in our next newsletter.

*"If people were aware of what is at stake in first years of life, children would be considered society's treasure"*

Rosa Maria Torres