



PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION (WATU)

P O. Box 10045, Moshi, TANZANIA. Tel: +255 27 2754502 / 0754 884013 / 0715 884013

Chemin du Curson, 16, CH- 1197 Prangins, Vaud, SWITZERLAND. Tel.: 0041 (0) 22 362 16 30

Email: pamoja_tunaweza@yahoo.com. Website: www.e-watu.com

Dear friends of WATU,

Welcome to our **December 2011** newsletter.

Progress towards the Shiri Senior Secondary school

A number of very important steps have been taken towards opening the senior school in the early part of 2012. Very importantly, the official school registration document from the authorities in Hai District has now been issued. Secondly, last month Josiah Mchome, Mark Mwrabu, Katherine and Richard Heery interviewed candidates to teach History and Geography, Chemistry and Biology, and Kiswahili and English with General Studies, the three A level combinations that we intend to begin with. This was an enjoyable experience as virtually all of the young teachers we saw were enthusiastic and committed; it was particularly satisfying that they demonstrated an eagerness to work with financially



Collecting the door for the new classroom

disadvantaged children. Moreover, thanks to the generosity of the Pitt family in France, the essential third classroom is now on the verge of completion.



Finally, a long term strategic plan has been finalized taking us to 2017 at which point we expect the school to be self supporting. A copy of this plan will be available on the website very shortly.

There remains, of course, much to do. We need to let prospective students know about our facility, those who can pay fees as well as those who can not. We need also to put the finishing touches to the science laboratory. We must landscape the area within the L-shape of the hostel and give it a temporary covering to provide an eating and study area. We still need electricity. TANESCO, the power provider, have promised us (again) that we will be connected in January. Progress has been made because the poles are gradually approaching Shiri but we have also made serious investigations into the possibility of solar power which, whilst expensive to install, is much cheaper in the long run.



The electricity poles advance

Crucially, we also need to extend our land which will be used not only for staff housing and sports facilities but also for the students themselves to cultivate their own food. We are very grateful indeed, as always, to Henrik and Linda Svennas who have offered to underwrite the considerable expense involved in such a purchase. Linda's recent visit to Shiri prompted an important strategy from which we expect a positive outcome in the early part of 2012.

As we move into the New Year we will keep you posted on developments.

WATU's new group Facebook page, PayPal and YouTube

One way to keep up to date with WATU developments is to follow us on Facebook: People's Participation in Education WATU. This is a group page which we believe anyone with a Facebook account can access. Please pay us a visit there and contribute your views. Most importantly we would be grateful if you would introduce others to the page so that we can broaden still further the number of people who know about us. We would also like to remind you that donations can now very easily be made via the PayPal button on our website. You might also be interested in the various films we have on YouTube, and most especially a slightly abridged version of Pontus Wallsten's Pamoja Tunaweza which is accessible directly from the website www.e-watu.

The volunteer programme.

Volunteers continue to play an important part in our organization (and our philosophy), and will be even more significant when we open the senior school. This year has seen visits from Magali from the University of St Andrew's in Scotland, Khyra, and Cecilia from the



University of Geneva, and Lea and Kaaya from university in Amsterdam all of whom have contributed valuable work with the pre-primary children and in the WATU office in Moshi. Next year is already beginning to fill up.

Lea working in the office with Josiah and Richard

We will especially welcome next year students or teachers able to teach English as a Second or Foreign Language. As the secondary curriculum in Tanzania has to be delivered in English, a language which not everyone by any means is completely competent in, our school will make it compulsory to follow extra courses in English. We are hoping that mother tongue speakers of English will volunteer to work with us next year. Please refer to the website www.e-watu for details.



Magali with the extra tuition students at Shiri

The local Shiri Mgungani community (the wider economic picture)

WATU's learning centre, including the kindergarten and the new secondary school-to-be are situated in Shiri Mgungani, an extended village of some four thousand inhabitants, about five kilometres from the centre of Moshi. The Shiri villagers have been, and will continue to be, central to the successful development of the senior school. They are very supportive, and keen to see future developments. They praise the kindergarten and have established a parents' committee to deal with pre-primary affairs, including the raising of sufficient funds to build the little ones their own specialized classroom.

Richard and Katherine were able to talk with Mr Sengeli, the Executive Officer of Shiri Mgungani village in November. Mr Sengeli said that the villagers warmly welcomed WATU's plans because he was sure that they would lead to significant economic development in the village: a larger market for local produce, the possibility of renting rooms to senior students, improvements to the road, more leverage with the electricity company, and possibly the government in developing their dispensary into a health centre, and so on. He expressed, on behalf of the villagers, their complete satisfaction with the kindergarten, and



their appreciation that some villagers had already obtained employment with WATU. Richard and Katherine later met the chairman of the Parents' Committee, Mr Mushi, who reiterated what Mr Sengeli had said and added that there was an urgent necessity for an A level school as in the entire Hai district there were only three such facilities, all of which were some considerable distance from Shiri. In fact, he said, that after Form 4 many local students had no option but to remain at home.

The extra tuition programme for WATU sponsored students and students from Shiri Mgungani

A very successful programme of extra academic tuition with some information technology instruction was held during the mid year holiday in June and July at Shiri. Despite the absence of electricity WATU's small generator, together with the batteries were just about adequate. Thanks again to the World Economic Forum for supplying the hardware, which is very much appreciated by the local students and, as always, to The Righ Foundation, FOTIS, and the International School of Munich for their support of the sponsorship programme.



Finally, thanks go to **all** our supporters and donors, large and small, without whom, of course, nothing would be possible. We would like though to give a special thanks to the Welton family for their donation made in memory of Brigitte.

P.S. These photos have just been sent by Josiah. Twenty three of the students will be moving to the local primary school after the holidays.

The cook, who keeps the most spotless kitchen we've seen, was awarded a bonus for all her excellent work.

The "Graduation" Ceremony of the upper kindergarten class November 29th 2011



A presentation of their work for the parents. Their teachers, Sarah and Veronica behind.



Josiah Mchome, Mr. Mwarbu and the members of the school's parents committee ready to award the certificates.



The cook receiving her award.