

Global Partnership for Literacy



SCHOOLNET GUYANA

A literacy project aimed at computerizing all secondary schools in Guyana.

Empowering people and communities through literacy

What is SchoolNet Guyana

SchoolNet Guyana is a computer-based literacy project aimed at integrating Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in approximately 120 secondary schools across Guyana.

The program has five major elements:

- 1) *System-wide ICT infrastructure*: A computer lab and internet access for each school with opportunities for collaboration and sharing of information.
- 2) *Professional development*: ICT training for teachers.
- 3) *Curriculum development*: Technical assistance to the Ministry of Education for the incorporation of ICT into the curricula.
- 4) *Digital content*: Aid with the development and access of online information on Guyana.
- 5) *ICT dissemination*: Programs to enhance the use of ICT outside of the classroom, e.g. distance learning, after school programs, literacy programs, etc.

Who is responsible for SchoolNet Guyana

Global Partnership for Literacy (Global Literacy), a Canadian-registered non-profit organization and the Ministry of Education will jointly implement SchoolNet Guyana as set out in a signed Memorandum of Understanding. In short, the Ministry will provide the room, furniture, security, teachers and maintenance. Global Literacy will provide computers, training, programs and internet connectivity. The SchoolNet program is a national program, which will include all of the education stakeholders in Guyana and the overseas diaspora.

Why SchoolNet Guyana

There are several reasons:

- To support the national ICT strategy, launched in 2006, to expand the use of technology in education and other areas, bridging the digital divide.
- To enhance the quality of education. Guyana lacks the technical and financial resources to support the

- introduction of ICT into the education system.
- To assist the school alumni and community groups in realizing positive outcomes of their investment in school programs in Guyana.
 - To promote computer aided literacy in Guyana.

How is the project funded

The estimated cost of the project is USD 12M.

The project is being funded jointly by the Ministry and Global Literacy. In meeting its commitments for the program, Global Literacy plans to source funding from donors and partnership groups including the diaspora, alumni associations, private and public sector agencies, education foundations, equipment suppliers, Microsoft, Intel, etc.

How will the Diaspora be involved

Global Literacy plans to establish SchoolNet Chapters in Canada, USA and the UK. The chapters will assist Global Literacy to secure funding, equipment, technical expertise, and assist in the promotion of the project. Additionally, Global Literacy has setup a number of working committees with specific responsibilities for functional areas of the project. These committees include: finance, partnerships, infrastructure, mobilization, training, marketing & communications and grants.

How can you help

There are a variety of ways in which you can assist in making this project a reality.

- a) Partner with Global Literacy in computerizing one of the schools.
- b) Become an endorsing partner (organizations).
- c) Setup a SchoolNet Chapter or join an existing Chapter.
- d) Volunteer on one of the working committees of Global Literacy.
- e) Assist in mobilizing of funds and equipment.
- f) Donate to the program or to a specific school (Tax receipts available in Canada for any donation over \$20.00).

For more information, please contact:

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