

Paper ID : 464

Project Title: BASIC COMPUTER LITERACY FOR SIERRA LEONE POLICE OFFICERS

Location: YIOTEC Campus, 7 Piston Lane, Manikala, Makeni City

Track : Technology and Innovation

Project Background: Sierra Leone is a population over 6 million, located in West Africa. Before the war, the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) Officers only know their basic training and no idea of Information and Technologies. The use of such is not recognized as all the Police Stations in Sierra Leone does not have computers. Computers are only based at the Headquarters and it is only few and also not used at all times. COMPUTERING AND PRINTING DOCUMENTS are always done at commercial places. In the Provinces, it is not easy to see one as compared to the City.

Project Description: Yegesie International Open College of Technology (YIOTEC) 's project is to train 150 Sierra Leone Police Officers in the whole of the Northern Province targeting major towns such as Kambia, Port Loko, Bombali, Koinadugu and Tonkolili districts including Makeni City, Sierra Leone. Information communication and technologies in Sierra Leone for all is at 99% poor and it is accessible. The use of computers and the Internet is another big problem. Youths, women and children don't have access. YIOTEC's mission is to empower and equip both old and young willing to fight against this NEW ILLITERACY.

YIOTEC advocated for 150 SLP's to be trained and approved by the GIZ through the SLP Headquarter, Freetown to empower Sierra Leone Police Force, to be a Force for Good and be Computer Literate to bridge the International Digital Divide. In 2012 Basic Computer Literacy became a mandate for YIOTEC, to provide free COMPUTER AND INTERNET access to SLP's became a solution. YIOTEC started with consultation, meetings, workshops and seminars on the power of the computer and the Internet. Internet Society and the Senior Experten Service - Bonn became technical supporters where they trained the staff of YIOTEC, which became trainers for different groups in Sierra Leone.

YIOTEC in partnership with the Sierra Leone Police, GIZ and regional headquarters of Sierra Leone Police, trained 150 senior Police officers dealing with records and Information and Communication. The Inspector General of Police found the course - Basic Computer Literacy for Officers so important, supported the continuation of training. SLP's were trained in Diploma in Microsoft Office application programs and also given a course in Internet and Computer Core certificate - IC3 which have proved successfully and has caused many officers to be employed in DARFUR, IMATT, and other security places. 150 Police officers are now able to handle office work using the computer and the Internet, searching for information relating to their work or duty and also in designing activities to combat Cyber Crime. The completion of this course has promoted many Police Officers to other ranks.

These 2 courses took 6 months.

Since 2012, YIOTEC have trained over 560 students including the Police officers, the Soldiers and Bike riders making communication so simple with the help of Senior Experten Service, Internet Society

(www.isoc.org) and other Information Technology Open learning institutions.

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