

Project

Lowanatom College: Improving the computer lab and offering computer access in the school library

Presentation of the school: Access to information and communication technology is one of the keys to quality education. Unfortunately, this technology is still widely unavailable in many third world country schools. The present project is aiming to contribute in a concrete way to the improvement of this situation in a particular education facility and is submitted on behalf of the Lowanaotm College (Collège Technique et Lycée de Lowanatom) located on Tanna island, the Republic of Vanuatu, a French speaking college and lycée (in Vanuatu's French school system the 7th-12th year of school) approved by the government of Vanuatu. The school has been created in 1992 by the religious community of the Sacred Heart Brothers with the mission to provide technical education to children in need and those rejected from the government school system. Ever faithful to its initial mission, it has grown over the years into a full-fledged college and lycée, offering high quality education to over 200 students, most of which are boarding.

Short description of the project: The intention of the present project is to help the school recover from damages suffered during the last year cyclone, when some of its precious equipment was lost and to improve access of the students and the teachers to computer technology. The project is twofold. 1) The school wishes to complete the computers currently existing in its computer lab in order to allow the students to work each on his own machine during the classes to improve the effectiveness of the IT education the students receive. Six computers would fulfill this mission. 2) The second intent is to equip the school library with computers. Currently, students and teachers use the books of the large school library as a valuable source of information, but giving access to computers equipped with proper educational software would greatly improve educational and self-growth possibilities for both the teachers and the students and help them to prepare better for their classes. A total of 6 computers is estimated to be needed to do this efficiently. The reason for placing a separate cluster of computers in the library is to ensure that the students and teachers can access them the most often possible as the computers in the IT lab are often taken due to pending classes. All the computers will become a part of the local network and benefit from the shared access to the internet the school is subscribed to and from access to the school server with many offline educational resources such as the Wikipedia, dictionaries, Khan Academy and an educational media library. Both the computer lab and the library are sufficiently equipped to protect the valuable technology from theft, weather conditions and electric current outages. The technical part of the project, i.e. installation, maintenance and continuous technical support will be ensured by a skilled IT professional working at the school.

People responsible for the project:

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