

Newsletter

Issue 34. October 2008



Health And
Development Aid
Abroad — Australia
Fund Inc.

ABN 43 739 862 351

HADA'S VISION

To see medical, educational, agricultural and sanitation programs established in countries as needed.

All projects listed in our Newsletter are tax deductible. All monies for these projects and personnel working on them go in their entirety except for bank charges. HADA does not use these funds for administration.

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2008-2009

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Computing for Children with Special Needs in Morocco

For three years I have been working in a computer classroom that is a part of a small school in Morocco for children with special needs. The school has more mentally than physically handicapped children. They come to the class for 40 minutes twice a week. I am not actually teaching the children; a Moroccan lady runs the classes. I am an engineer working on producing activities that are customised for the children (to their level of ability, to their physical handicap if they have one, to their emotional difficulties).

I have developed an interface that enables the children to work for long periods on the computer with very little intervention from the teacher. The system protects the children from the unnecessary complexities of Windows and it protects the computer from random clicking on the part of the



Our custom made trackball mouse stand. It can move in 3D and be positioned for any child. It enables children who cannot use a normal mouse to work on the computer.

children (they can't get into the control panel or into the normal system of menus unless I want them to). Each computer in our classroom has the same activities installed, i.e. about 100 programs — a wide variety of quality freeware. In the future, each activity will have detailed step-by-step instructions on how to do it. These are very useful for discovering hidden commands in certain programs and necessary for understanding others when used for the first time.

We are also working on lesson plans for certain programs that need a more in-depth treatment — these will also be available in the help system. The instructions in the help system are audio, i.e. when an activity starts up a voice begins giving step-by-step instructions on how to do

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the activity. This sort of audio help system is used by commercial CDs for children available in English and French but I am not aware of any serious attempt to produce something like this in Moroccan Arabic. At the moment the instructions function for about half the activities in the local Arabic dialect. I hope soon to have them working in English and French as well; more languages could easily be added later.

The children in our computer class have been

using these activities happily for three years. We are now conducting a pilot project to install second-hand computers in the homes of certain children with special needs (e.g. those who cannot get to a school because of their handicap or their family situation). We provide the software free of charge, the computers are donated (refurbished and installed by us) and we provide a short training for the carer of the child.

Andrew Jones

Ivory Coast Literacy Project

Proverbs to help literacy and preserve culture

"When lips are used together, one can produce a good whistle"

(unity gives strength)

"In order that he can advance, a sheep needs to be warned"

(communication is very important)

"Man cannot travel with his house on his back"

(practise hospitality)

These are three of the proverbs to be found in a newly published booklet in the Gban language of Ivory Coast. The Gban people are thought to be the first to settle in Ivory Coast and proverbs are a very important part of their culture. They are a means of



Taki Thomas unpacking a box of Gban proverbs booklets

communicating truths and a source of wisdom. Traditionally they have been passed down orally from generation to generation. However, it has been the dream of the Gban literacy co-ordinator, Taki Thomas, to see some of the many proverbs in his language written down and published. He has worked over several years to record more than 100 proverbs and he is delighted to now see them in print. "I am proud to put these proverbs on paper in order to assuage the thirst the Gban people have to see their language written down," said Thomas. Funding from HADA helped print a thousand copies of the book. It is illustrated, and each proverb, as well as being written in Gban, has been translated into French, the national language.

The Gban people are not immune to the rapidly changing state of society. As many young people

leave villages for schooling or work in towns, there is a danger that oral legends and proverbs will be lost. The new book of proverbs will help preserve a part of this oral culture in written form for the future.

Thomas aims to use the book of proverbs as part of the Gban literacy program. He hopes that seeing such an important part of their culture in print will help more Gban people realise the importance of their language and will motivate them to learn to read it. The books will also help those who are already learning to read Gban, to further develop their reading skills. Pupils in several literacy classes have now finished the first Gban reading lesson book. By reading the book of proverbs their fluency and comprehension can be improved and their knowledge of their culture increased.

Denise

Report: Micro-Loans in Longchuan



HADA Yunnan was established in 2001 to promote health and development work in China.

Longchuan is a county located near the Burmese border. HADA Yunnan has been doing aid and development work here through micro-loan projects since 2003. The first micro-credit loan given was A\$4,645 for a pig farming project. Subsequently, in November 2004, HADA gave another loan of A\$7,740 for a cattle breeding project. All loans have been returned and the beneficiaries are now generating their own incomes.

A\$9,755 was given in May 2007, to facilitate a county drugs and AIDS prevention and rehabilitation program. The program is run through the education and training of the local residents who come from many surrounding villages. It is carried out for one year, and it continues now. Besides the A\$9,755, another A\$7,740 loan was simultaneously disbursed to 25 families (at the amount of A\$300 to each family) for the next pig breeding project. This loan is due now, and is in the process of recovery. Again, the recipients are able to run their own businesses and be self-supporting.

Gary Leong

Tax Deductible Gifts

HADA is a Gift Deductible Recipient registered with the Australian Tax Office and we have the privilege of offering donors tax deductible receipts for donations to approved projects.

AusAid and the Australian Tax Office stipulate the types of projects that are able to receive this status. Welfare assistance, i.e. the running of institutions, orphanages and like activities are expressly excluded; whereas assistance to an area that will help the whole community is tax deductible. Sponsoring children to go to school without other projects in the village is not permitted. If a project includes micro-credit, clean water supply and sponsoring of children, tax deductibility is acceptable.

Because all HADA staff are volunteers, and no salaries are paid, we are able to send all the funds in their entirety to the project except for bank charges. On some occasions small amounts of funds are hand-carried to the projects when a board member is visiting.

All HADA projects are run by people who are personally known to members of the board and applications go through an examination process before being accepted as a HADA project. All managers of projects are required to submit three-monthly reports.

We value our Gift Deductible Recipient status and carefully look at all projects to see if they fit the criteria laid down by the Australian Tax Office.

Some donors like to leave the distribution of their funds to the HADA board and send gifts marked "where most needed". This allows us to help a specific project when a need arises and having this discretion is very much appreciated.

I trust that this explanation of tax deductibility is helpful to you in understanding how the system operates.

We highly value your confidence in us, and thank you for your donations over the past ten years.

Thank you.
Neil Young,
President

Turning Lives Around in Iraq

Poor families cannot afford luxuries. When you simply need to survive, an item like a computer for your children is a dream. With her first loan a Kurdish widow bought a computer. Her son was diligent to learn how to use it as best he could. He trained himself well and now is the top of the class in his computer course at college. This skill will enable him to get a good job when he finishes. He will no longer live in the poverty he knew as a child. He will have the resources to take care of his mother in her old age.

Another widow bought a cow. With her second loan she was able to 'upgrade' to an animal that produced more milk and a number of calves. Her work brings her great joy. She likes to be busy and the animals remind her of the life she once had in the village — life that existed before Saddam Hussein's regime destroyed her village and kidnapped and murdered her husband, along with tens of thousands of others.

A micro-loan is such a small intervention but it can have a great impact in a family's life. Hope and self-esteem are the results of greater opportunities. HADA funds have helped to set up a number of revolving savings and loan groups in a northern community of Iraq. All the members are widows and all regularly meet and faithfully pay back their yearly loan, ready to use it again for the next project. Saving the money year-by-year helps manage the family budget and plan for future needs. Women are especially worthy recipients of such projects as they are more likely to spend money on behalf of the whole family. In regions where there is no adequate welfare system, a widow is reliant on the charity of family and the community to survive. Access to her own financial resources, through a loans project, provides her with more independence and confidence. I am grateful to all those who donated through this Newsletter. It is making a difference in peoples lives.

Emma



The group leader, who keeps the account books.



A lady pays back a monthly instalment and signs with a thumbprint. Most are illiterate.

Health And Development Aid Abroad
PO Box 733 Ashmore City Qld 4214 Australia

Current HADA Projects

All projects in the Newsletter are approved for tax deductibility

Registered HADA offices

HADA, Yunnan, China

Managers: Gary and Ailin Leong

- Ninglang: Micro Enterprise Development; sponsoring school children, training English teachers, large clean water projects, medical surgeries and medications, and school projects like clothing for school children, new dorms, beds, desks and cooking facilities.
- Wenquan: teaching English; sponsoring school children.
- Longchuan: Micro-Credit loans to poor families in pig and cattle farming to improve the community's standard of living; drug rehabilitation program.

HADA, Astana, Kazakstan

Manager: Hubrecht (Hubert) de Vos

- Step: training to achieve skills to ensure that people can find gainful employment or go into business themselves.
- Source of Hope: counselling centre for women with past abortions and other issues and helping people to make sensible family planning decisions.
- Open Doors Community Centre: a place to gain employable skills and life skills for young adults, couples and parents.
- Valueology teaching: assisting schools by providing teaching materials, and teaching values to teenagers and students.

Entreaide Globale, Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, China

Manager: Philip Lam

- A Cup of Water Community Centre Project: provide finances for poor children to attend school; teach English, and English teacher training.
- Community Centre

Bridgewater Care, Guiyang, China

Manager: Karen Malone

- Community based home rehabilitation and physiotherapy for recently disabled and trauma patients.

Primary Mental Health

- Improve mental health care of local people, through training and equipping of medical personnel, community leaders and through the provision of mental health services.

Literacy Project, Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa

Manager: Denise Rhodes

- Literacy for teachers.

Consulting Training and Support, Oujda, Morocco

Manager: Daniel Boegli

- Care of Cerebral Palsy children in their homes.

International Nepal Fellowship, Dang Province, Nepal

Manager: Dr Julie Lincoln

- Leprosy and Tuberculosis program.
- CATS Youth assistance program in Ghorahi.

Shorish Widows, Northern Iraq

Manager: Emma Baxter.

- Micro-Credit program.

Associate organisations' projects

Kham Health Associates, Sichuan Province, China

- Screen and treat people with Hydatids; educate the whole community in Hydatids prevention.
- Disaster Relief: help in the form of food, blankets, shoes and shelter, and provision of yaks in the summer.

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Manager: Martin Aerne

- Vocational Training Centre: Tailoring workshop, Metal Workshop and I.T. Support / Customer Service.

Manager: Tim Paton

- Bridge of Hope: assisting street children to a better life.



Please make your cheque payable to *HADA Relief Fund*.
Do not include the name of the person or project on the cheque.

HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT AID ABROAD, PO BOX 733, ASHMORE CITY QLD 4214, AUSTRALIA



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I would like to make a donation to HADA
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HADA General Fund \$

Tax Deductible Gift. Make your cheque payable to **HADA Relief Fund**

Make a Tax Deductible gift of \$ for general project distribution

Make a Tax Deductible gift of \$ for
(person or project)

Title First Name Surname

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Name on card (Please print)

CVV (last 3 numbers on back of card in signature block) Expiry date/.....

If paying by credit card, please complete all sections.

Credit card transactions will show as **Strata Pay** on your statement.