



UNIDO and HP foster youth employment in Africa and the Middle East

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Hewlett Packard (HP) have established a partnership to provide entrepreneurship and IT training to young people in Africa and the Middle East.

A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

In May 2008, UNIDO and HP launched HP's Graduate Entrepreneurship Training through IT (GET-IT) programme in Africa and the Middle East. The GET-IT training programme teaches young un- or underemployed people aged 16 to 25 the basics of entrepreneurship with practical hands-on experience in the use of computer technology. GET-IT empowers young people to establish and run their own business or to get employed.

To reach more underprivileged youth faster, UNIDO and HP are assessing to develop linkages between GET-IT and UNIDO's entrepreneurship curriculum and enterprise development programmes.

In 2010, UNIDO and HP plan to further strengthen the GET-IT programme in Africa and the Middle East and to expand it to Asia and Latin America.

FAST FACTS

Since May 2008, the UNIDO-HP partnership programme has:

- set up 33 GET-IT centres in 10 countries
- certified 143 GET-IT trainers
- trained 15,000 students in Africa and the Middle East

The GET-IT centres are operational in:

- | | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| ▪ Algeria | ▪ Saudi Arabia |
| ▪ Egypt | ▪ South Africa |
| ▪ Kenya | ▪ Tunisia |
| ▪ Morocco | ▪ Uganda |
| ▪ Nigeria | ▪ United Arab Emirates |



Dr. Kandeh K. Yumkella, Director-General of UNIDO and Ms. Gabriele Zedlmayer, Vice President, Global Social Innovation, Hewlett-Packard Company

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST

Youth make up over 40% of the world's total unemployed and youth unemployment rates in Africa and the Middle East are among the highest in the world. Up to 60% of young people in Sub-Saharan Africa cannot find a job. Unemployment rates for the young in North Africa and the Middle East, 24.1% and 18.8% respectively were also significantly higher than the world average in 2008.

The global economic crisis has further curtailed employment opportunities for the youth, such that the International Labor Organization projects the global youth unemployment rate to rise from 12.2% in 2008 to approximately 15% in 2009.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH ICT

Since 2000, ICT and Internet usage in Africa and the Middle East has experienced the highest growth rate in the world. Yet the majority of youth in these regions have limited access to ICT and – perhaps most importantly – lack the knowledge of how to

use ICT to develop their capabilities further. Access to ICT and IT related business training enables young people to better qualify for a job and to understand how to run their own business successfully. The UNIDO-HP partnership programme GET-IT is an opportunity for young people to transit from unemployment and informal market activities to the formal creation of micro and small businesses which are important sources of growth and job creation.

THE GET-IT PROGRAMME

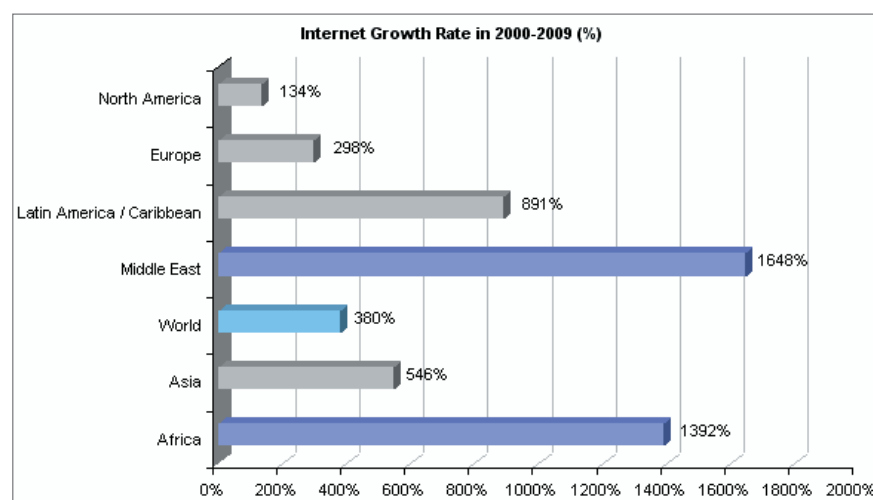
GET-IT is one of HP's flagship social investment initiatives which helps young people aged 16 to 25 acquire business and IT skills to enter professional life.

GET-IT courses teach practical IT solutions for daily business challenges in areas such as finance, management, marketing and IT management. The GET-IT curriculum was developed by the Micro-Enterprise Acceleration Institute (MEA-I), a non-profit organization sponsored by HP.



“By providing information technology, curricula and training for entrepreneurs, we aim to foster jobs and opportunities particularly for young people. UNIDO and HP work together to promote innovative uses of ICTs that support entrepreneurship, help encourage economic development and create new business opportunities”.

Dr. Kandeh K. Yumkella
Director-General of UNIDO



Source: Internet World Stats



GET-IT training is made available through local partners, which are usually non-profit organizations (NPOs) that are already active in business or IT training. Typically, HP provides selected NPOs with a classroom set of state-of-the-art technology, the training curriculum T-tools, materials needed to deliver the courses in local languages and a cash donation. Participating organizations gain access to the GET-IT network to share best practices with other GET-IT centers.

With the help of its partners, HP rolled out the GET-IT Programme in over 100 centres in Europe, Middle East and Africa, involving approximately 100,000 young people through combined online and offline training courses by the end of 2009.



Through its extensive field office network in Africa and the Middle East, UNIDO identifies suitable NPOs to become GET-IT partners, which allow a rapid roll-out of the programme. UNIDO monitors the activities of the selected NPOs to ensure sustainability of the programme and is in charge of the overall coordination of the GET-IT training programme in these regions.

A SUCCESS STORY:

Nigerian Songhai graduates turned into «Digital Farmers»



The Ebonyi State Government in Nigeria trained 25 young unemployed Nigerian graduates in agriculture at the Songhai Farm in Benin and partnered with UNIDO and HP to boost the entrepreneurship and IT skills of the graduates. After their training, the Government granted each graduate a micro-credit to start individual agricultural enterprises.

With the help of GET-IT, the young entrepreneurs managed to set up and run their own farm businesses. GET-IT equipped them with the management and technology tools needed to improve the efficiency and productivity of their farms.

“Through GET-IT, I have learnt to use the Internet. The Internet is a window to see what others are doing, how your products are being utilized, and how best to modify them, if necessary. We are digital farmers now”, comments Jeremiah Oteh, a Songhai graduate who established his feed mill in Ebonyi State.

Through GET-IT, 25 young Ebonyi farmers launched their own website (www.ebonyistatesonghaiyouthfarmers.org) to broaden the market they can address.

To-date, 33 training centres are operational in Africa and the Middle East under the auspices of this partnership and approximately 15,000 young people have been trained.

MEA-I is continuing to develop the GET-IT curriculum and other online and offline training tools. An online portal called GET-IT City (www.getit-city.net) has been launched, where young entrepreneurs can log on for training and advice. GET-IT City also provides access to ‘serious gaming’,

a series of practical business games designed to accelerate IT knowledge and improve business smarts.

GET-IT AWARDS

At the annual GET-IT conference in October 2009 in Cairo HP honored the most successful GET-IT centres. The awards for excellence are an integral part of the GET-IT programme. Two of the three technology awards went to centres in Africa for Best Achievement and Best GET-IT implementation.

“Some young people who come to our training course already have several business ideas in mind but have not taken any step to implement them. GET-IT helps them overcome their fears and encourages them to start a business”.

Nada Rady, GET-IT Master Trainer, Egypt

AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

To extend the reach of their youth entrepreneurship programmes, UNIDO and HP are assessing the development of linkages between GET-IT and UNIDO's entrepreneurship curriculum and enterprise development programmes.

UNIDO's Entrepreneurship Curriculum Programme (ECP) stimulates entrepreneurial talent among young people aged 14-17. The partnership develops a blueprint for integrating GET-IT into the ECP curriculum for subsequent implementation in secondary schools

in selected countries. Similarly, young potential entrepreneurs in the Middle East will benefit from a curriculum that combines GET-IT with UNIDO's Enterprise Development and Investment Programme (EDIP).

In 2010, UNIDO and HP plan to strengthen the GET-IT network in Africa and the Middle East and to extend the network to Asia and Latin America. The ultimate goal of the GET-IT programme is to reach a minimum of 500,000 young people worldwide by 2010.



UNIDO

UNIDO is a specialized agency of the United Nations system that works towards improving the quality of life of the world's poor by helping countries achieve sustainable industrial development. UNIDO views industrial development as a means of creating employment and income to overcome poverty. It helps developing countries and economies in transition to produce goods they can trade on the global market. It also helps provide the tools – training, technology, and investment – to make them competitive. UNIDO has 173 Member States and has its headquarters in Vienna, Austria.



HP

HP is the world's largest IT company and a leading technology provider to the micro, small and medium sized enterprises in Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA). HP aims at improving the chances of young people in underserved regions by equipping them with the skills to find a job or set up their own business. HP promotes the acceleration of micro-enterprises growth and helps sustain that growth over time.



MEAI Micro-Enterprise Acceleration Institute

MEAI

In order to provide GET-IT training across EMEA, HP partners with the Micro-Enterprise Acceleration Institute (MEAI), a non-profit organisation and key partner, that develops immersive training and works with local authorities and business associations to help advance teaching and learning programmes for young entrepreneurs and small business owners.

UNIDO
www.unido.org/ict

HP
www.hp.com/eur/globalcitizenship

MEAI
www.mea-i.org

GET-IT
www.graduate-training-through-it.net

GET-IT City
www.getit-city.net