



iEARN'TnT signs contract with UNESCO Caribbean **"A Cultural Approach to HIV/Aids in the Caribbean, Prevention and Cure"**

The Workshop will be conducted within the framework of UNESCO's Digi-Arts Portal Programme on Youth and HIV/Aids and will target youth organizations, youth leaders working and/or interested in HIV/Aids, the project designed for young adults to express their thoughts and feelings on HIV/Aids in relation to specific social, community and cultural issues through their own digital art creations.

The project aims to further involve young people in the development of culturally sensitive materials and messages for young people, expected to strengthen existing initiatives and networks, in partnerships with e.g CARICOM, UNICEF and GTZ, which contribute to increasing HIV/Aids awareness, knowledge and behavior change among young people.

End result a culturally sensitive Caribbean Website on HIV/Aids for young people, youth friendly non-formal educational tools on HIV/Aids in the Caribbean and increased capacity of youth networks to organize culturally sensitive activities in HIV/Aids prevention and cure.

The Regional Workshop will take place from April 27th - 29th, 2005, in Trinidad and Tobago, to prepare and launch the project from May - September 2005. We will have a multimedia CD-Rom with a selection of completed artworks, register of activities dealing with HIV/Aids in the Caribbean, and proposals for the use of the material within existing preventive educational programmes for young people.



Why a cultural approach?

There are many different ways of contracting HIV/Aids,

There are just as many different ways of preventing HIV/Aids

There are many different groups of people exposed to HIV/Aids

There are many different ways of discriminating against people living with HIV/Aids

The WHY's HOW's and WHO's change from CULTURE to CULTURE
That's why we need:

**A CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE
RESPONSE TO HIV/AIDS
PREVENTION AND CARE**

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for Teachers,
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Abraham Fergusson Wins Childnet Competition Trinidad's Express News Article

Abraham Fergusson is living proof that the information superhighway can truly connect the world.

This 14-year old budding web developer was recently selected as one of the winners of an annual international web development competition, the Cable and Wireless, Childnet Academy 2005. His winning entry won him a spot at the prestigious Internet Academy in Montego Bay, Jamaica, where he learned how to design and build websites.

This Form two student of El Dorado Secondary Comprehensive has been surfing the Internet since he was seven 7, years old.



He first became a "technophile" through his involvement with the INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND RESOURCE NETWORK, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. (iEARNtNt)

This non-profit group uses global communications technology to allow young people in Trinidad and Tobago to connect with more than 4,000 schools and youth organizations in more than 100 countries around the world

It was through iEARNtNt that Abraham first heard about the Childnet Academy 2005 competition and decided to enter.

Childnet International is a children's Internet charity supported by communications mogul Cable and Wireless, which is also a shareholder of local telecommunications provider TSTT.

Childnet's aim is to help make the Internet a great and safe place for children to explore and learn, and their annual competition encourages young people to create websites that are exciting, educational and useful.

Young Abe entered the Childnet competition with his idea to create a website where young people can share information about and their personal experience of natural disasters.

He was selected as one of the winners in the "New to the Net" category in the competition, which was created for young people who have limited access to Internet technology, but have an idea for the web.

According to the Childnet judges ***"This is an issue that is challenging the Caribbean and is very timely in light of the Indian Ocean Tsunami disaster"***

Abe has started to think about the different components of the site.....



2005 Childnet Academy Winners

The skills learnt at the Academy will help him to get this website started.

and it is good that he is part of the IEARN network which will ensure that this website is promoted in schools world-wide, encouraging young people to work together and help each other's understanding of the issue.

The competition winners, selected by a panel of international judges from a field of 225 entrants, consist of young people of all ages from across the globe who had a variety of website themes, for example Sameul Odolfin, 17 from Nigeria, created "The Food Solution" to show how biotechnology could provide a solution to famine across the African continent. Lalit Mahani, 8, from Scotland, created "Animals in Danger"

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Youth - Winners challenge adults on global issues

to encourage young people to become involved in protecting endangered species, and Ashley Harmsma, 16, from Canada created a site to offer advice and information on teen pregnancy.



In Jamaica Abe and the other winners will spend the week receiving specialist web support, leadership training and technical advice with a group of other technology savvy young people from around the world, Abe and the other winners will be given exclusive access to a team of Internet experts and mentors, and will be given the chance to learn from previous competition winners.



Last year after winning an essay competition with his topic "Peer Power vs Peer Pressure" he flew to Slovakia to attend the 11th International Education Conference and Youth Summit, at this event, he also presented the Mayor of Kosice, Slovakia, with a gift from The Mayor of Port of Spain. He is an active member of Port of Spain Sister Cities UNESCO Youth Club, and a member of Trincity Community Youth Club. It is fair to say that this young man is certainly not the average teenager.

But this is not the first time Abe has been in the spotlight, At age 10, he was chosen to speak at the launch of The UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF PEACE and Non-VIOLENCE AGAINST the CHILDREN OF THE WORLD. 2001 - 2010. and led the symbolic "FIRST STEPS" walk at this event.



Stephen Carrick Davies, Chief Executive Officer at Childnet International said

"the winning projects showcase the positive power of the Internet - to give young people a voice and a chance to create their own online learning tools.

It is significant that so many of the projects challenge adults and other young people on important global issues, by bringing the winners together with young people from Jamaica, we hope to inspire others to use the internet constructively to share knowledge and make a difference."

Camille Facey, Deputy Chair, Cable & Wireless view Abe's website

<http://www.avoidingdisasters-learnntnt.net>



INTERNET TO TACKLE MAJOR GLOBAL ISSUES

Poverty in Africa, teen pregnancy, global terrorism, natural disasters, are just some of the major issues being tackled by the winners of an international web development competition for young people, The Caribbean created history by having a winner from Trinidad and Tobago, for the first time in the history of the competition.

While 18-year Khurshid from Uzbekistan, created "Me Against Terrorism" and 14 -year old Elizabeth, from Scotland created "Looking at you" for visual impairment youth.

Partnership for Multimedia Workshop **Creative Narrations and iEARNtT came together?**

The need for training brought together volunteers from Creative Narrations and iEARNtT joining forces to offer a series of multimedia workshops for teachers, youth-workers, rural women/girls and rural communities in Trinidad and Tobago, as a tool for education, community building and social change.

About our partnership:

Creative Narrations, a US based multimedia training and consulting firm, specializes in the application of multimedia technology as a tool for organizations committed to education, community building and social change, While **iEARNtT** offers a series of programs dedicated to supporting youth arts, one of the programs, the Digi-Arts Project, is a UNESCO network connecting youth in Trinidad and Tobago to young artist, all over the world.

Youth engage in projects such as "The Scenes and Sounds of the City" "The Sound of Water"(This being the international decade of Water 2005 - 2015) and "Youth Creating and Communicating on HIV/Aids".

Our "Traditions and Culture" or "City to City"

Using the internet to dialouge about these very important issues.

Training objective, to develop a skills base among teachers, rural women/girls, youth leaders and rural community leaders in the creative use of ICT's for development, and in order to continue program participation.

The Workshop focused not only on software, but on innovative ways to engage participants in exploring their identities and their surroundings through engaging in multimedia technology.

Workshop topics included

- * Community Digital Photography- Shooting and image manipulation of local imagery.
- * Soundscapes- exploring, recording, and editing portrait

- * Digital Storytelling- weaving together images and sounds to create short "digital video stories" into a coherent narrative.

The outcome,

- * Skill building - Specific hardware software techology skills
- * Community Building - Identifying both people and technology strenghts and resources that can serve to develop programs
- * Document program outcomes- Creating products that can be used to further the networks advocacy and communicative impact of our programming.

These training workshops sessions will continue through out the communities.



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