



May 07 Newsletter

Welcome to another monthly flash of news from EngineerAid. Once again we'd like to thank you for all your support in helping to provide help and advice on projects around the world.

Innovation = "Doing things differently & Doing different things"

(Ramesh Mashelkar, President of the Global Research Alliance)

One of the challenges facing development activities today is getting the best minds in the world to think and work on the problems of the poor – but the team here at EngineerAid aren't too worried – Our volunteers are already there.

EngineerAid's approach to helping people means that developing countries are no longer viewed as a sink for the developed world's knowledge (doing things differently!) Local people, communities and budding entrepreneurs can become innovators and gain ownership of their own development. Once people have an initial idea about how to solve a problem they can improve or adapt it to be used under different circumstances, helping to create and promote domestic capacity on a small scale (doing different things!).

Although National policies for Science, Technology and Innovation are being written to combat the most serious problems faced by developing countries, all the organisations, like EngineerAid, who are working at the community level are uniquely placed to consider the specific functional, social, economic and cultural needs of each problem. This not only creates good performance for lower costs but it ensures that the solutions put forward actually solve the problem, rather than only solving parts of it.

National Technology Day 11th May, India

Every year May 11 is celebrated as National Technology Day throughout India by the scientific and industrial organisations, as well as by educational institutions. In his opening address, Dr. Jamshed J. Irani, former Managing Director of Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited (TISCO), complimented the Department of Science & Technology for unveiling two innovative schemes to attract talented youth and students towards science, he said, the greatest task before the country was to take India into the new century without dragging developmental burden of the previous centuries.

As part of the celebrations, National Awards were given to individuals and industries who demonstrated pioneering or innovative approaches to technical problems. Elpro Energy Dimensions Pvt Ltd is being given the SSI Unit Awards 2007 for successfully commercialising their product based on an indigenous technology. This company has pioneered a system to control and monitor the energy consumption and wastage in the street lighting system with the adaptation of new techniques, incorporation of better energy efficiency and energy management technologies available in the market.



Dates for your Diary

African Fair 19th May

EngineerAid will be participating in the African Fair, organised by Penicuik for Africa, part of the Make Poverty History campaign in 2005. We hope to be able to raise several issues being faced by people and communities in Africa. The event takes place in Old St Paul's Church Hall, Jeffrey St, Edinburgh and runs from 11am to 3pm on the 19th of May so if you are around, do come in and visit our stall!

Recital for EngineerAid 2nd June

Jenna Robertson, a volunteer engineer with EngineerAid, has organised a recital in Aberdeen – "A Musical Journey through Europe", with proceeds going to EngineerAid and North East Children Scotland. Tickets cost £8.00. For more info, visit www.recitalaberdeen.co.uk. Our thanks to Jenna and her co-performers for their support!

World Environment Day 5th June

This year's theme is 'Mend of the World', with a special focus on climate change. To see how to get involved or what the day is all about check out the Environment Agency's website at www.environment-agency.gov.uk



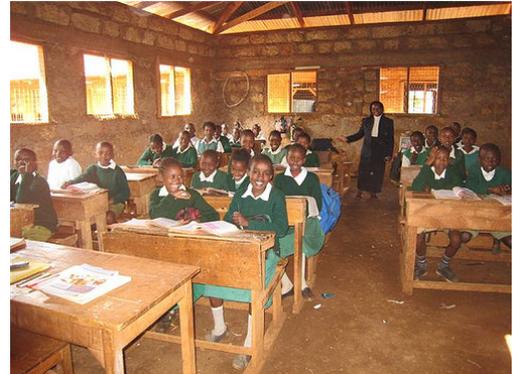
Enquiry of the Month



A school in Matopeni, Kenya

For children in Africa, education is a ticket to a future where paid employment is possible, businesses can be established and lives can be saved. The ability to read and write, things that are taken for granted by many people, can mean the difference between a family surviving or starving in Africa.

A community in Matopeni, along with the help of a group of online volunteers, were working to build a school that would allow a safe environment to provide education for the children of the community.



A volunteer architect working on the project had designed some plans for the school. Local materials were to be used to build the school including cement, gravel, hardcore sand, blocks, tiles nails and iron sheet. At this stage, with the plans and the resources available, the project needed to move forward a stage. The next step was to gain valuable advice on the structure of the building. The volunteers contacted EngineerAid in the hope of gaining advice from a civil engineer on the matter.

The volunteers were able to email their enquiry, along with architectural plans to EngineerAid. The enquiry was then forwarded to 28 volunteer engineers. Through this contact with EngineerAid, a detailed analysis of the architectural plans was conducted and useful advice given on the structure of the building.

Payroll Giving

EngineerAid rely heavily on contributions from our supporters to enable us to continue with our work. Payroll Giving is an alternative way of making donations that's simple, efficient and flexible. Many companies already have payroll giving in place but for those that don't it's an easy process to set up. It's a flexible scheme that allows every employee in a company to give to the charity of their choice, change charities, alter the amount given or stop giving at any time. All donations made are tax effective so the charity receives your donation and the tax you would have paid it. For more information about payroll giving check out Workplace Giving UK, one of the Uks payroll giving agencies at www.workplacegiving-uk.com or the HM Revenue & Customs site at www.hmrc.gov.uk.

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