



## **Report on Lesotho ICT Skills Training**

**February 2008 - April 2008**

### ***Project Overview***

SchoolNet SA was contracted by Microsoft to complete two sessions of the ICT Skills for Teachers course and one session of ICT Skills train the trainer course in Lesotho.

This training course was specifically designed for African teachers by the most experienced SchoolNet trainers. It provides teachers with their initial computer confidence and also caters for teachers with ICT experience. Once teachers reach a certain level on independence, the facilitator gives these teachers the opportunity to pursue their own needs and interests, particularly in their roles as teachers. There are more than 30 scenarios for teachers to work through. This is the ideal introductory course as it offers training in teaching contexts with a range of difficulty. Thus, novice and more experienced computer users can all benefit from the course at the same time with the same trainer in the same venue.

The ICT Skills for Teachers training sessions (25-29 February 2008 & 31 March–4 April 2008) was for teachers in the Mafeteng and Butha-Buthe districts respectively. The ICT Skills train the trainer (18-20 March 2008) was held for successful candidates from the January 2008 training.

The tasks associated this project was allocated as follows:

#### **School Net South Africa provided the following services:**

- Conceptualisation, co-ordination and implementation of training
- Liaison with the Ministry of Education about suitable training dates, times and venue
- Appointing and liaising with suitable trainers to conduct each course
- Organisation of travel and accommodation where necessary for trainers
- Providing CDs for each participant
- Monitoring and reporting on training to the Lesotho Ministry of Education and Microsoft.

**The Ministry of Education was responsible for:**

- Providing the names and contact details of participating teachers
- Ensuring that selected schools have functional computer rooms with at least 20 computers working
- Providing and paying for catering for all participants
- Providing and paying for travelling and accommodation of participants where necessary.

***Overview of the ICT Skills Training for Teachers***

**Botha-Buthe District (25 -29 February 2008)**

There were 7 schools represented at the training. These were: Botha Bothe High, St Cyprian's High, QholaQhoe High, Emmanuel High, Soofia English Medium, Botha Buthe Community High and Qalo High. A total of 19 teachers were trained this initiative and there was 100% attendance.

St Cyprian's High provided a good training venue with 21 computers being networked with Internet access. In addition the school was resourced with a TV, DVD and a Satellite decoder.



The participants were very skilled and most completed at least one advanced scenario. All participants were able to complete in excess of five scenarios; some were very adventurous and tried variations of the dynamic class list scenario.

The following teachers were recommended as potential trainers:

Lehlabathe T; Seema Shaji; Rabaholo T; Nomazondo N; Kopano K

The participants also requested some training on how to access the Internet and email. The trainer was able to spend some time creating emails with the group. The group was further challenged to use the Internet to improve on a peer's Science lesson. The trainer recommends that this group receive advanced training that provides direction on ways to integrate ICT's into the classroom.

### **Mafeteng District (31 March- 4 April 2008)**

There were 7 schools represented at the training. These were Johnson-Baker High, Mohale's Hoek High, St John's High, Bereng High, Kingsgate High, Mafeteng High and Matsepe High. A total of 17 teachers were trained in this initiative, with 15 teachers having 100% attendance.

Bereng High School was a suitable venue with sufficient working computers; however the ventilation in the centre needs to be improved.

Participant's level of literacy was good. The basic scenarios were completed with ease, however the more advanced scenarios proved more challenging to participants and a few teachers struggled. More practice with course materials will significantly improve ICT proficiency.

The following teachers were recommended as potential trainers:

Mofo Napo; Khomari Rets'elisitsoe; Damazane Chabeli; Tukula Rethabile; Petlane Manthofela; Likeleli Koikoi

### ***Overview of the ICT Skills Train the trainer Course (18-20 March 2008)***

This training was scheduled for participants who had attended ICT skills training in January 2008 and were recommended as candidates to become trainers. A total of 20 teachers were invited to the training; however 16 teachers attended. Four teachers were not given permission by their principals to be released from school.



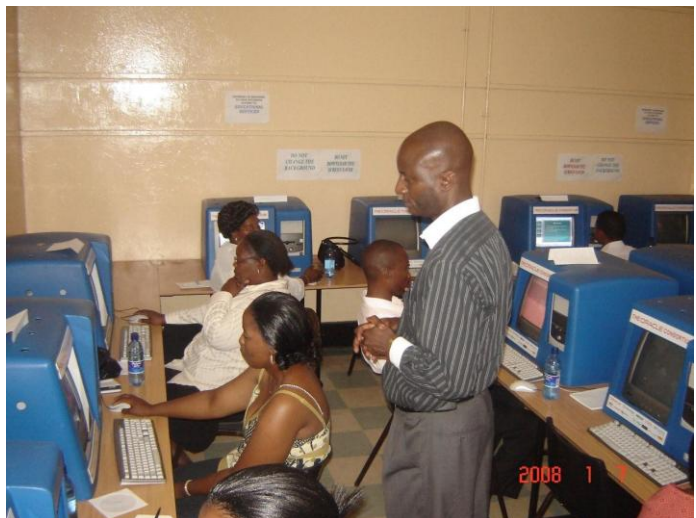
The venue was supposed to be the Lesotho College of Education. Despite the coordinator being assured of the venue's readiness for the training, on the morning of the training technicians were still trying to set up the centre by carrying in old machines; there was no Internet access or functional CD-ROMs. The coordinator was then able to secure Lesotho High School as a venue.

Trainers were assessed on their presentation and ICT skills. The following participants can confidently be recommended as trainers:

		Presentation	ICT Skill
Nthabiseng	Lenka	5	5
Lebohang	Makhoarane	5	5
Gerard	Tsilo	5	5
Josaya	Mavaza	5	5
Lefa	Ntohla	5	5
Ntso	Makhetha	4	5
Mabuti	Phoole	4	5
Moroke	Mokorosi	4	5
Molibeli	Nkopane	4	5
Tatolo	Makoetje	3	4

The following are additional comments about the remaining participants:

Matsiso Kalake and Thaba-Bosiu could be used as trainers if there is a need. Elizabeth and Leratang need to assist with training before they can be given training to conduct on their own. Mpine was substituting for a colleague and her ICT skills were not at the level it should have been to be invited to the course. Florence Marumo was not able to conduct the training as a participant; she played a dual role as the coordinator for the training and was thus unable to complete many scenarios. Ms Marumo should be given the opportunity to be a participant in the training so that she can complete the course work.



**Extracts from evaluations completed by teachers**

*The following comments extracted from the course evaluation forms indicate that on the whole the training was well received:*

“It was really good, would like to have more of this nature in the near future.”

“The course was really good it helped us t realise how useful technology is.”

“Thanks to all the people who made this possible. I have learned a lot. I will now use IT to improve my teaching.”

“I suggest that ICT hold the workshops in different districts.”

“This computer integration and skills enhancements course should also be done for school principals. Once they get first hand experience in using a computer they will see how useful it really is. Personally I learned a lot in 1 week.”



“The course was very helpful to the teachers as it makes work easier and it helps to store information for a longer time. Apart from that, it enhances student’s learning.”

“It is very important because in the beginning of the course I was at level 1 but now I am at level 4.5. I have acquired all the skills.”

“The course is useful and applicable to new and old computer users.”

“I think the idea about scenarios is the perfect way of learning.”

## Conclusion and Recommendations

The training sessions have been enjoyed by teachers and they have been exposed to a wealth of new resources and gained new skills to improve their administrative tasks and lesson planning.

Our recommendations to further improve on training are as follows:

- Notices should be sent out to participating schools so that principals are aware of the training initiatives, can understand the need for training and thus be able to give permission to teachers to attend the training.
- The venues for the training must be inspected before the training so that potential problems can be sorted out and the duration of the training is not affected.
- Newly qualified trainers must be given the opportunity to practice what they have learnt. It is vital that the Ministry of Education make provision to organise and implement this training. Quick action will ensure that the trainers will be more comfortable in their roles as trainers and will thus be a valuable asset to the Ministry of Education.

SchoolNet SA would be interested to further assist the Ministry of Education to implement ICT Skills train the trainer courses as well as implement our other courses to complete the learning pathway. The *Help Desk Technical course* would be ideal to help schools take initiative in sustaining and maintaining their own computer centres, the *ICT Leadership for Education Managers* would be ideal for Principals and other senior management team members to help them understand why ICT's are so important and identify ways to manage the related costs, the *Webquest course* is designed for ICT literate teachers who are looking for exciting ways to integrate the use of ICT into their lessons and *Peer coaching* which is aimed at developing a whole school staff development model based on collaboration and sharing. In this model peers help each other improve lessons and integrate the use of ICT. We look forward to working with Lesotho Ministry of Education's broad strategy to enhance curriculum-based teaching and learning by integrating ICT as a resource.