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### **Background Information The Gambia YMCAs**

The Gambia YMCAs since 1979 has been involved of youth related and development activities since its existence in the Gambia since 1979. The overall aim of the Gambia YMCAs is to continue to help develop the potentials of our youths so that they will be empowered with the necessary skill to be able to live and operate in a global context underlining the total emphasis of our mission.

The Gambia YMCA is also a member of the Association of Non – Governmental Organization (TANGO), The Gambia, Christian Council, the National Youth Council of the Department of State for Youths, Sports and Culture and the Agency for Non - Governmental Affairs of the Department of State for Lands and Local Government in The Gambia.

It is also a member of the Africa Alliance of YMCAs with Head quarters in Kenya and the World Alliance of YMCAs with Head quarters in Switzerland. It has several partnerships with sister YMCAs in Europe, the United States and other local partnership with Peace Corps the Gambia and some other International and national agencies operating in country.

The Mission is to advocate for and create opportunities for the development of the potentials of young people and to render services that would enhance the development of their mind, body and spirit, and to bring about an improved quality of life in their faith, make them responsible and productive citizens in their communities and to strive to develop a sustainable and strong financial base, with a broad membership involving people, irrespective of their faith, age, sex, race and social conditions.

### **The Gambia YMCAs Program of Activities includes the following:-**

- Computer Training Centre & Digital Studio/ E learning Lab
- Junior School
- Adolescent Reproductive Health Unit
- Youth Enterprise Project (Funded project by the Big Lottery Fund in collaboration with Y Care International, England.)
- Community / Gender Development
- Sports (Basketball)
- Hostel / Canteen Facilities

- Branches
- Projects with partnering YMCAs and other agencies

### The Gambia YMCAs Computer Training Centre brief overview

The Gambia YMCAs Computer Training Centre started operations in late 1995 with modest beginnings, the centre is now fully equipped with two laboratories, a digital studio / system administration unit, a youth cyber cafe and a hardware lab is also been set up to be ready by January 2007. The Computer Training centre also manages the overall ICT infrastructure of the Gambia YMCAs in terms of Intranet facilities, network facilities trouble shooting to name a few.

The centre facilities are fully networked and have full Internet connectivity with an ADSL connection. The centre developed the Gambia YMCAs website in 1998 after the Internet gateway was launched in the Gambia in August 1998 by a UNDP initiative, making it to be the second YMCA in Africa after the South African YMCAs to have web presences on the Internet.

When the World Links program came to the Gambia in April, 2001 due to the world of the Gambia YMCAs in IT in Gambia, the Coordinator of the computer training centre was nominated also as country coordinator for the World Links program in Gambia. The YMCA collaborates and supports primary, junior, and senior secondary schools ICT program in collaboration the World Links program with support from the department of State for Education. It works with the Peace Corps IT volunteers in schools, through DFID it provided professional training for department of state for education staff during the development of the Education Management information system (EMIS) and still trains staff of the department as need be.

It is involved in several collaborative projects with sister YMCAs like the International YMCAs of New York, Y Care International, London, Hove YMCAs, YMCAs of the USA, Chicago, Charlotte YMCAs, YM/YWCA of Victoria Canada, YM/YWCA of Sweden, YMCAs of Finland to nam

It also works with St Mary's college Maryland, where ICT student's of the YMCAs, go for exchange internship at St Mary's college Maryland, and the St Mary's college field anthropology field school located in the Gambia makes use of the YMCAs facilities during their field school programs. It also receives students from Washington and Jefferson College, Pittsburgh who are here in the Gambia on a semester course study as interns.

The centre offers courses that are moderated by the Cambridge International Examinations ([www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk)) as the centre is a CIE accredited registered centre in the Gambia, it is also the accredited testing centre for TOEFL IBT test in the Gambia accredited by ETS ([www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org)). It is headed by a coordinator, who reports directly to the National General Secretary (CEO) of the Gambia YMCAs.

The centre runs and annual kiddies computer summer camp for kiddies between the ages of 6 - 17 years every summer, the kiddies computer summer program attracts over 80 kids each summer. The program is going to its ninth year now, and for the summer of 2009, we expect to incorporate new ideas and concepts for the kids.

## **NEED FOR ICT MULTIMEDIA VOLUNTEER**

The Gambia, a country with a population of about 1.5 million people, is still short in qualified personnel in the area of ICT especially multimedia production, the Gambia YMCAs, which works hard to empower young people of which majority of Gambians are young have always been focused on trying to bring in young volunteers from developed countries to come support our computer training centre programs as trainers, capacity development workers and technical experts. Since 2001, the Gambia YMCAs through its computer training centre started looking for organizations that will wish to send volunteers to contribute to the centre development. Organizations like Go Global of the International YMCAs of New York, Swedish YM/YWCA over the years have sent volunteers to the computer training to work with us, these volunteers either female or male are usually young professionals, or post graduate students who take time from 6 months to one year to work with us, some have even stayed for up to 18 months based on their love for the work we do in the YMCA and also the general peaceful nature of the Gambia which is second to none in Africa. The volunteers apart from their work, always take part in other programs the Gambia YMCAs are involved in and are usual well oriented to deal with the cultural aspects of the Gambia. We consider it a technical / cultural; / educational exchange program. Some volunteers can even get credit for there work while here, infact a former volunteer with us is now doing a PHD in International Development at London School of Economics based on her work with us here.

The Gambia YMCAs continues to seek ICT experts from various international organizations, universities to come to the Gambia to help support the development of capacity, transfer of required ICT skills as funds are sometimes not available to send staff for overseas training, the volunteers are also expected to look into areas of improving the training modules offered by the Gambia YMCAs Computer Training centre & Digital Studio so that at all times the centre products or training programs met international and global standards. The centre will be establishing a full fledged computer lab dedicated to e learning by April 2009 whereby young people especially in the expanding banking service industry in the Gambia can come and acquire skills via e learning in banking and other disciplines.

## **THE GAMBIA YMCAS SHALL BE PROVIDING THE FOLLOWING TO THE VOLUNTEER:**

Shall provide accommodation at its Hostel and three square meals at the canteen while the volunteer is with us, our hostel accommodation, where the volunteer he or she will stay is well equipped with self contained bathroom, wardroom, working table and ceiling fan, the hostel is within the vicinity of the Gambia YMCAs. Hence the volunteer just has to take a five minutes work from the hostel to Computer Centre as all the YMCAs facilities at our head quarters in Kanifing South are enclosed in our own premises. The YMCA canteen is also on the same building with the hostel

The Gambia YMCAs is located within the Greater Banjul Area of The Gambia, to be precise Kombo St Mary's Division, it is about 15 kilometre from the capital Banjul, and it is close to major shopping centres and within a district that contains a number of schools, NGO's and governmental departments, it is about one hour walk to the beach also. The Gambia YMCAs also has two small

branches in Banjul the capital and in Kabakel in the western division, these branches provide youth related programs and the computer centre has set up a cyber cafes in Banjul branch for youths to have easy and cheap access to the Internet within the community and hopefully with we shall set up the Kabakel cyber café soon.

We shall provide cultural understanding of the Gambia while the volunteer is here. The National General Secretary of the Gambia YMCAs, Mr Sam B. Thorpe arranges all work permit and extension of stay for our visiting volunteers, and it takes one to two working days to do this, as the department of state for immigration is aware of our volunteer programs and make sure such issues are handled fast for us. **The YMCA will also be available to any support from organisations or individuals towards the volunteer stay in the Gambia.**

### **CONTACTS**

**All Administrative in regards to extension of stay etc** matters and procedures while the volunteer he or she is here shall be arranged by the National General Secretary of the Gambia YMCAs, Mr Sam B. Thorpe ([sam@ymca.gm](mailto:sam@ymca.gm)) Direct office Line:- +220 4390625 Mob: 9905516

All affairs the potential volunteer might wish to know in regards to equipments we have, items he or she might bring, set up of the computer centre and digital studio, E learning Lab, correspondence with volunteer agency should be addressed to the coordinator of computer centre, Poncelet Ileleji ([pileleji@ymca.gm](mailto:pileleji@ymca.gm) or [Poncelet2@yahoo.com](mailto:Poncelet2@yahoo.com)) Direct Office line: +220 4370240 Mobile: +220 9912508

**Expected Duration of Stay: Depends but preferable 3 months upwards**

**Expected time of Arrival as need be, at least one month notice after resume and experience have being certified to met our needs.**

### **POTENTIAL VOLUNTEER JOB PROFILES ICT & MULTIMEDIA VOLUNTEER**

The potential volunteer for the Gambia YMCAs Digital Studio should be involved in the field of multimedia either in final level of undergraduate studies or doing a post graduate studies or a professional in the field already who is prepared to volunteer time in the Gambia. He or She will training two young personnel at the Gambia YMCAs Computer Training Centre & Digital Studio on multimedia so they can be able to manage the place and develop a marketing strategy by meeting potential clients for the studio in the Gambia namely Non Governmental Organizations, UN agencies, other agencies etc who might be interested in using the digital studio facilities for production work. Be able to do at least one income generating project for the digital studio prior to departure for home.

**He or She must have any of the following skills:-**

- *Script writing and concepts including able to teach students preparing for TOEFL IBT Test as we are a TOEFL IBT accredited Testing Centre un the Gambia ([www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org))*
- *Video Production*
- *Video Editing on PC or Mac*

- *Sound Production*
- *Sound Editing*
- *Production of high resolutions animations / designs*
- *Multimedia CD Production*
- *Knowledge of documentaries / jingles production etc*
- *Marketing concepts, team leader and able to train others*
- *Use of Office Suites, Imaging Software and web site authoring software*
- *Project writing skills / networking to be able to source for items for Digital Studio from foundations, universities etc.*
- *Able to initiate Exchange visits with groups in the USA and other countries, through using a multimedia as a tool to promote cross cultural collaboration.*

## Duties & Responsibilities

Lead production team for production of TV adverts, sound adverts, documentaries, lead team for creation of advert / documentary scripts.

Develop and design marketing strategies in conjunction with marketing manager, coordinator / digital studio, consultant (The Studio) on marketing of digital studio services etc.

Develop work plan for digital studio, staff and volunteers. Help organize youth online and collaborative projects for kids in schools in the Gambia on such collaborative projects like Mtandao Afrika, Global Teenage Project, Learning Circles and World Summit Awards programs etc.

Develop other forms of collaborative projects using multimedia technology for young people.

Monitor and supervise staff of the digital studio, with monthly report submitted to coordinator for onward transmission to Chief Executive Officer of the Gambia YMCA on progress report.

Have a good log of Digital studio inventory.

Work hand in hand with coordinator to develop and improve on various training curriculum, new courses that can be introduced and to maximize effective use of the Labs facility. Help to evaluate staff training methods and address deficiency's as need be. As need be help in conducting training in house or customized depending on schedule and demands. Supervise staff and youth volunteers work.

Any other assignment neglected by National General Secretary of the Gambia YMCA or Coordinator Computer Training Centre & Digital Studio.

### Expected Working Time For Volunteers

Monday to Fridays: 8:30am to 5pm (some times volunteers close earlier depending on schedule and sometime depending on work activities at the centre of projects that are expected to be completed we work on Saturdays as need be All public holidays are observed, and the volunteer has the opportunity to join the various computer staff for weekends relaxation and other cultural activities or programs.