

Engineers of the World is involved in the setting up of The *Kilimanjaro International Institute for Telecommunications, Electronics, and Computers* (KIITEC).

The president and founder of this Institute, Mr F. Brochon, explains and justifies its creation as follow :

“ Throughout the last twenty years, the new technologies and more especially micro electronics, micro computers, and telecommunications have developed and increased the gap between industrialized countries and the emerging countries located in Africa.

People living in the latter mentioned countries have demonstrated a perfect adaptation to imported mechanical devices due to their good know how and cleverness. On the contrary, importation of TV sets, cell phones, and personal computers has lead them to insolvable maintenance problems because the national education system favors theoretical knowledge to the prejudice of hands-on training.

The only solution in the absence of adequate maintenance, know-how, tools, components, or spare parts has been to increase importing of new goods from Asia. .

Thus, for example, these countries have had no other options for telecommunications than to invest in new technologies, no standard network being available. So they have taken up a very heavy financial load, completely out of proportion with their financial resources.

The idea was raised to create schools to train maintenance technicians so as to solve this problem. The Foundation obviously seemed to be the right institution to support financially and legally such a project.

So we decided to take up the challenge.

Today the Foundation for Technical Education has been created, and we are ready to teach our know how to young people of these countries.

More than ten expert personalities featuring a large panel of competencies are involved in this project, and our funds are fully available.”

The *Kilimanjaro International Institute for Telecommunications, Electronics, and Computers* (KIITEC) is a technical institute providing to students entry level skills in telecommunications, electronics, and computers related to maintenance and development of cell phones, TV sets, and personal computers.

KIITEC provides entry level technicians for West Tanzania business and industrial needs.

KIITEC gives students a main training program over two years (basic and advanced), and optionally a third year for specialization according to the job opportunities.

Beyond the courses given in Arusha, internship programs in industry and European institutes are planned.

KIITEC gives, in the Arusha Institute, the best high-tech facilities, it also provides hostel accommodation, recreation sports, and health opportunities.

The Institute is located close to Arusha, in a campus area built according to an evolutive project of one-level square buildings, covered by metallic two slope roofs overlaid by Tanzanian thatch.

Each building is about 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> in area, including a square central patio and a two meter wide covered walk. There is only one main gateway per building.

The building plans allow open space laboratories (about 150 m<sup>2</sup> each), a large media center library self-training section (150 m<sup>2</sup>), 80 m<sup>2</sup> lecture classrooms, and facilities for administration, storing, and house keeping.

Basic student groups are about 12 to 16, especially for hands-on training. The lecture groups include two training groups in a class of 24 to 32 students.

The first year "batch" begins with 24 students and may increase to 48 if necessary.

Technical equipments include personal computers (average 1 per student), electronic workshop similar to professional workshops, and computer network intranet/internet.

The main mission of Engineers of the World (IdM) is to contribute to non-industrialised countries development by making available the scientific and technical experience and know-how gathered through its members and networks.

Training and education is the basis of IdM policy : technology and knowledge transfers can only be successful if preceded and accompanied by appropriate training.

IdM participated in several teaching and education projects in Africa, but *the Foundation for Technical Education* project of creating a vocational school in Tanzania is a new and extraordinary experience. IdM joins with enthusiasm the qualified team constituted to support Mr F. Brochon's endeavour, backs the scope and aim of the project and holds the view that the conditions for a success are brought together. The partnership IdM-FTE should be a source of mutual enrichment and benefit.

Moreover, IdM contents that the FTE is a powerful model applicable to countries seeking for a solution to inappropriate training infrastructure and cursus not fitted to local economies requirements.