

OSHUN INDIGENES COMPUTER PROJECT

The Osun Indigenes Organization's (TOIOG) computer project was born out of the organization's vision to make personal computers available to underprivileged secondary school children of Osun state in Nigeria, who otherwise will not have access to computer during their secondary education. Since the program has its focus on the secondary school students, it was piloted in 1999 in three public secondary schools and the State Central Library (the Library) in Osogbo, the capital city of Osun State. Each school and the Library received a set of computer CPU, monitor and printer with strong instruction that they should be made available for the use of the students. The three pilot public schools were:

- Fakunle Major Memorial Grammar School,
- Osogbo Girls High School and
- St. Charles Grammar School.

Two years into this pilot program, TOIOG members conducted on-site inspections of the computers in the schools and the Library. They discovered that none of the computers in the secondary schools were being utilized. This was due to lack of computer literate teachers to operate the computers and teach students. In most cases, the computers were locked up in various secured places outside the school premises, thereby defeating the purpose for which the computers were donated.

On the other hand, TOIOG members were highly impressed with the state of the computer donated to the State Central Library. They found that the Library had a computer literate member of the Nigerian Youth Corps on its staff who was using the only computer available for administrative functions and for conducting computer literacy seminars for the interested members of the public.

Following the discovery of the Library's effective use of the first donated computer, TOIOG members' were convinced that more members of the public, including the local secondary school students in city will benefit from the computers placed in the Library. As a result, a resolution was passed with overwhelming support among members to focus on boosting the computer program at the Library. Fund was immediately raised for this purpose among members and all members contributed generously. In April 2002, TOIOG donated additional two desktop computers, one laptop computer and a laser printer to the Library.

TOIOG plans to continue to provide support for the computer needs of the Library in the future. The proposals currently under consideration include:

- Funding the establishment of a computer room with several personal computers
- Providing Computer Network System
- Providing Internet Access
- Funding the position of a Computer Specialist