

More opportunities for African learners open up

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An amount of US\$10 million (approx. R69 million) has been set aside to increase educational opportunities for African learners over the next five years.

The Coca Cola Africa Foundation (TCCAF) availed funds to expand the educational projects in underserved communities.

While it invests mainly in water, health, entrepreneurship and education, it has recently identified the Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership (DCGEP) as its compatible partner to lead the educational initiatives in the continent.

This follows the DCGEP's track record in establishing sustainable community information centres in underserved schools.

The two organisations will ensure that these funds are channelled to provide resources to schools in nine African countries: Angola, Namibia, Uganda, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Morocco and South Africa.

The resources include television and DVD/VCR players, three years of teacher training, educational television and libraries.

The educational resources and teacher training are estimated to benefit about 70 schools, which would bring the number of assisted students to nearly one million by 2012.

So far, there are 195 resource learning centres established by the DCGEP in over ten years.

The DCGEP is dedicated to reaching across the global information divide with the tools and training to extend the educational television.

Gail Ifshin, an executive director of the DCGEP, said children all over the world are eager to learn, but they lack resources and opportunities.

President of the TCCAF Carole Wainaina said: "We are delighted to partner with DCGEP, enabling this unique organisation to scale up the impact of their innovative, structured approach to enriching student learning in Africa."

"Our partnership with TCCAF will enable us to reach more children in Africa through a programme that has demonstrated its ability to improve learning outcomes, teacher effectiveness, and a community involvement in schools," concluded Ifshin.

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