



June 4th, 2003 | Global Literacy Project, Inc. | P.O. Box 228 | New Brunswick | NJ 08903-0228

A cooperative agreement was signed between the Global Literacy Project and Cook College on Wednesday, June 4, 2003 at 9.00 am. GLP regularly organizes university students to serve as volunteers in different capacities in New Jersey and abroad. The cooperative agreement will bring GLP closer to Cook College students, enhance the college's volunteer program, and also facilitate Cook/NJAES donation of used/discarded educational materials to developing countries to advance scientific literacy. The students will study the educational and cultural systems in developing countries and recommend appropriate educational materials to GLP. Interested students will also have the opportunity to serve as volunteers in New Jersey by assisting with the collection and sorting of used educational materials for shipment abroad.

I. BACKGROUND

The Global Literacy Project, Inc. (GLP) collects, sorts, and ships surplus and discarded books, scientific journals, computers and other educational materials to Africa, the Caribbean and Asia. These materials are to be used in literacy programs and science capacity building.

The Cook/NJAES international programs office may complement GLP's efforts in the process of sending educational materials to international locations (Cook/NJAES) by identifying new clientele that may benefit from GLP activities. Cook/NJAES may also recommend GLP to Cook College students who may be interested in offering volunteer services to support GLP activities.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. Cook/NJAES will provide space (at no additional cost to Cook/NJAES) to GLP for installation of temporary transit storage facilities for computers, books, and other educational materials.
- b. GLP will donate educational materials to international sites that Cook/NJAES may recommend from time to time.



Dr. Adesoji Adelaja, Executive Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and Dean of Cook College (far left) signs MOU of agreement along with Denniston Bonadie, GLP Vice President-Program Development/Chief Operations Officer.

Witnessing the signing is Diana Dade, Global Literacy Project, Inc., Board of Trustees member.

This promises to be an exciting collaboration. In the words of Executive Dean Adelaja:

“Cook College, along with the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and Rutgers Cooperative Extension, make up the land-grant component of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Land-grant institutions receive direct federal, state, and county appropriations to extend the boundaries of traditional colleges and universities to provide mission-oriented, science-based solutions to targeted societal problems and to deliver knowledge and services to the public. In a standard university model, scholars primarily teach and do research. In the Cook College model, our professors teach and do research, but also direct their investigations toward specific high-priority problems facing underserved constituents who cannot afford their own research, but need research-based solutions to effectively function in society”

(<http://www.cooknjaes.rutgers.edu/execdean/default.asp>)

Developing scientific capacity in Nigeria



GLP took the opportunity of this signing to donate a collection of research journals via Cook College to the "Sheda Science and Technology Complex" Abuja, Nigeria—one of the partners that Cook College is already working with in Africa.

After a presentation by GLP Board of Trustees Secretary, Dr. Edward Ramsamy, on the significance of the MOU, Denniston Bonadie of GLP handed over the certificate of donation for the journals valued at several hundred thousand dollars to Dr. Adelaja.

Beginning a new chapter of cooperation



Representatives of Cook College and the Global Literacy Project

(L→ R) Dr. Richard Merrit (Professor of Plant Science, Plant Biology and Pathology, Cook College), Dr. Edward Ramsamy, Mr. Wendel Thomas, Mr. Denniston Bonadie, Dr. Adesoji Adelaja (Dean of Cook College), Dr. Albert Ayene (Coordinator, Cook/NJAES International Programs), Mrs. Diana Dade, Mr. Bill Dade, Dr. Daniel Rossi (Senior Associate Dean for Administration, Cook College)

The key figure that GLP must acknowledge in the road leading up to this agreement is Dr. Albert Ayeni, Coordinator, Cook/NJAES International Programs, who has worked tirelessly as a liaison between both groups to develop and sustain the process.