



Crossing Continents,  
Making a Difference



**C-AFRICA**

**PROSPECTUS 2010**



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## Foreword



*C-Africa* is a student-pioneered Singapore-based independent organisation created in 2007 by a committee of then-Hwa Chong Institution (HCI) students to promote volunteerism in impoverished areas of Africa. In 2007, the committee led a team of fourteen students from HCI and National Junior College (NJC) on a humanitarian trip in collaboration with non-governmental organisations *The Other Side Foundation* and *African Impact* (renamed *African Christian Tours and Safaris*) to far-flung Zambia to refurbish a community school. The following year, twelve HCI students, in conjunction with non-governmental organisation *International Voluntary Headquarters*, went to Kenya's tribal region for a community development project in aid of a primary school (unfortunately, a project in 2009 was called off due to the global H1N1 pandemic scare).

### C-Africa 2010

This year, *C-Africa* is working again with *The Other Side Foundation* for a new community school in Georges Compound, Lusaka, Zambia, that will open in September 2010. If you have the heart and the passion, join us in making a difference to the community and the school as it opens for its first class of students this year. Our objective, as always, is to enhance access and opportunity to education in an impoverished community.



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## **Why Africa? Why Help?**

Africa is the poorest continent on earth. It is held back by a troubled history – from the violent decolonisation of the 1960s to the racial segregation under South Africa's apartheid that ended in the 1990s – that continues to bedevil the present. African countries are also notorious for mismanaging their economies: Zimbabwe's nationalistic land policies, for example, have been blamed for fuelling its runaway inflation, turning Africa's once-promising breadbasket into a basket case. Many African states are also ranked low in human rights, transparency and democracy, thanks to a myriad of cultural, economic and political factors.

The United Nations (UN) is working on it; so are the G8 countries and other industrial nations who have pledged millions upon millions of dollars to Africa. But money alone will not work. It certainly takes more than just cash and government rhetoric to combat the multitude of problems that for decades since the decolonisation of Africa have vexed even the most committed of world leaders. A key phenomenon in international development is the proliferation of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that now form the lifeblood of development in developing countries. And it is sometimes the flexibility of NGOs, which, without the immense bureaucratisation of the larger bodies like the UN and local government agencies, allows them to make changes on the ground *that* more effectively.

*C-Africa* recognises and thus capitalises on this advantage. We know it is pointless, naïve and foolish to even think of solving every single one of Africa's problems with our limited resources and time. That is why our projects are designed in close partnership with registered Africa-based NGOs to leverage on their experience and expertise, and are aimed at enhancing the *education* of the young in poor districts of the country, as we believe that investing in Africa's individuals is the most viable way to harness the potential of the continent.

Activism can go a long way. Many people look at Africa and cynically lament the deplorable state of affairs there. Some will say that since the problem is so massive, there is no point in helping them because it will simply not make any difference. This is wrong. The problem may be huge, but that should not be an excuse for world citizens to turn a blind eye to the unspeakable sufferings there. Ethicists have observed this analogy: if you, living in the comfort of a developed country, are aware of the fact that there are hungry people in Africa but choose to ignore it, you are like a passer-by who ignores the cries of a drowning girl in the pond outside your house; the only difference is that Africa is farther from you than the drowning girl –



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but both are dying. If you recognise this moral position, you should act now. Activism forms the basis for change and renewal everywhere; especially so in the field of poverty and hunger reduction in developing countries, where the ‘silent tsunami’ (of hunger or food shortages) unfolds. *C-Africa* embraces activism for a change in people’s attitudes about developing countries, those in Africa in particular. We hope that you, too, can join us in this cause. We are glad we are not alone – we are part of the global effort underway to alleviate poverty. The Millennium Development Goal can certainly provide a guide. The work should start ***here***.

We hope that in the following pages you will find inspiration to begin work as a student-volunteer in Africa. You will confront a series of problems that challenge both your intellectual and emotional horizons. You may be assaulted by the sights of poverty and brutality. Or you may be humbled by the scale of the problem that affects nearly half of humanity now. In short, your journey to Africa will be exciting, daunting, and provocative. You will abandon old prejudices in favour of new insights; develop views and beliefs based on the experience you will have; and, hopefully, formulate solutions to problems you encounter there.

Again, welcome on board *C-Africa 2010*.





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## **About Us: C-Africa**

We are a committee of students who oversee the independent organisation of *C-Africa*, based in Singapore. *C-Africa* is an autonomous student activities organisation that was founded and began operation in 2007 when fourteen students from Hwa Chong Institution and National Junior College embarked on a humanitarian expedition to Zambia.

*C-Africa* works in close partnership with a number of registered non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Africa, such as *African Impact* (renamed *African Christian Tours and Safaris*) in 2007 (Zimbabwe and Zambia), *The Other Side Foundation* in 2007 – 2008 (Zambia), *International Voluntary Headquarters* in 2008 (Kenya) and the *Maasai Education and Advocacy for Change* in 2008 (Kenya). Each year we liaise with the local NGOs and bring students to countries in Africa to work on community development projects on a manageable and meaningful scale. We especially believe in the power of education. *C-Africa 2007's* main objective was to refurbish Buseko Community School (administered by *The Other Side Foundation*), whereas in 2008 twelve Hwa Chong Institution students went to Kenya's tribal region for a community development project in aid of the Maasai Education and Advocacy for Change School. This year, we are working once again with *The Other Side Foundation* in refurbishing their newly constructed community school located in Georges Compound, Lusaka, Zambia.

*C-Africa's* projects are tailored to suit the competencies of our student-participants. We also design the itinerary so as to increase educational opportunities and chances for meaningful cross-cultural interaction. For instance, we called on the United Nations Development Programme Head Office in Lusaka while we were there in 2007. This time, we are also planning a cultural exchange with the University of Zambia in Lusaka.

Past experiences have shown us that our independent status affords us the flexibility in designing the projects and itineraries. This will certainly be harder to achieve when the project is constrained by the excesses of bureaucratic regimentation that have characterised some of the Overseas Community Involvement Projects we have observed.



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## About Our Partner: *The Other Side Foundation*

This year, *C-Africa* will work again with *The Other Side Foundation*. *The Other Side Foundation*, initiated by Leela Singaram Champ (Singapore citizen), is a non-governmental organisation registered in October 2007 in Valduz, Liechtenstein, by business tycoon and philanthropist Daniel Sigaud, who solely funds all projects. The Foundation addresses at the grassroots level the three most critical issues of education, nutrition, and health, for the underprivileged, focusing mainly on children and juveniles. Its supervisory board comprises Mr Sigaud, Mr Denis Champ and Ms Leela Champ, and council members Dr. Oberhuber, Dr. Furtner, and Dr. Baggio. Currently, they are operators of a project in Africa, sponsors of another in India, and donors in Brazil and Morocco.

Previously, when *C-Africa* worked with *The Other Side Foundation* in 2007, they were running a school housed in a church shelter in Buseko Compound, catering to 220 orphans and vulnerable children. They have since commenced construction of their own community school in October 2009. The pupils, their families, and the staff of *The Other Side Foundation Community School* located at Georges Compound in Lusaka, Zambia, will be this project's direct beneficiaries.

**Blankets To Keep Warm For The Poor In Buseko**

→ The Buseko slums, some 20 km out of Zambia's capital, Lusaka, is one of the poorest parts of the world. Sprawling with make-shift shelters, there is no plumbing, electricity, sanitation and potable water for the people living here.



Social Worker Leela Singaram-Champ distributing the blankets to a Mother Theresa home in Lusaka.

It was to this often forgotten community that we donated 1000 aircraft blankets. The blankets were distributed not only to the slum dwellers, but also to the children from neighbouring shanty towns who attend the free school there.

Some blankets were also given to two Mother Theresa

charities in Lusaka and in the outskirts where many people could not afford blankets. Others who benefitted included an orphanage and a hospital.

SIA Cargo supported the whole process of this donation

and sponsored the air freight of the blankets to Johannesburg, effectively paying for the freight cost, fuel surcharge and administration cost. From Johannesburg, the blankets were then sent to Lusaka.

The charity effort was an

initiative of The Other Side, a programme set up in 2005 and spearheaded by Social Worker Leela Singaram-Champ to help the poor in Buseko in education, health care, provision of medicines and daily needs.

A blanket each to keep warm at last for the children living in the slums of Buseko.

Article in Singapore Airlines' *The Mega Beat*, January – June 2007, about their donation of fire-retardant aircraft blankets to the Buseko community and two Mother Theresa charities in Zambia. The charity effort was an initiative of *The Other Side Foundation*



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## **Learning Objectives**

### **1. Intellect:**

To engage the participants in the intellectual enterprise of problem-solving in the context of a poverty-stricken community confronted with a myriad of challenges in areas of healthcare, education, economy and governance.

### **2. Compassion:**

To inculcate in the participants the virtue of compassion and empathy for the poor; to cultivate respect and sensitivity for people of diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

### **3. Leadership:**

To hone the participants' moral instincts, leadership, and sense of accountability in a project that can potentially have a powerful impact on the community it serves; the challenging nature of project preparation will also develop the participants' self-reliance, initiative and strength of character.

### **4. Public Service:**

To inspire in the participants a strong sense of public service with a global perspective; to develop in them the sympathy for and protection of the weak.



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## C-Africa 2010 Trip Details

<p><b>Date and duration:</b></p>	<p><b>First two weeks of December 2010</b>, after term ends for most schools. We will be back before Christmas.</p>
<p><b>Estimated cost:</b></p>	<p>Around <b>SGD 2,600</b>, including every aspect of the trip from flight charges, airport taxes, lodging, all meals, and transport.</p> <p>If you have a limited budget, but are extremely interested in participating, please make a note in the application form. The more information we have about your individual case the better we can decide on how to allocate resources; however do note that we do not guarantee subsidies at the moment.</p>
<p><b>Destination:</b></p>	<p><b>Lusaka, Zambia's capital city.</b> Zambia is located in Central-Eastern Africa.</p> <div data-bbox="680 1299 1227 1665" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has described the country thus, “A colonial legacy, mismanagement, debt and disease are said to have contributed to the country’s tribulations.”</p>





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	<p>You may want to visit the BBC, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) World Factbook, or the Foreign and Commonwealth Office online and search Zambia for a comprehensive country profile.</p>
<p><b>Partner Organisation and Beneficiaries</b></p>	<p>This year, C-Africa will work again with <b><i>The Other Side Foundation</i></b>. The Other Side Foundation, initiated by Leela Singaram Champ (Singapore citizen), is a non-governmental organisation registered in October 2007 in Valduz, Liechtenstein, by business tycoon and philanthropist Daniel Sigaud, who solely funds all projects. The Foundation addresses at the grassroots level the three most critical issues of education, nutrition, and health, for the underprivileged, focusing mainly on children and juveniles. Its supervisory board comprises Mr Sigaud, Mr Denis Champ and Ms Leela Champ, and council members Dr. Oberhuber, Dr. Furtner, and Dr. Baggio. Currently, they are operators of a project in Africa, sponsors of another in India, and donors in Brazil and Morocco.</p> <p>Previously, when <i>C-Africa</i> worked with <i>The Other Side Foundation</i> in 2007, they were running a school housed in a church shelter in Buseko Compound, catering to 220 orphans and vulnerable children. They have since commenced construction of their own community school in October 2009.</p> <p><b>The pupils, their families, and the staff of <i>The Other Side Foundation Community School</i> located at Georges Compound in Lusaka, Zambia, will be this project's direct beneficiaries.</b></p>



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## Project Objectives

Organising **fund-raising and book-collection drives** in Singapore

- This marks the preparatory stage of the project which all members will be involved in
- This stage includes fundraising and publicity campaigns to attract donors for the project



*C-Africa 2007* – cataloguing books collected for the library

Establishing a **bursary scheme** for secondary education aimed at pupils in the community school

- Providing assistance to needy and deserving students for a five-year secondary school education (grades 8 – 12), culminating in 'O' level qualifications
- A long-term weapon to combat poverty through emphasising the importance of education by grooming substantial numbers of secondary-educated youths and increasing educational opportunities in the community
- The 'adopt-a-child' model will be used – following the precedence of leading NGOs and UNICEF



*C-Africa 2007* – pupils of Buseko School



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#### Conducting **workshops** for the school's pupils

- This is the heart and soul of the project – meaningful, sincere interactions with our direct beneficiaries. Past experiences show that this part of the project commands significant moral satisfaction on the part of the volunteers.
- Such interactions will form bonds between participants and the pupils, fostering cross-cultural understanding and communication
- The workshops also aim to enhance the pupils' life-skills through a series of planned activities such as art and craft projects, sports and games, story-telling, health and safety talks, etc.



*C-Africa 2007* – pupils racing through an obstacle course

#### Setting up of **libraries** in community schools

- Providing English-language reading materials to schools with chronic shortage of resources
- Training local teachers to utilise and maintain the libraries properly and efficiently
- Providing advanced reading materials (e.g. news magazines such as *Newsweek* and *National Geographic*) – useful for teachers who value academic self-enrichment



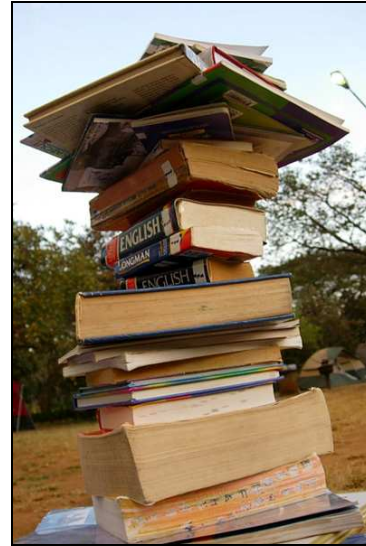
*C-Africa 2007* – completed library



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Providing **textbooks and stationery** to community schools

- Directly improving the quality of education by alleviating shortages in essential educational resources and stationery such as textbooks, dictionaries, and other resource materials
- Bringing about a lasting positive impact to the school children who will have their own textbooks which can be passed down year after year



*C-Africa 2007 – educational material*

Painting **murals** on both the interior and exterior of the school

- Brightening up the school environment to inspire and motivate pupils to continue coming to school
- A permanent imprimatur of our project on the walls of the school





*C-Africa 2007 – team members and Ms Leela Champ posing in front of the completed mural*



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## Key Features of Itinerary 2010

<p><b>Visit to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Head Office in Lusaka</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction to the work of the UNDP in Zambia</li><li>• Discussion of our project with UN officials</li><li>• Exchange of views on hot-button issues such as poverty and gender discrimination in Africa</li></ul> <p>Please note, however, that this programme is subject entirely to the UNDP's discretion.</p>	
<p><b>University Exchange</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brief exchange (1 – 2 days) with the University of Zambia</li><li>• Main aim – promote cultural understanding between students from Singapore and Zambia</li></ul> <p>Please note, however, that this programme is subject entirely to the University of Zambia's discretion.</p>	





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### Post-project Recreational Activities

If you have ever romanticised Africa as the land of the wild, where the King of the Jungle calls, you won't be disappointed. Here, the wildlife is stunningly beautiful, with vast expanses of savannah where lions, leopards, elephants, buffaloes and rhinos (the Big Five) roam. You will have the chance of visiting the safaris and wildlife reserves, but they will of course be subject to price and weather conditions.



*C-Africa 2007* – a memento photograph with the pupils, team members, and Ms Leela Champ



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PHOTO COURTESY OF WAHNEema

**NO PICNIC:** Hwa Chong Institution students with schoolchildren in the Buseko slum in Lusaka, Zambia. The Singapore youths raised funds to help provide proper sanitation at a school for HIV-positive kids.

## They spent their holidays helping HIV-positive kids

BY BAIY SHI CHEN

WHEN Kwan Ping Kan and 13 other Hwa Chong Institution students wanted to go to Africa, reservations were expressed all around.

The school felt it could be dangerous because of the political problems there, their parents were worried that they were too young, while their peers could not understand why they would want to spend their June holidays working in a dirty slum.

But Ping Kan, 18, persevered. He had travelled alone to Zimbabwe in November last year and had fallen in love with Africa.

His resolve was strengthened further when, on Feb 4 this year, he and the others in his group read a Straits Times report about a 53-year-old Singaporean woman who had set up a school for HIV-positive children in the Buseko slum in Lusaka, Zambia.

They sent her an e-mail, saying they wanted to help.

But even Mrs Leela Srigarani

Chang had her doubts initially: "I did not know what a group of teenagers from Singapore wanted to do in Africa."

However, she was won over by their enthusiasm and told them that the school needed a library and a proper sanitation system.

The students then got their parents to agree and the school to allow them to raise funds.

The money they collected – from efforts such as selling bubble tea – helped fund the school's sanitation system. Their tickets to Zambia and other expenses were paid for by their parents.

They also conducted a book donation drive for the school's library.

Their trip became known as Project C-Africa – "C" referring to "See" and "Care".

During their two weeks in Africa last month, the students threw themselves into their work, interacting freely with the HIV-positive kids, playing with them and helping them with lessons.

Said Benjamin Poh, 17: "I initially worried, but when I want to help a child, you just let that be it HIV-positive."

It was not a picnic, though. They had to sleep in tents despite chilly temperatures and to rough it out.

Moreover, the terrible life conditions of the people living the slum moved them deeply.

At Kelly Shia, 17, recounts saw a child, about three years old, sitting on the ground and cough in fits who did not appear to look after by anyone.

Another disclaimer: A bag of 100 T-shirts they had taken for children went missing during journey.

However, despite all this, it all worthwhile, the students are adding that they hope to continue what they have started.

Said Ping Kan, who is keen pursue a future in humanitarian and peacekeeping work: doesn't make sense to stop now.

For more information, e-mail [c-africa@hotmail.com](mailto:c-africa@hotmail.com)

C-Africa 2007 – the project as reported by *The Straits Times*, July 2007

(Please note, however, that the headlines are misleading and sensationalised by the reporter – not all of the pupils of Buseko School were HIV-positive)



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“I believe that, as long as there is plenty,  
poverty is evil.”

– Robert Kennedy

Please indicate your interest and participation level in the **application form** and email us at [team.cafrica@gmail.com](mailto:team.cafrica@gmail.com) (soft copy) or return it to your respective C-Africa representative (hard copy).

For additional information, please write to [team.cafrica@gmail.com](mailto:team.cafrica@gmail.com)



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**Join us now. Be a volunteer for C-Africa 2010.**