SP.772: Internet Technology in Local and Global Communities

March 7, 2005
Lecture 1: Introduction
Presentation Outline

• Introduction To MIT-AITI
  - MIT-AITI Movie Clip
• Summer 2005 AITI Program
  - SP.772 – General Information
• Meet and Greet
  - Meet your 2005 teams!
What is MIT-AITI?

• A student-run initiative at MIT
• MIT students sent to Africa during summer to teach IT-related classes to university students
• Goals:
  i. Increase utilization of IT in African schools
  ii. Develop a long-term technical and cultural relationship between MIT and African institutions
  iii. Provide MIT students with community service opportunities for their strong engineering backgrounds
Implementation

• The courses are taught by MIT students who are selected from all disciplines in MIT.

• The courses are offered over the summer for a period of 6 weeks.

• **High demand at MIT:** receive over 100 applications each year

• **High demand in Africa:** waiting list for class
Program content

• AITI offers courses in:
  - Java,
  - Java Server Pages (JSP),
  - LINUX (open source operating system), and
  - Entrepreneurship

• Students take exams, implement community-based final projects, and even learn independently (OCW model).
Other Activities

LEGO Mindstorms
  • Introduce engineering principles to African students through the use of Legos (MIT approach)

AIDS awareness initiative in Ghana
  • Brochures, open discussions

Talks on how to apply to US colleges
  • What exams to take, how to find on-line resources

Inspire: You can be successful; You can empower yourself and change the future; being proactive
The “Four Seasons”

Fall: Off-season Projects

Winter/Spring: Selection Preparation

Summer: Execute Program

Summer/Fall: Evaluation De-briefing
## History of MIT-AITI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>SCHOOLS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000-2001</td>
<td>KENYA</td>
<td>Strathmore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>KENYA</td>
<td>Strathmore</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GHANA</td>
<td>Achimota, Presec</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003-2004</td>
<td>KENYA</td>
<td>Alliance, Strathmore</td>
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<td>GHANA</td>
<td>Legon, Presec</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ETHIOPIA</td>
<td>Addis Ababa Univ.</td>
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## AITI Metrics 2000-2004

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of MIT students</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16*</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of African Students</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of African Teachers</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Impact: MIT

• **Unique** experience for MIT students in a new culture

• Foster the concepts of **community service** and **group collaboration** by utilizing technical background

• Enhance MIT’s involvement in providing **novel solutions** for **bridging the gap** between developed and developing nations

• Increase **awareness** of MIT community about Africa
Impact: Africa

• Over the last five years AITI has sent over 50 MIT students and taught over 750 students.

• Introduced cutting edge technology (eg. JSP), and promote open software (eg. Linux)

• Students got jobs in local IT industry

• Inspired African universities to actively seek collaboration with US universities
Impact

• MIT students enable African students with the latest advanced IT tools

• African students enrich MIT students with a deep understanding of unique cultures and communities

• A *new wave* where students in different continents *empower each other*
Program Sponsorship

Mentors:
- Professor Paul Gray
- Professor Richard Larson

Foundations
- Engineering Information Foundation (EIF)
- Lord Foundation

Government
- Educational Development Center (EDC)

Companies
- Africa Online, 3Com

Private
- Kate and Baty Gordon, Professor Paul Gray
Support from MIT

Office of the president and the provost
Office of the chancellor
Graduate Students Office
Edgerton Center
LINC – Professor Richard Larson
Public Service Center (PSC)
Academic Computing Service
Summer 2005 Program
Alternate Track

• Also, non-AITI participants have opted to enroll in the class!

• These students will take part in many of the same activities as AITI participants, but there will be differences.

• If you are a non-AITI participant in this class, please see me after the lecture.
Summer 2005 Program

SP.772 has three main components:

1) **AITI Preparation**

To prepare the MIT-AITI Summer 2005 participants for their upcoming experiences in Africa. Through this class, the participants will resolve all logistical issues and other matters that arise when traveling abroad.
SP.772 has three main components:

2) **Guest Lecture Series**

To expose the participants to the contemporary African issues that relate to the AITI program. This includes presentations by guest lectures that will focus on topics ranging from cross-cultural communication to the needs for technology in Africa.
SP.772 has three main components:

3) Learning/Teaching Java

To benefit the local community by allowing the participants to teach the AITI Java curriculum to community college students through the MIT Service Learning program. The students attending the class will travel to MIT for three hours on Saturdays, and some seminar participants will run this course as preparation for teaching in Africa. Other participants will use this time to solidify their knowledge of Java.
SP.772 Specifics

• Attendance Policy – While we understand that there are scheduling conflicts, we expect and require that you will attend all possible sessions!

• Grading – This class is Pass/No Record, and the majority of the grade will be based on the Saturday-component (i.e. learning/teaching).

• We will take feedback from you every 2 weeks!
Final Thoughts

Final thoughts: The impact of AITI…

We will now break up and meet our teams for the 2005 program!!!