



# African Gifted Foundation

Issue 4

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Welcome to the fourth update from the African Gifted Foundation

## An amazing experience at Kampala 2011

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of January, 2011 twenty five young people from across Africa met on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the Computing & Information Technology building at Makerere University for the first ever Academy of the African Gifted Foundation.

We did it!



### From Financial Markets...

Dr Nick Motson of Cass Business School kicked off with a fast paced, high energy module on financial markets that covered everything from the role of banks and stock exchanges, the time value of money to valuing stocks and shares and much more. The students



‘Kampala 2011 represents the culmination of several years of effort and the start of an amazing journey. I am proud to have shared it with such a wonderful group of people’

*Tom Ilube, Founder & Chairman, African Gifted Foundation*



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were exposed to mathematics of financial markets more commonly taught on undergraduate courses and engaged in an exciting and stressful online trading game with phones ringing and bid and offer prices being quoted continuously.

A visit to the Uganda Securities Exchange helped bring the course to life as the Chief Executive and brokers explained what they actually do day in day out and answered a stream of questions.



### ...To Codes and Ciphers

Victoria Worpole and David Cope from Bletchley Park delivered a fascinating session on codes and ciphers. The students were completely absorbed by the challenges that were set for them and various approaches to solving these problems, particularly in teams.

As one participant put it “I really enjoyed figuring things out in our groups. It was awesome when you finally see something coming together.”

### Reach for the Stars

Finally Dr Simon Roberts from the University of Nottingham and the UK Space Academy took the students to the outer reaches of the universe with a unique module on space.

This was the first time that space science has been taught at Makerere University in any form and as well as capturing the imagination of our participants it caught the attention of the national press and featured on several radio and newspaper articles.



As well as the excitement of shooting paper rockets high in to the air (and sometimes in to trees!) and the maths involved in calculating the circumference of the earth, this course made participants think about the earth itself. One young man said “I could use this information to teach people how to conserve mother planet earth because it’s the only planet that supports life”



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## Outside the classroom

The extracurricular activities provided great opportunities for fun, entertainment and additional learning experiences.



Harold Wanyama, East African Chess Champion put the students under pressure when he challenged all twenty five of them to a simultaneous chess match – and won!

A visit to the Mara Foundation to hear from Ashish Thakkar, set to be East Africa's first space traveller aboard Virgin Galactic made talk of space flights on the space module feel very real.

Tours of the huge Kakira Sugar Factory, part of the Madhvani Group and supplier of around 50% of Uganda's total sugar needs was followed by a delightful lunch at their guest house. A tour of the state of the art Nile Brewery factory with its robot arms lifting hundreds of crates around illustrated the power of technology in action. The staff vs students football match did not go too well for the staff, despite Archie's coaching and mysterious talk of "triangles". Better luck next year, staff!

Finally, after a tremendous ten days of exhausting activity, we came together for the closing ceremony with a speech from the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University and certificates presented by Professor Paul Mugambi, President Uganda National Academy of Sciences. Tom Ilube delivered a powerful speech but it was easily overshadowed by heartfelt words expressed by students that literally brought tears to the audience's eyes.

## What next?

Within a few days the Online Hub will be opened up enabling our twenty five students from Uganda, Botswana and Nigeria to continue engaging with each other across the continent and with tutors in the UK. We will stay with these students as they progress towards university and beyond.

Meanwhile planning has already started for next year's event. We are aiming for a bigger group with more countries involved. We will build on what went well this year and learn from things that need to change to make it even better.

But these twenty five gifted young people will always be the FIRST. They will always hold a special position in African Gifted Foundation's history and in our hearts.

The last word should go to one of our students. He, along with several others, says "It has been a life changing experience". I couldn't agree more.



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## Thank You

There are so many people to thank for making Kampala 2011 such a success that the danger is by trying to list all, I miss someone out. If I have, I take full responsibility and apologise in advance.

Our hosts, Makerere University and in particular the Department of Mathematics and Dr John Mango and his team were magnificent. The tutors mentioned above and the organisations that they represent, Cass Business School, Bletchley Park & the Space Academy. Course Director Dr Michael Gabbay of Kings College, London and Director of The International Federation for Computational Logic and all the helpers from the UK, USA and Uganda including Iona, Georgie, Marvin, Daphne, Joseph, Happy, Zeridah and Raymond, ably led by Archie Matheson, AGF UK Co-ordinator. Our country co-ordinators/teachers including Mr Makki from John Mackenzie School, Botswana, Mr Iroye from Day Waterman College, Nigeria and Hajat Sengendo from Nabisunsa School, Uganda.

The Uganda Securities Exchange, the Mara Foundation, Kakira Sugar/Madhvani Group and Nile Breweries all lent excellent support and made the event extra special.

Finally, none of this would have happened without the support of our sponsors, Guaranty Trust Bank led by CEO Tayo Aderinokun, Miles Morland, Chairman of Blakeney Management and another major donor who prefers to remain anonymous. Thank you all.

Tom Ilube  
Chairman, African Gifted Foundation

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