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Establishment of a Business Training Center in Luanda, Republic of Angola
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Summary:

The Angola Educational Assistance Fund (AEAF), a nonprofit organization based in Boston, has formed an alliance with the Catholic University of Luanda (UCAN), Angola, with Boston College (BC), and with the US Angola Chamber of Commerce (USACC), to establish a Business Training Center in the city of Luanda, Angola.

The essential goal of the Center is to prepare Angolans with basic and advanced business skills to drive productivity and economic growth. Over the past few years, the Catholic University of Angola has organized a number of professional training classes for private sector companies and teachers of schools in Luanda. The classes offered included Information and Communication Technology courses at various levels, and English as a Second Language programs.

The Center will provide a formalized framework to expand these activities. It will use a higher education partnership and a network of concerned private sector companies to strengthen the Catholic University's ability to link with small and medium enterprises to foster economic growth and community development.

A particular emphasis will be given to addressing the professional training requirements of women. The Center will openly encourage women's enrollment and will include specific programs for women in its curriculum.

Description:

Angola is slowly moving toward a peaceful future after years of devastating civil war. One of the biggest challenges ahead is the rebuilding of the country's post-war economy. Meeting immediate human needs is a necessary current focus, but belief in a recovered and thriving Angola requires attention to long-term needs as well, including the possibility for all to have access to professional training at various levels of competencies. In Angola – like elsewhere - economic growth demands the creation of a productive and skilled workforce.

In response to this situation, the Angola Educational Assistance Fund and the Catholic University of Angola have taken the first steps toward the creation of a Business Training Center, to be established in Luanda. The Center will serve the needs for conventional access to professional training, and - by allowing many to acquire basic and advanced job skills - it is expected to make an important contribution in building a better future for the Angolan people.

In order to ensure the success of this initiative, the Angola Educational Assistance Fund and the Catholic University of Luanda, Angola, have formed an alliance with the Business School at Boston College (BC), and with the US Angola Chamber of Commerce (USACC). Each partner will contribute to the project in a specific capacity, thus ensuring that each component of the project will be competently and effectively addressed.

Project focus:

The Business Training Center will be the first institution of its kind to be established in Luanda. The goal of the Center is to offer professional and business training at various levels to a target group that includes:

- ⇒ Unskilled and unemployed people of different ages searching to better their opportunities in an expanding economy;
- ⇒ People employed looking to update their expertise or acquire new skills;
- ⇒ Employees of national and international companies furthering their education;
- ⇒ Start-up business owners;
- ⇒ Small business owners.

A particular attention will be given both to the recruitment of women attendance, and to programs specifically designed for developing women's skills. Initially, the target will be to reach 50 people with a growth rate of at least 100% each year for five years thereafter.

The list of classes that the Business Training Center plans to offer includes:

- ⇒ Basic office skills;
- ⇒ Basic business skills;
- ⇒ Accounting, Financial Management, Human Resources;
- ⇒ Information and Communication Technology at various levels (office automation network, web, multimedia, etc);
- ⇒ Program/Project Management;

- ⇒ English as a Second Language;
- ⇒ Management.

The Center will work with companies from the private sector and other interested organizations in order to appropriately expand the offering of classes.

Strategy and Objectives:

In the course of 2003 the alliance has three major goals:

- ⇒ De-facto establishment of the Center within the structure of the Catholic University in Luanda;
- ⇒ Development of a comprehensive curriculum and schedule of classes;
- ⇒ Delivery of the first round of classes to 50 participants.

The Catholic University will host the Center within its campus facilities in the center of the city of Luanda. Office space will be allocated for the staff and the administrative activities of the Center. Educational activities will make use of the University infrastructure, including both its conventional and computer equipped classrooms. Students of the Business Training Center will have access to the University's conference facilities, library, wireless Internet, cafeteria, etc.

Partners in the alliance:

Angola Educational Assistance Fund (AEAF)

The AEAF (<http://www.aeaf.org>) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Boston. It was created in 1996 by Citizens Energy (<http://www.citizensenergy.com/>), in order to promote higher standard of academic education in Angola through the establishment of a Catholic University. AEAF is expected to contribute in the following areas: program management, logistics, fundraising, and financial support.

Catholic University of Angola (UCAN)

The Catholic University (<http://www.ucan.edu/>) is the first non-governmental university in Angola. It is based in Luanda and has been operating since 1999. It currently has a Department of Law, a Department of Economics and Management, and a Department of Computer Engineering, with future plans to expand its courses to other areas. Its mission is to provide human, academic and professional education to the Angolan people. As an open university, it is ruled by principles of absolute liberty of access, regardless of race, gender, religion and social and economic conditions, with the only limits being those deriving from available space and academic selection criteria. UCAN will contribute in the following critical areas: faculty, staffing, logistics, space allocation, and financial support.¹

¹ Over the past few years, AEAF and UCAN have successfully collaborated on a wide variety of projects. Initially, AEAF contributed \$400,000 to the refurbishment of a building designated to host the Catholic University. Since then, the focus has been on improving technical capacity at UCAN. For example, AEAF established a state of the art computer network with over 200

Boston College (BC)

Founded in 1863, Boston College (<http://www.bc.edu/>) is one of the oldest Jesuit, Catholic universities in the United States. Boston College confers more than 3,800 degrees annually in more than 50 fields of study through 11 schools and colleges. Its student body represents all states and 95 countries.

The Carroll School of Management offers undergraduate and graduate management education to meet the needs of students interested in business. The Lynch School of Education endeavors to improve the human condition through education and also offers undergraduate and graduate programs. The role of BC in the alliance will be focused on the development of the Business Training Center curriculum, and on the selection of the faculty. It will also ensure the highest standard of educational programs, while providing access to international higher education and networking.

US Angola Chamber of Commerce (USACC)

Founded in 1990, the U.S. Angola Chamber of Commerce (<http://www.us-angola.org/>) is a non-profit membership organization with a mandate to broaden U.S. and Angolan business opportunities. With offices in Washington and Luanda, the chamber has 75 member organizations that are united in promoting trade and investment between the U.S. and Angola. The chamber, together with various partners, holds yearly trade missions to Angola, policy seminars, briefings and other events that bring together members and other interested individuals who work with and in Angola. The US Angola Chamber of Commerce will promote the activities of the Business Training Center among its member base of US and Angolan companies, while providing valuable feedback in terms of the educational content offering and needs.

Sustainability:

The Business Training Center will achieve sustainability by offering fee-based classes. This will be particularly attractive for private sector companies seeking to educate their workforce. Another source of funding will derive from a scholarship program based on a model successfully implemented at UCAN, allowing programs to be offered at a subsidized cost or at no cost at all, pending financial needs of students or the institution they represent.

personal computers, several computer classrooms, Internet public access areas, and a wireless link to Ebonet, a local Internet Service Provider (ISP), allowing a broadband permanent Internet connection. These activities have greatly enhanced the Catholic University educational objectives as well as its various academic activities. AEAF has also conducted a review of the university accounting practices and assisted with the implementation of the ensuing recommendations.

Support from GDA/USAID:

The alliance requests the financial support of GDA/USAID in the amount of \$120,000 to establish the Business Training Center in Luanda and to carry out the initial educational activities. This phase is expected to last until the end of 2003. The requested amount is reflected in the following operational budget:

2003 REVENUES:

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS	
AEAF	\$60,000
UCAN	\$60,000
GDA/USAID	\$120,000
<u>TOTAL REVENUES</u>	<u>\$240,000</u>

2003 EXPENSES:

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT (*)	
AEAF	(\$40,000)
UCAN	(\$40,000)
CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT (*)	
AEAF	(\$20,000)
UCAN	(\$20,000)
BOSTON COLLEGE	(\$40,000)
USACC	(\$10,000)
INFRASTRUCTURE (**)	
UCAN	(\$40,000)
TRAVEL (***)	
AEAF	(\$10,000)
UCAN	(\$10,000)
BOSTON COLLEGE	(\$10,000)
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>(\$240,000)</u>

(*) Cost estimate is based on number of days per staff / consultant / faculty at an average rate of \$400/day

(**) Cost estimate for office equipment, furniture, occupancy cost, classrooms rent, etc.

(***) Cost estimate is based on the number of 2 week long travel for 1 person to/from USA/Angola at \$5000 incl. air/lodging/meals