



## First TechBridgeWorld Interactive Event Big Success

On December 6, 2007, the Carnegie Mellon community experienced the first-ever TechBridgeWorld Interactive event, which featured several TechBridgeWorld projects being implemented in developing communities around the globe. Over 150 guests learned about potential projects and had the opportunity to try out technology developed by students and faculty. Guests enjoyed international food and music and many walked away with TechBridgeWorld prizes and giveaways. We look forward to making this an annual event!



## Doha Update!

The Technology and Global Development course was launched in Fall 2007 at Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar. Special thanks to the faculty instructors and to Yonina Cooper, Kevin Lamb, and Iliano Cervesato for facilitating the course in Doha.

M. Bernardine Dias and Joe Mertz are based in Doha for Spring 2008. In addition to their research work, they are co-teaching our Technology Consulting in the Community course for the first time at Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar. The list of TCinC partners includes Reach Out to Asia (ROTA), Qatar Charity, The American School of Doha, The Sri Lankan School - Stafford International, Qatar Natural History Group, The Al-Noor Institute for the Blind, and NeoMotion.

TechBridgeWorld undergraduate research is expanding! Cherie Clark-Moore from ROTA and Aysha Siddique from Carnegie Mellon University Qatar (CMU-Q) have been awarded a grant through the Qatar National Research Fund's Undergraduate Research Experience Program. Their year-long project will create a needs assessment plan and recommend computing-enhanced education solutions related to ROTA's school building program in Cambodia. CMU-Q student Shakir Hussain also recently joined this project to investigate ways in which technology can be used to enhance income generation in Cambodia.

## Carnegie Mellon University Wins Bid to Host ICTD 2009

Carnegie Mellon University has won the bid to host the third IEEE/ACM International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD) conference in Doha, Qatar in Spring 2009! ICTD is the premiere conference for the subject area of innovating technology accessible and relevant to developing communities. We hope to see as many of you as possible at ICTD 2009!

## Two New Research Grants Awarded to TechBridgeWorld!

The Qatar National Research Fund awarded its first strategic priority research grants this year. M. Bernardine Dias was awarded two three-year grants to support projects related to assistive technology and disaster response.

**Thank you for your continued interest in TechBridgeWorld projects!**  
**If you would like to learn more about any of our activities please contact us:**

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## TechBridgeWorld Collaborates with PSVP and SIFE to host Poverty Simulation

TechBridgeWorld conducted another Poverty Simulation at Carnegie Mellon in collaboration with PSVP (Pittsburgh Social Venture Partners) and SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise). The simulation was held on November 1st and was an event of the 2007 International Festival.

Close to 50 Carnegie Mellon students, faculty, and staff participated. Participants took on roles of different families facing poverty or as organizational staff providing resources to families in need. Following the simulation, participants partook in an engaging discussion about the difficulties families face when living in poverty. After the discussion, participants left with ideas and ways to get involved.

For more information about the Poverty Simulation, please visit:

<http://www.techbridgeworld.org/povertysimulation>.



## Continued Research in 2008...

Our longer term research with the Adaptive Braille Writing Tutor project and Project Kané are continuing through 2008. The Adaptive Braille Writing Tutor project received media coverage in 2007 which has led to several new potential partnerships. New versions of the hardware and software have been built and there is continued enthusiasm from our partners at the Mathru School for the Blind near Bangalore, India as well as other schools for the blind around the world.

Project Kané based in Accra, Ghana continues to explore the effectiveness of the Project LISTEN reading tutor in assisting children with improving their English literacy. Our research continues in collaboration with the Kofi Annan Centre for Excellence in ICT and the project work is sponsored by UNESCO.

## Conference Participation

### Emerging Technologies Conference at MIT

Cambridge, MA | September 25, 2007

Panel Presentation, "The Global Picture", Women in Technology Workshop, M. Bernardine Dias

### Grace Hopper Pre-Conference Event

Orlando, FL | October 17, 2007

Panel Presentation, TechLeaders for Social Innovators Workshop, M. Bernardine Dias

Co-Chair, TechLeaders for Social Innovators Workshop, M. Bernardine Dias

### Harvard Business School Cyberposium

Cambridge, MA | November 10, 2007

Panel Presentation, "Innovation in Emerging Economies", M. Bernardine Dias

### IEEE/ACM International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development

Bangalore, India | December 15-16, 2007

Paper, "Iterative Design of A Braille Writing Tutor", Tom Lauwers, Nidhi Kalra, M. Bernardine Dias, Daniel Dewey, and Tom Stepleton

Poster Paper, "Community Radio for Development in South Asia: A 'Sustainability Study'", Faheem Hussain and Rahul Tongia

### Pacific Telecommunications Council Conference

Honolulu, Hawaii | January 13-16, 2008

Paper, "Building Human Technical Capacity in Government Ministries", ICT for Development: New Applications for Inclusion, Joe Mertz and Sarah Belousov

## Welcome New Advisory Board Member!

We are excited to welcome Robotics Professor Jack Mostow to our advisory board. He has been a supporter of TechBridgeWorld for several years, especially on research involving the Project LISTEN Reading Tutor, and as a V-Unit project advisor.

**The TechBridgeWorld team hopes that your 2008 year is off to a great start!  
Please contact us with your ideas for potential projects, partners, and sponsors.**