



TECHBRIDGEWORLD

# Information & Communication Technologies for Development





**ICTD** | About TechBridgeWorld | Get Involved!

# ICTD/ICT4D – What is it?

- ❖ Information Communication Technology for Development
- ❖ Applying technology tools to sustainably address challenges in developing regions
- ❖ Defining the role of technology in sustainable development
- ❖ Computing technology accessible and relevant to the base of the economic pyramid



# Some ICTD Challenges

- ❖ What will a computer that is relevant and accessible to developing regions look like?
- ❖ Can mobile phones provide income generation and facilitate remote medical diagnosis?
- ❖ How can user interfaces be designed so that they are accessible to the semi-literate and illiterate?
- ❖ What role can computers play in sustainable education for the rural poor?
- ❖ What new devices can we build to encourage literacy among visually impaired children living in poverty?



# ICTD Characteristics

- ❖ Working in multidisciplinary teams
- ❖ Thinking outside the box
- ❖ Challenging many of our basic assumptions
- ❖ Re-thinking the form and function of the computer and computing applications
- ❖ Not reinventing the wheel and not limiting options to obsolete technology in the developed world
- ❖ Understanding problems and cultures before creating and launching solutions
- ❖ Local partners and field experience
- ❖ Focus on sustainability and empowerment



# ICTD 2009: <http://ictd2009.org>



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

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April 17 - 19, 2009  
Carnegie Mellon Qatar  
Education City, Doha, Qatar

The [Call for Panels](#) and [Call for Workshops](#) have been released.



## LATEST NEWS

### *Call for Panels released*

October 1, 2008

### *Call for Workshops released*

September 24, 2008

### *Submission Directions released*

August 25, 2008

### *Call for Papers released*

May 8, 2008



**Keynote Speaker**  
William (Bill) H. Gates  
III, Chairman of  
Microsoft Corporation.



**Venue**  
Carnegie Mellon Qatar  
offers students in the  
Gulf access to one of



**Organizers**  
Program Committee  
Co-Chair  
*Richard Heeks, Ph.D.*



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# M. Bernardine Dias

- Assistant Research Professor, Robotics Institute
  - Founder and Director, TechBridgeWorld
  - Co-Founder and Co-Director, rCommerce Lab
- Education
  - Ph.D. and M.S., Robotics, Carnegie Mellon
  - B.A., Liberal Arts, Hamilton College
- Background
  - Born and raised in Sri Lanka



# We start by...



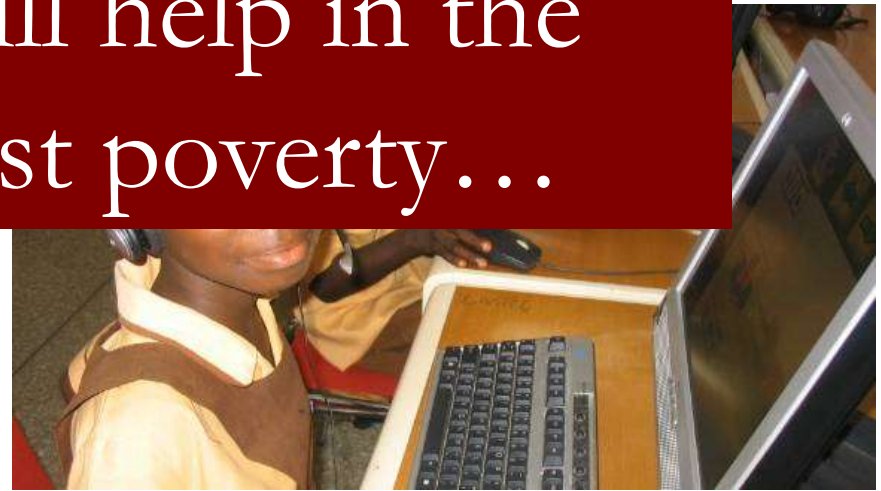
...getting to know them, so we can learn to create technology of impact to them...



# With the goal that...



...some day the technology  
we create will help in the  
battle against poverty...



# And for sustainability...



...some of them will  
become technologists...  
our students and colleagues



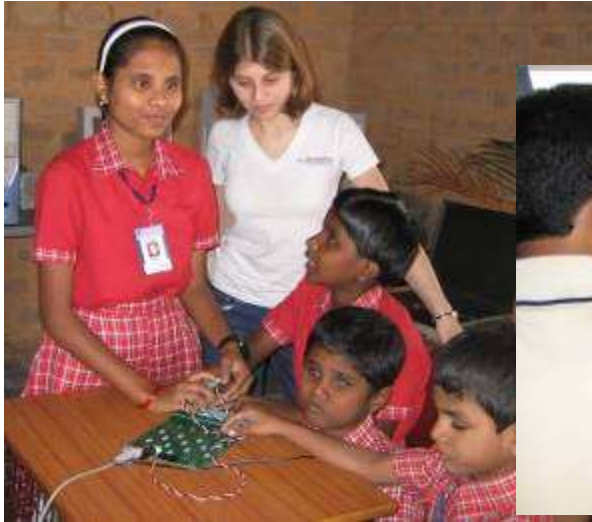
# We take first steps today...



...by giving our students opportunities to work on these non-traditional applications of technology!



# TechBridgeWorld



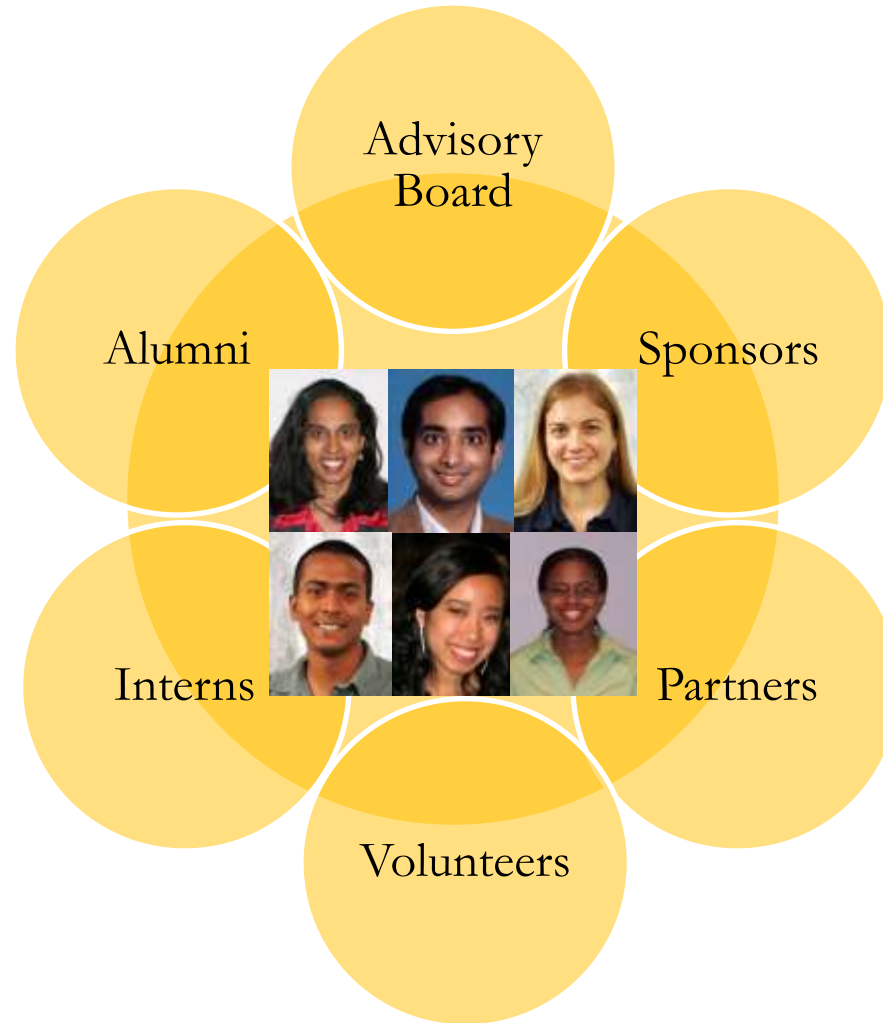
# TechBridgeWorld

We are a research group at Carnegie Mellon University spanning education, research, development, deployment, and outreach. We are dedicated to defining the role of technology in sustainable global development.

**Carnegie Mellon**



# Our Team



# Impact



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# Programs



Adaptive Braille Writing Tutor



Project Kané



Education e-Village



V-Unit:  
Learning to Build a Vision



# Get Involved!

- ❖ Come to our events 😊
- ❖ Take our courses
- ❖ Do an independent study with us!
  - Apply for funding through URO (Pittsburgh)
  - Apply to the UREP for funding (Qatar)
- ❖ Participate in our V-Unit program



# Stay in the Loop

- ❖ Join our Facebook group
- ❖ Sign up to be on our mailing lists
- ❖ Check out our website
- ❖ Read our newsletter
- ❖ Network with our Alumni Group



# TBW Interactive

- ❖ Featuring our projects from around the world
  - Learn about them
  - Test them out
- ❖ International food
- ❖ DJ – Music from around the world
- ❖ Prizes for project-related activities
- ❖ TechBridgeWorld Giveaways



# TBW Courses

- ❖ Technology & Global Development
  - Technology for Developing Communities
- ❖ Understanding & Challenging the Images of Computing
- ❖ Ethics & Policy Issues in Computing



# In the Works...

- ❖ Blog on ICTD
- ❖ New internship program
- ❖ Alumni Group
- ❖ Let us know your ideas!



# Contact Us!

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