

TECHBRIDGEWORLD OUR TEAM



M. Bernardine Dias Founder & Director

M. Bernardine Dias is an Assistant Research Professor in the Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University's School of Computer Science and a member of the Computer Science faculty at Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar. Her research experience is in technology for developing communities, assistive technology, technology education, autonomous team coordination, and automated planning and navigation. Dr. Dias is a native of Sri Lanka. Her career goal is innovating means of developing and disseminating suitable and sustainable technology for empowering developing communities. She is also a strong supporter and mentor for women in science and technology.



Yonina Cooper Associate Director

Yonina Cooper is an Associate Teaching Professor in the School of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar. She co-teaches the Technology and Global Development course at Carnegie Mellon Qatar with M. Bernardine Dias and is a Qatar faculty advisor for the iSTEP program. Her research interests are in the areas of education and technology: ICT in education in developing countries, identifying technology that is accessible and relevant to the needs of a developing community, and adapting Alice (Educational Software) with culturally relevant icons for Middle East schools. She received her Ph.D. from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico. She taught computer science and mathematics at The University of Kansas, University of Wisconsin, University of Texas and University of Nevada, Las Vegas.



Sarah M. Belousov Project Manager

Sarah M. Belousov, is based in the Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University's School of Computer Science. Her primary responsibilities involve extending the activities of the TechBridgeWorld research group at Carnegie Mellon University's campuses in Doha and Pittsburgh through strategic planning, fundraising, logistical coordination and administrative duties. She earned her bachelor's degree in International Studies and French at Johns Hopkins University and l'Institut d'Études Politiques in Paris. Prior to joining TechBridgeWorld, Ms. Belousov worked at the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh and she recently completed her master's degree in Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon's Heinz College.



M. Freddie Dias Research Engineer

M. Freddie Dias is based in the Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University's School of Computer Science. He assists with robotics research in the Field Robotics Center, supporting projects related to multi-robot coordination. He also serves as a technical consultant for projects related to technology and development under the TechBridgeWorld initiative. His work in both categories bridges Carnegie Mellon University's campuses in Doha and Pittsburgh. Originally from Sri Lanka, he graduated from Hamilton College in New York with a double major in physics and computer science.



Ermine Teves Project Assistant

Ermine A. Teves is an alumna of Carnegie Mellon University. She graduated in May 2008 with a B.S. in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing. Her responsibilities include expanding TechBridgeWorld's programs, marketing, and fundraising efforts. Ermine became interested in technology for sustainable development while interning for TechBridgeWorld during her undergraduate studies. She is a native of the Philippines and hopes to facilitate future TechBridgeWorld projects and programs in her home country. Ermine is currently conducting her master's degree part-time at Carnegie Mellon's Heinz College School of Public Policy and Management.



G. Ayorkor Mills-Tetty Student Representative

G. Ayorkor Mills-Tetty is a Ph.D. student in the Robotics Institute. Her interests and research activities include developing optimization algorithms for robotics path planning and task allocation, and understanding the synergies between technology and education, especially in developing communities. A native of Ghana, Ms. Mills-Tetty attended Dartmouth College and graduated with degrees in computer science and engineering. She has taught and developed curricula at Ashesi University in Accra, Ghana and is also a 2006 Google Anita Borg Scholarship recipient. As our student representative, she is responsible for liaising with other students and participating actively in the development of new and existing TechBridgeWorld programs.



M. Beatrice Dias Student Representative

M. Beatrice Dias is a Ph.D. student in the Engineering and Public Policy Department at Carnegie Mellon University who volunteers with TechBridgeWorld to assist with marketing, events, fundraising, and strategic planning. She earned her undergraduate degree from Hamilton College in Clinton NY, with concentrations in Mathematics and Physics. Her current research involves measuring the impact of the USAPATRIOT Act and the Bioterrorism Preparedness Act on Microbiological Research in the U.S., and she is advised by Dr. Elizabeth Casman and Dr. Francisco Veloso. Beatrice is a native of Sri Lanka and hopes to pursue a career in policy evaluation.



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