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English Language Teaching in a Developing Country: Towards a framework implementation

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SAT: English Language Teaching in a Developing Country: Towards a framework of implementation (Sophia Economides)

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This presentation will examine a charity-led project aiming to enhance and promote teaching English as a foreign language (EFL) in Togo. Togo is a former French colony in West Africa. The main language of education is French, however there is strong interest in the development of English language tuition.

The project comprises three areas of action: the professional development of English language teachers for primary and secondary education, the establishment of a volunteer scheme for teachers and trainers from overseas and, to a lesser extent, the training of people in or about to enter economic activity. The solutions will have to address several problems in order to ensure a sustainable and financially viable program: the shortage of qualified language teachers, the lack of infrastructure that limits the use of technology, the lack of historical or cultural ties with the English language and the problems faced by the shortage of funding. Cost and future viability are major considerations. Cost effective technologies and open educational resources will be used whenever possible, but quality control and consistency of the materials is an issue for concern.

In the presentation we will look at case studies from Rwanda, Bangladesh and other parts of the world and see how the lessons from these cases could apply to Togo. Initial findings indicate, among others, that a gradual approach that concentrates on empowering teachers is preferable. They also indicate that mobile telephony may be an appropriate medium for the delivery of educational materials.

The study will be used to establish a set of guidelines and a framework of implementation that may be applicable to future projects. It is envisaged that a pilot study will be conducted in Togo to test the initial results, but this is beyond the scope of this work. The framework could be useful in the implementation of teaching projects where resources are limited and could also be used to support projects that promote inclusiveness in education.

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[Nicola Morris](#)

9:19pm 12 February 2014 [Permalink](#)

"A gradual approach which empowers...." I love that phrase and I can really relate to that. Strikes me that any major implementation involving technology could benefit from this approach. Look forward to your presentationn



[Sian Lovegrove](#)

2:40am 15 February 2014 [Permalink](#)

As an EFL professional for the British Council in China I am really looking forward to learning about another developing country and how they are educating their English language learners. I hope I will be able to stay awake long enough as I am 8 hours ahead of you. Good luck with your presentation. Chat later. Sian



[Sophia Eco](#)

5:20am 15 February 2014 [Permalink](#)

Just to clarify Sian, I'm not affiliated with the British Council and they are not participating in this project (yet).



[Dr Simon Ball](#)

7:11pm 15 February 2014 [Permalink](#)

Following the live presentations, we asked each speaker to respond to questions posed by audience members. In the short time available, it was not possible to put all of the questions submitted to the speaker for a response. We asked all speakers if they would respond to the unanswered questions here on Cloudworks. Here are all of the questions asked during the session:

- ▶ It sounds like PEST factors are all an issue political, social, technological and environmental - would you agree?
- ▶ Would it help if 'English' as a language could be given another term ... to release it from the history and allow it to be a universal lingua franca?

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