Imagine: One Laptop Per (Jamaican) Child!

Our Choice: This …
Or this:

What will make the difference?

EDUCATION!
Why is education important to Jamaica?

Education is an economic issue:

- The threshold level of education for escaping poverty appears to be completion of secondary school – NPEP

- Poverty incidence of those with only primary level education was more than 3 times that of those with some secondary level education

Imagine: the Educated Jamaican will:

- Love to learn and will therefore be a lifelong learner, continuously developing wisdom and knowledge

- Be well-rounded, agile of mind, able to adjust to different situations, responsible and able to make decisions

- Speak an additional language and have at least the minimum requirements for tertiary education

- Be a productive citizen-worker in charge of his or her personal economic advancement

- Contribute to national development by being:
  - socially-aware and responsible
  - conscious of what is good for society
  - committed to a sustainable lifestyle
  - spiritually-conscious and mature
  - tolerant of diversity
  - rooted in his/her Jamaican “s’maddiness”
Task Force 2010 Targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>2010 Target</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Levels of Educational Achievement</td>
<td>Percent students achieving mastery in all 4 areas of Grade 1 Readiness</td>
<td>90%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percent students achieving mastery at Grade 4 Literacy</td>
<td>85%</td>
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<td>National mean score at GSAT for each subject</td>
<td>85%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Percent cohort attaining Grade 1-3 in 5 CXC subjects including English and Math</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens Committed to Lifelong Learning</td>
<td>Percent citizens enrolled in tertiary and post-secondary, by age group</td>
<td>50%</td>
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What is the Status Quo?

% Passes of Eligible Cohort in English and Math - 2003 Grade 11 – CSEC Examinations

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<tr>
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<th>Traditional High</th>
<th>Upgraded High</th>
<th>Technical High</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Language</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
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% age cohort attaining Grade 1-3 in 4 CSEC subjects including Mathematics and English

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<th>Baseline</th>
<th>2010 Target</th>
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<td></td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>60%</td>
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THE TRANSFORMATION GAP

QUESTIONS!

How do we close this gap?

If your production line were producing **88 1/2 %** “rejects” each year:

– What would you do?
– Would you do more of the same?
– Would you do something **RADICALLY different**?
THE EXTERNAL FORCE:

Newton’s First Law of Motion:
*A body remains at rest or in motion with a constant velocity unless an external force acts on the body*

What is that “external force” that will act on the education system?

Imagine … suppose:

- Students did not have to totally depend on schools and teachers to learn?
- Technology could put the power of learning in each student’s hands?
- Each child could have instant access to libraries, encyclopedias, dictionaries, music, current news, opinions as and when they wish?
- Each child could participate in the largest community in the world – the online community, by posting their own news and opinions?
- Teachers were facilitators of learning?
- Education became a family activity rather than one confined to school?
Could THIS be the External Force?

The problem

• Nearly 2 billion children in the developing world are inadequately educated

• In Jamaica, approx. 50,000 “graduate” each year, yet only 11.5% have 4 CSEC passes and 80% do not have a single pass!

• MOEY currently spends J$50 billion per year on education or J$100,000 PER YEAR PER STUDENT!

• USA spends US$7,500 per student
The Solution:

Assumptions:
• Children have innate capacity to learn
• Children WANT to learn

Solution – laptop for every child:
– Window into the world
– Tool with which to think
– Offers independent interaction and exploration

What is this XO laptop?
• Linux based
• Open source software
• 500 mhz processor
• 128 mb ram
• 500 mb flash memory
• 3 USB ports
• Rugged case
• Wireless broadband
• Ability to create LAN
• Cost = US$150

Total cost for Jamaica = US$75m
Model for getting the laptops to the children:

1. Ministries of Education
2. Is there another model?

We think so!

Can we afford it?

CONSIDER:
- MOEY budget = J$40b
- E-learning project budget = US$50m – targeted to high schools only
- We spent J$8b on CWC = US$117m!
Another model for OLPC?

• A private-sector led initiative
• Mobilise funds from:
  – Private sector foundations
  – Diaspora
  – Parents
  – Children – “brown money”?
• Distribution in cooperation with MOEY?

Advantages of a Private-Sector led Initiative:

1. Action - make it happen!
2. In alignment with PSOJ goals:
   – To promote the achievement of a lawful and just society
   – To promote the achievement of a business friendly and prosperous economy
3. Good for the PSOJ image
4. What is the alternative?
Why should every Jamaican child have a laptop?

1. Their innate desire and ability to learn
2. To give them a fighting chance in the global village
3. The current system of “educating” them is not working for them
4. Close the digital divide
5. Why should they NOT have their own laptop?

PSOJ Vision for Jamaica

In 2027, Jamaica is a lawful, ordered, just and values-driven society exhibiting positive Jamaican Culture and Heritage while achieving the right balance between the built and natural environment.

Good governance enabling a business-friendly environment has resulted in a first world economy with modern services and infrastructure.
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www.laptop.org
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