

Summer Open School

Introduction

We live in an era of information and technology, and information, communication and technology have gradually become a rudiment for career progress and growth in the corporate environment. These have also made life very easy and affected all facets of human life. However when it comes to the Global South (emerging communities or countries) there is a systematic bias, where access to information or even information available about the region is lacking. This is also a predominant issue when it comes to areas of computer programming, innovation and other new technologies (robotics). These however, are the growing areas demanded in jobs and (or) play roles in economic development. Again when it comes to content, there is not enough information about the region because there are a few contributors from the region contributing to information about the region globally.

Globally, there has been a trend whereby open movements have decided to champion access to information and technology by employing various free and open softwares like Wikipedia, Open Street maps, etc. all bearing Creative Commons Licenses. Unlike the proprietary softwares, these are free and again accessible and reusable due to the copyleft licenses most of these softwares use. It is now very common for someone living in Bujumbura to earn a degree from a University in Slovakia through open and distance learning at a cost relatively cheaper if not free.

Again as a result of Open Governance, any citizen can have access to national data without having to go through long winding and circuitous road just to have access to information. These information are used in diverse ways to develop programmes that are of national benefit, such may include (traffic and navigation system, unified identification software, etc.). Other Open activities in areas such as Open Science, Open Data and the likes are all aimed at increasing and improving learning for all.

To maximize the opportunities available within the Open sphere, to harness creativity, improve education and reduce the cost of making information and content about the region accessible, Open Foundation West Africa a non-profit organization in Ghana has proposed a training program to meet these needs, the **Summer Open School**.

The Summer Open School is a **3 day residential training program** aimed at bringing students drawn from different educational cycles, institutions and academic disciplines together to learn and have a hands on experience about **Open Softwares, network** and become **contributors to the Open movement**. This will be aimed at equipping students with skills to contribute to the open movement while acquiring skills that are relevant in several career paths. This will also include mentoring and team building where the participants will be equipped with other soft skills.

Stream of Participants

There will be two main streams of participants. The first stream will capture students from second cycle institutions and the second students from tertiary institutions.

Gender inclusion

In pursuance of gender equality 40% of the total slots will be reserved for female students participants

Students will be drawn from different senior high schools and tertiary institutions in each respective country.

Areas of Focus

- *Creative Commons*
- *Wikipedia*
- *Open Street maps*
- *Mozilla*
- *Linux*
- *Cryptocurrencies*
- *Other Open Softwares*

Likely partners

- *Host Institutions preferably tertiary institutions. (If required should have boarding facilities).*
- *Student bodies or groups from target institutions.*
- *Media Partners*

Resources Required

- *Organizing Team*
- *Feeding*
- *Stationery for training*
- *Marketing Materials (t-shirts, stickers, etc.)*
- *Bus (if required)*
- *Accommodation (if required)*
- *Budget for other expenses not stated*