Aiducation International is a non-profit organisation connecting high-potential students from Kenya with individual donors who award scholarships. Doing so, we empower talented children from underprivileged backgrounds to develop essential skills and become drivers of change in the developing world.
“Education is at the beginning of every success story.”

JIMMY, AIDUFELLOW

ANNUAL REPORT
Aiducation International 2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CEO’S REPORT 4
FINANCIAL REPORT 6
2010 SAW 2 MENTORSHIP ACADEMIES 9
AIDUCATION INTERNATIONAL KENYA 11
AIDUCATION IN KENYA 17
MEET THE AIDUFELLOWS 1 18
AIDUCATION INTERNATIONAL SCHWEIZ 21
INTERVIEW WITH PROF. DR. CHRISTOPH FREI 30
AIDUCATION INTERNATIONAL UK 33
MEET THE AIDUFELLOWS 2 42
As the CEO of Aiducation International, I’m proud to present the first annual report of Aiducation International. In 2010, Aiducation International consisted of the following four chapters: Aiducation International Deutschland, Aiducation International Kenya, Aiducation International Schweiz, and Aiducation International UK. With this report, we publish for the first time an annual report that contains each of our chapter’s main highlights summarized by the CEOs of each chapter.

For Aiducation International, the umbrella organization of Aiducation, 2010 was full of exciting developments, the top 5 being:

1. Our new website went online: It is now possible to award scholarships online and recommend applicants on the main social media channels!

2. We are planning to award scholarships in an Asian country and have carefully analyzed the local demands with teams in two different countries.

3. We started partnerships with the following leading organizations:

4. Together with our AiduMakers, we awarded a total of 123 scholarships in 2010 alone!

5. Our first batch of seven AiduFellows (scholars) graduated from high school with very convincing grades. Allow me to quickly highlight 2 of them:

Lynda: Out of the 20,000 students who took the KCSE in the coast region, Lynda came #51. She was also elected young CEO of Kenya and wants to study medicine in Nairobi – of course also to move her country forward.

Obrein: Obrein also graduated with excellent grades (his overall score is even slightly higher than that of Lynda) and has a world of opportunities in front of him. Obrein will most likely start studying law in Nairobi.

Those two scholarships were made possible by very generous private donors (AiduMaker), AiduPartners like venturekick and countless hours of work by our around 50 Aiducators who serve Aiducation during their evenings and on the weekends. All of you make Aiducation possible and it is humbling to see your passion, commitment, and energy towards our common goal: To give people and nations access to their potential. Thank you all.

With best regards

Dr. Florian Kapitza
## BALANCE SHEET (in CHF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31.12 2010 (in CHF)</th>
<th>31.12 2009 (in CHF)</th>
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<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>UBS account &quot;Operating costs&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Receivables towards AI UK</td>
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<td>Receivables towards members</td>
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## INCOME STATEMENT (in CHF)

### REVENUES

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<tr>
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<tr>
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### EXPENSES

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<tr>
<td>Scholarships</td>
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<tr>
<td>Direct project expenses</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project expenses</td>
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<tr>
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### FINANCIAL COSTS

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Bank fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial costs</td>
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### RESTRICTED FUNDS

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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Usage of restricted funds</td>
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<td>Balance as of end of the year</td>
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### OPERATING FUND

<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Usage of operating fund</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance as of end of the year</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance of funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### END OF YEAR RESULT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>2009 (in CHF)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
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</table>
From December 13th to 17th, the Kenyan Chapter of Aiducation International organised the 3rd Mentorship Academy with over 60 of our highly talented scholars participating. These week-long seminars form the non-monetary support we give our AduFellows with the goal to aid their personal development towards becoming proactive and empowered citizens who challenge the status quo and take over responsibility to make a better Kenya.

Fortunately I had the opportunity to travel to Kenya this December and get a first-hand experience on this mentorship Academy. The lectures and sessions held were very inspirational, practical and covered many topics. On the first day, Owen Baya, Senior Deputy Registrar of the Pwani University, and Dan Mugera, Director of the School Of Public Speaking Training in Mombasa, taught the AduFellows about important personal assets to develop like work and personal ethics, purposefulness, integrity, responsibility and motivation. Thereafter, two whole days dealt with entrepreneurship. Mr. Sirillo Muriungi, Director of the Hi-Tech Institute of Professional Studies, and Mr. Charles Muriungi, Director of CM Steel Construction Ltd., shared their experiences on topics like how to successfully manage a business empire, how to become a responsible entrepreneur and how to form a successful team. I also had the chance to hold a speech about how to write a business plan and about communication/advertising.

The fourth day was dedicated to environmental issues where Edward Mwamuye, director of COBEC (Community Based Environmental Conservation) raised awareness on the conservation of the marine environment and the management of natural resources. Through these varied sessions students gained insights on all three relevant dimensions of sustainable development: social, economic and ecological change.

On the last day, AduFellows got the chance to really show their potential by presenting the output of two group works they had been tasked with during the week. One was about identifying Kenya’s main problems and coming up with feasible solutions to them. I was quite impressed by the level of reflection and knowledge the students showed on topics like HIV, corruption, poverty, drug abuse and climate change, but also how critically they challenged each other on their opinions. For the other group work I had given them a structure according to which to write their own business plan. Again, I was very positively surprised by the outcome. Most ideas showed that the students had clearly grasped the notion of responsible entrepreneurship by presenting innovative solutions tackling social or ecological problems, centering around topics like solar energy, plastic and glass recycling, biodegradable plastic, and water reuse.

The last day ended with a beach cleaning activity, where all students and the Aiducation International team collected garbage on the beach. The AduFellows had learned one day earlier that plastic trash on beaches represents a critical environmental issue because turtles mistake it for jellyfish, eat it and die from it. To put this learning into practice we collected over 50 bags full with plastic and trash within only one hour! Because, as Adufellow James Runda summarized his main learning of the week, “Desire to change the world without action is nothing.”

Rebekka is an active member of the Swiss chapter of Aiducation International. She is involved in various fields like public relations and scholarship raising activities.
Dear Aiducation Family,

I am overjoyed to share with you the highlights of 2010 from Aiducation International Kenya. It was a very successful year, which brought 123 new scholarships out of some 496 highly qualified Aidu-Seekers. This shows the enthusiasm of our team of young and dynamic Aiducators around the world. The 123 join a network of other High Potentials, who have been enabled to pursue their secondary education as a bridge to further education like university.

This year April Aiducation International Kenya started a new program called “career rotations”, which adds another dimension to our “Education to Aid” program by exposing our AiduFellows to different jobs and career opportunities, offering them background information to help their career choices.

In August and December our Mentorship Academies attracted a total of 180 AiduFellows for an intense one-week encounter with both, great entrepreneurs like Esther Passaris and Dan Mugere as well as personalities from academia like Prof. Miriam Were.

We also could celebrate our first Alumni this year. Out of the 9 AiduFellows who graduated in 2010, 4 qualified for the prestigious governmental loans from the joint admission board with and above B+ mean grade, 3 others qualified for a private entrance to university and 2 for middle level colleges.

Furthermore the Kenyan team of Aiducators put continuous effort into streamlining the overall operations and developing a robust mentorship department.

It is my vision that 2011 will see yet another milestone for Aiducation International, the crossing to 400 scholarships and more. This is the only way in which developing countries can move towards a sustainable future, eradicating poverty, diseases, hunger and illiteracy; by raising well educated and reliable leaders who have a strong passion to build a better Kenya. And we all can be part of this.

With best regards,

Jeremiah Kambi
CEO of Aiducation International Kenya
CO- Founder of Aiducation
### BALANCE SHEET (in KES)

#### INCOME
- Funds transferred for fees: KES 8,749,144.00
- Funds transferred for administration: KES 387,592.76
- Funds transferred for special events (e.g., Mentorship academy): KES 900,000.00
- Other transfers (e.g., Medical expenses): KES 217,360.60
- Income from corporates for administration: KES 35,000.00
- Income from parents: KES 528,670.00
- Funds transferred for salaries: KES 240,000.00
- FUNDS TRANSFERRED FOR INTERNET: KES 70,000.00
- Funds transferred for expansion program: KES 158,937.00

**TOTAL INCOME**: KES 11,286,704.36

#### EXPENSES
- Fees Receipts: KES 7,748,553.00
- Salary costs: KES 480,000.00
- Office rent: KES 75,400.00
- Training and Retraining: KES 282,517.00
- Printing & Stationery (office): KES 71,242.00
- Office supplies: KES 281,251.00
- Internet: KES 71,242.00
- Phone bills: KES 74,350.00
- Marketing material: KES 0.00
- Bank commission: KES 12,908.00
- Postage: KES 8,235.00
- Travel and Accomodation: KES 288,669.00
- Special Events (e.g., Mentorship Academy): KES 991,055.00
- Medical expenses (Kelvin): KES 174,405.00
- Maintenance: KES 53,696.00
- Other Costs: KES 2,570.00

**TOTAL EXPENSES**: KES 10,597,614.00

**BALANCE C/F**: KES 689,090.36

*almost 2/3 of this amount was spent on two 1 week Mentorship Academies with 100 students each.*
AIDUCATION IN KENYA

AIDUCATION KENYA WAS FOUNDED IN 2006, WHEN JEREMIAH KAMBI AND SOME CLOSE FRIENDS GATHERED TO ADDRESS ONE OF THE BIGGEST PROBLEMS IN THEIR COUNTRY, THE LARGE PERCENTAGE OF TALENTED STUDENTS WHO DROP OUT OF SCHOOL BECAUSE THEY CANNOT AFFORD THE FEES FOR HIGH SCHOOL.

Several years previously, a Rotary scholarship had allowed Jeremiah to become a clinical officer and he felt that funding the school fees for deserving students would benefit the whole community.

Today, Aiducation Kenya has seven dedicated members, two of which are permanent staff. Aiducation Kenya is Aiducation’s grassroots operational base, which ensures that every step of our process is taken care of locally, and strives to deliver excellent service to AiduFellows. All year round, our staff and volunteers in Kenya travel across the country and visit schools to spread the word about our scholarships. They also set-up partnerships with secondary schools, screen applications, contact students who have been awarded a scholarship, follow scholars’ progress and report it to AiduMakers, and organise the Mentorship Academies.
MEET THE AIDUFELLOWS 1...

Lynda

Lynda graduated this year, out of the 20,000 students who took the Kenyan Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) in the Coast Region, Lynda came #51. Her final grade opens the doors of any university in the country.

Lynda has an older brother and a younger sister. Her parents understand the value of education, and sacrificed all they could to send their three children to good schools. However, secondary school fees were simply too high. “One day, my dad heard from his cousin in Watamu that there was an organisation there which could help us with scholarships for secondary education, says Lynda. I decided to apply straight away.” Soon afterwards, Lynda had been selected by an AiduMaker and her full secondary education at the Agha Khan High School in Nairobi was secured. “After a short while, my younger sister Elisabeth applied to Aiducation, and got a scholarship as well!”

When we asked Lynda what was her best memory from these four years of secondary education, she replied without any hesitation: “My best moment was the national business competition in which I took part in February 2010. With a group of friends, we set up a business plan for a company producing jewels and fashion accessories carved in coconut. Being from the Coast Region, this idea came naturally to me! I was the CEO of the business, and got to present my products and my strategy to a jury of executives from major Kenyan businesses. I was so delighted when I found out that I was elected as the best CEO across all Kenya for the competition!”

After a well-deserved day of celebration on KCSE day, spent with friends at the cinema, eating popcorn and ice-cream, Lynda is already thinking about her future. “I would like to apply to the medical school at the University of Nairobi, this is the best university in the country for medicine. I have a few months free before the University recruitment round starts, so I have taken a computer course until September, for which I have also received a scholarship.”

Lynda encourages all current AiduFellows to work hard: “I hope the rest of the AiduFellows would be challenged to do better than I did!” We hope that her achievements send an inspiring message to all students who haven’t secured funds for their secondary education.
CEO’S REPORT


Weitere Erfolge des Schweizer Teams von Aiducation International Schweiz im Jahr 2010:


2. Durch intensive Rekrutierungsarbeit konnte die Anzahl der ehrenamtlichen Mitarbeiterinnen in der Schweiz auf 22 im Jahr 2010 gesteigert werden.


4. Im August fand das erste Aiducation Sommer Event für unsere Aidumaker und Freunde von Aiducation statt, das dank der Unterstützung von OBT AG und Glatz AG als grosser Erfolg gefeiert werden konnte.

5. Im Dezember schliesslich fand mit finanzieller Unterstützung von Procter&Gamble die dritte Mentorship Academy in Kenya statt.


Ihr Dr. Eva Köberl

Ihr Matthias Meier
CEO, Aiducation International Schweiz

IM JAHR 2010 HAT AIDUCATION INTERNATIONAL SCHWEIZ 100 STIPENDIEN FÜR DEN BESUCH DES GYMNASIUMS VERGEBEN UND DIESEN SCHÜLERINNEN SOMIT DIE VOLLSTÄNDIGE GYMNASIAUSBILDUNG INKLUSIVE WÖHNEN UND VERPFLEGUNG (INTERNATE) FINANZIERT. 100% DER GESPENDETEN GELDER FÜR AIDUCATION INTERNATIONAL SCHWEIZ WURDEN IN BILDUNG INVESTIERT.


“Es gibt nur eins, was auf Dauer teurer ist als Bildung - keine Bildung.”

JOHN F. KENNEDY, 35. PRÄSIDENT DER USA
### BALANCE SHEET (in CHF)

#### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31.12 2010 (in CHF)</th>
<th>31.12 2009 (in CHF)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>UBS account “Scholarships”</td>
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<td><strong>163,689</strong></td>
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#### LIABILITIES

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<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>-163,689</strong></td>
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#### REstricted Funds

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#### OPERATING FUND

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<td><strong>Balance of funds</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>-270,362</strong></td>
<td><strong>-185,688</strong></td>
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### OPERATING STATEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL (in CHF)

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<td>REVENUES</td>
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<td>Scholarships</td>
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<td>Membership fees</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>650</td>
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<td><strong>Total revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>270,362</strong></td>
<td><strong>185,688</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>EXPENSES</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships</td>
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<td>Project costs: AI Kenya</td>
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<td>FINANCIAL COSTS</td>
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<td>Financial costs</td>
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<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>-185,688</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>END OF YEAR RESULT</td>
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</table>

*almost 2/3 of this amount was spent on two 1 week Mentorship Academies with 100 students each.*
Bericht der Revisionsstelle
zur eingeschränkten Revision
an die Vereinversammlung der
Aiducation International Schweiz
Zürich


Für die Jahresrechnung ist der Vorstand verantwortlich, während unsere Aufgabe darin besteht, diese zu prüfen. Wir bestätigen, dass wir die gesetzlichen Anforderungen hinsichtlich Zulassung und Unabhängigkeit erfüllt.


Bei unserer Revision sind wir nicht auf Sachverhalte gestossen, aus denen wir schliessen müssten, dass die Jahresrechnung nicht Gesetz und Statuten entspricht.

PricewaterhouseCoopers AG

Arte Frieser
Revisionsexperte
Leitender Revisor

Marcel Anbrändli
Revisionsexperte

Zürich, 30. Juni 2011

Beilage:
- Jahresrechnung (Bilanz und Betriebsrechnung)
INTERVIEW WITH
PROF. DR. CHRISTOPH FREI

Since 2006, Christoph Frei is titular professor for political science and member of the program committee international affairs & governance at the university of St. Gallen. he agreed to support the Aидуcation international city team in St. gallen as a mentor for projects with advice, critical feedback and personal contacts.

Aидуcation International (AI): Mr. Frei, since a long time you are a critic of classical development aid. What damage does it cause?

Christoph Frei (CF): Development aid does cause harm, when it uses the wrong incentives. If money flows are automated, desires are raised and long-term dependencies develop, at the same time corruption cedes. This “sweet an big cake” increases the discretionary decision power of governments and leads almost always to the cementation of authoritarian political systems. Those who strive for success are trying to get as close as possible to the “honey pots” and their allocation; this path, straight towards the money is much more attractive as hard work, saving and abstinence.

AI: Development aid enhances corruption. How does this impede development?

CF: By receiving development funds from abroad on a regular basis, any incentives for hard work and long-term efforts to build up competitive market structures disappear. But this is exactly what sustainable development comprises. Large parts of Africa have enormous economic potential, not least due to an affluence of various natural resources. What is lacking, are healthy, stable institutions; Furthermore, there is no socially beneficial inclusion of political power. African elites are primarily thinking about their own benefits – how they themselves can best benefit from the sale of resources. Sustainable investments are rarely planned and carried out.

AI: Very often, there is talk about the strong dependencies and a sort of modern colonialism.

CF: Dependencies – yes, particularly the classical development aid keeps African societies captured in a strong dependency. The term “aid” alone creates and enforces such hierarchies. Those who give are superior to those who receive. How much more helpful would it be, if societies could empower themselves instead of living of aid. For decades, Egypt was one of the most prominent recipients of US aid. And a large share of this aid has been channelled towards a small corrupt elite and its security apparatus. Now, Egyptians are taking matters in their own hands – how great they have to feel about this! Sustainable development has to emerge from the inside; development from the outside mostly creates more problems than it is actually solving.

AI: Why did you as a critic of classical development aid decide to support Aидуcation International?

CF: Aидуcation International follows a different approach than classical development aid does. It aims at self-responsibility and thus at the core of the problem. Aидуmakers pay for the tuition fees of talented young people and future leaders, who for financial reasons have no access to secondary school. In connection with the ideal training at the Mentorship Academies, the education of the scholars contributes to the development of human capital locally and therefore to the solution of problems within the country. Training and education – these are very likely the best instruments for self-help and for the sustainable development of the country.

AI: What motivates you additionally to support Aидуcation International?

CF: The organization builds on highly motivated and socially engaged young people, who know from personal experience, the benefits and advantages of good education. The business model of Aидуcation is simple and transparent – this creates trust. Furthermore, the team is open for new ideas, proposals and critical comments. This is also where I see my role as a mentor and critical partner.
Dear AiduMakers, dear friends of Aiducation,

It is with great pleasure that we are presenting our first Annual Report. We have made significant progress since the founding of Aiducation International UK in September 2009. Our mission, which our Aiducators are working on with great intrinsic motivation, can be summarized in two simple phrases: AID TO EDUCATE, AND EDUCATE TO AID

Why ‘Aid to Educate’?
We’re enabling highly talented but financially disadvantaged students in developing countries to realize their potential. We do this by providing high-school scholarships to students who have proved their academic strength in publicly funded primary schools in Kenya, and who need financial support to successfully continue their education. We are also improving the benefit of their education through staying close to the students during their school terms, and ensuring that performance is kept high. As a result, our students are likely to excel at the secondary school exams after 4 years, and get a publicly funded University scholarship. We are bridging the bottleneck of secondary education in Kenya, enabling students to succeed on their complete education path.

Why ‘Educate to Aid’?
We can achieve sustainable social impact by forming new generations of proactive and socially responsible leaders who instigate change from within their countries.

The students we select have already demonstrated their strong initiative-taking mindset and motivation. We develop their skills through additional mentoring and training and inspire them by allowing them to meet with the change-makers of their country. We have started to build a community of leaders that will grow into a network of professionals and leaders, who will be able to continuously increase the momentum of change.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

With Aiducator regards,

Jan Rihak
Chairman of Trustees, Aiducation International UK
Looking back at the past 12 months, I cannot help but feeling very proud of what has been achieved by Aiducation’s UK team.

Fundraising efforts generated revenue in excess of £10,000. We welcomed 11 new AiduMakers in our network, each one awarding a scholarship to a talented and underprivileged student in Kenya, either as a one-off donation covering the fees for four years of secondary education, or as a pledge to fund a student through an annual donation in the next four years. If we count scholarships raised prior to our registration and therefore processed through our Swiss headquarters, Aiducation UK has raised 38 scholarships in 2010.

Aiducation UK has played an instrumental role in attracting programme and fundraising partners to the Aiducation International Umbrella organisation. On the fundraising side, partnering with McKinsey for Children allowed us to send 20 high-potential students to secondary school. On the programme side, our partnership with the Kibera Primary School for Girls will enable 15 girls from Kenya’s largest slum to pursue their studies at secondary school level, thereby allowing continuous support from the start of primary school to the end of secondary school.

Aiducation UK is now run by a core team of twenty volunteers, in Cambridge and London. We have established links with volunteer centres nationwide through a subscription to do-it.org. This will allow the organisation to mature and rely on an even more diverse set of skills to run fundraising operations in the next period.

The Year 2011-2012 will see further diversification of fundraising channels. Building on the success of auction events held in London and Cambridge, we will aim to create an event portfolio that will not only take the number of scholarships to the next level, but also reinforce awareness of Aiducation in the UK. We will also keep seeking funding from Service Clubs, individual donors, schools and university students, as well as from foundations and businesses.

It’s been an exciting first year, and I am confident that the excitement will grow over the years as we enable more and more bright underprivileged students from Kenya to access the best secondary schools of their country.

Jeremie Guillerme
CEO, Aiducation International UK
### Financial Report

#### Station of Financial Activities (in GBP)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOMING RESOURCES (in GBP)</th>
<th>RESTRICTED</th>
<th>DESIGNATED</th>
<th>UNRESTRICTED</th>
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<tr>
<td>Incoming resources from charitable activities</td>
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<td>10395.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Incoming Resources</strong></td>
<td><strong>9869.00</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charitable Activities</td>
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<td>Governance Costs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Resources Expended</strong></td>
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<th>NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES</th>
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<td>2828.22</td>
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<td>275.66</td>
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<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td>5794.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES** | - | - | - | **8897.88** |

#### Income Breakdown

- **Programmes: Scholarships**: 98%
- **Donations: Scholarships (restricted)**: 2%
- **Administrative Costs**: 2%
- **Donations: unrestricted**: 5%

#### Expenditure Breakdown

#### Balance Sheet (in GBP)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIXED ASSETS</th>
<th>CURRENT ASSETS</th>
<th>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</th>
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<td>8897.88</td>
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<table>
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<th>FUNDS</th>
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<th>RESTRICTED FUNDS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8897.88</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR UK CHAPTER IN 2010...

...38 SCHOLARSHIPS RAISED

1. COULSON K.
2. KITI GIFT P.
3. CHAI C.
4. FATMA M.
5. MWAYELE PATRICK U.
6. LUCKY K.
7. CHIKOLA MICHAEL M.
8. DZEVULA KHAMENE G.
9. DZIIVULA MAUTUH G.
10. DZOMBO RECKSON T.
11. ERIC M.
12. FAIZ MOHAMMAD O.
13. HANSY C.
14. JULIUS T.
15. NABIL HUSSEIN S.
16. SAMUEL NGALA S.
17. YUSRA KASSIM A.
18. KATANI INDIAZI W.
19. BRIAN K.
20. ADIEMA RUTH A.
21. SAMUEL M.
22. CHARLOTTE KONDA J.
23. GONA DANIEL K.
24. WINNIE ANASTEZIA O.
25. SHUKRANI K.
26. MERCY C.
27. MUMBI N.
28. BAYAH ESSIEN B.
29. DANIEL MANGI M.
30. JOHN JUMAA D.
31. AMINA A.
32. KATANA SAMINI H.
33. EDDIE K.
34. IBRAHIM R.
35. MOHAMED K.
36. BRENDA K.
37. MARY N.
38. KINYUA JUSTUS M.
MEET THE AIDUFELLOWS 2...

MARGARET

MARGARET IS A 14 YEAR-OLD ORPHAN WHO WAS FORCED TO FLEE HER HOMETOWN AFTER THE POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE IN 2008, BUT DID NOT GIVE UP ON HER DREAM TO BECOME A COMPUTER ENGINEER.

In a letter attached to Margaret’s application for a scholarship, her Head Teacher explained the situation: “Margaret lost her parents some years ago and during the post-election violence in 2008, together with her aunt’s family, she had to flee from the district of Burnt Forest and take shelter in Nakuru Show Ground”, a stadium converted into a camp for Internally Displaced Persons. The family then moved on to the outskirts of Nakuru, in the Rift Valley province, where someone offered them to use his home.

New in town, with very little income, Margaret’s aunt asked for local community support to finance the first few weeks of her niece’s high school education. Then Margaret, encouraged by her teachers, applied for a scholarship at Aiducation. In her essay, she told us about her dream to use her scholarship to become a computer engineer, as she is convinced that technology is essential for the development of Kenya.

Shortly afterwards, 6000 kilometres away from Nakuru, Anna heard about Margaret through a friend: “when my friend described this young girl with a passion for computers and a vision to bring her country to the 21st century by developing its IT infrastructure, I couldn’t help but cheer for her. I am very interested in IT myself, and have even considered a carrier in IT consulting. I am a very pragmatic and level-headed person and Margaret, at only 14 years of age, seemed to have similar characteristics. It didn’t take much to convince me to sponsor her scholarship.”

Jeremiah Kambi, CEO of Aiducation Kenya, called Margaret’s aunt to tell her about the scholarship: “She was absolutely ecstatic when she heard the news”, Jeremiah told us. “She handed the phone over to Margaret, who got even more excited. She realised that she had not only received a full scholarship, but she had also joined a network of students from all over the country!”