How E-Learning within Teacher Education might develop?
A case study of the ELATE Project

Christopher Mugimu
Makerere University School of Education
A collaboration with The Open University, UK
Funded by the British Council’s “England-Africa Partnerships Programme”

Aims

1. Develop an e-Learning programme to support trainee and practicing teachers in the context of the introduction of Universal Secondary Education
2. Create web and CD-ROM based teacher-support materials in: mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, English, geography, history, computer studies (with some cross-curricular content)
3. Train the trainees to disseminate the materials and new practices among teachers during their school practice
4. Produce an action research programme and research outputs to inform the future development of e-learning, especially in large classes where resources are limited

To embed the work in a new “Centre for E-Learning”.
This presentation focuses on points (1) and (2) above

ELATE strategy

Focusing on what will be useful to teachers when they are coming to a subject for the first time
- Syllabuses
- Exam papers
- Schemes of work
- Lesson plans
- Sources of information (useful books, other sources, selected web links)
- Activities (enquiry-based pedagogies)

Traditional + new pedagogies

- Worksheets (with answers & suggestions)
- Interpreting text, data & graphs
- Data collection and analysis (Excel)
- Simple simulations
- Science experiments
- Decision-making role plays

Activities will have meaning to students here in Uganda – e-Learning is flexible and can be tailored to local needs. <Link to ELATE website>

Resource setting

Uganda has a relatively under-resourced school system, with limited supplies of appropriate books, but it is embracing micro-technology as rapidly as it has taken to the mobile phone.

How teachers will access our materials:
1. Online at home and in Internet cafés.
2. In the several hundred schools that already have computers and many more in the future (on CD-ROM if they have no Internet access, maybe on paper?)
3. Trainees will use them within their courses (open content can be used by all training establishments and schools)

Mode of development

Curriculum coordinator
Writing team
Web developer
Stakeholder involvement

- Subject experts
- Practicing teachers
- Authors and publishers
- NCDC: National Curriculum Development Centre
- UNEB: Uganda National Examinations Board
- Consultation with U-Connect, SchoolNet, MOES: Ministry of Education and Science
- University academics