

Prestigious International Innovation Award goes to Rwandan Operation of Irish Charity

Camara Rwanda, a Hub of Irish Charity Camara Education received a prestigious international innovation award from the Global Development Network at an award ceremony in Bogota, Colombia last weekend. Global Development Network (GDN) are a leading international organisation, which focuses on international research and policies, that accelerates developments to improve people's lives.

The competition run by GDN seeks to unearth new talent and support innovative ideas for development. Camara beat 251 other International projects to win first prize for '**Japanese Award for most Innovative Development Project**'. Camara's "social enterprise" model, their network of Education Hubs, and their actual on-the-ground Kigali operations convinced the jurors, from the Worldbank, AUS-Aid, Japan Development, Kenya Central bank, among others to place Camara Rwanda first in this category.

The award comes with high recognition and is one of the most prestigious global awards to be handed out within this sector. The sponsor is the Japanese Development Institute, JICA which represents one of the largest agencies for development in the world.

Camara Education, Dublin was set-up in 2005 to use technology to enhance education in some of the most disadvantaged communities in the world. CEO and founder of Camara, Cormac Lynch, said "the aim of Camara is to break the cycle of poverty through education and this award demonstrates that Camara is now at the forefront of delivering technology-enhanced learning in Africa". Camara operates a social entrepreneurial model in six African countries, providing affordable educational solutions through the reuse of computers sourced from Irish businesses, government departments and individuals. These computers coupled with educational software, teacher training, technical support, and end-of-life eWaste recycling provides a comprehensive and sustainable solution that gives thousands of African teachers and children greater opportunities to break the cycle of poverty.

Receiving this award on behalf of Camara Rwanda, Dr. Frank Oliver Lehmann, a former German Investment Banker and one of the Mentors and Directors of the Rwandan Hub said, "This is a fantastic endorsement of the work done by the Teams in Dublin and in Kigali, Rwanda. The Camara model is measurable, sustainable and delivers on the ground in Africa in a very effective way",

Cormac Lynch said on receiving the news "We are delighted to win this prestigious award and recognise that it will be very significant to us for further development. We would like to acknowledge that it is our supporters like Irish Aid, Diageo through their Arthur Guinness Fund Award, and the Iris O'Brien Foundation that have helped us achieve recognition for our work".

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