



African Gifted Foundation

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50 Students from 6 Countries attend 2012 Academy

In January 2012 the African Gifted Foundation held its second Academy in Kampala, Uganda and it was twice the size of the previous year.

This year 50 students from six countries attended. Botswana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda and Zanzibar were all represented by an outstanding group of students from a range of backgrounds, all of whom stood out as excellent mathematicians at their respective schools.

Once again the Academy took place at Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, and was hosted by Dr Mango, Dean of the School of Physical Sciences at Makerere.

Beauty and Elegance in Mathematics

The Academy opened with a fascinating and inspiring lecture delivered by Thomas Hagspihl of St Andrews College, South Africa on “Beauty and Elegance in Mathematics”.

Then tutors from the UK ran a series of courses covering the mathematics of financial markets, codes and ciphers and space science.



Dr Nick Motson from Cass Business School, London ran a very popular course on the dynamics of financial markets and banking. This included an online trading game and a trip to the Uganda Securities Exchange.



“The most valuable thing that I learnt this week was about the beauty and elegance of mathematics”

*Ocen Paul
Kako Secondary
School
Uganda*

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“Just wanted to thank you once more for all your help, kindness and advice. In fact I have started using my knowledge from AGF by writing this message and also teaching my younger sister chess.”

“We are very delighted that we were privileged to be part of the just concluded AGF program, many thanks for the opportunity given to the Nigerian students to be part of this great inspiring life changing program. “

“I just want to say thanks for Uganda and everything. It was inspirational and we will never forget the experience”



David Cope from Bletchley Park, the home of the legendary British code breakers once again delivered a fascinating course on codes, ciphers and encryption.

Dr Simon Roberts from University of Nottingham and the UK's Space Academy explored space and put the students' rocket making skills to the test (he won – again!).



Trips, Presentations and Events

A visit to the Uganda Securities Exchange gave the students a chance to observe traders at work and a visit to the huge Kakira Sugar Works amazed them as to what it takes to produce 50% of Uganda's entire sugar needs.

One of the highlights of the week was a series of presentations by young engineers from Tullow Oil. They presented on the oil and gas sector across Africa and talked openly about their own educational journey, careers and challenges as African engineers building successful careers in a major company on the continent.

Oliver Hire and Alesha White from Czarnikow Group, one of the world's largest commodity trading groups based in the City of London



flew in to share their insights about the global commodities industry. Oliver may also be responsible for introducing the game of rugby to Zanzibar after running an enthusiastic training session and handing the ball to one of the Zanzibari students at the end of the Academy.



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A special moment for the Academy was when Ashish Thakkar the MD and Founder of Mara Group, one of Uganda's fastest growing technology companies and charitable groups with over 4,000 employees in 17 countries presented to the students and spoke



about his upcoming flight aboard Virgin Galactic's spacecraft as East Africa's first space traveller!

As well as a chess masterclass, hosted by Harold Wanyaman, East African Chess Champion, there were quizzes, sports

sessions and presentations from students (including some embarrassing dancing from the chairman).

Prize giving

Everyone enjoyed a busy, stimulating week, culminating in a closing ceremony hosted by the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University and attended by local executives, dignitaries and the media.

The final evening saw a number of prizes being awarded to students who stood out during the week. All prizes were provided by Mrs. Jayshree Barnes, a great supporter of AGF.

The highlight of the closing ceremony was the special award provided by Czarnikow Group. This incredible prize is a one week, all expenses paid work experience trip to Czarnikow in London and it was awarded to Ocen Paul of Kako Secondary School, Uganda for his all-round outstanding ability and contribution.

What next?

The AGF team in London, supported by our new administrator Moira Millar, is working on the next Academy which will take place in Ghana in the summer of 2012. This will be our first Academy in West Africa and will be followed by the January 2013 Academy back in East Africa where we are aiming for as many as 75 students from up to 10 countries.

"I am truly grateful for the opportunity given to me and my friends as well. I have learnt a lot over the past week I was there and I can boldly say that I have a clear idea of what my life is going to look like thanks to you as well as our mentors and experts in the various professions."



"Thank you once again for enlightening me and showing me the way, now I'm sure I want to be an engineer but the task ahead now is which one to be. I'm sure I'll figure it along the way."

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Thank you to our supporters

This incredible programme could not take place without the support of our backers and African Gifted Foundation wishes to express its gratitude to all who stand behind us. A very special thank you goes to Miles Morland, Chairman of Blakeney Management and Founding Sponsor of AGF for his continued support. GT Bank, Nigeria's premier banking group also very generously continue to support the AGF programme, alongside the Ilube Family.

We warmly welcome Tullow Oil plc, the leading independent oil & gas, exploration and production group as a major sponsor and look forward to working closing with them over the coming years. Czarnikow Group, one of the most respected names in agricultural commodity markets is an active supporter and particular thanks go to Mrs Jayshree Barnes of Czarnikow for her hard work and personal donation.

Extremely generous donations and a major vote of confidence have been received from UK based charitable foundations Allan & Nesta Ferguson Trust, the Jackson Foundation and the Roger & Irene Graham Foundation. Very importantly a number of individuals who believe in what AGF is doing have made significant personal donations including Dr Ogundare & family, Frank Russell and family, Lord Avebury, Caron Russell, Eileen Ilube and Yvonne Ike.

Without all of you, none of this could happen. On behalf of the students, the schools and all involved with African Gifted Foundation we thank you.



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