



## **The Rwanda Convention Association Education Project**

**August 31, 2009** included an excellent video conference with Polycom representatives in Johannesburg, South Africa. The meeting with Kathea Communications, Polycom Business Unit Manager Venessa Dewing and her colleague at two sites in Johannesburg set the stage for our working relationship and offered strong support of our efforts to bring education solutions to Rwanda through video conferencing.

**August 24, 2009** was a red letter day in our three-year struggle to connect quality video conferencing between Sacramento and Rwanda. After only two weeks in Rwanda our colleague Mutoni “Toni” Karasanya participated in a quality 50-minute video exchange with our developing team in Sacramento. Locating adequate bandwidth remains inconsistent until ocean fiber optic cable is connected to Rwanda in the near future. Mutoni Karasanyi has an MBA in Global Management at Boston College. Toni trained in Sacramento with VCInational on use of video conferencing equipment.



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### **More VCI / PLC team updates:**

- Brady and John installed equipment in Los Angeles and San Diego as part of a \$220,000 project for the California State Department of Conservation.
- Mutoni’s strong start of a planning process for video conferencing in Rwanda is described in his comprehensive three-page progress report.
- Mary Lyn Kagan produced two proposals for federal stimulus money.
- Suzanne Fisher is developing video conferencing training material. She participated in our successful August 24 video conference with Toni in Rwanda.
- The Rwanda School Project is preparing material to send with a request for assistance from Oprah Winfrey.

### Special Comments:

- **John Farley's narrative on the August 31 Rwanda exchange:** *"Video conferencing between the United States and Rwanda is extremely beneficial to both countries. When we viewed the test, it was apparent that this is not a fantasy, but reality! The packets of information were coming across simultaneously with the voice and video being synchronized. This will allow us to deliver content that is both impactful and of high quality. The teaching/learning that can be accomplished using video conferencing will be fluid and dynamic – very similar to a regular classroom environment. The only difference is that the participants can be located around the world or across the street. Distance becomes moot! In short, the addition of video conferencing to the country of Rwanda can, quite simply, change the way the Rwandans learn and allow for an optimal and exciting exchange of information."*
- **Suzanne Fisher's comments following the August 31 Rwanda exchange:** *"The California Association of School Psychologists would like to say how much we appreciate the support of Burl Waits and Brady Campbell, Jr. from VC International, in the acquisition of our new Polycom equipment. Given the challenges of the economy and the limitations of resources for travel, we are thrilled to use this equipment to reach not only our members across the state of California and the country, but the possibility of collaborating with other professional across the globe."*

*"Sharing the knowledge of school psychology; the understanding of childhood learning and behaviors is an important contribution to the global village. The Polycom system has already begun to close the digital divide and bring face-to-face communication and knowledge from institutions; offices; and homes around the world."*

*"Thank you for your support and appreciation for the work of non-profit organizations; community-based organizations and the impact they can bring to the growth of people, families and quality of life no matter where we find them."*

See web sites for more information. <http://www.processlearningcenters.org/>  
<http://www.vcinternational.net> <http://www.rwandaprojects.org>

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