



Kimmage Open & Distance Education

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### New Distance Learning Courses Launched for Ireland and East Africa

Students in Dublin, Nairobi and Arusha will soon be able sit side by side at the same class through the wonders of the internet and Kimmage Development Studies Centre.

The Minister of State for Overseas Development at the Department of Foreign Affairs Mr. Peter Power T.D. speaking at the launch of the KODE programme in Kimmage Development Studies Centre today praised the new initiative and said that "***KODE which uses an educational model combining the traditional learning environment with modern technology is a new and innovative way of approaching adult learning of which Kimmage Development Studies Centre should be very proud.***" He went on to congratulate everyone involved in the development of KODE and wished Kimmage Development Studies Centre every success with the programme.

This initiative brings together students from Kenya, Tanzania and Ireland through the KODE course material, workshops and a dedicated website. Participants in each country can take the courses on CD with the support of an in-country tutor to help them along their way. Participants in these truly inter-cultural and international courses are therefore able to share their experiences across country borders and discuss and debate the many real life case-studies integral to the content.

Ms Selam Desta a pilot course participant (Ireland) said "***I am quite confident that KODE will be an inspiring method of learning by promoting the culture of experience sharing to increase development practitioners efficiency in their workplace and ultimately bring change to their surroundings and challenge inequalities!***"

Responding to the needs of development workers and project managers, the participants will gain knowledge, skills and competence to immediately apply their learning to their own work in the field. This KODE initiative will enhance the potential for development education as these clear, accessible and easy to follow courses enable participants to work through each course topic at their own pace, in their own time and in a location that suits them!

***“I am very happy to know that the KODE programme is about to be launched. This is a sign of a big step towards providing education at the door step of people within and without Ireland especially in Africa.”*** Jack Harris – KODE Pilot course participant (Sierra Leone)

A range of three Project Management courses is already available and new courses are being developed which will be on offer in a number of countries in Eastern, Southern and West Africa later in 2009.

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#### Notes to editors:

- KODE Project Management courses now available include: Project Planning & Proposal Writing, Monitoring & Evaluation, Project Management & Accountability.
- KODE courses under development in 2009 include: Sustainable Livelihoods, Introduction to Development Issues and Addressing Gender Based Violence.
- Kimmage Development Studies Centre has facilitated education and training for development professionals working in a range of occupations from over sixty five countries worldwide. Programmes on offer reflect a combination of formal and non-formal educational methodologies and are run at BA and MA and Postgraduate Diploma levels. Full-time and part-time study options are available.
- Kimmage Development Studies Centre is a specialized development institute set up in 1974 as an initiative of the Irish Spiritan (Holy Ghost) community.