

Four new classrooms for Brazilian children in remote school

Submitted by: HBL Media

Wednesday, 10 September 2008

School children in Coda Nova, a remote area in Brazil now have access to four new classrooms and a computer room at the local Rozalina Zaidan School. The construction work was made possible by Building Futures, a project set up by leading international education provider, Study Group to improve access to education for children in the developing world.

It is hoped that the new buildings at Coda Nova will alleviate the major challenge of overcrowding - previously children had to attend school in shifts, and 300 children in the area received no education at all.

Work was completed at the beginning of August 2008 with £30,463 raised by Study Group students and staff to cover the cost of building the four classrooms and computer room at the school.

The Building Futures project came about in the aftermath of the Asian Tsunami in 2004. The scheme enables employees and students of Study Group to make a contribution to a central fund for the reconstruction of communities affected by natural disasters or poverty, with a focus on rebuilding schools. Each contribution is matched by Study Group.

Study Group Managing Director, James Pitman comments: "The classrooms were in a poor state and often temporary classrooms were used to house the increasing number of students. Classes were frequently consolidated causing overcrowding and resulting in a challenging learning environment.

"All children have a right to education, regardless of their social or economic circumstances. The completion of this project is a great result and has ensured the long-term and sustainable commitment to education in the Codo Nova community."

Money raised by Study Group was donated to Codo Nova via Plan, a child-centred international organisation which works in 49 developing countries and directly supports more than 1.5m children and their families across Africa, Asia and the Americas.

Study Group linked with Plan in 2005 and saw the first school in Aceh, Indonesia completed in 2006, the second completed in Benin in 2007 and the third and most recent project in Brazil completed last month.

Study Group plans to send teachers out to Codo Nova to contribute further to the project in 2009. Building Futures forms a core strand of Study Group's wider CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) strategy, alongside its environmental initiatives which include a carbon offset scheme, strict recycling and waste management policies and the use of environmentally friendly heating, cooling and ventilation systems in all new Study Group buildings worldwide.

Information on Rozalina Zaidan School:

<http://www.studygroup.com/company/1398.aspx>

Information on Study Group:

<http://www.studygroup.com/index.aspx>

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