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VITA

VITA



VOLUNTEERS IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Dear Friend:

In response to your request for information about VITA and its programs, I am sending you the text of VITA's forthcoming brochure. I hope it answers any questions you might have about VITA. Copies of the brochure itself will be available upon request by mid-April.

Thank you for contacting VITA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Laurel Druben'.

Laurel Druben
Director, Communications

LD/cm
Enclosure

V I T A

is a private, non-profit association which has supported people working on technical problems faced by developing areas since 1960. VITA offers information and assistance aimed at extending the ability of institutions and individuals overseas to select and implement technologies appropriate to their particular situations.

VITA's technical services are provided by a skilled Volunteer corps of 4,500 and a central staff of 20.

This pamphlet presents an overview of VITA's

- °Technical Information Service
- °Special Projects
- °Volunteer Program
- °Communications Services

TECHNOLOGIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Quietly and effectively, VITA has been designing and adapting tools, methods, programs to fit local needs and resources for almost two decades.

Through the dedicated support of its specialist Volunteers, VITA develops small-scale agricultural implements; assists large numbers of people solve problems ranging from soil testing to tanning drum fabrication; aids bridge construction projects in remote areas. In addition, VITA produces plans in such areas as solar and wind energy and publishes a wide variety of plans and manuals which it disseminates worldwide to make technology choices available to the widest possible audience. Firm institutional relationships with development organizations continue to facilitate VITA's ability to develop and distribute materials which respond to local needs.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE

VITA's request-answering program, the Technical Information Service, has responded to over 25,000 inquiries. Requests for technical assistance come from all parts of the world -- from extension agents, village councils, small business owners, farmers, development organizations, government agencies, among others. VITA places priority on offering assistance which will benefit those most in need.

The majority of requests coming to VITA require direct Volunteer participation. These are handled on a case basis by staff coordinators who match the problem with those Volunteers best qualified to supply answers. The case may be worked on by one or several interested Volunteers who correspond directly with the requestor until the problem is solved or the project completed. The VITA staffer serves as a resource person during the interaction.

Through the Technical Information Service, VITA also responds to inquiries which can be answered by providing already-published information. To facilitate this service, VITA maintains an outstanding library of appropriate technology materials.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

VITA regularly undertakes special projects. A request being handled through the Technical Information Service may promise wider than usual impact; Or a project may result from recognition of VITA's capable leadership in the field of appropriate technology and from VITA's close working relationships with field-based organizations. In any case, a special project requires that VITA devote more of its resources and make longer-term institutional commitments than would be involved in the handling of a routine request.

VITA's current projects include: developing an appropriate technology center in Upper Volta (VITA has a staff member on-site); adapting and testing a wide variety of agricultural implements in cooperation with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Ibadan, Nigeria; working with a lime producers cooperative in Honduras to design, build, and monitor the performance of a new kiln.

VOLUNTEERING -- VITA STYLE

VITA people are scientists, engineers, carpenters, agriculturalists, architects, educators, electricians, farmers. They may be professionals returned from overseas assignments, retired executives, business administrators, college instructors, or combinations of these. All are skilled people who freely offer their talent and spare time to find, adapt, and design technologies to fit the needs described by requestors.

VITA Volunteering entails no fixed tour of duty or limit to length of service. There is no need to pack up, leave home, job, country; people can participate in development overseas from their homes, workshops, and offices.

VITA Volunteering provides an avenue through which individuals can use their professional and avocational skills in a special way. The informative interchange between Volunteer and requestor can encourage a very real partnership in a problem-solving process. For many Volunteers the search for solutions appropriate to restricted conditions -- limited materials and capital, for example -- represents a professional challenge and an interesting change from the day-to-day routine of working with complex technologies. Other VITA supporters provide writing and illustrating skills to assist in preparing materials for print: much of the best information produced through the Volunteer network is published and becomes available to a worldwide audience.

If you would like to participate in development activities through VITA and become part of an information exchange that leads to real progress and viable solutions, please complete and return the reply form provided with this brochure.

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

Two major communication channels are used to keep far-flung Volunteers, programs, and supporters part of an effective network: VITA NEWS and VIS-A-VIS.

VITA NEWS

This newsletter is distributed to VITA requestors, supporters, funders, institutional contacts, interested parties. It is issued at least three times a year (quarterly when funds are available). The News contains updates on VITA activities -- status of programs, interactions with other appropriate technology groups, notices of important events, technical abstracts, etc.

VITA VIS-A-VIS

This newsletter is primarily for VITA Volunteers and is issued on the same basis as the VITA News, funding permitting. The VIS-A-VIS profiles important Volunteers, lists technical problems requiring solution, highlights Volunteer participation in VITA activities. The VIS-A-VIS also carries reviews and articles prepared by VITA people and abstracts of technical materials. It features a readers' exchange so that readers of the VIS-A-VIS working in similar fields can be made aware of areas of mutual interest.

VITA PUBLICATIONS

VITA currently offers about 40 appropriate technology manuals, and distributes them widely both in the U.S. and abroad; many of them are available in French and Spanish as well as English. VITA's Village Technology Handbook, which contains do-it-yourself plans for activities from digging wells to making soap, has long been a favorite. Others deal with such topics as windmills, solar cookers, and water wheels. A complete publications list giving titles, descriptions of content and prices is available upon request (see reply form).

In addition, a number of VITA-published Technical Bulletins are available. These are plans, case studies and think papers. They present new ideas and alternatives to generate more experimentation and testing and give the public ready access to some of the best from VITA Volunteers and others. A list of these Bulletins and their prices is available upon request.

VITA AND YOUR SUPPORT

VITA is a dynamic, flexible organization with an extremely cost-effective program for meeting overseas development needs. Funding comes from a variety of public and private sources. As costs continue to rise,

VITA must ask increased support from interested persons to insure the continuation of its communications activities. The last page of this brochure contains some additional information about how you might support VITA.

Funds received as a result of this brochure are used only to support the stated activities. VITA makes a full financial statement in its Annual Report, which is available upon request.

REPLY FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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- Please send me a copy of VITA's free Publications List; I enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.
 - Please send me a VITA Volunteer form; I am interested in sharing my skills.
 - Enclosed find a \$5 donation. Please place me on the VITA News mailing list.
 - Enclosed find a \$10 donation. Please place me on the lists to receive both VITA News and VITA Vis-A-Vis. Although I am not a VITA Volunteer, at this time, I am interested in the activities of VITA Volunteers.
 - Enclosed find a \$25 donation. I understand I will automatically receive copies of all VITA's communication pieces -- VITA News, Vis-A-Vis, Annual Report, Publications List, Lecture and Conference Announcements, etc.
 - Enclosed find an additional contribution of \$_____ to support VITA's program of providing technical assistance to people in developing countries.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO VITA ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

VITA
VOLUNTEERS
IN TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE

3706 Rhode Island Avenue
Mt Rainier, Maryland, USA 20822

Prices effective thru September 1977

ORDER INFORMATION

VITA Publications Service is a self-supporting, not-for-profit program. The cost of surface mail is included in the price. Airmail costs are extra and are based on weight and destination. (See box below for airmail costs.)

Please include payment with your order to save billing costs. Make payments in U.S. dollars. VITA accepts bank drafts, international money orders, postal money orders, and UNESCO coupons.

All payments not made in U.S. dollars are subject to a 10% service charge, in addition to the total amount of the order, to cover additional processing costs.

TO CALCULATE AIRMAIL COSTS:

For each publication ordered, find the airmail cost simply by taking the airmail code letter and finding the cost under the destination. For example, a copy of *Using Water Resources* (Airmail Code C) which is going to Africa would cost a total of \$8.85 -- \$5.00 for the publication and \$3.85 for airmail postage.

CODE	USA & CANADA	MEXICO & CEN. AMERICA	EUROPE & SO. AMERICA	AFRICA, ASIA & THE PACIFIC
A	\$.70	\$.95	\$ 1.35	\$ 1.75
B	\$ 1.05	\$ 1.30	\$ 1.95	\$ 2.55
C	\$ 1.80	\$ 1.75	\$ 2.80	\$ 3.85
D	\$ 2.60	\$ 2.25	\$ 3.65	\$ 5.10
E	\$ 4.35	\$ 3.35	\$ 5.70	\$ 8.05
F	\$ 5.45	\$ 4.30	\$ 7.45	\$10.55

Copies of this publications list are available in English, French and Spanish and will be supplied in bulk to requesting organizations.

ABOUT VITA

VITA, Volunteers in Technical Assistance, provides technical support to individuals and organizations working on problems faced by developing countries. Over 4,000 scientists, engineers, carpenters, agriculturalists, architects, educators, electricians, and other skilled people volunteer their talent and their spare time to locate, adapt, and design technologies to fit the needs described by requests for assistance which VITA receives. VITA thus has participated in the development process of over 100 countries.

VITA answers requests from village councils, small business owners, farmers, community workers, extension agents and government agencies, among others. If you, your organization or your community are at work on a project or a problem which relates to third world development, and you have need of help -- with such things as designing appropriate agricultural tools, constructing a bridge from local materials, determining what kind of well to dig for a certain situation, setting up a beekeeping or rabbit raising operation, finding out why a windmill or pump will not work, or any number of other questions on a wide variety of topics -- why not contact VITA and put its technical consultants to work for you?

VITA PUBLICATIONS SERVICE

VITA manuals reflect the organization's emphasis on designing, developing, and distributing village and community level technologies which are appropriate for use in developing areas. At the same time, these technologies often have application wherever people are interested in doing things for themselves. Therefore, VITA makes this information available worldwide through its Publications Service.

VITA's Publications Service seeks to print and distribute manuals in a form which can be used easily by the extension agent in a field situation or by the do-it-yourselfer at home. VITA materials are noted for:

- . technical accuracy in plain language
- . clear, illustrated formats
- . availability in a number of languages
- . reasonable prices

Publications are available in the Pacific area directly from Wantok Publishers, P. O. Box 1982, Boroko, Papua New Guinea.

Discounts available to large quantity purchasers. Please write for more details.