ChasKiTech, Powered by IICD

History

ChaskiTech is a Peruvian start-up company co-founded by three Cusco-based ICT specialists and powered by IICD from the very start. Since the beginning of 2012, the three technologists were active in IICD's capacity development programme in Peru and collaborated in various IICD-supported ICT for Education projects as ICT Officers.

In 2014, IICD proposed the creation of a device (ChasKiBox) whose function is to provide digital educational content to rural schools facing issues of access to contextualised content and Internet connectivity in Peru.

Consequently, ChaskiTech and IICD formed the joint venture "ChasKiTech Powered by IICD". It is through this joint effort that, in 2015, ChaskiTech and IICD consolidated the design and development of an offline multi-pocket portable server called ChaskiBox.

More detailed information on ChasKiTech and the ChasKiBox can be found on www.chaskitech.com

Objectives

ChasKiTech aims to optimize efficient use of available technological resources in education and other sectors, and to further enhance these sectors' work with relevant innovative technologies.

Through its solutions developed in co-creation and co-accreditation with IICD, ChaskiTech seeks to benefit millions of users in Peru and the region by creating accessible channels of relevant, contextualized resources for broad distribution and use.

ChasKiBox powered by IICD

ChasKiBox is an offline multipurpose portable server that enables the creation of a virtual wireless network where various technology tools can easily interact: XO laptops, tablets, smartphones, desktops, etc.

Among its different functionalities, ChasKiBox can serve as a digital offline library that allows children and teachers to access a wide range of educational resources through the different electronic devices at their disposal.

During the first half of 2015, ChasKiBox was tested in more than 10 rural schools in remote areas of Peru. During the implementation, it was noted that children and teachers required increased access to learning resources and more features in ChasKiBox to make better use of the various devices.

With a view to enhance its use, ChaskiTech is currently prioritising the design, development and testing of complementary and robust content modules for the ChasKiBox. Once this is finalised in 2016, ChaskiTech aims to deploy the ChasKiBox solution in other sectors such as health, environment, culture, and rural finance.

For more information on ChasKiBox see http://www.chaskitech.com/chaskibox.html

Other CHasKiTech Technology Solutions:

FM Radio station (ChaskiFM)
The ChaskiFM solution is a small low-power radio station, capable of reaching out to 5 kilometers around with a clear signal. This tool is aimed at the dissemination of educational content in rural areas.

Interactive whiteboards
ChaskiTech's low-cost interactive whiteboards project a computer screen on a surface from which one can control the computer in an interactive way. This allows for engaging uses of multimedia resources and lively and participatory classroom interaction.

XO laptops with double operative system
ChaskiTech has developed and deployed technologies and methodologies that enable maximal use of XO laptops during children's learning sessions in rural schools, contributing to children's computing abilities and expanding the uses of XO laptops in the classroom.

ChasKiTech Services:
- Design and implementation of innovative solutions and enhancing use of relevant, contextualised technological resources for use in rural organisations
- On-the-job training and capacity development workshops
- Technical support and troubleshooting
- Monitoring and evaluation, including metrics

Co-branding, co-ownership…
The value added of the joint venture between ChaskiTech and IICD is derived from their joint experience in complementing pedagogy with technology, supported by an appropriate education management model.

ChaskiTech and IICD work together under a cooperation agreement of co-creation, co-branding, co-ownership and co-accreditation of ICT4D solutions designed to meet the demands of rural areas facing challenges of limited contextualised content and appropriate technology.

Powered by IICD, ChaskiTech received constant advice and mentoring from IICD since early 2014 for the consolidation and validation of the ChaskiBox and other ICT4D solutions, paying due attention to all critical aspects required for effective and sustainable introduction of new technologies in various development sectors.

Local business models
ChaskiTech powered by IICD currently focuses on scaling its solutions and ensuring the sustainability of its products and services through appropriate business models in Peru. In 2015, ChaskiTech engaged in developing collaboration agreements with several municipalities of the Cusco region regarding the implementation and use of its solutions and services. ChaskiTech is also negotiating business opportunities with various companies (e.g. Telefónica) and technical universities of Peru.