

# Annual Report 2009



**D2Development Fund**

## The D2Development Fund in brief

The D2Development Fund is a non-profit association managed by alumni of the Development Studies Institute (DESTIN) at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). It has two objectives: First, to encourage and support entrepreneurship and innovative ideas in development. The second is to strengthen the DESTIN students, alumni and staff community.

These aims are pursued through a unique competition of development initiatives organized every year. Only proposals submitted by members of the DESTIN community are eligible, and the DESTIN community itself selects the award winner out of the best submissions by online voting.

Funding mainly comes from donations from members of the same community, and the concept also allows project proponents to promote their initiative and to seek advice from possibly more experienced members of the DESTIN world.

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## A message from the president

It began right after the graduation ceremony in 2008. Even though we were glad to have reached the end of our studies, we wanted to remain engaged with LSE's Development Studies Institute (DESTIN). And whilst beginning to experience the difficulties of the job market in the development industry and to understand the power of social entrepreneurship, we thought that prospective development professionals should be encouraged already as students to dare to create their own initiatives to work towards a better world.



This is how the idea of the D2Development fund was born. And throughout the first year of its existence, we worked hard to make it possible to award a first development initiative at the end of 2009. Fighting legal, financial and administrative hurdles, we managed to hand out the first prize to *Worldwise Development*, a web-based project which links anthropologists to practitioners to help them to better target development interventions to local needs in all parts of the planet.

Not everything added up perfectly in our first year. Notably on the financial side, there is a long way for us to go in 2010 and onwards. Yet we can celebrate 2009 as the year of the successful launch of our Fund. In this report, you can find the stories and numbers behind it.

Yours faithfully,

Marius Keller  
President

## Taking off – the first year of D2DF

Getting a project off the ground is never easy – this is both our *raison d'être*, since we help development initiatives take off, and a challenge we encountered ourselves in our first year of existence. Starting up the D2Development Fund required us to overcome financial, legal, organizational hurdles as much as getting the attention of our prospective constituency. To keep ourselves motivated and focused, we set ourselves a clear goal: handing out the first award at the end of the first year.

The founding stone of the D2Development Fund was set just before Christmas 2008. Having discussed the idea for a few weeks, Cecilia Serin and Marius Keller reached out to some of their classmates. By the time they met at LSE for their graduation ceremony, they had found a few partners, including Kim Thomond (née Lawler), Ana Maria Torres and Milan Patel. The £10 left from a graduation party they organized was earmarked as the starting capital for the D2Development Fund.

In the New Year, initial efforts focused on developing the concept of the Fund and promoting the idea to DESTIN staff and the School's alumni department. Students and alumni were first approached in May, in order to encourage them to develop their proposals for our award. A major moment came in June, when the first version of the constitution was signed – which established the Fund legally. For administrative reasons relating to the residence of our committee members and to the speed of legal registration, registration occurred in Switzerland.

Further challenges included the establishment of an account and finding a payment system to facilitate donations. The latter remained, unfortunately, an obstacle up to the awards night, and is still a priority concern in 2010. We also had to elaborate a selection procedure for the awards. We decided to conduct a pre-selection of three initiatives to ensure a high level of quality, and then organize an online vote to select the winning project.

Thanks to these efforts, we were able to achieve our goal of awarding a first development initiative in December 2009. Read on to learn about the awards night, the winning project, and the runner-ups.

## Awards Night 2009

Undoubtedly the culmination of our first year of existence, the Awards Night on December 10 successfully reflected both of our core goals. We handed out our first award in front of over 100 DESTIN students, alumni and staff. Thereby we encouraged many to think about starting their own development initiative. At the same time, the evening was an opportunity to network and to strengthen the bond across different groups within the DESTIN community.

The evening was advertised as the launch of both the Fund and the DESTIN Alumni Association (DAA), a body currently seeking approval from the LSE Alumni Association to be registered as a departmental subgroup of the latter. The DAA is, among other things, an important link for the Fund to the School and DESTIN, since we are legally and organizationally independent of both.

The 2009 Awards Night was only possible thanks to the generous support of DESTIN. The Institute provided the finance for renting the venue and catering. It also helped us, as on many other occasions, to advertise and plan the event. We are also very grateful for the support from a group of current students who managed invitations and logistics.



Aoife McCullough and Hamid Foroughi of Worldwise Development with their prize at the Awards Night 2009

Finally, the whole endeavour would not have been possible without the three very good candidate projects submitted to us a few months before the Awards Night. These submissions raised the benchmark for the winning project. All three projects are briefly presented below.

## **Worldwise Development (Award Winner)**

The purpose of Worldwise Development is a formal, web-based facility which allows development practitioners to connect and consult with anthropologists, using two key tools:

- an interactive map: find anthropologists in your country of interest through our interactive map
- a region-specific discussion forum: pose development queries to our anthropologists in our discussion forum

Worldwise Development will be a simple and easy way to identify anthropologists who specialise in a particular region. By drawing on their knowledge at the design phase, Worldwise Development will contribute to an increase in development programmes that are tailored to the local context. The key challenge in achieving that Worldwise Development becomes a primary means of negotiation between anthropologists and development practitioners is ensuring that the benefit of consulting with an anthropologist outweighs the cost, both financially and temporally. To this end, the Worldwise Development team will endeavour to attract anthropologists who are committed and able to respond to requests they receive via Worldwise Development.

## **CHILD Trust (Runner-up)**

CHILD uses community participation and local level action to help development projects have greater impact and stability, by facilitating local leaders to help their community to help themselves. The programme is based on the belief that every human being has the creativity and energy to give their children a better future. The CHILD Trust (a UK-based not-for-profit) and CHILD Ethiopia (an Ethiopian Charity) were founded in 2009 by the two people who originally developed and piloted CHILD in the World Food Programme, with the aim of bringing the immediate benefits of CHILD as a low-cost feasible solution to a larger constituency by bringing focus to existing capacities: seeking out the people who can unblock bottlenecks and make things work better. The approach is called CHILD because it brings people together around the idea of investing in the future of their children.

CHILD focuses on schools and educating the next generation as a starting point--but it can lead to much more. CHILD transforms primary schools into nuclei for development efforts that resonate out into the wider community. The process of 'doing' CHILD in a community results in a 'can-do' attitude to overcoming development challenges, and proactive problem-solving behaviour among those involved. It creates relationships between people that help communities to 'join the dots' between the diverse resource base they have and the things they want to change.

### **Darjeeling Tea Tours (Runner-up)**

Darjeeling Tea Tours is a cause-driven social business with the goal of facilitating development by capitalizing on Darjeeling's exquisite natural beauty and its historic tea production in order to alleviate the poverty of some of the most desperate residents, as well as to provide tea and Fairtrade enthusiasts a unique and life-changing journey. Tours delegations will learn about the role of Fairtrade in tea production in the context of the debate between 'Fairtrade' and 'free trade' commodities, and about the Darjeeling culture of tea and explore the political, economic and colonial context by meeting with domestic Fairtrade farmers and working alongside tea cooperatives. The intention of the tour is to create a bond between producer and consumer that will drive participants to recognize their own capacity and responsibility to commit to social change.

The Darjeeling Tea Tours company will cover all costs and make profit while at the same time achieving development objectives such as improved living standards and alternative livelihood creation for tea garden workers. The revenue from the company will remit to a fund structured similarly to the Joint Body fund of Fairtrade and it will be used by the community towards projects such as healthcare, housing, financial services, nutrition, safe drinking water, renewable energy, etc. The impact of the business on people and the environment, rather than the amount of profit made in a given period will measure the success of the business.

## The executive committee

The 2009 executive committee of the D2Development Fund consisted of the following five 2007-8 DESTIN Alumni.



**Marius Keller**  
President

Marius graduated from DESTIN in Development Management in 2008. He currently works as Project Officer on Climate Change and Energy for the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) in Geneva.



**Kim Thomond (née Lawler)**  
Marketing Officer

Kim graduated from DESTIN in Development Management in 2008. Based in London, she currently manages an NGO called 'Big Book Swap', which supports literacy and education development in Africa. She also works part-time for an asset management firm.



**Milan Patel**  
Treasurer and IT Officer

Milan graduated from DESTIN in Development Studies in 2008. He currently works as an independent consultant with expertise in financial technology and capital market development, based in London.



**Cecilia Serin**  
Donation Officer

Cecilia graduated from DESTIN in Development Management in December 2008. She currently works as a consultant for the United Nations Environment Programme's Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) in Geneva.



**Ana Maria Torres**  
Selection Officer

Ana Maria graduated from DESTIN in Development Management in 2008. She currently works as a Program Coordinator for the Department of Economic Development Trade and Tourism at the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington DC.

# Financial statement

## Balance on 31 December 2009

<u>Assets</u>		<u>Liabilities</u>	
Bank account	€ 824	Credit	€ 744
PayPal	€ 9	Own Assets	€ 89
	€ 833		€ 833

## Profit and loss account

<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Revenue</u>	
Account Fees	€ 2	Interest	€ 1
Administrative Expenses	€ 84	Donations	€ 334
Webpage costs	€ 160		
Surplus	€ 89		
	€ 335		€ 335

## Remarks

The prize sum awarded to *Worldwise Development* was not paid out in 2009. A first installment is paid in early 2010, the second installment six months later depending on the progress of project implementation.

## Legal information

The D2Development fund is a legally recognized association according to Art. 60 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code. Our constitution can be downloaded on our website: [www.d2development.org](http://www.d2development.org).

Evaluations on the requirement of registrations according to British and/or American law are under way.