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DUNIA MOJA STANFORD

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Stanford launches mobile learning project in Africa

Silicon Valley / San Jose Business Journal - July 5, 2007

Stanford University said Thursday its International Outreach Program launched a project with three partnering universities in Tanzania, Uganda, and South Africa.

The Dunia Moja Project -- "one world" in Swahili -- is a pilot project that offers classes via cell phones.

Once conducted by mail, distance-learning programs now offer Web-based courses and materials. But in Africa and other parts of the developing world, students have better access to cell phones than to computers and Internet connections.

"We're experimenting with a new model for distance learning that incorporate both local and global perspectives," said Shelley Goldman, Stanford professor of education. "We're looking at how mobile technologies can be used to give people access to information and education."

Stanford said both Ericsson and Sony Ericsson collaborated to provide mobile smart phones equipped with video cameras, audio recorders, and Internet capability, as well as technical and other support for the pilot version of the course.

Students at Makerere University, Mweka College of African Wildlife Management, University of the Western Cape, and Stanford University use the phones to access the course Web site, send text messages, and post media to mobile blogs.

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