



Embassy of the United States of America Bujumbura, Burundi

June 5, 2013

Note Opening Ceremonies:

Rosa Parks American Corner, University of Burundi, Kamenge Campus - 15:00 Wednesday, June 5, 2013

American Corner, Kinindo (across from Light University) – 15:00 Monday, June 10, 2013

Two new American Corners promote English learning

The U.S. Embassy this month is launching its newest programs to promote English learning in Burundi with the official opening of two American Corners in the nation's capital.

The Rosa Parks American Corner is located on the University of Burundi, Kamenge Campus and is being operated in collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education and Research. The American Corner – Kinindo is located across from Light University and is a collaboration with the Ministry of Youth, Culture and Sports.

The Embassy is also developing an American Corner in Gitega in collaboration with the newly opened Gitega Cultural Center. In addition, the Embassy recently opened a state-of-the-art Information Resource Center in its new embassy in Kigobe. Membership at all the centers is open to the public at no charge.

“The American Corners are part of the commitment by the U.S. government to help develop English capacity in Burundi,” said Ambassador Dawn Liberi. “We know that building English capacity is an important ingredient to Burundi’s success in becoming a full-fledged partner in the East African Community and we are working at several levels to assist in that process.”

American Corners provide free internet and the computers to access it, English books and magazines, and access to ELibrary, a database of the library collections of American research and university libraries. They also host American films, speakers, debates, English discussion tables and book clubs. Unlike the cultural centers of the past, which served only one region, American Corners are more widely disbursed and operate in collaboration with partners from government, universities or private organizations.

In addition, the Embassy is supporting English learning with a full-time English Language Fellow on the English faculty of the University of Burundi, regular training programs for secondary and university English faculty by English language specialists, the distribution of English teaching resources and support for English Clubs.

Last month, the Embassy launched its first English Access program of intensive English training for 25 young people in rural Kigutu. In addition, the U.S. government annually sends Burundians to the United States on exchange programs in a variety of topics.