

New HP-ORT Computer Centre in TULA, Russia



On the 13th of December 2007 a new HP-ORT Computer Centre was opened in the premises of the Tula Vocational Boarding School for Deaf Students and Students with Special Needs #2 – the only educational institution of this kind in Russia. New Centre was started in terms of the GET-IT Program designed for new entrepreneurs. Cooperation between ORT, Tula Vocational Boarding School for Deaf Students #2, the Microenterprise Acceleration Institute and Hewlett Packard Corporation brought this project to life. New set of notebooks and “T-Tools” courseware developed with support of HP expands the possibility of the Centre giving students with special needs an opportunity to obtain skills and knowledge for finding jobs in small businesses. The opening ceremony was broadcast on local TV (["TV Vesti Tula"](#)). Officials present at the ceremony:

- *Owen Kemp, vice-president of Hewlett-Packard, Director General of HP in Russia;*
- *Karel Vavruska, Director of Business Development in HP;*
- *Arkady Chmunevich, Vice Governor of Tula Region;*
- *Sergey Gorinskiy, Deputy Director of ORT-Russia;*
- *Alexander Ustinov, Principal, Tula Vocational Boarding School for Deaf Students #2;*
- *Irina Matyzhenkova, Head of the City Administration Deput,;*
- *Nickolay Korpachev, Deputy Director of Social Development Department of Tula Region;*
- *Dmitry Skrylkov, Director of HP-ORT DCC at school #55, Tula ;*
- *Faina Sanevich, Director of Tula Regional Jewish Charity Centre "Hasdey Neshama";*
- *Journalists;*
- *Students and teachers of the Tula Vocational Boarding School for Deaf Students #2.*

Alexander Ustinov gave a short tour to all the present around the school which was founded in 1948 to provide people with hearing problems with trades and professions to give them a chance to earn their living. During last 60 years thousands of students have graduated from School. It used to have more than 400 students who lived and attended classes there but now School has the budget and can house only 130. Now it is the only educational institution in Russia focused on children with special needs from low income socially underserved

families. Students are provided with free meals, accommodation, medical service, psychological support. Experienced tutors train them carefully into the professions of metal workers, shoemakers, tailors. And now they will have a chance to become ICT specialists. "Kids who hear only silence deserve to communicate with their peers around the world", said



Alexander Ustinov.

Owen Kemp and Karel Vavruska gave a short overview on HP Corporation and GET-IT program (Graduate Entrepreneurship Training through IT).

Photo description: Sergey Gorinskiy, Owen Kemp, Alexander Ustinov are on tour in school museum.

- **GET-IT** (*Graduate Entrepreneurship Training on IT*) is part of HP's global *Microenterprise Development Program* and is a training initiative for young or unemployed or graduates between the age of 16 and 25 in underserved communities with good economic growth potential. Participating organisations will receive a grant that comprises a guidance course for the trainers of the organisation, the curriculum materials to be able to deliver the courses, as well as the technological devices needed to carry out this business-related training.

The objective of the new program is to advance the use of technology, to increase its access, to build the capacity for the use of information and communications technologies in the communities and to promote the development of Entrepreneurship and Microenterprise skills within underserved communities.

- The **MEA-I** (<http://www.me-a-i.org>) is an international, non-profit organization that facilitates access and knowledge of IT by advancing the implementation of digital acceleration centres, student-centred teaching and learning programs through ubiquitous technology. The *Microenterprise Acceleration Institute* is sponsored by Hewlett-Packard.
- **HP** is recognized as a philanthropic leader among global corporations. During fiscal year 2005, HP contributed more than \$45 million in resources worldwide, helping students, teachers, community residents and nonprofits address some of their most fundamental challenges (<http://www.hp.com/hpinfo/grants/>).
- **World ORT** is a major international not-for-profit promoter of education and training, with some 200,000 beneficiaries every year. Since its foundation in 1880, World ORT has helped more than 3 million people through its global network of schools, colleges, training centres and programmes.
- **HP** and **World ORT** have a long standing and productive relationship, including the setting up of *Digital Community Centres* in Slavutyck (Ukraine), Tula (Russia), and Dikhatole (South Africa) as well as *Microenterprise Acceleration Programme (MAP)* centres in Samara (Russia).