

Info at the click of a mouse

From this term teachers and learners around the country will be able to access a huge amount of information on Namibia's education system that has been saved on a compact disc (CD).

Launched at the National Institute for Educational Development (NIED) at Okahandja just before schools closed, 'Namibian Educational Resources 2004' includes curriculum documents, syllabus guides, 125 Namibian syllabi, subject policies and all the textbook catalogues, as well as many locally produced lesson plans.

It also contains plenty of information of the Basic Education Teachers Diploma

(BETD).

Much of this material has been on the NIED website www.edsn.net.na since last February, but that was only available to those with access to the Internet.

Now anybody with a computer that can read a CD can use it.

At present they are available at teachers' resource centres around the country.

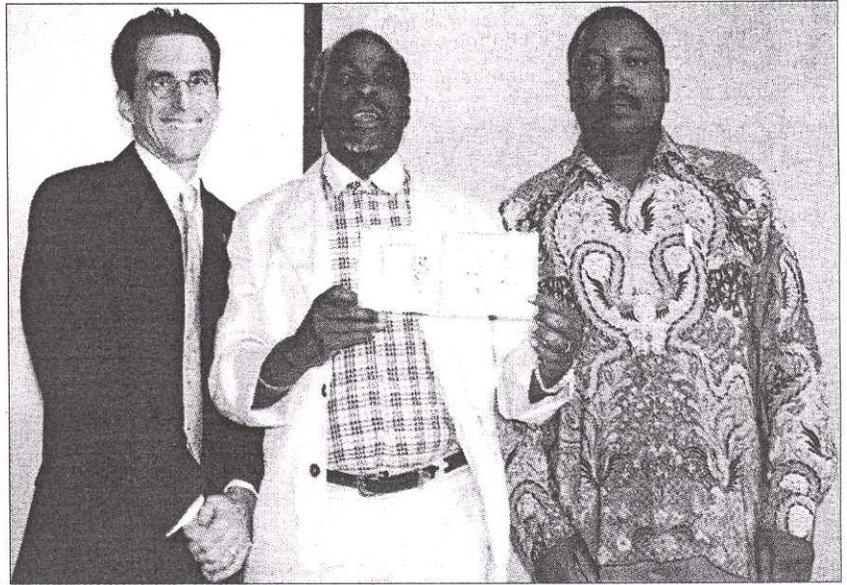
Staff at these centres helped prepare all the material in collaboration with NIED.

The United States Agency for International Development (Usaid) funded the project through iNET.

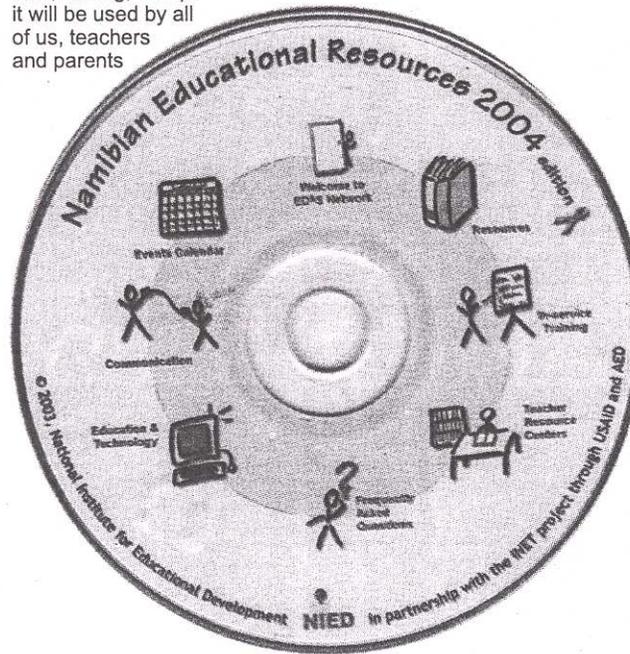
Speaking at the launch, Higher Education Minister Nahas Angula commended NIED for continuing to

provide a range of services to the education sector, and also congratulated them for moving into the digital age.

"We should expand this access to information," he said, adding, "I hope it will be used by all of us, teachers and parents



WITH THE PROGRAMME ... From left Todd Malone, head of The Initiative for Namibian Educational Technology, (iNET), Higher Education Minister Nahas Angula and NIED director Alfred Ilukena at the launch of the educational CD in Okahandja recently.



too."

Mr Angula said learners were demanding computers and he wanted to see this CD widely used.

He even suggested a competition to see which schools were using it most.

"It is one thing to put out information but another to see if it is actually used."

He pointed out that research had shown there was a disappointing relationship between the country's investment in education and the results from this investment.

What he would like to see, he said,

were certain basic things in place like enough textbooks for every learner and teachers using their time productively.

He cited one example of teachers spending more than half the time they should be giving lessons chatting and arguing in the parking area."

Much had been done to help teachers teach properly but the question was whether these resources would end up becoming just another fad.

"It will be a sad day if that happens," Mr Angula said.

- Carmen Honey