



**African Skills
and Development Group Ltd**



American Welding Society
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION MEMBER

FROM MIKE VALLEZ™

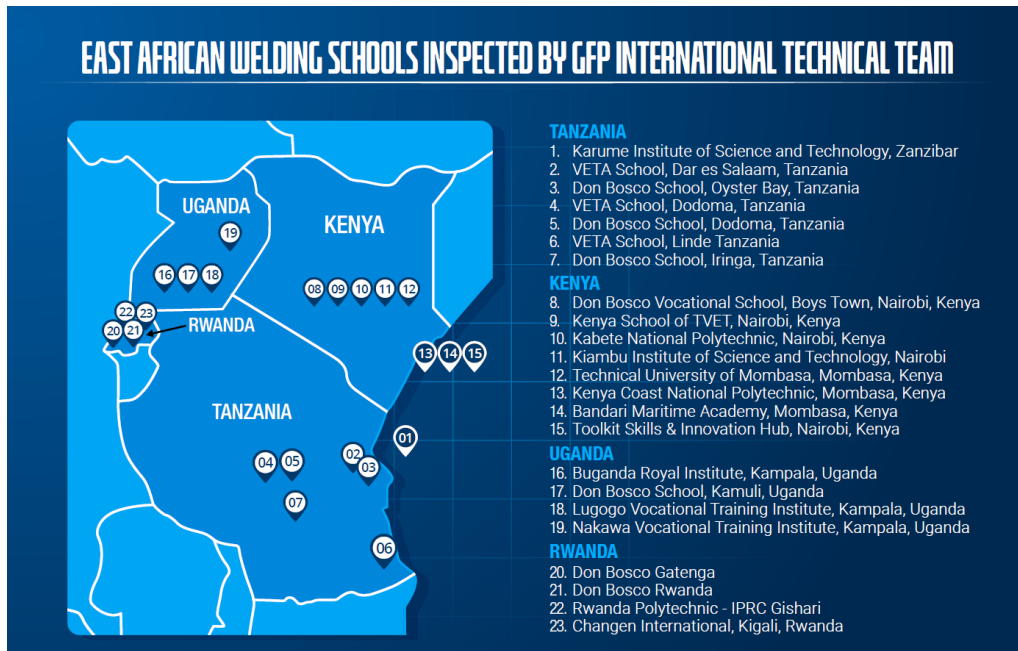
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Announcing the \$100 million USD African Welding School and Training Fund

Seeking Financial Pledges and Blue-ribbon Committee Members

GFP International is preparing to launch the planned \$100 million USD African Welding School and Training Fund. As a final preparatory step, we are assembling a Blue-ribbon Committee to play a key role in the program, and we ask you or someone you may know to join this important Committee to assist with the execution of this program. The ideal Committee members will have an interest in this mission and be in an influential position to expand our growing coalition. Membership on the Committee will be for a one-year minimum term, extendable by mutual interest. Participation in one monthly meeting will be requested. Deeper involvement will be welcome for those with an interest.

Throughout human history, societies with the secrets of metalworking have thrived. From the copper age to the bronze age, and now the iron age, the connection between metalworking and human prosperity is unmistakable. After three years of analysis, and twenty years of engagement with African education, my colleagues and I have identified the African skills gap in the realm of metalworking and industrial welding and have developed a program to address this urgent need. In 2023, our technical team inspected the East African welding schools listed on the map below.



See the reverse side for a flow diagram and details of the African Welding School and Training Fund

Our founder, Mike Vallez, also conducted a lecture tour during which he visited eleven schools and talked with over 1,000 students about the important role of industrial welding in an industrial economy. In February 2025, we will continue the school visits and lectures in West Africa.

We need to expand our sound leadership team. We are currently forming a **Blue-Ribbon Committee** of known leaders in industry, government, academia and international agencies, including representatives from donor organizations. The initial role of this committee will be to:

1. Confirm our findings for the need and positive impact of modernizing / creating 20-30 welding schools of excellence.
2. Review grant applications submitted by trade and polytechnic schools and recommend which schools should receive grants. Help identify which schools and locations would be most impactful for the first 20-30 welding schools.
3. Provide high level oversight for the \$100 million USD program to assure transparency and good governance.
4. Help build a coalition to support government policy changes, appeal to banks, industry, foundations and aid agencies to fund the program.

If you or someone in your sphere of influence are interested in participating in this Blue-Ribbon committee, please contact:

Eng Michael Vallez, P.E., MBA / mjvallez@gfp-intl.org

This space is reserved to place the logos of individuals, companies or other organizations who choose to support this newsletter and the mission of GFP International. It will also help us expand the current digital circulation of 2,932 and print circulation of 3,419 which includes hundreds of top executives of global and domestic energy and mining companies; African power companies; African bank executives; global foundations active in Africa; NGO's; international development organizations; educators; students; government ministers and staff, and many others. To inquire about this opportunity to support this newsletter and our work, please contact Founder and Executive Director Eng. Michael J. Vallez at mjvallez@gfp-intl.org.

See the reverse side for a flow diagram and details of the African Welding School and Training Fund

Mike Vallez is the Founder and Executive Director of GFP International, and the Founder and Managing Director of African Skills and Development Group Ltd.

GFP International, (a U.S. 501(c)(3) non-profit organization)
Salt Lake City, Utah
<https://www.gfp-intl.org/>

African Skills and Development Group Ltd:
Delaware USA, Nairobi Kenya, Dar es Salaam Tanzania, Kigali Rwanda, Lagos Nigeria, Accra Ghana
<https://www.africanskillsanddevelopment.com/>

THE \$100 MILLION AFRICAN WELDING SCHOOL & TRAINING FUND

THE TEAM MEMBERS

GFP International is a US based non-profit organization with a twenty-year background working in the African education sector.

<https://www.gfp-intl.org/>

The Blue-Ribbon Committee is currently being formed with a group of 25+ leaders from industry, academia, banking, government and other constituents including donor organizations.

International Accounting Firm with a deep footprint in Africa with its assurance, tax and advisory services:

(To be determined)

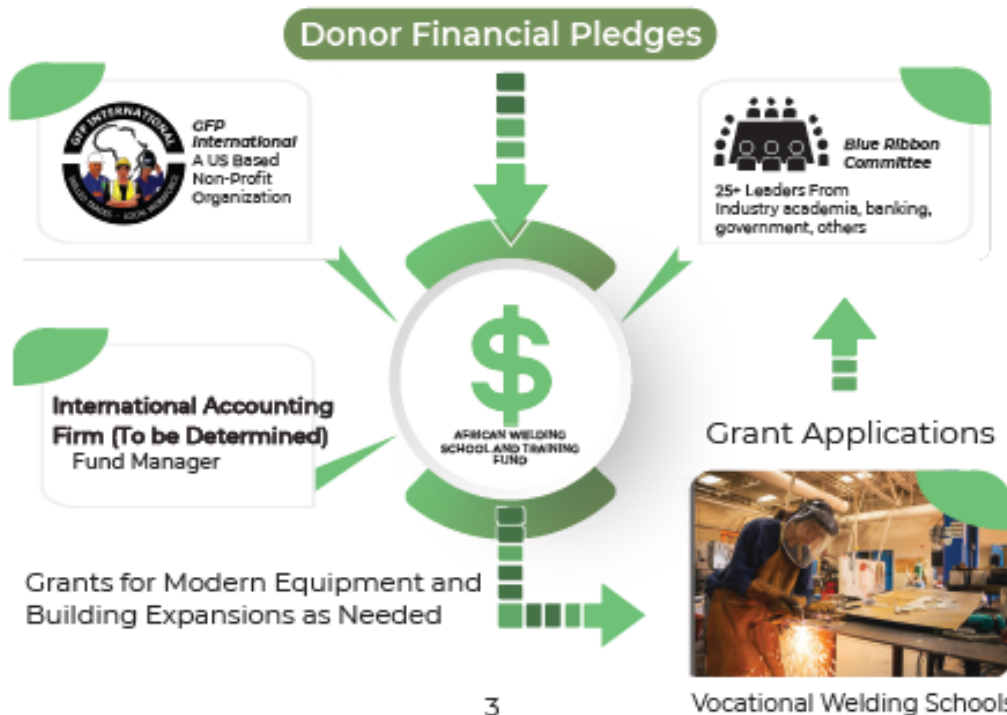
African Skills and Development Group Ltd. is a corporation established to source skilled trades, project advisory, project management, project development, and industrial development services, and currently has branches in a growing number of African countries.

<https://www.africanskillsanddevelopment.com/>

THE GRANT MANAGEMENT PROCESS

MAJOR DONORS

Energy and Mining Corps., Foundations, African Development Bank, Governmental Entities, Sovereign Aid Agencies, Others



Project Management, Controls, and Technology Transfer

Responsible oversight and management of grants will be provided by a team consisting of the Blue Ribbon Committee, GFP International, an International Accounting Firm, and African Skills and Development



MEASUREMENT OF OUTCOMES

- Creation of 20-30 welding schools of excellence through modernization, expansion, and training the trainers.
- Students completing the training programs will be tested in accordance with American Welding Society (AWS) and/or IIW standards, and each school will have a pass/fail rate and other outcome measurements against world standards.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Due to the high cost of welding training consumables (steel plate, pipe, welding rod, gases, etc.) a scholarship fund will be created from donations.

ONGOING SUPPORT

- GFP International / African Skills and Development will provide up to three years of support with bulk purchasing of consumables, equipment maintenance support, technical support, facility management advisory, train the trainers, and other services as needed or requested.
- Outcomes, (pass/fail rates) from the various schools will be monitored and a spirit of positive competition between the schools maintained, with the World Skills welding competition. Best practices will be shared among the welding schools of excellence.