

CONVERSACIONES CON...

Maryam Khamis

Carmen Aguilera Lucio-Villegas

Vicepresidenta de EB

*Diamond School is a government school in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, which was visited by Carmen Aguilera, Vicepresident of AEB, last November. The school has a total amount of 2.204 students and 47 teachers. The groups gather a high number of students, more than 100 per class. It is a bilingual school, English and Swahili. The school has recently been twinned by AEB with **El Valle School** in Madrid. The aim of this programme is to connect two schools from very different countries and backgrounds so that they learn from each other and students get to know about their mutual cultures, history and traditions. **Maryam Khamis** is the Assistant Headmaster of Diamond School.*



Diamond School takes part in Profuturo Project, a Spanish programme which aims at improving education by means of providing technology to schools.

AEB initiates this twinning programme and looks forward to enlarging the number of schools interested in sharing good practices among other schools from different parts of the world.

Carmen Aguilera (C.A.) — *What objectives support bilingual education (English/Swahili) in your country?*

Maryam Khamis (M.K.) — *The main objective for us consists of gaining insight of teaching techniques in a bilingual context and provide our students with the knowledge of a second language.*

C.A. — *When did bilingual education start at Diamond school?*

M.K. — *We started bilingual education since the very beginning, that means 2002 when the school was first opened.*

C.A. — *What's the timetable of the school? When does it start and end?*

M.K. — *School starts at 7.30 h and ends at 16.00 h.*

C.A. — *Does the majority of the children live nearby or far away? If so, how do they come to school? How long does it take for those living the furthest?*

M.K. — *Most of the students live far away from the school. The majority of the children normally come by using public transport, others use private transport and others come by using the school bus, although they have to pay for it.*

C.A. — *Do you supply any meal to children? (breakfast, lunch...)*

M.K. — *We provide meals at the school but children have to pay for them.*

C.A. — *What range of age does the school cover?*

M.K. — *Students' age range goes from 5 to 15 years old.*

C.A. — *Is there a library in the school? If so, can you describe what type of activities does it carry out?*

M.K. — *There is a library at the school and students can borrow books, both readers and textbooks.*

C.A. — *Does the school have any kind of sport facility? What type of sports do children practice?*

M.K. — *We have some sport facilities not according to the number of students at the school. Children practice football, netball and athletics.*

C.A. — *What kind of education material do teachers have (teachers room, department room, computers, any other electronic devices)?*

M.K. — *Teachers normally work in groups and help each other. There is one computer and the tablets provided by Profuturo Project.*

C.A. — *Do teachers receive any type of special training to become bilingual teachers?*

M.K. — *Teachers do not receive any kind of special training to become bilingual teachers.*

C.A. — *At what age do children start receiving instruction in English?*

M.K. — *They start receiving bilingual education since 5-6 years old.*

C.A. — Which subject is the easiest to follow in English for the children?

M.K. — Those subjects easier for the children to follow are Personality Development Study, ICT, Mathematics and English.

C.A. — Do teachers address children in English all the time? One teacher/one language.

M.K. — We normally address children in English in class but we are trying very hard to make them talk in English all the time.

C.A. — How do children react and respond when being addressed in English?

M.K. — They respond well since they are used to English since the very moment they start school.

C.A. — Do children use English out of the classroom?, during

breaks, at the playground, when practising sports...?

M.K. — Not really, although as I said before, we try hard for them to do it...

C.A. — Do you measure and evaluate childrens' linguistic level? How do you do it?

M.K. — Children have to go through tests and exams and so we measure their linguistic level. They also have to go through external evaluations but they are not conducted in English.

C.A. — Would you like to add any other comment?

M.K. — We have a great number of students per class, more than 100 at a time!, and it really makes teaching very hard. We therefore appreciate when we get hands on good teaching materials. Sport facilities is something that we also miss and which could help a lot.

