

Student newsletter J'Africa Foundation, January 2008

Education makes development happen

Happy and successful 2008

The board of J'Africa and all her donators wish you a happy and successful New Year. We hope that you and your loved-ones will have a good 2008.

Introduction

This is our fourth newsletter for our sponsored students. We want to keep you posted on developments in our sponsorship program and introduce you to each other. We have selected some new students at the Catholic University and at Lilongwe Technical College. We want to make sure that everybody not only benefits from our financial assistance, but also has the advantage of being part of the "***J'Africa community***". In this newsletter more about that.

Visit Carien de Vries and René Delwel to Malawi in August 2007

Most students have met Carien de Vries in Malawi. She enjoyed meeting all our students and took pictures of almost everyone. Your pictures will be presented in newsletters to our donators and will also be on our website. If you do not want to be present on the web, please inform us.

Carien was very impressed. Considering the problems you face: lack of books, lack of instruments, lack of other resources, she feels that you do a very good job. René and Carien were happy to see that you all are intelligent, eager to learn and serious about your future. We are very happy to contribute to the opportunity of education.

You have received her email in which she thanks you for your enthusiastic reaction to her visit. This encourages other boardmembers to plan a visit to Malawi as well.

Jafrica community

We have received some questions about the J'Africa community that we want to set up. We were under the impression that in Malawi the concept of student network and alumni network was clear. We found out it wasn't.

The concept of a network is that you share knowledge with people you can trust, because they belong to the same 'community'. In this case, because you are all sponsored by J'Africa. The things you can share are: knowledge about your interests, but also about jobs, about your study etc. In the Netherlands we have official alumni networks (per university), where graduated students find information on how to apply for jobs, where you can find a coach/mentor for activities and where alumni offer books for sale or rooms to rent. The advantages of being part of a network are apparent. You have 'insight' information, you can trust the persons in your network (as they are known to at least someone you know) and your help is of use. We want to start a J'Africa community on internet. Our plan is to start in August 2008.

We want to introduce you to each other and to our donators. We think that together you should be able to gain more knowledge. For example, Jacintha will do a thesis on nutrition value of cassava. Someone at the NRC has done an attachment where he found out that cassava is not suitable for certain soil. At the same time at the Agricultural University in Wageningen (the Netherlands) someone is doing PhD research on this topic as well. You can all meet at our community and website and share your knowledge and insights. This will improve Jacintha's thesis, this will encourage the NRC person to be active in the promotion of cassava and this will assist the person in Wageningen with sound research results from within the country.

We are very interested in suggestions on what you think will be of benefit to you. So please do not hesitate to come up with ideas.

Sustainable development

In the Netherlands and other western countries there is much attention about sustainable development. The climate is changing due to high levels of CO2 in our atmosphere (caused by the

burning of oil and gas) How this affects a country like Malawi is not clear, but it is obvious that everybody needs to think about sustainable development. Africa in general, can benefit from the lessons learned in the developed countries. There is this principle which states that new innovations are cheaper for new countries to adopt, is very applicable in your cases. This principle is also going on in your country. In the Netherlands we all have a home-based phonenumber (landlines). Building this infrastructure has cost us a lot of money. In Malawi, you will not invest in this old fashioned telecom infrastructure anymore because the whole continent changes to the use of mobile phones right away. This example of the law on diminishing returns indicates that Africa can and will benefit from innovations and improvements of other parties.

Innovations on energy reduction (in casu CO₂, carbondioxide, that induces global warming) are imposed on countries. Developing countries are not part of the discussion on the follow up on the Kyoto protocols or the Bali conference in November 2007. Al Gore (former vice president of the US) has created a movie concerning the climate change. This has led to a world wide acknowledgement of the importance of a sustainable and durable living standard.

Anne is very involved in these developments and has been reading about this. She has found an idea that perhaps can help you (and your country) to think differently about the environment and about sound business ideas and innovation. The concept is waste equals food. In nature everything is used to benefit the natural cycle. The concept of waste equals food is also known as the cradle-to-cradle principle. The principle is that you only produce things if the waste is of use for a new production cycle. In nature this is always the case. Waste from animals e.g. can be used as fertiliser. This concept therefore induces you to think about the product (including the disposal of it) before you produce it. With this concept you are forced to think ahead and be innovative. For example; It is possible to make "plastic" bags that can be used as fertiliser e.g. Oilproducer Shell has introduced these bags in their offices in Europe. If you are interested in this concept, let us know. We will try to get you in touch with students from our universities.

Bid network

If you graduate you are able to find a job and work in Malawi. Some people though have other plans and want to start a business. In the Netherlands there is a foundation that selects sound business ideas in the third world countries and coaches and financially support (in some special cases) the entrepreneurs. The Bidnetwork (www.bidnetwork.org) has facilities to think about a business proposal. Visit their website to see if and what they can do for you. Of course you can also ask your contactperson about this.

New institute

We have decided to add another institute to our sponsorship program. In 2008 we will start with sponsoring students at the Lilongwe Technical College. Based on research on development of countries, we want to enhance the technical skills in Malawi. This is one way of assuring steady development. We have selected 8 students at this institute.

Our current students

1. Christina Zimba studies Business Administration at the Polytechnic, Blantyre.
2. Tadius Namangwyio studies Law at the Shareworld Institute of Management.
3. Enock Mbiring'oma studies Mathematics and Geography at the Mzuzu university.
4. Francis Biziweck studies Humanities at the Chancellor College in Zomba.
5. Jacintha Nyiaka studies agriculture at Bunda College.
6. Mitusunge Masakasa studies Public Administration at Chancellor College in Zomba

Our students at the Kamuzu college of Nursing

1. Martha Kamwiyo, the upgrading program Diploma of Nursing.
2. Lucy Msukwa
3. Marion Chiwena
4. Chancy Banda
5. Thorani Munyenembe, the upgrading program Diploma of Nursing

We will select new students before May 2008

Our students at the College of Medicine

1. Ester Sanga, 1st year student
2. Akuzike Kandulu, 1st year student
3. Annie Chauma, 3rd year student
4. Thamara Phiri, 4th year student
5. Solomon Jere, 4th year student
6. Keller Kumwenda, 3rd year student
7. Gift Kwamdera, 3rd year student, laboratory technique
8. Edson Mumba, 3rd year student

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Our students at the Catholic university

1. Julio Mewenyenkulu, BSc special needs education
2. Allan Khalira, BA, education
3. Annette Mkandawire, Bachelor Social Science
4. Perpetua Yomatu, Bachelor Social Science
5. Bizeck Tomas, BA, education
6. Margret Mphwiyo, BA, education
7. Laurent Banda, BSc, Education

And we have selected 8 new students at the Catholic University.

Our students at the NRC

1. Patience Milauli, Environmental Management
2. Kanu Chikoja, irrigation technology, graduated
3. Mtendere Chitete, agricultural management, graduated
4. Aubrey Mwamadi, agricultural management
5. Chandiona Malanga, animal health
6. Tandiwe Chirwa, food and nutrition
7. Elizabeth Ngalande, environmental management
8. Charles Seda, Irrigation technology, graduated
9. Brian Bwanali, agricultural management

We have selected new students at the NRC.

Contribution to our newsletter and website

For our Dutch donators, colleagues and friends we make a newsletter. We present our selected students, inform them on results. We also present you on our website (including picture if we have one). We also have room for insights from our students themselves. In our next newsletter we will present some of the essays you have written. But you can also make your own statement. We encourage you to think about politics, socio-economic issues, health related issues and other important subjects for the development of your country. And we encourage you to share your vision with us. One of the reasons why people contribute to our organisation is because they feel related to you. *Information is key for a feeling of connectiveness, so keep us posted.*

Graduated students 2004 – 2006

Some of our students have graduated or have finished their diploma. If you have graduated, or will graduate soon, please let us know your plans. If you have knowledge about our graduated students, please let us know. We want to inform our donators about their successes.

1. Malack Lajini studied Motor Vehicle Maintenance at the Continuing Education Center in Blantyre. It is not clear what his results have been.
2. Yesaya Nyirenda studies Motor Vehicle Maintenance at the Continuing Education Center in Blantyre. He did not do well at diploma level and he was excluded from our sponsorship program. He has found an attachment and we hope that he will be able to graduate at advanced level.

3. Edson Mhango studied Information Technology at the Zomba Institute of Professional Studies. He is now working as a salesperson in an IT related shop.
4. Ireen Ngulube studied at Blantyre Business College, Hotel Management en Catering. We have not heard from her.
5. Carstens M'angamba studied at Belgium Business College, Marketing. He passed his exams, but has difficulty with the examinations board. He therefore does not have a full diploma.
6. Moses Mwale studied at IATA for touroperator. He went to the US for further studies on rescue related subjects. He has his own company and is doing very well.
7. Fainess Daniel studied at the Natural Resources College. She has found a job with NASFAM (National Small Holder Farmers Association of Malawi). She will be based in Balaka District in the Southern Region of Malawi. Her job will involve working with Farmer Associations who produce some crops and sell them to the NASFAM. She has today gone for an induction course and starts her work on 1st February 2007. Before she found this job, she shared her knowledge and did projects in her neighbourhood.
8. Josephine Banda is working for the Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM) on a project funded by the European Commission. The project is called "Mkhumba Boundary Communities Livelihoods Improvement Project". It is located in Traditional Authority Mkhumba in Phalombe District. It is a project working with 26 village communities with a population of 25,000 individuals. Josephine's main work is to assist communities increase crop production through such interventions as irrigation, planting high yielding varieties and soil and water conservation.
9. Roy Mikeka did not pass his Pre Med at the College of Medicine. He has been admitted at Chancellor to do Bsc in Education.

Contactpersons

Every student has been given a contactperson. With this person you should communicate, preferably by mail. If your results are out, you need to send a copy via surface mail to us as soon as possible. We would like to introduce ourselves.

Ms **Carien de Vries** is chairperson of the J'áfrica foundation. She is responsible in the external contacts with donators and sponsors. Carien lives in Amsterdam, the capital city of the Netherlands and works as director at a consultancy firm.

Ms. **Anne de Rooij** is the secretary of the foundation. She does the administrative process and is responsible for the communication. Anne does projects on strategy and takes care of the children, she has with Jan.

Mr. **Jan Kouwenhoven** is the financial officer of J'África. He is a financial manager at Shell.

Ms. **Floor Weijman** is a boardmember. She is responsible for the communication with several students. Floor works as a project manager at an IT firm

Ms. **Andrea Blokpoel** is a boardmember. She is responsible for the website and the communication with several students. Andrea works as a service account manager at a telecom firm.

Our honorary representative in Malawi is Mr. **Daulos Mauambeta**. Daulos lives and works in Malawi and is executive president of the Wildlife and Environmental Society in Malawi.

We all work on a voluntary basis for the foundation. We spend 97,5% of all donations on our students.

Questions from our students

You have received your granting letter, in which the total amount of your grant is stated. It is no use to ask for additional money. We have a tight budget and no extra's are granted. But we can help you with other issues.

One of our students asked us about the working of the internet. We briefly discussed how the internet works, how you can use it, and how you can make the most of it.

Another student asked us about group decisions. How can you make sure that you do not loose yourself in projects done with others. How can you get your point across?

Another student had difficulty with his registration with exams. We made an effort to find out what had happened and discussed with the person how to communicate with people in Malawi.

The examples give you an idea of what your contact person can do for you. Do not hesitate to ask question or ask for help.

J'Africa

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