

BETTER NEWS

SPECIAL MINI WORKCAMP EDITION

**BWC – NICE – SOLIDARITES JEUNESSE MINI WORKCAMP
FROM 10TH TO 17TH FEBRUARY 2011
AT THE BWC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTRE & ECO VILLAGE
YAOUNDE**



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Better world Cameroon Rooting African Values into markets everywhere !

Learning to collaborate with the international community, creating a specific platform for Climate and Water to encourage friendly organizations to lead the way to Solutions and Actions on Sustainable Development in Africa.



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"Together for a Better World" Summer WorkCamps



EDITORIAL

Partnerships, Key to Achievement of MDGs

Better World Cameroon (BWC) is a progressive Cameroonian NGO that is rapidly emerging in the international cultural exchange and student exchange arena. With over 14 years of direct experience in organizing "Useful Holiday Workshops" and almost 20 years of international sustainable development relations in biodiversity conservation and Youth entrepreneurship, our passion for excellence is apparent through our first Mini Workcamp and our philosophy of quality not quantity. In an era when growing numbers of international students are participating in different exchange programs it becomes increasingly important to select an organization that offers personalized attention to the needs of volunteers. BWC is dedicated to providing its volunteers with a competitive advantage in sharing information and empowering them with universal values for success in a highly globalized and changing world by offering excellence in development educational and cultural exchange.

BWC will ensure our volunteers have the right combination of indigenous knowledge and science in practice for finding solutions to the challenges of poverty and climate change.

We understand the importance of building international relationships and we place a high value on the contribution that national volunteers can make to the way of life required to heal the world environment.

"Together for a Better World" International Summer Work Camps have the potential to support, strengthen and popularize the wonderful initiatives of innovation;

(visit: www.betterworld-cameroon.com) of BWC youth entrepreneurship and climate change mitigation & adaptation taking place in Cameroon in order to facilitate an effective land, culture and development policy that is sustainable and conducive for global peace.

Joshua Konkankoh



The Challenge Ahead of all of is to transition from first decade of experimentation to a second decade of ACTION in non-formal education, introduction of technology in teaching youth and children and designing Awareness Raising Projects and programmes.



United youth action for global solidarity and cultural exchange

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THE NATIONAL AGRO PASTORAL SHOW “EBOLOWA 2011”

After 20 years of announcing the agric show it finally was organized on the 14th to 24th January 2011 at Ebolowa the south of Cameroon. The whole forest was cut to provide space for stands of the show, music about the show was produced. The president of the republic and wife officially opened the occasion, visited stands and had meetings and discussions with chiefs, parliamentarian's ministers and local authorities. He equally visited the fish pond on the out skirts of Ebolowa and the chief's palace where he was made the chief of chiefs of the south Region.

Variety of products such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, cash crops, animal and equipment were exhibited to show case the rich diversity of Cameroonian products. Transformed products such as groundnut paste, sweet potatoes flour, candles from wax and naturally made drinks from fruits were also interesting to see and learn about.



Products from tubers (cassava) and grains



Agricultural products (above) transformed to easily consumable products (below)



PROMOTION OF HOME MADE
Women groups exhibiting their products,
fresh vegetables and baskets made from
raffia palm

Better World Cameroon (BWC) made a tour at the Ngalan, the Agro pastoral Show village, where they visited stands such as the University of Ngoundéré stand, the Local Women's Farming group of Ombesa, the Tadu Yogurt team, and the North West Cooperative Society just to name a few.

At the end of the show the best products were promised to be funded, money was given also to encourage some farmers whose products were outstanding.

Since Better World Cameroon deals with food issues to promote food sovereignty it is very much concerned with matters related to the land. Land as we all know is where all food stuffs are grown and BWC, as an environmental organization, is concerned about the sustainability of the land. It was a great opportunity for BWC during the agro pastoral show to be able to see in a large scale the agricultural products that come from various regions and how they are processed.



It was also an opportunity to create more contacts and net works with other agricultural communities in Cameroon.

WIRDIN Benice

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MY EXPERIENCE IN CAMEROON

Meals

Cameroon meals have good taste! They have similar taste with Japanese dishes. So, Japanese participants will be happy to eat them. Especially, plantain is good. I appreciate f all your cooking.



TOMOYUKI Moriizumi
(Representative, NICE Japan)



Visiting Community Garden

I got some information about the concept of community garden and realized that the garden is in bad condition because of river flooding. I think we need to research example of other country's experience.

Culture Exchanging

I talked with members of BWC about the differences between Cameroon and Japan. I was very interested in them and some of BWC members taught me to sing the Cameroon national anthem. I am very happy. BWC members are so kind, fine in heart, and cheerful. I've got to have good memory with them. I'd like to meet again and contribute to Cameroon in the future.



Climbing Mountain

We climbed a mountain. It took about 2 hours. I was so tired, but I could see such beautiful landscapes. I can't forget the experience.

Thank you very much!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

MORI^^



MY EXPERIENCE IN CAMEROON

I came to Cameroon as volunteer for my organization Solidarites Jeunesses France (SJ) to participate in a mini workcamp organized by Better World Cameroon. SJ is based in Paris and works in the field of voluntary service. It means organization of work camps (sending and hosting volunteers all around the world to work together with local volunteers on particular projects), and long and mid term voluntary service to help build up the capacity of the organization.

The main aims of this mini camp were to meet Better World in order to find a good way for the future partnership. We were together to share our experiences with Better World in the field of environment and SJ and NICE about the organization of international work camp.

During one week, we worked together, through workshops, meetings, and the visit of different places. Of course, sometime was dedicated to the discovery of the city and the culture of the Cameroonian people.

There was a really good cooperation between NICE, BWC and SJ because everybody was really involved in this mini camp.



Anne DUFLOT
Representative, SJ France



Basic Educational Foundation for the Underprivileged welcomes Solidarités Jeunesse



The Lord mayor of City Hall (centre) in collaboration with Ministry of Youth Pledges Support to host International Volunteers

We spent a long time, through meetings to:

- Have a better knowledge about each organisation
- Do a presentation of our visit to the Mayor and the Youth and Sports Ministry and trees plantation in the primary school (Basic Educational Foundation for the Underprivileged).
- Find a way to organize summer workcamps and define the role of each organization involved.

This study visit included also the discovery of the culture through Cameroonian dishes, Ndanifor dance and the meeting people day, the walking in the mountain and the visit of the city.



Development and Conservation Education is a prerequisite for sustainable development

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Everybody was ready for a common work, a team spirit and to put all of our energy and contributions for this project and new cooperation to succeed. I think if in the future, the volunteers will be hosted as us, the workcamp will be very successful for everybody and we shall continue and improve our partnership.



I would like to thank all people who took part and contributed to the success of this project, it means Joshua, Laura, Benice, Sonita, Ernest, Julius, the cooking team, an of course Saori and Maori from NICE Japan.

Anne DUFLOT



Secretary General of Yaoundé III discusses future plan of Summer Workcamps with (BWC) Cameroon, NICE (Japan), and SJ, (France)



Field trip to the Mendong mountain, high level of creative activities (tiredness) and friends helping friends we made it to the finish!



Preparing the Japanese dish, Curry, learning the Cameroonian dance and planting trees at Basic Education Foundation School for the Underprivileged; proactive exchange and sharing between the west and the north

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MINI WORK CAMP

Better World Cameroon (BWC) is a dynamic youth association which tries to be in tune with other youth organizations in various parts of the world.

The Mini Work camp which took place at the BWC head office in Yaounde from the 11th to 17th February 2011 was to create a platform to enable BWC join hands with NICE, Japan and Solidarité, France to come up with a sustainable working relationships through international summer work camps that will involve youth volunteers from Cameroon and around the world to work together, while sharing ideas and experiences to overcome specific problems.

The arrival of NICE, Japan (Suzuki Saori IWATA & TOMOYUKI Moriizumi) and Solidarité Jeunesse, France (Anne Dufлот) on the 10/02/2011 at BWC head office was marked by the presence of the Nanifor Dance and Theatre Troupe which welcomed them with a special dance.

Activities carried out during this mini work camp, in preparation of the upcoming summer work camp were as follows:

- Curtsey visit to the chief of Nsimeyong III on the very first morning
- General orientation about BWC and Cameroon
- Visit to the Boulevard de 20 Mai on the occasion of the Cameroon National Youth Day celebrated on the 11th February every year. The foreign experts were taken by the coordinator to see the youth day activities and to visit the exhibition stand of the Ministry of Youth Affairs



Preparing Rice and Curry with Mori Le Chef



- Visit to the Yaounde III council where the mayor promised to help in any possible way to make the work camps a total success

- Preparing a Japanese dish (Curry and rice) which we had for lunch on the 13th February 2011

- Preparing a Cameroonian dish (Water fufu and Eru) which we had for dinner on the 14th February 2010

- Visitation of the Basic Educational Foundation and NISI Evening Schools for the underprivileged where the foreign volunteers carried out tree planting and received gifts of art and craft work from the students and pupils of the school. They equally performed environmental sketches, poems, choral music and cultural dance



Cultural dance performance by the pupils of Basic Education Foundation (right), and their work of art made from plantain leaves and bark (left).

Video presentations included BWC in brief before the floods, cultural dances of the various regions of Cameroon and Permaculture.

Brainstorming sessions were about the way forward for the Ndanifor Community Garden, the international work camps and international partnerships.

This mini work camp was finalized by a final evaluation which made clear the concerns of the work camp. These include:

Proper communication flow and strategy, effective partnership model, sustainability of work camps, organizational dynamics

The division of roles of all the actors of the work camps

ATABE Senge Laura



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YEARLY SUMMER WORKCAMPS

We had been discussing plans of this trial workcamp since November, 2010. As it is the first workcamp for Better World Cameroon, There're many points to be cleared. However, we worked together very well to achieve our goals which are to know each organization and to make a draft plan for the next summer workcamp.

I visited Cameroon for the first time to find that Cameroon is a good destination for volunteers to visit because it's a peaceful country, and people are kind and friendly.

I was interested in a meeting of Bafut where local people elected their leaders. They are very active and aware of importance of tradition and culture.



*Saori IWATA
(Representative of NICE Japan)*



Friends of Bafut Culture House



HEALTH IS WEALTH



Pupils of Basic Educational Foundation for the Underprivileged welcoming NICE Japan to their school

Meals are also good. I liked traditional food, especially Ndole! We also had cultural cooking like Japanese meals and French ones.

I appreciate it that I had such a great opportunity to cooperate with Better World Cameroon and SJ France. I wish we continue to work together to hold workcamps yearly to share our experiences and try to solve problems, learn culture and lives each other.

Saori IWATA

COME DISCOVER BETTER WORLD CAMEROON INTERNATIONAL SUMMER CAMPS

During this Mini Workcamp, a lot of activities were carried out amongst which was a very exciting field trip to the Mendong Mountain Forest. On this trip, the participants were opportune to go into the woods and get in touch with nature. This activity also led to mind uplifting of the participants, free thinking and brainstorming sessions on august international workcamps.

Apart from this aspect, there is the Natural National heritage of Cameroon:

- Mountain forest Eco-systems
- Wild Life
- Incredible sites
- Local Villagers' traditional culture and
- An interesting Yaoundé community that is characterised by the collaboration of the local chiefs and the city lord mayor.

The upcoming Better World Cameroon International Summer Work camp will therefore be used to discourage prevailing environmental aspects like deforestation and the bush meat trade. As one of the environmental champions, I call on aspiring young change makers to come discover through adventure, Cameroon activities of Summer Work camps.

Better World Cameroon Intends to put a monument of the camp on the mountain because we belief that a city built on a hill cannot be hidden.

Furthermore, Better World Cameroon intends to make this wonderful site a Mendong World Heritage Eco-Tourism site forever.



Ant hill at the Mendong Mountain

The success of this Mini Workcamp is for sure a guarantee that the upcoming Workcamp in August will just be mind boggling. And this goal can only be achieved with your cooperation.

With such a post card therefore, we are inviting all the young people of the World to come for the August Workcamp.

MBAH Sonita



Volunteers go mountaineering to discover the hidden beauty in the urban area Yaoundé

WELCOME TO OUR NDANIFOR GRASS FIELD CULTURAL DANCE GROUP

To respect a country is to treasure what makes it unique

About us:

Ndanifor Grass field Cultural Dance Group is a non profit association of young men and women from the Grass fields of the North West Region of Cameroon, especially from Bafut.

The Bafut Fandom palace is a UNESCO World Heritage site and we want to promote it as a destination of choice for social enterprise investors over the next decade. At Ndanifor, we perceive culture as a powerful vehicle to achieve poverty eradication while stimulating growth.

Aim and Goal:

The aim is to bring together young people interested in studying, sharing information on global issues and promoting grass field cultures in a manner that enables them to contribute positively to society and the improvement of youth development and the education of underprivileged children through youth entrepreneurship.

The goal is to protect the grass field cultural treasures through the organization of cultural fairs and exhibitions to enable artists and crafts men make a living out of their creativity and bring to the lime light the tourism potentials of Cameroon.

Objectives:

- Teach Grass field culture to the youth, children and women.
- Conservation of artifacts of rituals connecting the people to the land
- Community Welfare through dance and fund raising for youth development projects
- Improving the quality of life of socially excluded youth through water and climate change mitigation & adaptation programs

Projects:

- Building an eco lodge in the garden for volunteers of Permaculture and Climate Summer camps
- Building a museum of Dance and Music in Bafut.



**AMBESIFUH Ernest & AMBE Julius
for Ndanifor Dance and Theater Troupe**

Natural farming

The group was created in 2002 as a project strand of the Ndanifor Community Garden Project in Yaoundé with a mission to launch special aspects of grass field culture on the international scene. Our activities are designed to educate people on the importance of African traditions in universal culture in the era of globalization. The Ndanifor culture house educates people through dance performances, traditional theatre story telling and cultural exhibitions in view of establishing a community of interest for tourism.

SUBJECT: BRAINSTORMING ON OPEN WORLD CAFÉ ON 29/10/10

Open World Café (OWC) is a unique opportunity to share our experience on the Cameroon One World Linking Association (COWLA) and our principles of operation will be:

1. Creativist Manifesto
2. Earth Chatter
3. Millennium Development Goals

MISSION STATEMENT

Open World Café Cameroon situated in Yaoundé-Cameroon West Africa, was founded to extend the perimeters of Development Education from an African perspective.

OBJECTIVES

OWC Cameroon will be devoted to the teaching of, and research on the utilization of information and communication systems and processes to promote youth workcamps in sustainable development and support specific youth development projects on poverty reduction in Cameroon, in order:

- To scale up the existing community resource centre to serve organic traditional Cameroonian dishes and natural drinks, build an Eco lodge to host international volunteers and improve communication for discussing global environmental issues and linking up with similar organizations around the world.

HOW ARE WE GOING TO DO THIS?

- By expanding cultural space with local building materials as an organic sustainable centre and upgrading the Ndanifor Community Garden to an Eco Village with eco lodges for volunteer hostels.
- Also by building and equipping subsidiaries of Cameroon Open World Café in the regions to run e-learning programmes.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

- We would like the centre to become a distribution centre for organics starting with what will be produced from our Permaculture demonstration farm and from the local community to promote our concept of food self sufficiency.
- A space will be set aside as a gift shop for handicraft and art.
- A place to enjoy traditional dance and watch educational films.
- Establish Open World Cameroon as a means of intellectual and social expression and a core element of cross-cultural understanding.

THE PRESENT SITUATION



The Ndanifor Community Garden Project (NCGP) has already been running as family business for over 10years used for organizing “Useful Holiday” Workshops for students and provides a platform for permaculture training, landscape gardening, horticulture and Environmental Education (EE) in schools and community. It has a small library, and is premises for the BWC NGO head office and a self catering apartment for volunteers and multipurpose meeting room for coordinating nature club activities and EE in schools.

Field trips are organized during each program and relate to the specific area of study. Trips introduce students to the richly diverse natural, political and social history of the region. Site visits include Gorilla National Park, traditional regional markets; Savannah Botanical Gardens, the center of the Bafut Kingdom; and historical monuments, including the sandy beaches of Limbe and Kribi.

Community Service projects are also part of every Open World Café Cameroon schedule, allowing students to participate in, and contribute to, the wider community while at Ndanifor. Recent projects have included painting trees in village Schools and aiding literacy training programs for Better World Students staff and adults in Nsimeyong village.

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What does Connecting Cameroon One World Linking Association & BWC Permaculture Lectures with International Cooperation Pakistan offer?

- The opportunity to work in partnership on collaborative curriculum projects which enable learners to interact across geographical boundaries - enhancing their understanding of each other's societies, languages and cultures, and preparing them for life and work in a global society.
- Professional development for teachers and youth entrepreneurship, which builds capacity to integrate an international dimension in agricultural training curriculum, support international solidarity and work in an international environment. If our project is well organized for impact, may be Enabling Support Foundation can Advice on Eligibility for an International Award and accreditation which recognises youth community or school's commitment to forming international partnerships in sustainable agriculture and developing global citizens among the youth.
- Advice and support for Your Distance Learning experience in the use of ICT tools that develop and sustain partnerships, including an online teacher forum.

Open World Cafe Cameroon and the West & Central Africa region offer a great variety of cultures and traditions, some of them little understood or even known in the international Community. Connecting Cameroon and will provide a platform for young people and educators in the international community to gain real and first-hand knowledge of vibrant and diverse cultures and to challenge any misunderstandings and pre-conceptions about sustainable development in Africa.

COMING SOON

- INTERNALIZATION OF OPEN WORLD CAFÉ CAMEROON
- INTERNATIONAL SUMMER WORKCAMP (1st - 21 August 2011)
- SETTING UP E- LEARNING CLASSROOMS IN EDUCATION FOUNDATIONS
- **Regeneration of the Ndanifor Community Garden and its transformation to an Eco Village for the up coming summer work camp.**
- **WATER AND SANITATION PROGRAM FOR NSIMEYONG**
- **The celebrations of the International Day of the woman.**
- **The International Biodiversity Day.**
- **The World Environment Day.**

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